

**SNAPSHOTS OF THE WEEK - Economic and legal interrogations****June 15, 2020****The European Union opens borders after 83 days closure due to COVID-19 confinement**

The European Union's economy is expected to shrink by 7.4 percent in 2020, while an economic recovery is anticipated in 2021. Greece and Italy are set to be the worst affected economies, seeing GDP decline by 9.7 and 9.5 respectively, while Poland is forecast to shrink by 4.3 percent and shrink the least in 2020.

Will these projections be mitigated by the long-term EU budget 2021-2027 and a Recovery Plan to respond to the COVID-19?**June 15, 2020**

The United Nations Human Rights Council resumes its 43rd session, after having been suspended on March 13 due to COVID-19 pandemic. The resumed session discusses topics ranging from human rights mechanisms to technical assistance and capacity building in the human rights field. Following a request made by Burkina Faso on behalf of the African Group, the Council decided to hold an urgent debate on the current racially inspired human rights violations, systemic racism, police brutality and the violence against peaceful protests.

Can the UN Human Rights Council get to the bottom of the current issues?**June 16, 2020****Commissioner Phil Hogan launches review of the European Union trade policy**

The European Commission launches a major review of the European Union's trade policy, including a public consultation seeking input from the European Parliament, Member States, stakeholders and civil society. The Commission's objective is to build a consensus around a fresh medium-term direction for EU trade policy, responding to a variety of new global challenges and considering the lessons learned from the coronavirus crisis.

Will the revised EU trade policy answer to the new challenges?**June 18, 2020****European Commission updates Horizon 2020 Programme to support COVID-19 research and innovation**

The European Commission is delivering on its pledge to invest €1 billion from the EU's Horizon 2020 Work Programme into COVID-19 research and innovation, made at the launch of the Coronavirus Global Response initiative on 4 May this year.

Is Europe the leader of the global response tackling the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic?**June 20, 2020****World Refugee Day**

An unprecedented 79.5 million were displaced as of the end of 2019, with 10 million people fleeing in the past year alone. This means that 1% of humanity is currently displaced, almost double compared to 2010 (41 million).

What drives these record numbers?**For further information and detailed analysis, please contact: info@gicel.ch.**