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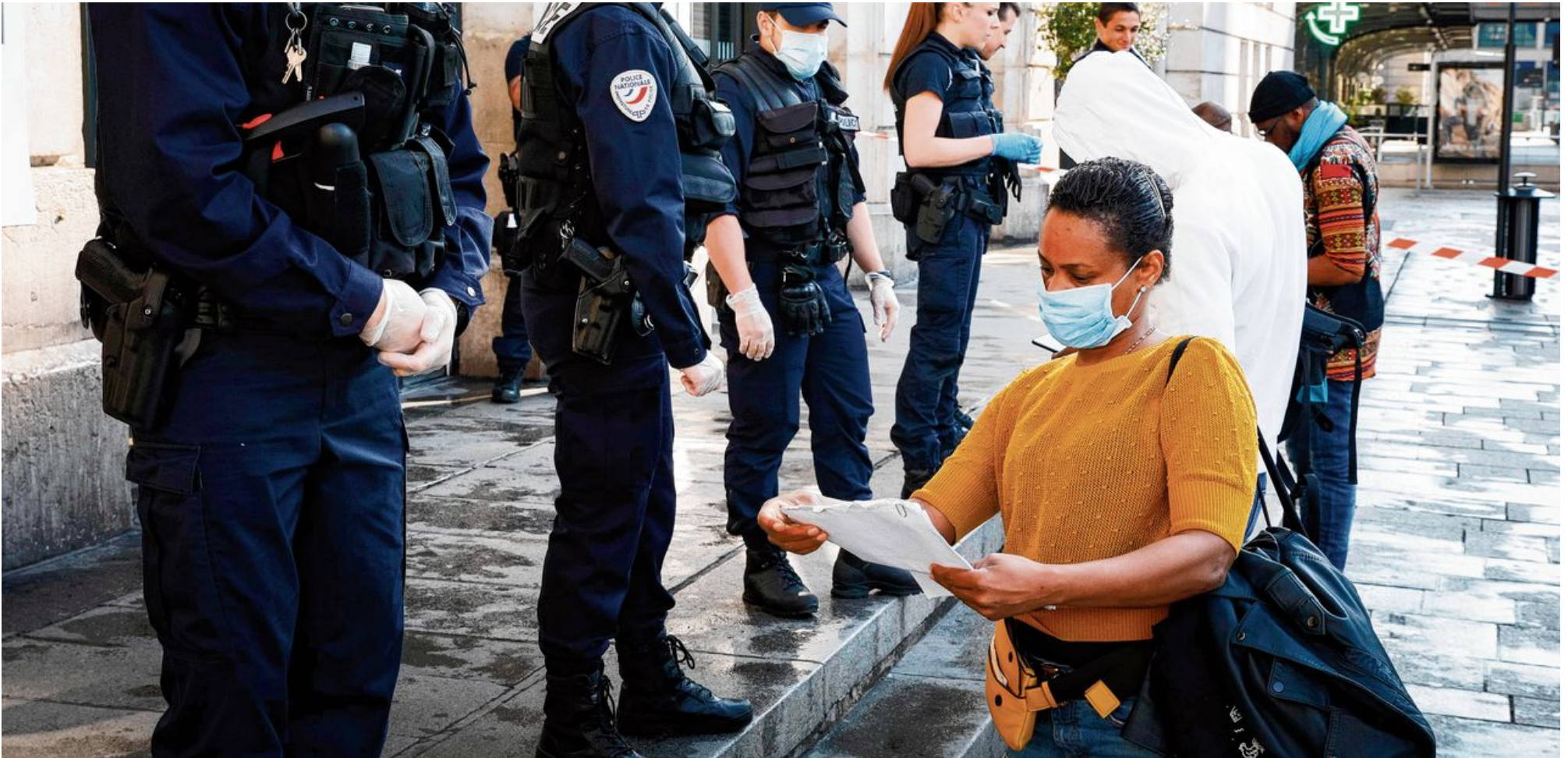
Analyse

France, Italy and Spain "Unlock", but it's not easy

Exit strategy France, Italy and Spain were severely affected by the corona virus. Now the governments are struggling towards an exit strategy.

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Politie controleert voorbijgangers bij station Saint Lazare in Parijs.
Foto Geoffroy van der Hasselt/AFP 📷

FRANCE: war president

Macron promises 'better times'

For a speech that all of France had looked forward to it was an anti-climax. An hour long Prime Minister Eduard Philippe spoke on Tuesday in the parliament how the déconfinement, the relaxation of the lockdown from May 11, looks like.

In summary: the return to normal life goes in steps; varies by region, and it is also possible that it does not happen at all.

Philippe was given an ungrateful task. It was President Emmanuel Macron in one speech on April 13 where he called the date of May 11 to relax the measures around the corona virus. But the elaboration of the details were passed on to the government.

That the prime minister may take the hot coals out of the fire, while the president is at a safe distance is typical of France Fifth Republic. If it all goes wrong, the prime minister still can be sacrificed.

The French media is therefore buzzing with rumors that the days of Prime Minister Philippe are counted. When Macron said on April 13 that the French should “reinvent themselves, I am in

first place,” he said, according to some commentators, about an imminent one change of government in which Philippe must leave the field.

Aware of the pitfalls, Philippe did everything he could on Tuesday to underline the conditional nature of the relaxation. If the medical figures not continue to develop favorably, there will be no lighting at all on May 11.

France is one of the hardest hit countries in Europe with 23,293 deaths. But it has not known the harrowing conditions of Spain and Italy. Partly by betting from medical TGVs from badly hit areas like Paris and the Northeast to less badly hit areas, a collapse of the hospital sector is narrowly avoided.

Differences between regions will now play a role in easing the measures.

Three quarters of the Covid-19 patients are concentrated in just four of the eighteen French regions: Île-de-France, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Grand Est and Haut de France. To accommodate

are grumbling in the less affected regions about the stringent measures taken by Paris have been dictated, Philippe announced a color system. In green regions, the easing faster, in red less quickly.

For France, which is known for its centralist approach, that regional focus is special. "It has been raining criticism recently on the vertical power structure, the Jacobin centralism and the heavy bureaucracy", writes the newspaper Libération. "That's why the government is now making every effort to highlight that mayors, departments and regions play a key role in easing and fighting the epidemic. "

It is still unclear what the outcome will be of what will already become the déconfinement politique

called - how politics comes out of the lockdown. Both Macron and Philippe initially saw its popularity is rising: Macron by 14 percentage points, Philippe by 13 percentage points. But that

aid is melting. In Monday's Ipsos-Le Point poll, Macron loses six percentage points while his prime minister only loses one percentage point. It is also worrying that six out of ten French people do not trust, according to an opinion poll by Odaxa-CGI the government's approach.

Macron initially stated from a military field hospital in Mulhouse that France “capable of war was wrong”. He emphasized the importance of "Unity in the fight against the virus". That hit then, but there is a Churchillian approach to this best before date: Churchill lost the first elections after the war.

Macron showed himself in his last speech compassionate: he praised and cared for the staff attention for large families in too small apartments. He promised the French again Jours Heureux - happy days, a reference to a text of the 1944 French resistance that looked ahead to a better world after the Liberation.

But Macron also showed his Trumpian side with a visit to Dr. Didier Raoult in Marseille. Raoult, like Trump, is an advocate of chloroquine in the fray against corona, even if the evidence is missing. It is no coincidence that the controversial Raoult is also one hero of the rake movement that has been making life miserable for Macron since 2018.

France | From May 11 modest relaxation

People are given a little more freedom to leave their home (they don't have to not have a letter with you).

Shops can open again, except catering, about that in June a decision is made.

Spain: top-down

Sánchez' new reality

After a very strict 45 day lockdown Tuesday Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has outlined to the Spaniards the path to one in a reasonably vigorous manner "New reality" outlined.

Although heavily affected southern European country virtually on March 14 one blow was largely closed, the measures now with military precision in four phases phased out.

If everything goes according to plan, it would live in Spain from June 22 largely should be normalized. The schools will not open again until September.

It is clear that Sánchez wants to take as little risk as possible in a battle full of uncertainties.

The Social Democrat wants to prevent a repeat of early March, then a vibrant country in spring spheres suddenly in "a war" with an invisible one opponent ended up. In addition, huge estimation errors were made.

According to research by the economic think tank Fedea, the number of infections would be 60 percent would have been less if Spain had locked down a week earlier. Then would dissemination at numerous football matches, concerts and at the huge manifestations on International Women's Day on March 8 are prevented.

The prime minister ran his military operation, which left the 17 regions out of the game and civilians were invariably portrayed as soldiers by the chief of defense staff for weeks after the facts. The number of corona patients rose so quickly that the hospitals entered epicenter Madrid could no longer cope with the influx and had to become ice stadiums arranged as morgues. Meanwhile, Sánchez regains confidence in the population of his freedoms. After 210,773 confirmed infections and 23,822 deaths – of which 301 in the last 24 hours - and nearly 800,000 fines for violating the rules, Sánchez now has the confidence to restore to the people some of his freedoms to give.

Before the government enters a process of four different phases, adults are allowed to leave May 2, for the first time since March 14, another hour of outdoor sports or hiking.

From May 11 phase 1 will come into effect, whereby a part of the catering industry may open again under restrictions.

Professional athletes are allowed to use training complexes again. From May 25 restaurants will be able to use a third of the capacity and will be able to use cinemas, museums and events take place again on a limited scale. The beaches will then also open again. As of June 8, the catering industry may fill fifty percent of their spaces. Two weeks after that, on June 22, according to Sánchez, the "new reality" will take place keeping a distance of at least 1.5 meters and wearing mouth masks will continue for a long time are recommended.

After a very lengthy Council of Ministers, Sánchez once again addressed himself from the government palace

Moncloa as a leader in times of crisis towards the Spanish people. He presented in measured wording a phased plan that will bring Spain into a new reality from June 22 should end up.

The opposition parties in the polarized parliament were not known in advance in the plans.

For the time being, the resistance of the "right" remains limited to one

"Pot and pans protest" every night at nine o'clock. The government wants after a strict lockdown take some energetic steps to get the ravaged economy back on track

with a view of "bread and games" - from catering and theaters, to the professional Soccer competition. With only one condition: that the virus remains manageable.

Italy: confusion

Conte is very careful

In Italy Prime Minister Conte has the road to on Sunday relaxation, but it is many people what and why not yet clear. Moreover, find many people with a company that Conte too cautious operates.

With over a hundred thousand people who are positive have been tested “we can't afford it” take big risks, Conte said on Tuesday first visit to Lombardy since the corona outbreak there in late February. He has, after consultation of its two advisory committees, opted for a step-by-step approach.

For the time being, there is an obligation to document why you are not at home and the one meter distance rule.

On May 4: wholesale, construction and industry may open again, restaurants may start a service, more space for outdoor sports, parks open again, family visits allowed, funerals with up to fifteen people.

On May 18: all shops are open, as are museums and libraries.

On June 1: bars, restaurants, hairdressers and beauty salons are open.

The schools will remain closed until September, and after protest from the Catholic side considered granting masses again from 18 May. Pope Francis called on Tuesday to “prudence and obedience to the measures”.

Although a few accuse Conte of blaming Lombardy, which has been hardest hit, too soon more "open" again, more entrepreneurs think the prime minister is too careful. Thereby plays a major role in the promised bureaucracy 's financial support to the government and organizational problems at the banks do not or do not occur in practice quickly is available. In principle, every entrepreneur without a lot of paperwork must pay 25,000 euros can borrow from the banks, but practice is more unruly.

The elaborate decree in which the measures are laid down is also for many lawyers points unclear. There was a debate on Monday about the space for congiunti (relatives) visit each other. After a rain of questions, the government explained that this leave was in the afternoon also applies in case of a permanent relationship. To which, the prediction is, a lot of commitments suddenly become less temporary.