

EUROPEAN DECISIONS	
Date	Decisions
28 January	Activation of the EU Crisis Response Mechanism (ICPR) in "information sharing" mode.
31 January	Shipment of 12 tonnes of protective equipment to China.
1^{er} February	Mobilisation of €10 million for research against the virus under the Horizon 2020 programme.
24 February	Announcement of financial support of €232 million for the WHO, partner countries in Africa and China, vaccine research, and to help Member States repatriate their citizens.
2 March	Transition to "full activation" of the ICPR scheme.
6 March	Mobilisation of a further €37.5 million for vaccine research, treatment and diagnostics bringing the total to €47.5 million.
10 March	Lifting the obligation for airlines to use their airport slots and fly empty during the pandemic. Mobilisation of €140 million of public and private funds (Horizon 2020 and pharmaceutical industry) to finance research on vaccines, diagnostics and treatments. Proposed €25 billion investment plan to counter the economic effects of the epidemic.
12 March	Release of €120 billion by the ECB by the end of the year for asset purchases to support the economy.
13 March	Announcement of fiscal easing for Member States. Increase in the investment plan to a total of €37 billion under cohesion policy, including €8 billion of unspent structural funds in 2019. Unblocking access to the EU Solidarity Fund. Launch of a joint fast-track procurement procedure for medical protection equipment and medicines.
15 March	Restrictions on non-EU exports of personal protective equipment (masks, visors, etc.).
16 March	Financial support of €80 million to the German company CureVac for vaccine research. Mobilisation by the EIB of up to €40 billion in potential financing for European companies affected by the crisis, in the form of bridging loans or suspension of loan repayments.
17 March	Introduction of restrictions on entry into the Union from third countries for non-essential travel for 30 days. Launch of an advisory committee of epidemiologists and virologists to formulate guidelines.
18 March	The ECB launches a new Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme, allowing for the repurchase of up to €750 billion of securities by the end of 2020.
19 March	Creation of a Europe-wide pool of medical equipment (rescEU), dedicated to the procurement of protective respirators and masks, with a budget of €50 billion.
23 March	Member States approve the general derogation clause to suspend the obligations of the Stability and Growth Pact.

24 March	Conclusion of the joint fast-track procurement procedure launched on 13 March. Medical protection equipment and ordered by 25 countries will be delivered within 2 weeks after contracts are signed.
26 March	Vote in the European Parliament on the €37-billion investment plan and the extension of the EU Solidarity Fund with €800 million for 2020.
27 March	€75-million increase of RescuEU's budget, to organise repatriation flights and increase medical stockpile.
2 April	<p>Presentation of the SURE programme: up to €100 billion will be allocated to preferential loans to finance Member States' short-time working schemes.</p> <p>Flexibility in the conditions for obtaining European funds for fishermen and farmers, redirection of unused cohesion funds towards the fight against the crisis.</p> <p>Addition of €3 billion to the Union's emergency support instrument, including €300 million for the RescEU reserve for medical equipment.</p>
3 April	Suspension of the collection of customs duties and VAT on imports of medical equipment for 6 months.
6 April	<p>Release by the EIB of EUR 1 billion in the form of a loan guarantee to benefit 100 000 SMEs under the measures announced on 16 March.</p> <p>Extension of the easing of State aid announced on 13 March.</p>
8 April	Adoption by the Council of a €20 billion international aid plan for the EU's neighbours, the Caribbean and African states.
9 April	Agreement in the Eurogroup for a €540 billion plan: €240 billion through the European Stability Mechanism for health expenditure, €200 billion in guarantees for businesses by the European Investment Bank, and €100 billion through the SURE programme presented by the Commission on 2 April.
15 April	<p>Publication by the Commission of guidelines for the lifting of containment in the Union.</p> <p>Additional financial support for the fisheries and aquaculture sector</p>
16 April	<p>Adoption of additional measures to assist the agri-food sector.</p> <p>Publication by the Commission of its toolbox of good practices in the development of digital tracing applications promoted in deconfinement strategies.</p>
17 April	<p>Parliament votes in favour of the €3 billion in emergency aid announced on 2 April for the health sector in the worst-affected countries, the provision of medical equipment, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and to help Greece cope with migratory pressures.</p> <p>Vote in favour of special measures to help the most vulnerable people and in favour of using cohesion funds in a more flexible way. Vote on measures to support fisheries and the agri-food sector.</p>
20 April	Commission launches data sharing platform for researchers
22 April	<p>Council adopts measures to help the most deprived EU citizens.</p> <p>Adoption of new rules for the use of cohesion funds.</p> <p>Adoption of additional measures to help fishermen.</p> <p>The Commission proposes the creation of a €3 billion macro-financial fund in partnership with the IMF to help the Union's neighbours (Balkans, Tunisia, Jordan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine).</p>
24th April	Publication by the European Agency for Health and Safety at Work of guidelines on return to work.

28th April	Publication by the Commission of recommendations on clinical trials of coronavirus treatments.
	Commission proposal to relax lending conditions for banks to combat the economic consequences of the pandemic.
29th April	Reinforced support for the Western Balkans with the mobilisation of an additional €3.3 billion.
	Commission proposal for a package of measures to support the transport sector to reduce administrative burdens.
8th May	Eurogroup agreement on terms and conditions of the €240 billion European Stability Mechanism liquidity line.
13th May	Commission recommendations on lifting travel restrictions and restoring free movement in the Union.
14th May	Launch of the €60 million European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) crisis response programme.
19th May	The Commission allocates €122 million fund for coronavirus-related research.
	Final adoption of the SURE programme for short-time working
25th May	Adoption of the air and rail support package proposed on April 29th
27th May	Commission's proposal for the €750 billion European Economic Recovery Plan. Called Next Generation EU, it is due to be integrated into the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 to support Member States, private investment and European crisis response mechanisms.
	Establishment by the European Medicines Agency of a partnership with the University of Utrecht to prepare the infrastructure and verification methods for future Covid-19 vaccines.
4th June	The ECB increases its Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme by €600bn to a total of €1,350bn, and extends it to at least June 2021.