

## **PANDEMIC SARS-COV-2 DEVELOPMENTS AND PROJECTIONS. SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRY CASES**

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**Abstract:** *This article below sees the countries' behaviours while a quick, although gradual resuming the economic activity previously interrupted by the pandemic crisis of Sars-Cov-2. There will be reviewed measures adopted, statistics, related policies applied since the beginning of this crisis and, where appropriate, expected for the immediate future in the governments' agenda. Details, here including opinions inserted in this text, return in search of questions such as: (1) Why these countries and not those ones?; (2) Were these measures taken better or more efficient than the others?; (3) Were the earlier measures taken, e.g. in just primary moments of pandemic, more appropriate than the others for this exact reason, and which are these measures?; (4) What exactly makes these measures taken more credible?; (5) Who's interest(s) and responsibilities for these measures, of course, as the country's public authorities?*

**Keywords:** European Union (EU), EU Member States, health crisis, economic activity

**JEL Classification:** A19, H12, I10, I11, I18

### **1. Introduction**

Lifting the lock-down was never coordinated acting either among the EU Member States, or even among the EU specific authorities (BBC, 2020). Actually, these 27 EU member States work independently from one-another with equally different health-care systems and strategies for not only fighting health specific crisis, but for then economic relaunching. And all these since facing similarly different rates of infection by countries – for the healthcare – and a common

hursh ,touch down' with the pandemic – for the economies. Moreover, there were and are different measures taken within the same individual country, e.g. in Italy, Lombardy, some ,non-essential' activities, including shops, were reopened while in Veneto pretty the same had been done before and then such picture was seeing itself significantly ,evolved'.

**The EU member Governments.** In the above order it is about notable differences of opinions at Government level within the EU Organization. For instance, during the April 15-20 weak the Austrian prime minister promoted the so-called “*staycation*” concept – i.e. days-off and/or holidays (i.e. vacations) to be passed at home –, but then his subordinate, the head of Austrian Tourism Office, on the contrary, suggested bilateral agreements to be concluded within the EU region about borders reopening during the next summer season.

To be perceived in context the common challenge to be faced by Governments – i.e. a true *multiple impact-risks equilibrium ,game*’ for diverse series of measures to be taken, e.g. of social, economic and health categories. All these aiming at least finding the right pandemic vaccine. For instance, again, Denmark reopened primary schools exactly while Spain was barely releasing children to play outdoors and that after a five weeks ban – i.e. who’s right and who’s wrong to do this, versus that whilst SARS-COV-2 is obviously the same for all? Actually, the answer to this question, the same as all answers to all questions asked in this regard, will come only together with all to be known about this virus.

Another example to be here considered sees even the German Chancellor, Ms. Angela Merkel, as a kind of ,reference’ for other persons in similar positions, i.e. an example of calm, authority and special circumspection, all face to essential measures like: extension of tests, tracking and quarantine of infected contacts.

European Commission (E.C) elaborates a set of recommendations to be addressed to the EU member States for both lock-down and next economic recovery. The basic principle here is that it is up to member States to decide about measures to be taken and the role of the European executive is that of some coordination for all works on controlling virus extending.

Or, it becomes obvious that Europe will live at least one more year with this virus: schools and markets with just a half people of what used to be in before the pandemic, mobile tracking applications, continuing social distancing and closed borders.

**Relaxation and Member States’ acting coordination.** European Commission (EC), again, finds three conditions attached to a presumable primary relaxation. The one is that virus should be seen decreasing, then stabilizing curve on the time graph and this for a significant period onwards.

The next one is that the healthcare system should prove able to cure both the SARS-COV-2 and the rest of available diseases. And the third condition consists in capabilities ensured for testing people communities, i.e. of course, not only in hospitals. European Commission (EC) explains: “The primary emergency state, in which Government powers were quite exceptional, should be replaced by Government interventions either better targeted, or shaped within constitutional limits”.

European Community Executive warns of the need for inter-member States' coordination to avoid this way negative effects extending to all member States and unwanted political frictions amongst. The EC's primary recommendation in this respect is that of inter-member States notification, plus that of notification to the Commission of measures intended. Then the second EC's recommendation comes on measures to be gradual, e.g. for reopening stores and other activities, then, and on taking the time needed to evaluate specific effects of these measures taken, first of all the effects on the virus' spread.

Wearing a mask should remain mandatory and this in the larger picture of social distancing, of hygiene and its maintenance, as well. Ursula von der Leyen, the EC's president, says: ‘These (i.e. masks) could help restraining virus, but never replace hygiene and specific measures’. Medical masks make an issue apart, in context, as attributed to medical staff only.

Then, it can be about groups of people that stay mostly vulnerable and need protection on longer term onwards, e.g. elderly people, sufferers of chronic diseases etc. And then increasingly intensive sanitation of transport stations and vehicles, of stores, of work places, these last for both workers and their customers.

Delicate aspects to be recalled in context, like a selection by groups of people coming back to work after lock-down, e.g. never all at once, but the less vulnerable ones first. Then, prior to what could be called in context the ‘essential’ activities, besides, teleworking encouraging.

Meetings should stay limited number of persons even in the presumable relaxation phase. Correspondingly, schools and universities, as reopened, should take extra care of sanitation, reorganize classes for smaller groups of schoolboys-girls and students and reconsider distance teaching-learning. Then it is the stores' turn, for less people in at the same time, e.g. for retail trade. Then the restaurants and coffee shops, for both less people in at the same time and reduced working hours.

The European Commission recommendations principle is that of mass meetings all over remaining the last in order of priority. And lastly governments should stay prepared for all withdrawing as relaxation measures in case of presumably unwanted virus evolving.

**The ‘tracking mobile’ application.** This is a really special issue by definition: the one to warn citizens about increasing risk of contacting persons that are tested positive for SARS-COV-2, and this just together with lifting the lock-down. EC does insist for the last to be ‘volunteer’, i.e. based on ‘personal consent’ – on respecting the person’s privacy and on the already well-known rules of personal data protection. Then, it is this way to meet the other EC origin principle of this application: ‘the anonymity of the person that is here infected and comes to be detected by the application’. And this ‘other principle’ completes by all personal data deleted in the eventuality of the wished pandemic end. Besides, an EU officials here insisted that: “None of us intends to identify circumstances in which citizens would rather proceed to avoid such applications and/or its results, instead of getting aware of their own interests about preventing that has been missing for previous epidemics”.

**Borders and travelling.** As for the EU’s intra-borders, first of all the *Schengen* provisions *de facto* disintegrate, despite risks and blows taken on the account of at least activity chains and cross-border workers. The EC had the idea of border areas organized with drawn lines and alleys for fast traffic and special priority for trucks, all these together with corresponding guides.

Then, more recent EC’s statements make it clear that it might take pretty long time remaking the previous free movement across borders. It is written in an EC document that: ‘lifting the travelling restrictions and the new border control might last up to the desired convergence of *epidemiological data* all over the region and to *social distancing* responsibly applied’. And then the detail that: ‘travelling restrictions lifting could equally be a differentiated one, e.g. started between regions of comparable levels of virus spread’. In context, European Center of Prevention and Control of Diseases (CPCD) might cooperate with the EU member States to drawing such a strategy and to permanently adapting it to moving circumstances. The EC’s leader, Ursula Von der Leyen, warns about that some EU member States might hurry into lifting restrictions while their neighbouring ones yet report high infection rates. ‘The good and right neighbours are the ones who discuss with one-another’, she says. ’Reopening borders will really be needed when the virus will be controlled and so *Schengen* will be back into force with its meaning of full free movement’, adds Von der Leyen.

**But when, exactly, will this end?** Commission says bluntly: ‘The most obvious of all aspects is that the society will be supposed to live with this virus up to discovering that disease vaccine and that proper cure’. This might be a year, as written in the EC document, basing on opinions from the European Medicines Agency (EMA), about: approvals, mass production capabilities, consumers and safely using the SARS-COV-2 vaccine. ‘It will be a long road back to normality’, recognizes the EC, in its same document, but here there are

also the ‘key’ items to such a desired path: a transparent public information and its management and the ability of Governments to keep both the economy ‘in its line’ and virus ‘on its contact’.

## 2. Literature review

Of course, there isn’t yet about a substantial literature on the Sars-Cov-2 virus or epidemic. Despite that, a number of articles, studies, even short books have already been published by the time of our study. In context, Eurostat (2020) and World Health Organization (2020) data published make reliable basis for our paper. Besides, news brought by the press and voices of government representatives are to deal with, as well. All statistics and studies that formed the basis of our analysis will be mentioned in the below bibliography, accordingly.

## 3. Research methodology

Our below discussions and conclusions are based on World Health Organization’s and Eurostat data all update, on newspapers’ Media and all news providing sources’ information about current evolution of Sars-Cov-2 Pandemic. Government decisions and opinions will equally be taken into consideration in order to obtain *a virus behaviour map* by countries wishing and able to communicate as such. Some country cases, and accordingly, developments and projections will finally be described.

## 4. Some European country cases. A short term description

The countries belong to all regions of Europe, namely member countries of the EU and not. It will be here obvious that this pandemic has met diverse circumstances, effects and impacts irrespective of such a country classification. These below will be - Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Italy, Denmark - and some outside the EU region - United Kingdom and Norway – all these according to the criteria of willingness to get out of emergency state and of ‘that secret’ of selection among all countries around – i.e. the last criterion according to which some countries succeed better than the others.

### 4.1 Germany

This country’s distinction against other European ones seems to be that there was no need from the very beginning repeating to its 80 million inhabitants to stay home, but the real problem was slightly moving elsewhere: towards

a set of measures for social distancing published on March 22, this year. Or, these measures were as strict as their ‘staying home’ alternative. Government required quarantine, closed schools and banned all more than two people meetings. Hotels in Germany, together with their restaurants and coffee shops remained closed, in their turn, the same for sport halls and leisure establishments. Hotels were closing, except for the ones delivering food at home or at counter. Hairdressing and haircutting, in their turn, were recorded as ‘non-essential’ activities and so required to close, at the same.

When moving around within public space anyone was supposed to keep at least 1.5 meter distancing from anyone else. No more than two people meetings, except for families and/or people living together.

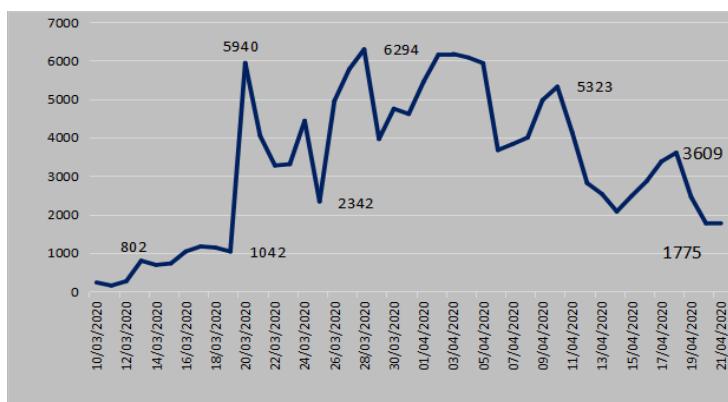
The list of measures included wearing mask in public places obligation, limiting public meetings and infection chains researching, all these intended by authorities to help remaking the normal life in the perspective of April 19, i.e. the end of quarantine.

According to the plan of measures, stores under 800 sq. meter areas were intended to reopen on April 20 and schools and universities to receive pupils and students at their courses from May 4.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April Chancellor Angela Merkel declared that social distancing specific measures would be prolonged towards the April 19, but on April 15, previously than that, she was expected to meet the leaders of all 16 lands to discuss about relaxation and schools reopening ([www.dw.com](http://www.dw.com)).

As such, Germany started implementing that list of post-lockdown measures on April 19, among which stores and schools reopening in some regions and relaxing border control with keeping strict rules of social distancing.

Figure 1. Germany- SARS-COV-2/ New daily cases



Source: by the author, based on Eurostat

**Regions and lands.** Though to be remarked significant regime differences among German lands ([www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)). In North-Rhine Westphalia all stores were reopening, i.e. both large and smalls, whilst in the rest of lands the stores under 800 sq. meter were getting prior for this. Bavaria and Saarland, as opposite examples, preferred to urge citizens to stay home more than the Federal Government ever did, here including for schools that were required to close back after the April 13-24 interval, i.e. the Easter holiday.

**Relaxation and plans for future.** This is for two zones of facts, measures and projections: the zone of facts that are real, certain, so supported by Government and all authorities, versus the zone of debate that is of course larger on both area and aspects. For the previous zone let us have first the fact that the German Government launched a 750 billion Euro package plan for economic rescue, actually a set of aids to companies and employees so dismissed.

One of key-dates is May 3, 2020, social distancing type restrictions would be likely to prolong – i.e. at least 1.5 meters distance among people and no more than 2 person meetings. Actually, meetings and private holidays were expected to be banned and wearing masks was to be imposed inside buses and all public establishments.

Prohibition of major events was also planned at least up to August 31, then the same for some autumn feasts – e.g. the famous ‚Oktoberfest‘ usually organized in Munich. Germany was equally keeping closed borders for 20 days more, while restaurants and their coffee shops, cinema halls and fitness centres were postponing reopening as *sine-diae* (<https://www.thelocal.de/>). However, all these were yet to be discussed on April 30 between Federal Government and lands for a decision to be taken in common. As already mentioned above, the other zone than that of facts is that of debate, called the ‚hot‘ zone. Here, first, the ‚Ifo Report‘ suggested that the country should make a national level group of experts and public policies representative scholars to be asked for recommendations on the expected relaxation and on industries‘ come back strategies.

All these measures were to be taken together with a maximal and coordinated effort of mass testing on the authorities‘ side. Besides, experts recommended either the education proper to hygiene, or instruction proper to specific rules of wearing masks, gloves and all protection equipment to all. Nurseries and schools were recommended to reopen more quickly than other working establishments since younger more rarely show severe symptoms and their staying home rather remains additional stress to parents and their everyday going to work.

Experts here added the possibility of different standards to be applied to different inside regions. There might be relaxation in regions exposing lower

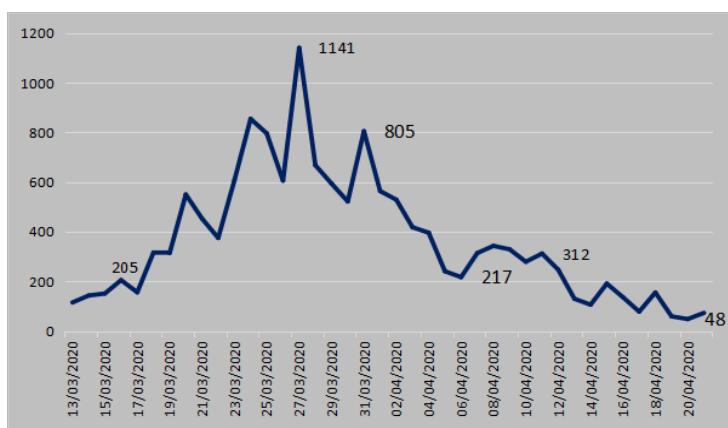
degrees of infection and/or of transmission, e.g. rural communities. Then, in time communities were expected to adapt and develop some immunity the way they were evolving with less and less restrictions imposed.

As for economic sectors, more profitable ones like telecommunications and machine building industries should ever be prioritized, while the work able to be done from home should stay like this. A rapid reopening was here recommended to companies for products of medical use, while an opposite example was going to the hotels and restaurants industry. These would need to relax a control and careful way, given specific difficulties of here imposing the same hygiene and social distancing. Clubs and areas for leisure and fun should be here expected to stay close at that time, was written in the same experts' report, and all events relaying on large numbers of people, e.g. shows and concerts, were to be countermanded.

#### **4.2 Austria**

On March 16, 2020, the Austrian State demanded to its 9 million inhabitants not to access public spaces – e.g. pharmacies, food stores and money machines --, except for certified reasons. Sports fields have also been closed, while though people stayed free to run and walk around outdoor, including together with families or with those they were living together with. No group of more than five in public spaces. Restaurants, bars and coffee shops, were ordered to close. There remained open the supermarkets and catering delivered directly to buyers. Borders with Italy and Switzerland, the neighbouring countries, were closed, as well. Train and plane trips were drastically reduced.

Figure 2. Austria-SARS-COV-2/ New daily cases



Source: by the author, based on Eurostat

Then, relaxation of these was starting on next April 14. ‘Non-essential’ stores, those under 400 sq meter areas, were reopened first. Then, there came hardware stores and public gardens. The next May 1 was for hairdressers’. Citizens were required to wear masks inside shops and public transport vehicles. Restaurants and hotels were yet supposed to wait for their reopening up to the middle of the same May, plus their organized events to wait similarly for the end of June ([www.dw.com](http://www.dw.com).)

Fully recognizing the harshness of these measures taken, the Austrian chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, considered their utility in the context of an exit from quarantine expected as quicker than in other countries’ cases. He added that the here desired final success against the virus always depends on the citizens’ reaction quality face to measures imposed. ‘The Easter week will be decisive’, estimated Kurz, cited by Reuters, his first allusion being to the planned reopening of all stores, here including retailers from May 1.

#### **4.3 Czech Republic**

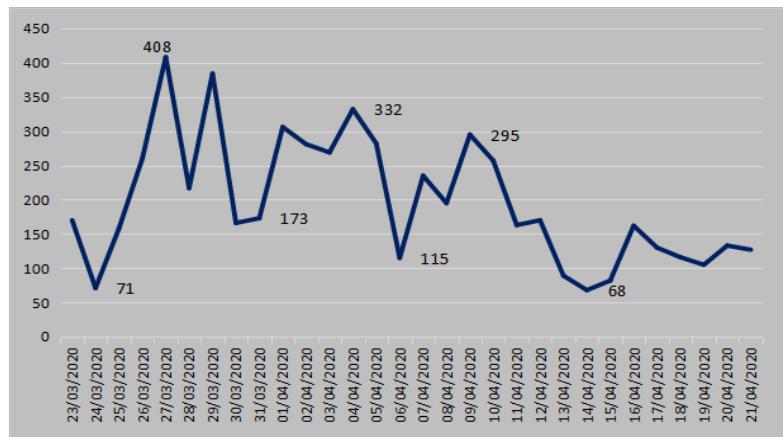
This country is among the first European ones declaring emergency state this year earlier against this SARS-COV-2 virus, then taking the toughest measures as such – i.e. restrictions on public life since just the first 200 reported cases.

**Developments.** On 12 March the emergency state was declared, that meant the whole population under quarantine for an entire month, then prolonged up to April 30. The first quarantine measures contained isolation and staying home, except for essential commitments – i.e. not personal ones. Government required to anyone to wear mask out of home, but also allowed substitutes of, including handicraft ones.

From 26 March people were allowed out of homes, but never in groups of more than two persons or out of family. Families only were allowed to be more numerous than this. From 7 April outdoor sports were allowed and masks ceased to be required where people were minimum 2 meters inter-distancing ([www.dw.com](http://www.dw.com)). On April 14 Government approved easing restrictions on leaving the country, as starting with commuter workers, those who were already doing this at that time. All travelling abroad was required to base on ‘reasonable reasons’ and, when back, travellers were supposed to accept a two week quarantine. Then, building materials and bicycle stores were also reopened ([www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)).

Then, Prague was announcing the lowest number of new contaminations since March 22 and, if such a good trend was going on, Government would think about authorizing some stores to reopen – e.g. the ones of building materials; of office supplies – as well as about resumption of some outdoor sports activities -- such as tennis --, but all these without generating gatherings of people.

Figure 3.Czech Republic: SARS-COV-2/ New daily cases



Source: by the author, based on Eurostat

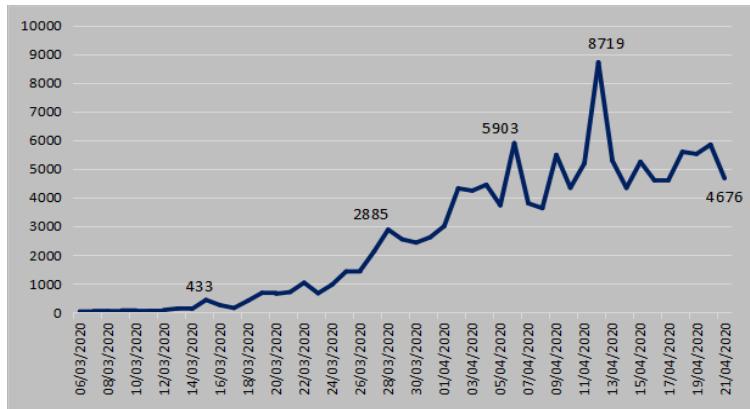
**Projections.** Karel Havlicek, the minister of industry, said that government would be supposed to allow re-opening stores and selling number of goods, from hobby ones to building materials, to relax restrictions for sports outdoor where no gatherings of people, e.g. running or cycling. So, after the Easter feasts a larger number of stores were expected to reopen, while the health minister, Adam Vojtech, on the other hand, was pointing out on strict measures of hygiene maintaining, social distancing among customers, disinfection and staff health control.

Government was aiming to provide tests for the population in order to control the virus spread and to develop an adequate health policy. One of the aspects that appeared as vital for quarantine relaxing might be the so-called '*smart-quarantine*' – i.e. that was a plan for geo-location, via mobile phones, of the contacts of the new contaminants, of course in the help of rapid medical interventions ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com)).

#### 4.4 United Kingdom

The British government ordered quarantine on March 23, 2020, through which exits from the house were limited to everyday shopping, medical needs and going to work where impossible to work from home. No public meetings. Running and cycling alone were allowed. Police were entitled to manage and impose quarantine although people weren't required to justify exits from home, destinations or intentions out.

Figure 4.United Kingdom: SARS-COV-2/ New daily cases



*Source: by the author, based on Eurostat*

Prime minister, Boris Johnson, after his positive testing and admission to intensive care, wrote an open letter to the British people in which he warned that: ‘We won’t hesitate to go further with these measures when so advised by scientists and healthcare specialists’. Fortunately for him, Mr. Johnson was treated and released from hospital on next April 12 ([www.dw.com](http://www.dw.com)).

Relaxation was truly expected to start in the Easter feasts’ aftermath with a series of schools, stores and restaurants reopened. It was supposed to take a few weeks, according to a member of the Cabinet. But the most important aspect of all was a project of mass testing as large as possible and feasible. Robert Jenrick, the secretary responsible for housing issues, stated, in turn, that the after Easter feasts relaxation would have been supposed to be gradual and together with testing extended. Robert Halfon, president of Selection Committee in education and former member of Cabinet, was declaring himself fond of a gradual reopening of both schools and restaurants once the epidemic situation would rather improve.

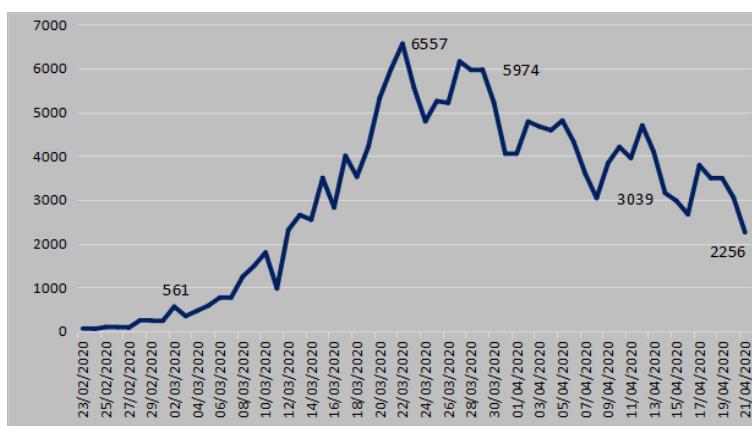
To be here added that, during relaxation as well, a special attention on vulnerable persons would be likely to stay constantly intense and this beginning by asking them to stay home, like previously.

The British Finance, and not only, was estimating that the economy would bear irreparable losses if lock-down was lasting after June. So these were the two time coordinates of the pandemic challenge to the British area: the Easter time and the month of June 2020 ([www.dailymail.co.uk/news](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news)).

#### 4.5 Italy

**Developments.** Quarantine was ordered on March 9, 2020, in Italy. The last 60 million inhabitants stayed home in isolation and all non-essential activities, here including schools and universities, were closed. Only supermarkets, banks, pharmacies and post offices stayed open. Travelling around the country was forbidden, except for medical reasons, especially emergencies.

Figure 5. Italy: SARS-COV-2/ New daily cases



Source: by the author; based on Eurostat

Exits from home were drastically limited to just around and to special circumstances: shopping and accessing medical offices. Those people were required to fill one's own responsibility statements describing needs for exits/trips and to present them to the police upon request. And those who failed to comply with quarantine provisions were to be fined between 400 and 3,000 Euro or up to three months in prison.

In the end of March the Italian police saw itself overwhelmed by either robberies, or people's protests against government's delay in providing financial assistance to cover basic food needs. The deadline, originally set for April 3, was cancelled a few days earlier, on March 27 and then it was restored for April 13 and extended to May 3. But actually relaxation started on April 14: book stores, clothing stores, stores for children, including new-born ones and others were reopened. The wood industry came back to production either ([www.dw.com](http://www.dw.com)).

**Relaxation.** Italian Ministry of Health published a strategic 'five points' plan for a gradual pandemic eradication. There were written down in this: general wearing of masks, physical distancing at work and all over in public and a new SARS-COV-2 specialized hospitals network to stay in place

after the end of crisis, as well. The executive in Rome here added a smart-phone application on the South Korean model for mapping the movements made by patients in the 48 hours time previous to their symptoms.

Primary activities to be restarted in Italy would have been related to supplying chains for food and pharmaceutical sectors. In such an order bars, restaurants, discos and sports halls would have been the last to reopen. Public transport was supposed to keep a low frequency and one sit of two was supposed to be taken.

Then, some health industry sectors and related were having priority chances to resume activity, the same for companies in and adjacent to the mechanical equipment industry, all these with a list of imperative and ‘critical’ precisions regarding protection of workers involved.

Officials were also speaking about a possible relaxation wave in early May, e.g. more centres and activities reopening, although at a lower extent and always provided that the numbers of Covid-19 cases and deaths caused had firmly lowered, plus bars and restaurants closed and social distancing untouched ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com)).

**The region of Lombardy.** In this Italian region the ‘four D’ rule was proposed for starting the expected relaxation. May 4 was supposed to be the date of restarting activities in Lombardy, but more interesting was the proposed way of doing this. So, these ‘four D’ are: (i) distance – i.e. at least 1 meter among citizens –, (ii) protection devices – e.g. mandatory protective masks –, (iii) digitization – i.e. where possibly to work at distance (smart-working) –, (iv) diagnostic. Professionals of Pavia started working on a test that was supposed to be fully Italian. Since April 21 rapid tests of detecting Covid-19 antibodies were starting, according to authorities. The last kept convicted that these four rules, associated to others like public transport timetable and congestion avoiding would be able to restart the economy’s engines in north Italy.

#### **4.6 Denmark**

Denmark, the same as Austria, was imposing the anti-SARS-COV-2 quarantine earlier than other European countries. On March 11 there were closed schools, restaurants, coffee shops care centres and borders for foreigners. With its 5.8 million inhabitants Denmark recorded 7,000 SARS-COV-2 cases and 336 deaths. As in detail, one individual of five was treated by the health system ([www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)). It is in such conditions that this country was performing the first anti- and post-infection ‘reopening’ in the chronological order in the whole Europe. Nevertheless, about a half of primary schools, nurseries and care centres reopened had moved away meanwhile from their initial locations.

To be here noted both that it is here talking about ‘reopening’ – i.e. something more than ‘relaxation’ – and that Denmark here associates with Austria. Actually Denmark ‘reopened’ immediately after Austria while all these anti-SARS-COV-2 operations had started immediately after the Easter feasts in both countries (a report by Jacob Gronholt-Pedersen and Stine Jacobsen, editors Nick Tattersall and Grant McCool.).

Figure 6. Denmark: Covid-19/ New daily cases



Source: by the author, based on Eurostat

**Reopening versus relaxation.** Prime minister, Mette Frederiksen, expressed his option for what he was calling a ‘prudent reopening’ and that started on April 15 for which date the virus’ evolution was foreseen for certain stabilization.

**Employees back to work** Government started talking with business leaders about an equally gradual comeback of employees. That was intended in parallel with keeping on, for a couple of months, at least some of initial restrictions. Basically, Government was keeping aware of the need for balancing between the people’s health ensured and that of directly facing the inevitable economic crisis and its appropriate risks.

**Activities reopening** This time Government discussions were with political leaders, namely with opposition leaders, aiming a political decision consensus about which ‘to be opened’ and which not yet ([www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)). First were reopened the hairdressers’, the tattoo shops and schools of driving. Then there came physiotherapists, psychologists, opticians, foot medicine, massage parlours; and then, piercing studios and chiro practitioners. In the end, courts and tribunals reopened on April 27. Unfortunately still no mention about reopening restaurants and schools for over 12 years old boys and girls. In

exchange, for those under 12 year old establishments were reopened on April 15, and that in order their parents' going back to work.

**Social distancing for children.** When this situation is gradually approached for children too washing hands could become a good 'routine', e.g. about doing it every two hours daily. Then, those of the same classroom or group in school or nursery give up hugs and toys get little by little no longer used in common. Some of these might remain home, but finally there might be toys used in common – these would be supposed to be cleaned at least twice a day. Playing and even teaching would be better outdoors, where desks two meters apart ([www.thelocal.dk](http://www.thelocal.dk)).

**Restaurants.** This industry is suffering hard in pandemic and, of course, this is not only in Denmark. Future becomes deeply uncertain for this sector. Plus, the last was stroked as a whole, says Kasper Bundgaard Christensen, the owner of two large restaurants called 'Hooked' in Copenhagen. Since all large events planned, including festivals, were forbidden or cancelled that was all we had in our year calendar. All we've got currently is the 'take away' and direct sales to buyers, plus hope for some growth of this side up to the summer season. On the other hand, we sent home twenty people that stay on our payroll due to that *compensation scheme* avoiding dismissals. Actually, we pay 10% of wages, the rest is paid by Government, adds Mr. Christensen.

**Others.** Government was equally giving up the above mentioned *compensation scheme* – i.e. financial aids -- for firms restarting their activity. Families were allowed to pay visits to old people and to children again. Online registration for haircutting and hairdressing that had been for the crisis time (*ordering.nu*) came to be abolished (It was announced in Ekstra Bladet report. The publication mentions that the list of those registered had been registered in full on the same date. According to the Prime Minister, Mette Frederiksen, such a situation would be like imagining a "tight column of people" who would have problems with both the "state on the spot" and the eventuality of "running".)

Lars Sandahl Soerensen, leader of the Industries' Confederation in Denmark, believed that something more should be here needed. The more "gradual" the government's approach, the greater the need for "survival assistance", he said. The government's reply, of course, came from Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen: 'If one reopens Denmark, one risks a more pronounced return of the virus that makes the well-known quarantine come back', he said implying that the alternative of a return always means extended time and many other rules. In an intervention on public radio, prime minister added: "*I don't really believe in a full return to that 'normal' life before the Corona-virus*".

#### 4.7 Norway

Norwegian Prime Minister Ema Solberg said: “Norway has managed to regain control of the virus. From now on we need to maintain it “. Changes implemented were expected within time and in a controlled order. On Friday, April 3, the Oslo Government announced a series of tests for more than 100 thousand persons each and that was enough more than what other small and less populated countries, e.g. Iceland or United Arab Emirates, were doing. It was this way that such a specific small country’s advantage in mass testing was put into value. Experts found this as part of the country’s success in this strategy ([www.euractiv.com](http://www.euractiv.com)).

Figure 7. Norway: SARS-COV-2/ New daily cases



Source: by the author, based on Eurostat

On the contrary, relaxation measures were announced on Tuesday, April 3. That was for reopening schools, universities and technical colleges on April 27. Services needing personal contact, e.g. hairdressing or physiotherapy, were planned for a gradual reopening while sports and cultural activities, in which masses are likely to involve, were coming to stay restricted at least up to 15 June. The same as in Denmark here children were benefiting of a special attention. Plus, to be about new enlarged testing and about a new application for monitoring the infection named ‘*Smitterstopp*’ (“Stop the contagion!”) A facebook group calling itself “*My child will not be the guinea pig for the Covid-19 tests*”, ended up gathering several thousand members who feared for their children’s health.

## 5. Conclusions

It is to reiterate from above that this current SARS-COV-2 pandemic is one and political reaction against it quite multiple, here including within Europe and within the European Union. The latest one (E.U.) understood its role and engagement for unifying measures taken within its region, but today situation stays diversified by countries and regions. Besides, Europe remains just a piece in a world equally facing the same pandemic. Last, but not least, debate and attitudes all over deepens concomitantly, that might be good or not on all time terms.

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