

## EU digital Covid Certificate: provisional deal between Parliament and Council

- Aim is to facilitate the right to free movement during pandemic and contribute to gradually lifting restrictions
- Tests should be affordable and accessible
- At least €100 million from the Emergency Support Instrument to purchase tests
- Common format for certificate and framework to be accepted by member states



The EU digital Covid Certificate will facilitate free movement in Europe during the pandemic. ©H\_Ko/AdobeStock

### **EP and Council negotiators reached on Thursday a provisional deal for an EU digital Covid certificate to facilitate free movement in Europe during the pandemic.**

The certificate will be available in either digital or paper format. It will attest that a person has been vaccinated against coronavirus or has a recent negative test result or has recovered from the infection. In practice, these will be three distinct certificates. A common EU framework will allow member states to issue certificates that will then be accepted in other EU countries.

The EU digital Covid Certificate regulation should be in place for 12 months. The certificate will not be a precondition to exercise the right to free movement and will not be considered a travel document.

### **Budgetary support for affordable and accessible testing**

To make “affordable and accessible testing” more widely available, the European Commission committed to mobilise “at least €100 million” under the Emergency Support Instrument for the purchase of tests for SARS-CoV-2 infection for the purpose of issuing EU digital Covid test certificates. This should particularly benefit persons who cross borders daily or frequently to go to work or school, visit close relatives, seek medical care, or to take care of loved ones.

Negotiators agreed that, if necessary, additional funding above €100 million should be mobilised, subject to approval by the budgetary authorities.

### **Additional travel restrictions only if duly justified**

Member states should not impose additional travel restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as quarantine, self-isolation or testing, “unless they are necessary and proportionate to safeguard public health”. Available scientific evidence, “including epidemiological data published by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)” should be taken into account. Such measures should be notified to other member states and the Commission at the latest 48 hours in advance.

### **Vaccines**

Member states must accept vaccination certificates issued in other member states for persons inoculated with a vaccine authorised for use in the EU by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) (currently Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Janssen). It will be up to the member states to decide whether they also accept vaccination certificates from other member states following national emergency authorisation procedures for vaccines listed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for emergency use.

### **Data protection safeguards**

The certificates will be verified to prevent fraud and forgery, as will be the authenticity of the electronic seals included in the document. Personal data obtained from the certificates cannot be stored in destination member states and there will be no central database established at EU

level. The list of entities that will process and receive data will be public so that citizens can exercise their data protection rights under the General Data Protection Regulation.

### Quote

Chair of the Civil Liberties Committee and rapporteur [Juan Fernando López Aguilar \(S&D, ES\)](#) said: “Whilst the agreement reached today does not fully meet the EP’s demands, it certainly signifies a major improvement to the current status quo for millions of EU citizens. The EU digital Covid certificate will restore free movement within the EU, as member states start lifting restrictions to free movement across Europe. This agreement is the first step to get the Schengen area back on track.”

### Next steps

The agreed text will now be put to the Civil Liberties Committee on 26 May and then to plenary for approval as well as to the Council. If confirmed by the committee, it will be tabled for adoption in plenary during the June I plenary session (7-10 June 2021).

### Further information

[Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#)  
[Rapid steps towards a digital green certificate \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Press conference with the rapporteur Juan Fernando López Aguilar \(S&D, ES\)](#)

[Procedure File \(EU citizens\)](#)

[Procedure file \(Third-country nationals\)](#)


[Multimedia material](#)

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