

## COHESION POLICY AND THE COVID -19 PANDEMIC

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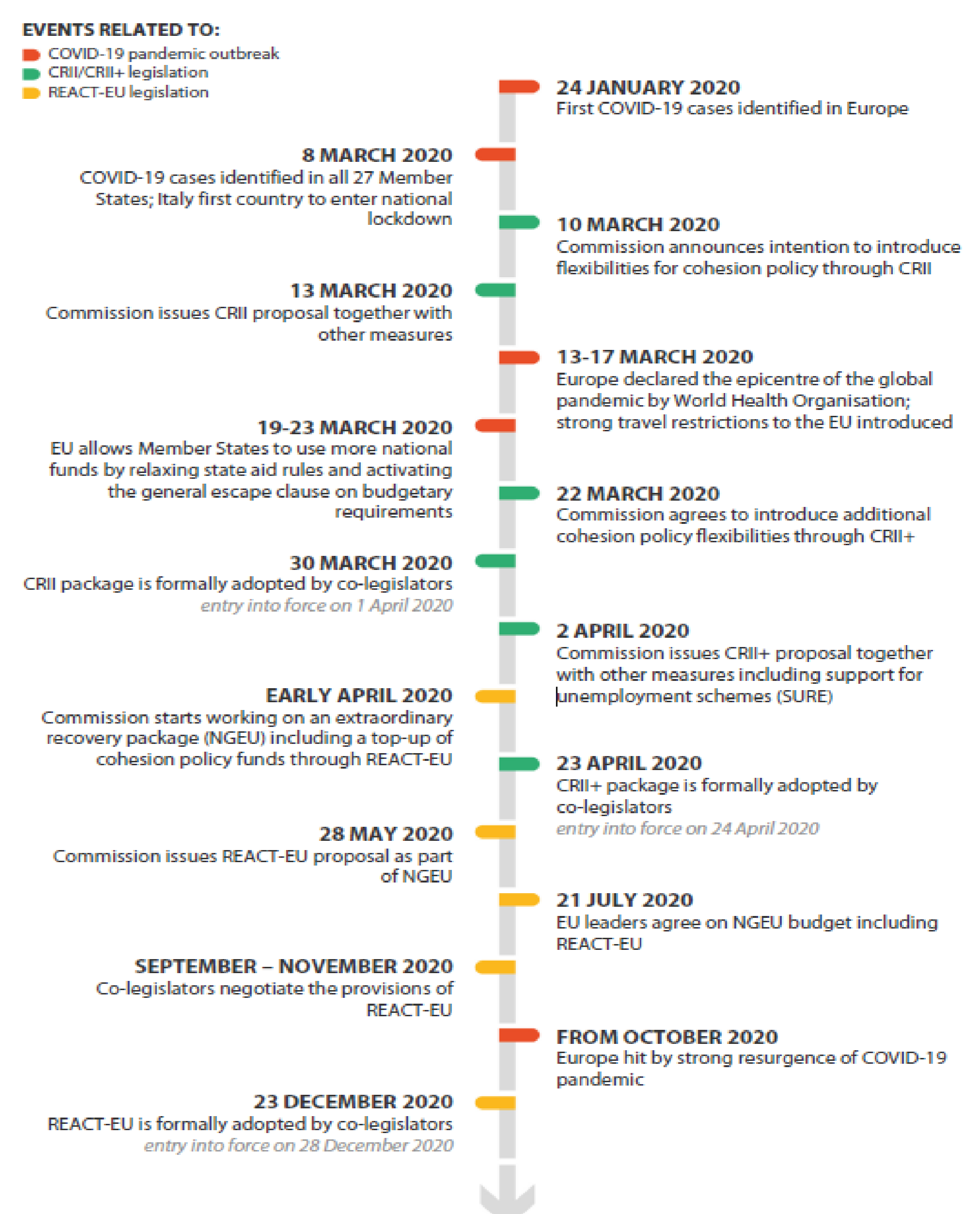
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**Abstract:** *Cohesion policy is one of the most important policy areas of the European Union. A number of measures have been adopted at EU level to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects in all sectors. Cohesion policy has been constituted as a working tool in this process, its contribution being materialized through legislative acts that have amended the rules for the programming period 2014-2020. The article looks at how the rules of cohesion policy have been adapted to give Member States greater flexibility in using the funds in response to the crisis situation caused by the COVID-19 virus.*

From early 2020 onwards, the EU took a wide range of actions to address the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Cohesion policy played a part in this response through three legislative acts amending the rules of the 2014-2020 programme period.

In March 2020, the Commission launched the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII). It introduced simplifications, liquidity and flexibility measures. With programmes already running and implemented directly by Member States, cohesion policy funding provided a framework to redirect resources still available towards funding needs resulting from the COVID-19 crisis.



Source: ECA.

The adoption of the cohesion policy legislative response