**Daily News Summary - 21.7.2020**

**BUDGET**

**Malta disputes EU recovery fund criteria**

Media reported today that EU leaders struggled to find common ground yesterday during a leaders’ summit in Brussels to justify re-opening negotiations on the third day of a summit to save a huge coronavirus rescue package. Six hours after the main summit roundtable session had been slated to start at noon, no time had been announced for talks to resume and break the logjam. A coalition of “Frugals” led by Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte pushed to slash back the scale of the proposed 750-billion-euro package of loans and grants that Brussels wants to help the countries hit hard by the epidemic. Whilst speaking on One Radio yesterday, Prime Minister Robert Abela said that Malta is disputing the proposed criteria for the allocation of EU funds for the post COVID-19 economic recovery. Abela was attending the EU leaders’ summit in Brussels and said that talks were progressing slowly and were expected to continue through the late hours. The €750 rescue package being discussed was in addition to the planned €1,074 billion, seven-year EU budget, spanning 2021 and 2027. Abela said Malta had an issue with the criteria on financing and how it would be based because countries that worked hard to get their economy in good order were being penalised. He added that, on Saturday much of the discussion revolved around good governance and rule of law, two issues that plagued Malta in recent years. Local media last Saturday widely reported that on Friday EU leaders said that they were still miles away from reaching a deal on an unprecedented €1.85 trillion ($2.1 trillion) EU budget and virus recovery fund. Following two full sessions on Friday European Council President Charles Michel set out to work with individual nations to narrow down their sizable differences over who should give and get the money and under what conditions. The challenges facing the 27 EU leaders are formidable and Member States are fighting over who should pay the most to help other countries and which nations should get the most to turn around their battered economies. As the summit got underway all leaders were wearing masks. It-Torca yesterday reported that European Council President Charles Michel was expected to present a revised recovery plan to the Coronavirus pandemic on Saturday and would try to unblock the stagnated discussions during the EU leaders’ summit in Brussels. Many countries, including Holland, were preoccupied about the amount of money proposed to be granted freely through the €750 billion recovery plan. These free grants totalled €500 billion and were decreased by €50 in the revised plan. Plans for ‘emergency brakes’ in the distribution of funds were also proposed.  
  
  
[*In-Nazzjon:*](https://netnews.com.mt) *"‘Mument ta’ verita’ ghall-UE… bil-mexxejja jfittxu ftehim ghall-finanzjament fil-krizi tal-Covid-19..." page: 11 date: Saturday, July 18, 2020*   
  
[*In-Nazzjon:*](https://netnews.com.mt) *"Tielet jum ta' tahditiet dwar il-pjan ekonomiku tal-UE..." page: 10 date: Monday, July 20, 2020*   
  
[*L-Orizzont:*](https://www.inewsmalta.com) *"Il-PM Robert Abela f’summit dwar il-bagit Ewropew ghas-seba’ snin li ..." page: 2 date: Saturday, July 18, 2020*   
  
[*L-Orizzont:*](https://www.inewsmalta.com) *"Il-PM: Mhux se naccettaw il-punt li nigu penalizzati ghall-ghaqal u ..." page: 5 date: Monday, July 20, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Independent:*](https://www.independent.com.mt) *"‘We will not allow Malta’s success to stop us from ..." page: 2 date: Monday, July 20, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Independent:*](https://www.independent.com.mt) *"Far apart: EU holds masked budget summit in pandemic times ..." page: 2 date: Saturday, July 18, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *"European Union meets on virus rescue plan / European Union ..." page: 9 date: Saturday, July 18, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *"Spain tells millions to stay home as EU meets on ..." page: 15 date: Sunday, July 19, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *Malta disputes EU recovery fund criteria / Malta disputes EU recovery fund criteria page: 3 info: by Ivan Martin date: Monday, July 20, 2020*  
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *EU summit struggles to find an agreement / EU summit struggles to find an agreement page: 8 date: Monday, July 20, 2020*  
  
[*Mument:*](https://netnews.com.mt/tag/il-mument/) *"Ebda zblokk fis-Summit tal-UE..." page: 8 info: by Keane Cutajar date: Sunday, July 19, 2020*   
  
[*timesofmalta.com:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *Malta disputes EU criteria for post COVID-19 funding allocations – Abela / Malta disputes EU criteria for post COVID-19 funding allocations – Abela info: by Ivan Martin date: Sunday, July 19, 2020*  
  
[*TVM-Malta:*](https://www.tvm.com.mt) *"Malta expects to get a fair deal / Malta tistenna ..." info: L-ahbarijiet, 2020-07-16 05:32:00, 00:02:10, by Fiorella Pace date: Thursday, July 16, 2020 5:32:00 AM CEST*   
  
[*TVM-Malta:*](https://www.tvm.com.mt) *"The EU tries to agree on the EU Budget / ..." info: L-ahbarijiet, 2020-07-17 05:34:00, 00:04:00, by Mario Xuereb date: Friday, July 17, 2020 5:34:00 AM CEST*   
  
[*TVM-Malta:*](https://www.tvm.com.mt) *"Five countries continue to block the EU MFF and the ..." info: L-ahbarijiet, 2020-07-19 05:33:00, 00:05:00, by Mario Xuereb date: Sunday, July 19, 2020 5:33:00 AM CEST*

**New study shows that citizens wish for a larger EU budget for crises**

L-Orizzont today reports that according to a new study commissioned by the European Parliament and carried out in the second half of June 2020, the majority of EU citizens, 56%, said that the EU requires better financial means to recover from the pandemic and they placed public health at the top of the table, ahead of economic recovery and climate change. 68% of respondents said that the EU should also have a stronger role in fighting the pandemic. 84% of Maltese respondents thought that the EU should have a stronger role whilst 62% said that this required larger financial means. Meanwhile, 56% of Europeans believed that the EU should have a larger budget to fight Covid-19.  
  
  
[*L-Orizzont:*](https://www.inewsmalta.com) *New study shows that citizens wish for a larger EU budget for crises / New study shows that citizens wish for a larger EU budget for crises page: 8 date: Monday, July 20, 2020*

**HEALTH**

**One new case takes number of active cases up to five**

The Malta Independent today reported that only one new case of coronavirus was registered in Malta on Saturday according to the health authorities. No new recoveries were registered and the number of active cases has edged up to five. The single case was found from 834 swab tests, a number which takes the total of tests carried out up to 113,237 since the pandemic began. Malta has had 676 cases in total, with 662 having recovered and 9 having passed away. Local media yesterday reported that the Health Authorities on Saturday reported the first two positive COVID-19 cases in the last week. This means it was the end of an eight-day streak during which no new COVID-19 cases were reported. One patient is an African migrant who landed in Malta and the rest of the 62 boat occupants tested negative. All migrants are in quarantine in reception centres and will be retested next week. Malta now has five known active cases of the virus, with 675 people having been infected in all. Nine have died. The Malta Independent on Sunday reported that statistician Vincent Marmara said that after a week without new positive cases, Malta’s Covid-19 reproduction number has now dropped to below 0.2. Marmara said that after the decrease, Malta’s reproduction number has dipped below 0.2, and if the decrease continues to be sustained then it may even reach 0 after a certain number of days without new cases.  
  
  
[*In-Nazzjon:*](https://netnews.com.mt) *"Kaz iehor gdid ta' Covid-19..." page: 2 date: Monday, July 20, 2020*   
  
[*L-Orizzont:*](https://www.inewsmalta.com) *"Kaz gdid ta’ COVID-19..." page: 5 date: Sunday, July 19, 2020*   
  
[*L-Orizzont:*](https://www.inewsmalta.com) *"Kaz iehor gdid ta' Covid-19 / Kaz iehor gdid ta' ..." page: 2 date: Monday, July 20, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Independent:*](https://www.independent.com.mt) *"After a week without cases, Malta’s Covid-19 reproduction number now ..." page: 2 info: by Albert Galea date: Sunday, July 19, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Independent:*](https://www.independent.com.mt) *"One new case takes number of active cases up to ..." page: 4 date: Monday, July 20, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *Two new virus cases / Two new virus cases page: 7 date: Sunday, July 19, 2020*  
  
[*Mument:*](https://netnews.com.mt/tag/il-mument/) *"Zewg kazi impurtati ta’ COVID-19..." page: 3 date: Sunday, July 19, 2020*

**MIGRATION**

**Migrants rescued after dramatic call to NGO**

The media last Saturday reported that a group of 63 migrants were brought to Malta last Friday after being rescued from their sinking boat in Malta’s search and rescue zone. The migrants were rescued after they had contacted NGO Alarm Phone for their help and assistance. The NGO said that on Thursday it had tried to alert Maltese and Italian authorities to the stranded but got no response and appealed to both countries to answer the distress calls. The Armed Forces of Malta confirmed on Friday that the migrants had been rescued.  
  
  
[*In-Nazzjon:*](https://netnews.com.mt) *"Wasla ohra ta’ immigrant li dwarha l-Gvern ma qal assolutament ..." page: 1,2 date: Saturday, July 18, 2020*   
  
[*L-Orizzont:*](https://www.inewsmalta.com) *"Jiddahhlu madwar 60 immigrant fil-gzejjer Maltin / Jiddahhlu madwar 60 ..." page: 1 date: Saturday, July 18, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Times:*](https://www.timesofmalta.com) *Migrants rescued after dramatic call to NGO / Migrants rescued after dramatic call to NGO page: 6 date: Saturday, July 18, 2020*

**REGIONAL POLICY**

**€10 million Resource Centre project at MCAST campus in final phase**

The Malta Independent on Saturday reported on a visit made by Minister for Education and Employment Owen Bonnici to the new MCAST Resource Centre (MRC) construction site which is now in its final phase of completion. The project, with an investment of €10 million, is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020 (ERDF) and has a footprint of approximately 2,300 square metres and is spread over four floors. The new building will house a number of the college’s activities, including the MCAST Centre for Research and Innovation, the Learning Support Unit, as well as the Learning Resource Centre and the Library.  
  
  
[*L-Orizzont:*](https://www.inewsmalta.com) *"Ic-Centru tar-rizorsi tal-MCAST, b’investiment ta’ €10 miljun, fl-ahhar fazi tieghu..." page: 8,9 date: Sunday, July 19, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Independent:*](https://www.independent.com.mt) *"€10 million Resource Centre project at MCAST campus in final ..." page: 4 date: Saturday, July 18, 2020*

**RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**

**Science in the City is back in Valletta on 27 and 28 November**

The local media reported yesterday that the Science in the City festival will be held in Valletta during November this year. This ninth edition will host over 30 activities and is centred on the theme Engage, Empower, Enable. The new dates for this festival have been set by the European Commission to have more time to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The University of Malta’s consortium has successfully won the Horizon 2020 European Researchers Night Fund.  The event is part of the EU-wide celebration, European Researchers’ Night, funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions of the EU’s H2020 programme and has been recognised as an excellent festival by Europe for Festivals and Festivals for Europe (EFFE).  
  
  
[*L-Orizzont:*](https://www.inewsmalta.com) *"Ix-Xjenza fil-Belt lura fil-Kapitali fis-27 u t-28 ta’ Novembru..." page: 27 date: Sunday, July 19, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Independent:*](https://www.independent.com.mt) *"Science in the City is back in Valletta on 27 ..." page: 21 date: Sunday, July 19, 2020*   
  
[*Malta-Today:*](https://www.maltatoday.com.mt) *"Science in the City is back in Valletta on the ..." page: 6 date: Sunday, July 19, 2020*

**SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SKILLS AND LABOUR MOBILITY**

**EU leaders urged to make child poverty history**

It was reported in the Malta Independent on Sunday yesterday that Eurochild president MarieLouise Coleiro Preca has called on EU leaders in a video address to allocate at least 5% of the European Social Funds Plus to ensure children do not become the invisible victims of the COVID-19 pandemic. She urged EU leaders not to think of just bailing out businesses, but to invest in the public good. Coleiro Preca said: “Rising poverty and inequality will hit children harder. This is a real, tangible problem that is hidden, and unless addressed the future of these children will be in peril.”  
  
  
[*Malta-Independent:*](https://www.independent.com.mt) *"EU leaders urged to make child poverty history / EU ..." page: 22 date: Sunday, July 19, 2020*