



## Recovery and Resilience: The Path Ahead - UPDATE

As of now, [the following measures](#) apply:

- If you or any of the people you live with aren't fully vaccinated - you can have visitors from 1 other household where everyone is not fully vaccinated
- There is no limit on the number of people who can visit together if they are all fully vaccinated or have recovered from COVID-19 in the last 9 months
- If you are fully vaccinated you can meet indoors with unvaccinated people from a single household, as long as they are not at risk of severe illness and no more than 3 households are present
- From Thursday 5 August, the maximum number of guests permitted to attend a wedding will increase from 50 to 100 (current protective measures apply)
- Working from home should continue
- Organised indoor events are not currently permitted
- A maximum of 200 attendees can attend the majority of venues. A limit of 500 people is in place for venues with capacity greater than 5,000 with appropriate protective measures in place - including social distancing requirements.

### NOTE:

The Government has been [advised by the Attorney General](#) that regulations provide for organised outdoor events and gatherings up to 200 people, including social, recreational, exercise, cultural, entertainment or community events. Further updates will be made to the guidelines to ensure that people have clarity about how organised outdoor events may operate into the future.

For a full list of changes to the plan and supports available, please see [here](#).

The full S.I. No. 121/2020 - Health Act 1947 (Section 31A -Temporary Restrictions) (Covid-19) Regulations 2020 can be accessed [here](#).

## Quick updates

- Tánaiste announces [Sustaining Enterprise and Accelerated Recovery Fund](#), providing an additional €51m for COVID-19 recovery funds focused on accelerating the return to growth and digitalisation of Irish businesses
- VAT receipts rise [as economy opens up](#); Spending on health and income supports continue
- Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys announces [new €7 million fund](#) to enhance streetscapes and shopfronts in rural towns and villages
- Minister O'Brien signs [new regulations](#) for the installation of Electric Vehicle recharging Infrastructure
- Pathways to Work: Minister Humphreys announces [over €7.5 million in funding](#) to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities
- Minister Troy and Minister English announce [€10 million Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme](#)

## Oireachtas Business and Key Updates

### Bills and Acts recently debated - Dáil Éireann

- [Sale of Tickets](#) (Cultural, Entertainment, Recreational and Sporting Events) Bill 2021 - Second Stage
- [Residential Tenancies](#) (No.2) Bill 2021 - Second Stage
- [Planning and Development, Heritage and Broadcasting](#) (Amendment) Bill 2021 - Second Stage
- [Planning and Development](#) (Climate Emergency Measures) (Amendment) Bill 2021 - Second Stage
- [Maritime Jurisdiction](#) Bill 2021 -Third Stage
- [North-South Interconnector Review Group](#) Bill 2021 - Second Stage

### Bills and Acts recently debated - Seanad Éireann

- [Climate Action and Low Carbon Development](#) (Amendment) Bill 2021 - Second Stage
- [Planning and Development](#) (Solar Panels for Public Buildings, Schools, Homes and Other Premises) (Amendment) B 2021 - Second Stage
- [Gender Pay Gap Information](#) Bill 2019 - Fourth Stage
- [Maritime Jurisdiction](#) Bill 2021 - Committee and Remaining Stages
- [Affordable Housing](#) Bill 2021 - Fifth Stage
- [Planning and Development](#) (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2021 - Third Stage
- [Organisation of Working Time](#) (Reproductive Health Related Leave) Bill 2021 - Third Stage

- All recently considered Bills and Acts can be accessed [here](#)

- All Parliamentary Questions can be browsed [here](#)

- All committee meetings can be found [here](#)

### Bills recently signed into law by President Higgins

- [Climate Action and Low Carbon Development \(Amendment\) Act 2021](#)
- [Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2021](#)
- [Workplace Relations \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 2021](#)
- [Companies \(Rescue Process for Small Micro Companies\) Act 2021](#)
- [Finance \(Local Property Tax\) \(Amendment\) Act 2021](#)
- [Land Development Agency Act 2021](#)
- [Affordable Housing Act 2021](#)
- [Gender Pay Gap Information Bill 2019](#)
- [Planning and Development \(Amendment\) \(No. 3\) Act 2021](#)

## Upcoming Consultations

- Consultation on the [Renewable Electricity Support Scheme \(RESS 2\) - Auction Design and Implementation](#)
- Consultation on the [Future of Postal Regulation](#) (ComReg)
- Consultation on the [Draft National Risk Assessment - Overview of Strategic Risks](#)
- Consultation on [the OECD International Tax Proposals](#)
- Consultation on new [draft guidance for improving Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings](#)
- Consultation on the [second SDG National Implementation Plan](#)
- Consultation on [Integrated Water Management](#) (European Commission)
- Consultation on the [Gender Pay Gap](#) (European Commission)

# European Legislative and Union Updates



## New interactive webpage on the €392 billion budget allocation for Cohesion policy 2021-2027

The European Commission has launched a [new webpage](#) that provides a detailed breakdown of the €392 billion Cohesion policy funding for the 2021-2027 programming period. The EU funds covered are the [European Regional Development Fund](#) (including Interreg), the [European Social Fund Plus](#), the Cohesion Fund and the [Just Transition Fund](#).

Following the entry into force on 1 July 2021 of the [2021-2027 Cohesion policy legislative framework](#) the Commission adopted decisions on the breakdown of the EU budget allocations by country and EU fund on 5 July, 2021.

The financial allocations (current prices) are presented on the new [webpage](#) showing the EU allocations to different cohesion policy "goals", Member States and EU Funds in a series of interactive charts.

The initial national allocations will be translated into detailed investment plans through the formalisation of national partnership agreements and the detailed national and regional programmes.

## Commission adopts new guidance on how to climate-proof future infrastructure projects

The European Commission has published [new technical guidance](#) on climate-proofing of infrastructure projects for the period 2021-2027. The guidance sets out common principles and practices for the identification, classification and management of physical climate risks when planning, developing, executing and monitoring infrastructure projects and programmes.

## Brexit: Commission lays out practical solutions for medicines supply in Northern Ireland

The European Commission has [proposed a practical solution](#) to the issue of medicines supply in Northern Ireland in the framework of the Protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland. The proposal would involve the EU changing its own rules, within the framework of the Protocol, so that regulatory compliance functions for medicines supplied to the Northern Ireland market only, may be permanently located in Great Britain, subject to specific conditions ensuring that the medicines concerned are not further distributed in the EU Internal Market.

## Commission simplifies rules for State Aid

The European Commission has [extended the scope](#) of the [General Block Exemption Regulation \(GBER\)](#), which will allow Member States to implement certain aid measures without prior Commission scrutiny.

The revised rules concern: (i) aid granted by national authorities for projects funded via certain EU centrally managed programmes under the new Multi-annual Financial Framework; and (ii) certain State aid measures that to support the green and digital transition and are, at the same time, relevant for the recovery from the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

## NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Ireland's recovery and resilience plan

The European Commission has [endorsed Ireland's recovery and resilience plan](#). Ireland is set to receive almost €1 billion in grants under the Plan of which 42% will go to climate objectives and 32% to digital objectives.

This is an important step towards the EU disbursing €989 million in grants under the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#). This financing will support the implementation of the crucial investment and reform measures outlined in Ireland's recovery and resilience plan. It will enable Ireland to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic. The RRF is at the heart of [NextGenerationEU](#) which will provide €800 billion (in current prices) to support investments and reforms across the EU.

The Commission's assessment finds that [Ireland's plan](#) devotes 42% of the plan's total allocation to measures that support climate objectives. This includes measures supporting energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, biodiversity and ecosystems.

The Commission's assessment of Ireland's plan finds that it devotes 32% of its total allocation to measures that support the digital transition. This includes measures enhancing connectivity, supporting the digitalisation of the public administration and of enterprises and contributing to up-skilling in the educational system.

For more on this and the Commission's full assessment, please see [here](#).

## Quick Updates

- The EU and its Member States has [pledged](#) €1.7bn to the Global Partnerships for Education to help transform education systems for more than one billion girls and boys in up to 90 countries and territories.
- EU launches [WTO dispute](#) against discriminatory procurement by Russian State-owned enterprises
- The European Commission has approved a [€9.5 million Irish scheme](#) to support not-for-profit entities affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The aid will take the form of direct grants of a minimum of €50,000 and up to a maximum of €1.8 million per beneficiary.
- The European Commission presented [new proposals to counter money laundering and terrorism financing](#), including: a new EU supervisory agency; a single set of EU rules that include crypto-assets; a €10,000 limit on cash transactions; and a differentiated risk approach to non-EU nations: black & grey lists.
- [2021 Rule of Law](#): EU report shows positive developments in Member States but also points to serious concerns.
- To protect and restore EU forests, the European Commission has put forward a [new strategy to increase forest coverage](#) in the EU and to improve the resilience of forests.
- EU [to share more than](#) 200 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines with low and middle-income countries by the end of 2021.