



## EU Digital COVID Certificate: European Parliament and Council reach agreement on Commission proposal

Brussels, 20 May 2021

The Commission welcomes today's provisional political agreement between the European Parliament and the Council on the Regulation governing the [EU Digital COVID Certificate](#). This means that the certificate (previously called the Digital Green Certificate) is well on track to be ready end of June, as planned. Today's agreement has been reached in record time just two months after the Commission's proposal. The negotiations on the certificate for the Commission have been led by Commissioner Didier **Reynders** in close cooperation with Vice-Presidents Vera **Jourová** and Margaritis **Schinás** and Commissioners Thierry **Breton**, Stella **Kyriakides**, and Ylva **Johansson**.

Welcoming this swift progress, President Ursula **von der Leyen** said:

*"We are delivering on our commitment to have the EU Digital COVID Certificate up and running before the summer. European citizens are looking forward to travelling again, and today's agreement means they will be able to do so safely very soon.*

*The EU Digital COVID Certificate is free of charge, secure and accessible to all. It will cover vaccination, test and recovery offering different options to the citizens. It fully respects citizens' fundamental rights, including protection of personal data.*

*All EU citizens have a fundamental right to free movement in the EU. The EU Digital COVID Certificate, available in paper or digital format, will make it easier for Europeans to travel - whether to see their families and loved ones or to get some well-deserved rest.*

*We would like to thank the European Parliament and the Portuguese Presidency for their dedication, perseverance and immense work at record speed to find an agreement on the proposal we presented.*

*Work still remains. At EU level, the system will be ready in the next few days. It is now crucial that all Member States press ahead with the roll-out of their national systems to ensure that the system can be up and running as soon as possible. This is what EU citizens rightly expect.*

*Today's agreement has demonstrated that with the commitment and cooperation of all, the EU Digital COVID Certificate will be available on time."*

### The EU Digital COVID Certificate – key features

Following the agreement reached by the European Parliament and the Council, the EU Digital COVID Certificate:

- will cover vaccination, test and recovery;
- will be available in a digital and paper-based format, depending on the choice of the recipients, and contain a digitally signed QR code;
- will be free of charge, be obtained easily and also available to persons vaccinated before the EU Digital COVID Certificate Regulation has entered into force;
- may also be used by Member States for national purposes, if this is provided for in national law.
- Member States shall refrain from imposing additional travel restrictions on the holders of an EU Digital COVID Certificate, unless they are necessary and proportionate to safeguard public health.
- The Commission will also mobilise €100 million to support Member States in providing affordable tests.

### Next Steps

The political agreement will now have to be formally adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. The Regulation will enter into force on 1 July, with a phasing-in period of six weeks for the

issuance of certificates for those Member States that need additional time.

In parallel, the Commission will continue to support the Member States in finalising their national solutions for the issuance and verification of EU Digital COVID Certificate, and to provide technical and financial support to Member States to on-board the gateway.

## Background

On [17 March 2021](#), the European Commission presented a proposal to create an EU COVID certificate to facilitate the safe free movement of citizens within the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the Commission's request, the Parliament voted in favour of the activation of the urgent procedure for the two proposals on 25 March. The Council adopted its negotiating position on 14 April, and the Parliament did so on 29 April. On 20 May co-legislators reached provisional agreement on this file.

In parallel to the legislative process, important progress was already made on the technical side. The EU Gateway, which allows to verify certificates across borders, is ready and will go live as of June. Successful pilot tests took place with 17 Member States and Iceland during the last two weeks, further five Member States will test next week.

The Commission also provide open source reference software to support Member States to develop their national solution to issue certificates, to scan and check the QR codes, and a reference wallet for storage.

Previously, on 21 April, [technical specification guidelines](#) were adopted by Member States representatives in the [eHealth Network](#), a voluntary network connecting national authorities responsible for eHealth. They are building on the close work of the Commission with the Member States, having resulted in first guidelines adopted in January and [updated on 12 March](#), and a [trust framework](#) outline agreed on 12 March 2021. In addition, a common design template was developed in the eHealth network.

The latest information on coronavirus measures as well as travel restrictions provided by Member States are available on the [Re-open EU platform](#).

## For More Information

[Proposals for a Digital Green Certificate to facilitate free movement in the EU](#)

[Proposal for a Digital Green Certificates for third-country nationals legally staying or residing in Member States](#)

[Factsheet](#)

[Website](#)

[New video stockshots](#)

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