



## For Immediate Release

8 April 2021

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## Consumers ask for equal access to the future EU COVID pass

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Euroconsumers' vaccination survey shows a shared appetite for COVID-19 vaccination amongst citizens despite the AstraZeneca vaccine suspension; Support for EU COVID travel pass including free of charge testing*

**Brussels** –Euroconsumers publishes today the **second wave of its survey on attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccination** in Belgium, Italy, Portugal and Spain. Today's edition adds questions on the EU plans for a 'COVID pass' following the European Commission's proposal for a Digital Green Certificate. It also analyses the impact of the recent AstraZeneca vaccine suspension. The survey was carried out between 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of March. A representative group of 1000 adults aged between 18 to 74 years old was polled in each of the four countries of the survey. The previous survey was carried out between the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> of January.

### **Support for the European Commission's COVID pass, but clear ask for free of charge tests to avoid discrimination**

The European Commission has recently proposed to create a COVID pass (Digital Green Certificate) to facilitate the free movement of citizens within the EU this summer. The document would include one of three options: proof of COVID-19 vaccination, a negative test result, or having recovered from the virus. Euroconsumers' survey shows that overall **the COVID pass is well received since 59% agree the pass is a good measure to move freely within the EU again** and 63% agree the pass will encourage vaccination.

However, a clear majority of respondents fear that the COVID pass might create discrimination between vaccinated and unvaccinated people. **Two thirds of respondents (64%) also believe free of charge tests should be offered to those who did not have the opportunity to be vaccinated in order to get this pass.** Almost half (44%) also feel EU Member States shouldn't impose extra PCR tests or quarantine to vaccination passport holders.



The new consumer data support Euroconsumers' call on European authorities to turn the Digital Green Certificate into an effective tool that is used in a non-discriminatory, coordinated and proportionate way. See Euroconsumers' full position [here](#).

**Els Bruggeman, Head of Policy and Enforcement at Euroconsumers said:** "Getting a test in order to obtain a COVID pass is not necessarily free of charge. This creates a situation where some citizens can travel 'for free' being vaccinated, while others have to pay several hundreds of euros for tests just to be allowed to take a family trip. To avoid this additional layer of discrimination, **Euroconsumers insists all necessary tests are offered at no cost. At the very least as long as not everyone has been granted the opportunity to be vaccinated**".

### **Better information needed to ensure success of the vaccination campaign**

**Three quarters of respondents would be willing to be vaccinated next week if given the opportunity** (51% would do it for sure and 28% probably). The proportion of the respondents who would do it without hesitation has increased in Belgium (+7%) and Portugal (+9%) since Euroconsumers' January survey while Italy demonstrates an opposite trend (-8%) and there is almost a status quo in Spain (+1%).

**Only one third of all respondents (36%) feel well informed about the COVID-19 vaccines, which is only up 3% since January. The better informed they feel the more willing to be vaccinated:** among respondents stating they are (very) well informed, 65% would be surely willing to get a COVID-19 vaccine, while this is only the case for 32% of those indicating they are not or poorly informed.

This shows that, although some progress has been made, getting the right information through to the entire European population remains key to turn the COVID-19 vaccination campaign into a success and should therefore be a constant focus.

**Amongst the people not (fully) willing to get vaccinated, the main reason for this reluctance is by far the concern about possible side effects (55%)** followed by not trusting certain COVID-19 vaccines (36%). Not belonging to a high-risk group comes up as 4<sup>th</sup> reason (26%) for hesitating about vaccination. The lack of trust in vaccines in general is the highest in Belgium (22% of those who are not sure to want to be vaccinated) and the lowest in Portugal (5%).

Unsurprisingly the level of trust in the AstraZeneca vaccine is lower than for the other vaccines: 65% of those who are not vaccinated yet show some concern about the AstraZeneca vaccine compared with about one third for the other vaccines.

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### **About Euroconsumers**

Gathering five national consumer organisations and giving voice to a total of more than 1.5 million people, Euroconsumers is the world's leading consumer cluster in innovative information, personalised services and defence of consumer's rights. We work closely together with Consumers International to ensure consumers are safe, that markets are fair and benefit from honest relations with businesses and authorities. Our European member groups are also part of the umbrella network of BEUC, the European Consumer Organisation. Together we advocate for EU policies that benefit consumers in their daily lives.

