

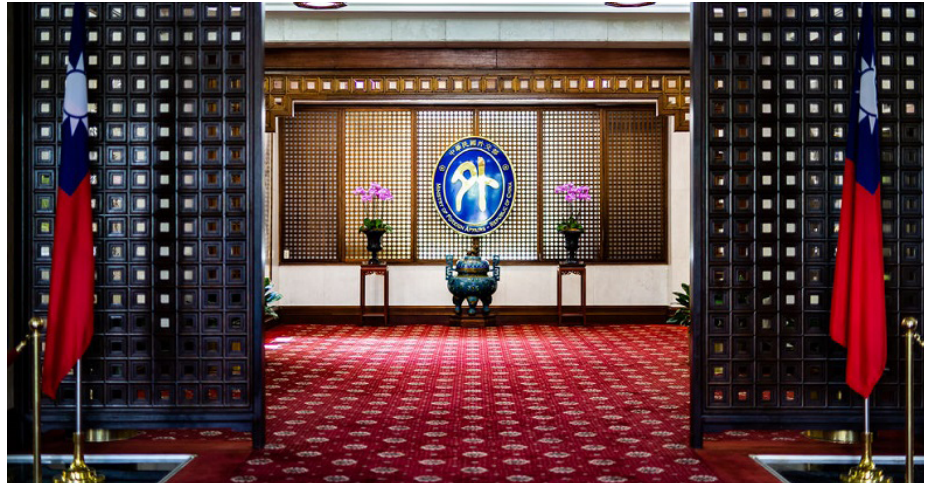
# TAIWAN NEWSLETTER

## MOFA welcomes EU decision to lift restrictions on travel from Taiwan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) expressed the sincere appreciation of the government and people of Taiwan, June 18, for the European Council's decision to recommend the lifting of restrictions on non-essential travel from Taiwan into the European Union and Schengen Area.

The non-binding recommendation issued by the Council advises EU Member States and other countries within the Schengen Area to gradually lift restrictions on travellers coming from the newly updated recommended list of countries and territories, which will be updated every two weeks.

MOFA cited the decision as underscoring the EU's confidence in Taiwan's



pandemic response capacity. Likewise, the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium highlighted the significance of the move as it restores the

bilateral freedom of travel between the two sides and facilitates the continued deepening of exchanges between the peoples of Taiwan and the EU.

### Taiwan thanks the US & Lithuania for vaccine doses donation

MOFA sincerely thanked the governments of the US and Lithuania, June 20 and 23, for their respective donations to Taiwan of 2.5 million Moderna vaccine doses and 20,000 AstraZeneca vaccine doses.

The US donation is part of the first stage of their global vaccine donation programme, announced June 3 by the US government. Amounting to 2.5 million doses, the total is more than three times larger than the initial pledge of 750,000 doses announced on June 6 by US Sen-

ators Tammy Duckworth, Dan Sullivan and Chris Coons.

The White House's decision to more than triple the donation illustrates its strong support for Taiwan, MOFA stated, adding that such a warm gesture of friendship will be forever remembered by the Taiwanese public.

Likewise, the ministry described the Lithuanian donation as an inspiring show of humanity, and an outstanding example of democratic partners caring and supporting each other in an hour of need.

### Ambassador Tsai attends webinar alongside VP of the European Parliament Nicola Beer

Ambassador Ming-Yen Tsai attended the "Eastern Europe and Taiwan: prospects for democratic cooperation" webinar organized by the Romanian think tank Expert Forum, June 23, alongside Nicola Beer, Vice-President of the European Parliament, and Romanian MP Cătălin Teniță.

During the discussion, Ambassador Tsai highlighted some of the major opportunities for cooperation between Taiwan and the EU, including institutionalising dialogue and cooperation mechanisms, strengthening supply chain cooperation, and promoting cooperation regarding democracy and good governance. Likewise, VP Beer highlighted the importance of democracies working together in the face of authoritarian threats.

The full discussion can be found on [the Expert Forum Facebook page](#).

### Presidential Office deeply regrets forced departure of Taiwan's Hong Kong office personnel

The Presidential Office (PO) announced deep regret on behalf of the government and people, June 21, in response to the forced departure of the personnel of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Hong Kong (TECO).

According to the PO, the Hong Kong administration and Beijing have been imposing unreasonable political demands on TECO staffers since July 2018, including refusing to issue visas or visa renewals to individuals who decline to sign letters of commitment to "one China."

China is urged to refrain from further moves that would cause tension in cross-strait relations, the PO stated. The office further added that democracies the world over must pay closer attention to the situation in Hong Kong and the plight of its people.



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