

# Irish Legislative & Government Updates

## Covid-19 Easing of Restrictions – latest update

The government has decided to move ahead with the next stage of reopening the economy and society in line [Resilience and Recovery: The Path Ahead](#) plan, based on advice from NPHET.

You can read more about this [here](#).

### Government launches new Climate Jargon Buster website

Developed by the Department of the Taoiseach with assistance from Comhairle na nÓg, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Adult Literacy Agency, this [website](#) explains common climate action terms in plain English. The explanations are designed to help describe ideas and concepts rather than to give strict scientific definitions.

### Looking towards the economic recovery

The Parliamentary Budget Office [prepared](#) its Summary and Analysis of the Stability Programme Update 2021.

The Irish Fiscal Advisory Council has also prepared its twentieth [Fiscal Assessment Report](#) which assesses the fiscal stance that the Government set out in SPU 2021.

### Upcoming Consultations

- EirGrid's consultation on [Shaping our Electricity Future](#)
- Consultation on [Ireland's First Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy](#).
- Consultation on the [mid-term review of the National Peatlands Strategy](#).
- Consultation on the [Environmental Assessment of the Draft Agri-Food Strategy to 2030](#).
- Consultation on the next [National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education](#).

## Oireachtas Business and Key Updates

### *Bills and Acts recently debated - Dáil Éireann*

- Residential Tenancies (Student Rents and Other Protections) (Covid-19) [Bill](#) 2021 - Second Stage.
- Planning and Development, Heritage and Broadcasting (Amendment) [Bill](#) 2021 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage.
- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) [Bill](#) 2021 - Second stage.
- Judicial Council (Amendment) [Bill](#) 2021 - Second Stage.
- Thirty-ninth Amendment of the Constitution (Right to Housing) [Bill](#) 2020 - Second Stage
- Gender Pay Gap Information [Bill](#) 2019 - completed fifth stage.

### *Bills and Acts recently debated - Seanad Éireann*

- Personal Insolvency (Amendment) [Bill](#) 2020 - Report and Final Stages
- Maritime Jurisdiction [Bill](#) 2021 - Committee and Remaining Stages
- Affordable Housing [Bill](#) 2021 - Report and Final Stages
- 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](#)

### Quick updates

- New outdoor service [supports](#) announced for the hospitality industry.
- Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys launches [National Connected Hubs Network](#).
- Minister Martin announces [pilot events](#) to bring live music and culture back to Irish audiences
- Government [supports](#) for COVID-19 impacted businesses

## Recovery and Resilience Facility: Ireland presents National Recovery and Resilience Plan to Europe

The draft [plan](#) involving projects with a value of almost €1 billion, will enable Ireland to access funding under the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility, which forms the centrepiece of *NextGenerationEU*, the Union's response to the global pandemic. Ireland is expected to receive approximately €915m in grants under the RRF for the period 2021-2022. A further set of grants is to be allocated in 2023.

The draft Plan includes measures aimed at:

- advancing the green transition;
- accelerating and expanding digital reforms and transformation; and
- social and economic recovery and job creation

For more information on the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility the Irish Parliamentary Budget Office has published a very thorough [explanation](#).

## Agreement reached on the European Climate Law

The EU institutions reached a [provisional agreement](#) on the European Climate Law which enshrines the EU's commitment to reaching climate neutrality by 2050 and to reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.

## Better Regulation

The Commission has adopted a [Communication on Better Regulation](#), proposing several improvements to the EU law-making process. The Commission is stepping up efforts to simplify EU legislation and reduce its burden, while making better use of strategic foresight and supporting sustainability and digitalisation

## Migration management: New EU Strategy on voluntary return and reintegration

The Commission has adopted the first [EU Strategy on voluntary return and reintegration](#). The Strategy promotes voluntary return and reintegration as an integral part of a common EU system for returns, a key objective under the New Pact on Migration and Asylum.

## EU Digital COVID Certificate

In record-breaking time, a deal was reached on the Digital Green Certificate on 20 May to "facilitate the safe free movement of citizens within the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic". The certificate is digital proof that a person has either been vaccinated against COVID-19 and/or received a negative test result or recovered from COVID-19.

National authorities are responsible for issuing the certificate, which can be stored on a mobile phone. It will help to ensure that restrictions currently in place can be lifted in a coordinated manner and travel inside the EU. It is expected to enter into force as from 1 July.

The member states' permanent representatives have already rubber-stamped the agreement and the European Parliament is expected to do the same during its next plenary session. You can find the full final text here. Most importantly for Schengen and free movement of people in general across the Single Market, the regulators foresee a sunset clause stating that the rules will only apply for one year as from the entry into force.

## Sustainable Finance and EU Taxonomy

The European Commission has adopted an ambitious and comprehensive [package of measures](#) to help improve the flow of money towards sustainable activities across the EU. By enabling investors to re-orient investments towards more sustainable technologies and businesses, the measures will be instrumental in making Europe climate neutral by 2050.

## Quick Updates

- EU leaders back [new sanctions](#) against Belarus
- EU leaders [pledge](#) to donate at least 100 million vaccine doses by year end.
- EU and Japan agree '[Green Alliance](#)'
- First EU-Vietnam joint trade [forum](#) with civil society.
- [Report](#) of 10<sup>th</sup> negotiation round between the EU and Chile for the modernisation of the trade agreement.