

欧盟中国商会《周·知》

WEEKLY UPDATES

Schools reopen in Europe among COVID-19 concerns

While infections are increasing daily in many European countries, children and teenagers are preparing to go back to school in September. For many countries on the continent, this is a test for their COVID-19 measures and for the management of normal activities, such as school and public transport: some are ready, whereas some are still polishing their plans few weeks from D day.

Countries are also taking care of their economic recovery among the gloomy forecasts, increasing unemployment rates, and negative growth. Trade is also showing a below-average trend, according to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), while some countries seem to have adopted a protectionist approach. Yet, the CCCEU believes that trade offers opportunities to restart a country's economic flow and to widen its scope. Trade is a vector of opportunities for both partners, as it is per se a form of win-win cooperation: limiting this spontaneous source of cooperation and exchanges means turning away from growth opportunities.

Ready to go back to school

As September approaches, the first day of school is imminent. Yet, despite the common deadline, the school year will begin very differently in each country.

In Europe, the Nordics will be among the first to kick off the school year. Analysing the measures adopted, Richard Milne, Nordic and Baltic Correspondent for the Financial Times, argues that the Nordic countries are prioritising children over all other age groups, for instance insofar public transport is concerned. As they did back in April, these countries are also keen on reopening schools before businesses, and they are ready to impose restrictions on other activities, if needed.

In Belgium, Prime Minister Sophie Wilmès confirmed yesterday that all schools will reopen on 1 September, but also said that the restrictions adopted some weeks ago will stay in place for now. The same day, French pupils will also go back to school. Le Figaro reported in July that the Ministry of Education decided to reduce sanitary measures to the minimum in order to allow educational activities to take place in their traditional formula, only with a one-metre separation between desks, and compulsory masks for older students. Yet, the recent increase in infections will probably ask for last-minute modifications to the rules, as French newspaper Les Echos reported this week. In addition to COVID-19, French families are also concerned about increases in education costs, which have been reported by Le Monde to have grown by 6,2% this year.

Under the hashtag #backtoschoolsafely, the United Kingdom launched a campaign to reassure British parents of the local schools' safety. The communication campaign almost overlaps with a second scandal in the British grading system: after last week's downgraded A level results (i.e. the grades needed to enter university), the GCSE scores - an examination typically taken at age 16 - soared, as marks were calculated on the base of teachers' predictions, as reported by POLITICO. Amid these controversies, it is not a surprise that the British government resorted to a communication campaign to prepare for September.

German students went back to school already in early August, with strict norms for hygiene and logistics which



The China Chamber of Commerce to the EU (CCCEU) is a platform between China and the EU and it serves the best interests of Chinese enterprises investing in the EU. Established in August 2018, the CCCEU speaks on behalf of its 62 members and represents about one thousand Chinese enterprises.

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differ in each Land, as reported by Deutsche Welle. Der Spiegel wrote that, despite the government's intentions to "run the business as usual", right before the reopening clear guidelines had yet not been provided.

In southern Europe, Italy and Spain are adopting their rules and protocols. Italy has adopted a protocol which foresees the possibility to isolate pupils who are found with COVID-19 symptoms, but many are the logistical difficulties which are left unsolved, especially in terms of classrooms and online teaching. In Spain, regions coordinated their plans in June in order to grant face-to-face teaching, with the exception of Madrid and the Basque Country. Yet, El País reports this week that Madrid still has to announce its reopening plans, leaving families and teachers in front of an organisational chaos.

As Jacopo Barigazzi (POLITICO) writes, the back-to-school plan will be a reality test with the COVID-19 containment measures. Among increasing numbers and new hotspots, the necessity to reopen school is pressing for both children and parents, as it impacts not only on the pupils' educational needs, but also on the adults' professional lives.

The world economy... towards the recovery?

Speaking at a public event on Tuesday, former President of the European Central Bank (ECB) Mario Draghi urged Europe to use the soaring post-COVID-19 debt for productive purposes. Draghi likened the current economic crisis to the economic circumstances following World War II, and the necessary rebuilding after the pandemic to the post-war reconstruction.

In fact, according to the data released by Eurostat, in the second quarter seasonally adjusted GDP decreased by 12.1% in the euro area (11.7% in the EU) compared with the previous quarter, and employment decreased by 2.8% in the euro area (2.6% in the EU). The latter feature could be haunting the European economy in the near future: the ECB fears that the recovery could be put at risk from a delayed surge in unemployment in the coming autumn, which could be an obstacle to the post-pandemic rebuilding despite the spontaneous economic rebounding.

Trade is also showing a thirteen-year low, according to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The WTO Goods Trade Barometer shows that in the second quarter of 2020 trade in goods hit the lowest level since 2007, and that V-shaped rebound may prove overly optimistic.

On top of this, the Financial Times reports that China's share of global exports falls in the supply chains rethink, as multinationals seek to reduce their dependency on China-linked global supply chains as a reaction to the pandemic and to the US restrictions. Last year Chinese exports accounted for 22% of the global exports, 3 percentage points down on the previous year, according to a new study by the law firm Baker McKenzie and the economic consultancy Silk Road Associates. For consumer goods the country's global market share fell by 4 percentage points to 42%.

However, the CCCEU believes that a decoupling trend will ultimately damage the countries which sever their ties with China. China's trade linkages remained stable also in the darkest hour. For instance, China-ASEAN trade maintained robust growth amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and China-Europe freight trains hit record highs for 5 months, as reported by China Daily. The Ministry of Commerce reports that the country is also stable in its position in global manufacturing, which makes it a reliable partner for trade in this goods. Trade is a vector of opportunities for both sides of the transaction, as it is per se a form of win-win cooperation: limiting this spontaneous source of cooperation and exchanges means turning away from growth opportunities.

Updates on the COVID-19 vaccine

After Russia's record last week, China joins the lead in the vaccine race. On Sunday, the Chinese newspaper Global Times reported that the vaccine-maker Cansino had its patent application for a COVID-19 vaccine approved - the first and only patent that Chinese authorities granted for a COVID-19 vaccine. Cansino is

developing the vaccine in partnership with the Academy of Military Medical Sciences, a research institute of the People's Liberation Army.

In the meanwhile, the European Commission continues exploring partnership with other producers which are at the forefront of the vaccine development: on Thursday, it concluded exploratory talks with CureVac to purchase a potential vaccine. This follows the steps already with Sanofi-GSK, with Johnson & Johnson, and the signature of an Advance Purchase Agreement with AstraZeneca.

The Long Read – suggested readings, selected for you by the CCCEU

- *“China just issued its first COVID vaccine patent. What it means for the vaccine race”* - On Sunday, the Chinese vaccine maker Cansino said that government regulators approved its patent application for a COVID-19 vaccine, marking the first and only patent that Chinese authorities have granted for a COVID-19 vaccine so far. Grady McGregor looks into the implications of this achievement. [[link](#)]
- *“Financial Repression Revisited?”* - Anne O. Krueger argues that, although massive current spending in response to the COVID-19 pandemic seems justified, policymakers will have to address the mounting public debt once the crisis has passed. Policymakers will be strongly tempted to impose an interest-rate ceiling on financial institutions, but conditional tax increases would be preferable. [[link](#)]
- *“Relocating production from China to Central Europe? Not so fast!”* - Western European imports from central Europe have fallen dramatically, while imports from China fell much less, and had already recovered to pre-COVID level by April 2020. According to Zsolt Darvas, Senior Fellow at the Brussels-based think tank Bruegel, Central European governments should instigate new measures to foster the transition towards knowledge-intensive economic activities. [[link](#)]
- *“The Quiet Revolution in Emerging-Market Monetary Policy”* - Although emerging markets are no less at the mercy of advanced economies today than they were in the past, they are benefiting from massive spillover effects in the context of the current crisis. As a result, the ultra-expansionary monetary policies pioneered in advanced economies are now available to almost everyone - writes Piroska Nagy-Mohacsi, Senior Fellow at the Institute of Global Affairs (London School of Economics). [[link](#)]
- *“Pompeo's anti-China farce in Europe”* - US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Austria and Poland. In his five-day tour, Pompeo tasted the authentic Pilsner beer and walked around the scenic Lake Bled. However, Zhong Shifeng argues that what Pompeo used to repay the gracious hospitality of the host country was an anti-China farce directed and performed by himself. [[link](#)]

《周·知》 | 欧洲学生迎“疫”而上备开学；经济或将成 L 型复苏

编前语：欢迎大家阅读欧盟中国商会最新一期中英文《周·知》简报。本周要闻关注欧洲各国的开学准备措施，尽管当前新增感染人数仍在上升，欧洲的学生们仍将在九月重返校园。各个国家应对重开校园措施不一，能否在开学后有效抑制疫情仍然存疑。教育也是中欧合作的重要内容，我们非常关注新冠疫情对中国学生申请欧洲学校的影响。在失业率上升和经济负增长的形势下，经济复苏也是各国发展的重中之重。尽管世贸组织声称当前贸易低于平均水平，但我们认为，贸易是交易双方的机会载体，是合作共赢的必然手段，是重启国家经济流动和扩张的重要机遇，限制贸易就是限制增长。周四，境外商会联席会议、国务院发展研究中心对外经济研究部和欧盟中国商会共同举办了在欧中资企业商协会高质量发展视频座谈会。面对变幻莫测的国际形势，欧盟中国商会竭力提供最有价值的资讯和观点，解读中欧经贸合作的机遇和挑战。感谢阅读本期《周·知》简报，祝您周末愉快。订阅请致信 info@ccceu.eu。

准备重返校园

尽管每个国家的开学日期不尽相同，但和即将必然到来的九月一样，新学期也随之将至。在欧洲范围内，北欧国家将最先开启新学年。英国《金融时报》北欧和波罗的海记者理查德·米尔恩（Richard Milne）在分析北欧国家采取的措施后表示，正如在公共交通领域的表现一样，儿童将是北欧最先被解禁的人群。此举在四月时已经实施，当时重新开学在重启商业和解除活动限制之前。

在比利时，首相索菲·威尔梅斯（Sophie Wilmès）周四证实，所有学校将于 9 月 1 日重新开学，同时几周前刚采取的限制措施也将被暂时保留。法国学生也将会回到校园。费加罗报在七月的报道中也表示，教育部决定将卫生措施降到最低以保证教育活动和以往一样进行，只是课桌间将保持一米的距离，同时只有较年长的学生需要强制戴口罩。然而，《回声报》在这周的报道中指出，最近新增的感染病例将很有可能导致措施的突然调整。《世界报》报道了教育费用今年的增幅达到 6.2%。因此，除了新冠疫情，法国家庭也同样担心增长的教育支出。

英国通过在推特上发起 #backtoschoolsafely 标签，组织了向父母确保校园安全的宣传活动，为安全返校提供更多交流和沟通。这场宣传活动几乎盖过了英国评分系统的第二件丑闻：正如《政治》所报道，上周，在进大学所需的 A level 成绩被降级后，16 岁中学生需参加的 GCSE 考试因为基于老师的预测而整体分数却飙升。夹在这些争议之中，英国政府大肆宣传准备开学也在意料之中。

《德国之声》报道，尽管各个州的卫生和后勤措施有所不同，德国学生在八月初已重返校园。《明镜周刊》写到，尽管政府意图商业活动重回正轨，然而在重新正常营业前，暂无清晰的指导方针。

在南欧，意大利和西班牙正在落实制定的规则和协定。意大利已通过了一项协议以隔离已发现有新冠症状的学生，然而特别是教室和线上教学这类后勤难题仍待解决。在西班牙，除马德里和巴斯克地区外，各地区在六月协调了计划以便提供面对面教学。然而，据《国家报》报道，马德里仍未宣布重启校园的措施，以致家庭和教师仍需面对当前混乱的教学形势。

正如雅各布·巴里加齐 (Jacopo Barigazzi) 在《政治》中写道：在增长的感染人数和新出现的疫区面前，重返校园计划的实施将是重返校园计划的实施将是限制疫情措施成效的试金石。重返校园不仅涉及学生的教育需求，更关系到成人的职业生活。

世界经济重回正轨？

【金融时报】二季度经季节性调整后的欧元区就业人数下降 2.8%（欧盟为 2.6%）。欧洲央行担心，尽管目前经济有所恢复，失业率的延迟飙升可能秋季会给经济复苏带来风险。

【政治】根据世界贸易组织 (WTO) 的数据，贸易额达到 13 年来最低点。2020 年第二季度的贸易额创下 2007 年以来的最低水平，经济将 V 型反弹的观点过于乐观，L 型恢复才更切合实际。

【金融时报】因为疫情的现实原因和迫于美国的压力，各个跨国公司试图在全球供应链领域降低对中国的依赖，中国在供应链端的全球出口份额有所下降。

【贝克·麦坚时】去年中国出口占全球出口的 22%，比前一年下降了 3 个百分点。在消费品方面，中国的全球市场份额下降了 4 个百分点，达到 42%。

【中国日报】商务部最新数据显示，7 月份中国内地实际使用的外商直接投资同比增长 15.8%，这是连续第四个月的正增长。同时，中国-东盟贸易保持强劲增长，中欧货运列车也创下 5 个月来的新高。商务部报告说，中国在全球制造业中的地位稳定，是贸易的可靠伙伴。贸易是交易双方的机会载体，是一种合作共赢的形式：限制合作和交流意味着错失增长机遇。

新冠疫苗最新动态

【环球时报】自俄罗斯上周宣布研制新冠疫苗成功后，中国在疫苗竞赛中也取得领先地位：中国疫苗生产商康希诺生产的新冠疫苗已获批专利。该疫苗由康希诺联合中国人民解放军军事医学科学院共同研制，这是中国当局批准的第一也是唯一的新冠疫苗。

【欧盟委员会】欧盟委员会继续探索与处于疫苗研发前沿生产商的合作关系：周四，欧盟委员会结束了与 CureVac 关于购买潜在疫苗的探索性谈判。这是继赛诺菲葛兰素史克 (Sanofi GSK)、强生 (Johnson&Johnson) 以及与阿斯利康 (AstraZeneca) 签署提前购买协议之后的又一尝试。

其他阅读

【布鲁盖尔】西欧从中欧的进口大幅减少，而从中国进口的下降幅度小得多，而且已经在 2020 年四月回到疫情前水平。布鲁塞尔智库 Bruegel 的高级研究员 Zsolt Darvas 认为，中欧各国政府应采取新措施，促进向知识密集型经济活动的过渡。

【Project Syndicate】在当前危机的背景下，先进经济体采取量化宽松政策。虽然新兴市场仍受先进经济体摆布，但其正受益于量化宽松带来的大规模溢出效应。但新兴经济体应该保持警惕，因为量化宽松和长期衰退可能很快会给金融稳定和治理带来意想不到的后果。

【中国日报】美国国务卿迈克-蓬佩奥访问了捷克、斯洛文尼亚、奥地利和波兰。在 5 天的行程中，蓬佩奥品尝了正宗的比尔森啤酒，并在风景秀丽的布莱德湖边散步。不过，蓬佩奥用来回报道东道国的盛情款待的，是一场由他自导自演的反华闹剧。

CCCEU 最新动态

8 月 20 日，境外商会联席会议、国务院发展研究中心对外经济研究部和欧盟中国商会共同举办在欧中资企业商协会高质量发展视频座谈会，听取商协会代表意见和建议，共谋专业发展。

商务部钱克明副部长、中国驻欧盟使团团长张明大使和国务院发展研究中心隆国强副主任在座谈会上致辞。商务部对外投资和经济合作司王胜文司长和欧盟中国商会周立红会长分别主持了座谈会致辞和研讨环节。

德国中国商会段炜干事长、法国中国工商会何立勤会长、比卢中资企业协会马向军会长、芬兰中资企业协会朱梓齐会长、瑞典中国商会朱津川会长、爱尔兰中资企业协会于雪霖秘书长、荷兰中资企业协会李峰常务副会长、波兰中国总商会郭培东秘书长、工银奥地利康勋副总经理代表奥地利中资企业协会、立陶宛中国商会王稚晟秘书长和欧盟中国商会周立红会长在座谈会上先后进行主题发言，分享经验，提出建议。

中国驻欧盟使团经商处夏翔公使，商务部对外投资和经济合作司夏晓玲副司长、政研室杨正位主任和欧洲司孟繁壮二级巡视员，国务院发展研究中心对外经济研究部张琦部长和国际合作局局长陶平生等参加了座谈会，与在欧商协会代表进行了互动交流。