

WEEKLY REPORT



11/20/21

POLITICS

JUSTICE TOFFOLI SAYS BRAZIL IS EXPERIENCING SEMI-PRESIDENTIALISM WITH STF AS MODERATING POWER

Federal Supreme Court (STF) Justice Dias Toffoli on Tuesday, November 16, said that Brazil is experiencing "semi-presidentialism," a combination of the current presidential model and the flexibility of parliamentarianism, with the Supreme Court as a moderator. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S CHAMBER PRESIDENT EXPECTS 95% OF COURT-ORDERED DEBT PEC TEXT TO BE MAINTAINED

Chamber of Deputies president Arthur Lira said on Thursday he expects the Senate to maintain most of the text of the proposed constitutional amendment (PEC) postponing court-ordered federal debt passed by the lower house, and said he is unaware of a fiscal room to grant a readjustment to public servants, as President Jair Bolsonaro signaled. [Read more.](#)

PRICES OF IMPORTS RISE DRIVEN BY PRODUCTION BOTTLENECKS

Reflecting the logistical and production bottlenecks that persist around the world, average prices of imports in dollar have accelerated in recent months and surpassed those of the pre-pandemic period. From August to October, the average prices of Brazilian imports rose 23.2% year-on-year and 14.8% when compared to the same period in 2019. In October, the price index of the total imported was the highest for the same month since 2013. The data are from the Indicator of Foreign Trade (Icomex) and are part of a bulletin to be released Thursday by Fundação Getulio Vargas's Brazilian Institute of Economics (Ibre-FGV). [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL CAN GROW 5% THIS YEAR, SAYS BOLSONARO IN BAHRAIN

In addition, the president also stated that "our trade balance is one of the fastest-growing in the world" when commenting on possible agreements between Brazil and Bahrain. [Read more.](#)

INFLATION, NOT LOW GROWTH, WILL BE BRAZIL'S MAIN ECONOMIC PROBLEM IN 2022 – MINISTER OF ECONOMY

Resilient inflation will be Brazil's main economic problem in 2022, said yesterday Minister of Economy Paulo Guedes. Low growth forecasts for next year may not be confirmed, he said, with the most pessimistic projecting growth between 0% and 1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT RECOGNIZES ACCELERATED INFLATION AND SPEAKS OF DIFFICULT WORK

Roberto Campos Neto reported that inflation expectations are rising, and growth expectations are falling and said that the shock in electricity and fuel prices this year is the biggest in the last 20 years and comes after last year's food shock. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL SENATE PANEL CALLS HEARING ON RISING FUEL PRICES WITH MINISTERS, PETROBRAS CEO

A Brazilian Senate committee will convene a public hearing about rising fuel prices on Nov. 23 with the Mines and Energy Minister, the Economy Minister and the chief executive of Brazil's state-run oil company Petrobras, its members agreed on Tuesday. The three officials were invited at the request of Senator Fernando Bezerra Coelho, the head of the government in the Senate. Coelho is pushing for additional debate before a vote on a bill introduced by an opposition senator that would create a fund to help blunt the impacts of rising fuel prices. [Read more.](#)

CENTRAL BANK DOES NOT EXPECT STAGFLATION IN BRAZIL, SAYS DIRECTOR

The director of international affairs and corporate risk management of the Central Bank (BC), Fernanda Guardado, said yesterday that the monetary authority does not work with a stagflation scenario for the Brazilian economy. She said that "many people" predict a recession next year, based on recent revisions. "We have great difficulty in seeing these numbers," she said, in a virtual event promoted by the Association of Banks in the State of Rio de Janeiro (Aberj). "We don't work with a stagflation scenario." [Read more.](#)

"ASK PAULO GUEDES," SAYS BRAZIL'S VP MOURÃO ON PAY RAISE FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

Brazil's vice president General Hamilton Mourão said, when asked about the feasibility of raising public servants' salaries, that the responsibility would fall to Economy Minister Paulo Guedes. [Read more.](#)

BOLSONARO USED FUNDS TO HELP PASS KEY GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

Suspended by the Supreme Court, amendments were mostly used in negotiations such as the constitutional amendment for federal debt. [Read more.](#)

UNIÃO BRASIL PARTY WILL SUPPORT NEITHER BOLSONARO NOR LULA IN 2022, SAYS MANDETTA

Ex-health minister Luiz Henrique Mandetta and potential presidential candidate in the 2022 election for the new party União Brasil, on Wednesday, November 17, said that the party will neither endorse current President Jair Bolsonaro nor ex-president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in the next election. [Read more.](#)

ALLIES ALERT BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO TO RISK OF MORO TAKING HIM OUT OF 2022 RUNOFF

Jair Bolsonaro has been alerted by allies to the risk of Sergio Moro taking him out of the 2022 runoff, should Moro succeed in drawing voters from the President and be identified as the right-wing force capable of defeating Lula. However, Bolsonaro does not consider Sergio Moro to be a strong enough threat. He thinks that his former minister fails to convince as an actual conservative (Bolsonaro sees himself as a conservative, not an extremist). [Read more.](#)

"WE WILL NEED TO REGULATE SOCIAL NETWORKS," SAYS BRAZIL'S EX-PRESIDENT LULA IN EUROPE

In an interview, Lula targeted Jair Bolsonaro, said that Brazil has "a president who tells 5 lies a day through social networks" and that the country needs to live more "democratically." [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S EX-PRESIDENT LULA SUPPORTS RATIFICATION OF MERCOSUR-EU AGREEMENT AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In a speech to the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, ex-president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva called for the ratification of the free trade agreement between the European Union and MERCOSUR. "We are going to improve the terms of the MERCOSUR-European Union agreement." [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL APPROVES OVER US\$183 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL BUDGET FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND SCIENCE MINISTRIES

The Brazilian Senate passed bills approving R\$1 billion (US\$183.5 million) in additional funds for the Ministries of Communications (MCom) and Science, Technology, and Innovation (MCTI), to promote projects such as Norte, Nordeste Conectado and Conecta Brasil, Fistel, as well as digital inclusion and innovation initiatives. [Read more.](#)

PRESIDENT JAIR BOLSONARO INAUGURATES BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IN BAHRAIN

Brazil wants to take advantage of the pro tempore presidency of Mercosur to move forward with the modernization of the bloc, including digitalization, said on Monday the Minister of Economy, Paulo Guedes, at the Mercosur Regional Digital Market seminar, sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ECLAC. [Read more.](#)

EU PRESSURED TO EXTEND ZERO-DEFORESTATION RULE

Part of Cerrado and Pantanal wetlands were left out of the European Union (EU) proposal to ban the import of various commodities from deforested lands, but this situation may be short-lived. Members of the European Parliament demanded Thursday from the EU Commissioner for the Environment, Virginijus Sinkevičius, that future European regulation should extend the requirement of "zero deforestation" to more products, and to those from other ecosystems with high biodiversity value. The commissioner explained the definition used by the EU. In the proposal, "deforestation" means the conversion of forest to agricultural use, whether or not human-induced; and "forest" means land larger than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than five meters and canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees capable of reaching those thresholds, excluding agricultural plantations and land under agricultural or urban use. [Read more.](#)

U.S. SENATOR INTRODUCES BILL TO BLOCK BRAZILIAN BEEF IMPORTS AFTER 'MAD COW' REPORTS

U.S. Senator Jon Tester on Thursday introduced legislation to halt the import of Brazilian beef into the United States and called for experts to review "the commodity's safety" after media reports that Brazil delayed reporting two cases of mad cow disease. The bill by Tester, a Montana Democrat, follows political pressure from U.S. cattle producers who have been calling for a halt to imports of Brazilian fresh beef due to questions about what processes Brazil uses to detect animal disease and other potential foodborne threats to consumers. [Read more.](#)

MUSK, BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT DISCUSS DEAL TO PROVIDE RURAL INTERNET, MONITOR AMAZON

Elon Musk and Brazilian Communications Minister Fabio Faria met in Austin on Tuesday to discuss a potential partnership that would leverage SpaceX technology to bring Internet to rural schools and cut back on illegal deforestation. In a statement, the Brazilian government said the two talked about how SpaceX and Starlink, a satellite broadband service offered by the firm, could help monitor the Amazon rainforest for illegal cutting, while also providing Internet connections to remote schools and health centers. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL PREPARES NEW REGULATIONS FOR FAST-GROWING FINTECHS - SOURCES

Brazil's government plans to publish new regulations for fintechs on Friday, following public consultations by the central bank, three sources told Reuters on Thursday. They said the regulations for financial technology companies were discussed at an extraordinary meeting of the National Monetary Council, which oversees the Brazilian financial and monetary system. The meeting will continue Friday. The public consultations were published a year ago, after complaints from established big banks that the fintechs were getting special treatment with lax regulations even when they had become large. [Read more.](#)

HEALTH

UNIÃO QUÍMICA BUYS BAYER'S PLANT IN SÃO PAULO

Brazilian pharmaceutical company União Química has concluded the purchase of the plant and nine contraceptives from Bayer for \$112 million. CEO Fernando De Castro Marques said União should take over the unit, located in the city of São Paulo, at the beginning of next year. "We had the deal approved by [antitrust regulator] Cade without restrictions. Now, we will make the payment and complete all the systems upgrade," said the executive. He said part of the funds will come from a bond issuance and the remainder from the company's cash reserves. "We have made foreign exchange hedge. With this, the value of the investment in reais should be around R\$582.4 million, based on a rate of R\$5.2 to the dollar." The plant, which occupies an area of 15,000 square meters, produces female hormones, such as contraceptives and hormone replacement pills, and has a production capacity of approximately 70 million blister packs per year. Currently, it is occupying 60% of the installed capacity. [Read more.](#)

EUROPEAN CONGRESSMEN DEFEND COMPULSORY LICENSING OF PATENTS TO CHAIRS OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

Members of the European Parliament defended that the Brazilian National Congress should overturn a veto by Jair Bolsonaro on the compulsory licensing of patents on vaccines and medicines to face health emergencies. The letter was sent on Wednesday (17) to the president of the Chamber, Arthur Lira, and to the president of the Senate, Rodrigo Pacheco. According to Metrôpoles newspaper, the letter requested for Congress to re-demand patent owners to transfer knowledge of their technologies. Bolsonaro's veto returned to lawmakers in early September and has yet to be voted on. The deadline for giving the final word on the case ended last month, but such delays have been common throughout the pandemic. This letter contrasts with one sent to the Brazilian Congress in September by another group of deputies. In the previous document, with support from the international consumer protection group Consumer Choice Center and the Parliamentary Front for the Free Market, the maintenance of Bolsonaro's veto was defended, with the warning of a violation of industrial secrets. [Read more.](#)

COMMITTEE APPROVES REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING TO DEBATE THE COMPULSORY LICENSING OF PATENTS AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Social Security and Family Committee (CSSF) of the Chamber of Deputies approved the request of congressman Alexandre Padilha (PT-SP) for a public hearing to debate on the importance of compulsory licensing of patents against the Covid-19 pandemic. According to him, the pandemic period generated the unequal distribution of health technologies that could be used to combat the new coronavirus, severely hampering humanity's response to this crisis. The debate will have the following guests: Pedro Villardi, Coordinator of the Working Group on Intellectual Property (GTPI) of the Brazilian Network for the Integration of Peoples (Rebrip); Felipe de Carvalho; Coordinator of the Doctors Without Borders (MSF) Access Campaign in Brazil; Eli Iola Gurgel de Andrade, Profa. Professor at the Faculty of Medicine at UFMG; Paola Falceta, founder of the Covid-19 Association of Victims and Families of Victims; Ministry of Health; and Merck Sharp & Dohme. [Read more.](#)

NOMINATIONS FOR ANS WILL BE MADE FOR A HEARING IN NOVEMBER

Even without the names defined, the nominations for the four positions at the National Agency for Supplementary Health (ANS) will reach the Federal Senate in time for the next session to vote the authorities, scheduled for November 30, December 1st, and 2nd. Government and Legislative interlocutors heard by JOTA newspaper claim that this move should materialize in the next week or the next. Two vacancies must be filled with nominations from the Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, and the others will be in charge of the president of the Senate, Rodrigo Pacheco (PSD-MG). [Read more.](#)

THE FEDERAL SENATE APPROVES QUALITY CONTROL OF DRUGS AFTER MARKETING

The Senate Plenary approved this Tuesday (16) the Bill (PL) 589/2021 that regulates inspections and quality control measures for medicines after their sale. The article, written by

senator Otto Alencar (PSD-BA), is now being analyzed by the Chamber of Deputies. The substitute changes Law 6360, of 1976 and Law 9,787, of 1999 to establish surveillance rules in the post-marketing phase of drugs and immunobiologicals, also called pharmacovigilance. The purpose of the text is to update the legislation to assess the safety and effectiveness of products in use by large populations. [Read more.](#)

'BLUE LINE': MINISTRY OF HEALTH LAUNCHES MEN'S ATTENTION LINE IN 'BLUE NOVEMBER'

The initiative aims to strengthen men's health care and raise public awareness of the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer. [Read more.](#)

PUBLIC HEARING ABOUT BLUE NOVEMBER CALLS FOR ATTENTION TO PROSTATE CANCER

The Special Committee on Cancer held a debate on Wednesday (17), about 10 years of Blue November in Brazil. The debate was held on World Prostate Cancer Day. The proponent of the debate and coordinator of the commission, deputy Weliton Prado (PROS-MG), recalled that the November Azul campaign came to Brazil at the initiative of the Lado a Lado Institute. He highlighted that 65 thousand cases of prostate cancer are found and there are about 16 thousand deaths per year. He pointed out that, despite the prevention initiatives, it is still necessary to ensure that the SUS offers quality treatment to patients with advanced drugs and treatments, robotic surgery, and the creation of specialized treatment centers in all regions of the country. [Read more.](#)

CONGRESSWOMEN REQUEST INFORMATION ABOUT REGULATION OF THE COMPULSORY CANCER NOTIFICATION LAW

Congresswomen Adriana Ventura (Novo-SP) and Carmen Zanotto (Cidadania-SC) presented application 1344/2021, which requests information from the Ministry of Health on the regulation of Law 13.685/2018, which establishes the obligation of any and all diseases and cancer-related health event must have mandatory notification, both in public and private health services, throughout the country. [Read more.](#)

DRAFT OF THE BILL ABOUT THE PRODUCTION OF RADIOISOTOPES BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS READY TO BE VOTED ON TUESDAY

The special committee of the Chamber of Deputies created to analyze the possibility of production of radioisotopes for medical use by the private sector (PEC 517/10) will meet next Tuesday (23), at 2 pm, to vote on the rapporteur's opinion, Deputy General Peternelli (PSL-SP). [Read more.](#)

HEALTH SECTOR SAYS TAX REFORM WILL INCREASE TAXES

The tax reform proposals being processed in the National Congress could make the health production chain more expensive, harming the more than 213 million Brazilians assisted by the system. The alert was made by industry representatives who participated in a hearing at the Social Affairs Committee (CAS) on Wednesday (17). Luciene Amaral, from the Ministry of Health, said that the ministry's projections indicate that the end of the PIS/Cofins exemption on these sectors 'will absurdly burden public coffers, with an immediate increase in expenditure of 30%'. She asked senators to be careful when evaluating proposals such as PEC 110/2019 and PL 2.337/2021 (which deal with tax reform), as the health area is increasingly marked by rapid technological innovation and the creation of new drugs. Director of the National Health Confederation (CNSaúde), Bruno Sobral said that PECs 110/2019 and 45/2019 (which also deal with tax reform) will burden the tax consumption of hospitals and pharma industry by 15.5%, and of health plans by 21.6%. Increases that 'inevitably will be passed on to final consumers', he added. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL'S HEALTH HAS LOWEST FEDERAL SPENDING FORECAST SINCE 2012

At a time when the public health system is still recovering from the peak in demand caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the federal spending forecast in this area in the 2022 budget proposal is at the lowest level since 2012, according to a technical note from the Institute for Health Policy Studies (IEPS). IEPS director of public policies Arthur Aguillar explains that despite lower demand for care in the SUS for Covid-19, as a result of vaccination, there is a repressed demand for several procedures, which fell 19% in 2020. [Read more.](#)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH ASKS ECONOMY FOR AN ADDITIONAL R\$1.4 BILLION TO GUARANTEE PFIZER VACCINES IN 2022

The Ministry of Health asked the team led by Paulo Guedes (Economy) to increase R\$ 1.4 billion in the Budget to guarantee the purchase of 100 million vaccines from Pfizer for the campaign against Covid-19 of 2022, informed the Folha de São Paulo. The immunizing agent is one of the government's bets to control the pandemic next year, as it can be used in adolescents, is under analysis for children and serves as a booster dose for those who received other vaccine models. The request must be on the agenda of the next meeting of the JEO (Board of Budget Execution). Guedes' portfolio signaled that it would add to the Health budget, according to government officials. The extra resource, which must be within the spending ceiling — a rule that limits the increase in public spending — would be used to pay 20% in advance of the R\$ 7 billion contract with Pfizer, an imposition by the pharmaceutical in negotiating for doses. Wanted, the Ministries of Economy and Health did not respond. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL HEALTH REGULATOR QUESTIONS MINISTER OVER COVID BOOSTER VACCINE IN ADULTS AND JANSSEN'S SECOND DOSE

The Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (ANVISA) on Thursday, November 18, questioned Minister of Health Marcelo Queiroga about the technical elements used to authorize the third dose of the vaccine against Covid-19 in fully immunized adults in the country. The measure, announced by the Minister this week, is currently applied in states such as São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, and covers people who have been vaccinated with two doses at least 5 months ago. [Read more.](#)

BRAZIL STAGES MASSIVE VACCINATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST COVID-19

The Health Ministry is set to conduct a campaign entitled Mega Vaccination from November 20 through 26, to encourage people to take all recommended doses of the vaccine, thus completing the basic immunization cycle. As it stands today, 21 million people failed to go to a health station to take the second dose of the vaccine against COVID-19, for a variety of reasons. The minister also announced changes to the vaccination schedule. The interval until the booster (third) dose, originally six months after the second dose, has been cut down to five months. [Read more.](#)

COVID-19: BRAZIL ADMINISTERED OVER 300 MI VACCINE DOSES

Brazil has administered more than 300 million doses of the vaccine against COVID-19 since the beginning of the vaccination campaign, the country's Health Ministry reported today (Nov. 19). Thus far, 157.6 million people have received the first dose and 129.8 million got both doses or the single dose of the inoculation, which means that 73.3 percent of the target population have completed the vaccine cycle. [Read more.](#)

COVID CASES FALL IN 80% OF BIG CITIES

Data from Folha de S.Paulo's Covid monitor show that October was the month with the biggest reduction in new cases of the disease and the slowest acceleration in large cities during the pandemic. In 80% of the 326 municipalities with more than 100,000 inhabitants, there was a decrease. Just 5% of them accelerated in the number of cases. Among the 27 capitals of the country, 21 spent the entire month in a state of deceleration, including São Paulo, Rio, Recife, and Manaus. Only one large city, Valparaíso de Goiás, accelerated in October. [Read more.](#)

GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE USE OF PERSONAL DATA IN DRUGSTORE DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

The National Consumer Secretariat (Senacon) decided to investigate five of the main drugstore chains in the country, for evidence of breach of data protection of consumers, according to Valor Econômico newspaper. For the agency, there is a lack of transparency in the process of obtaining and managing personal information provided to companies by customers. Raia Drogasil, Drogarias Pacheco, Drogaria São Paulo, Pague Menos and Panvel will have up to ten days to provide clarification. Information from health plans and agreements with associations and class entities also concerns Senacon's technical area. The agency wants to know details about the relationships involving the sharing of data between drugstores, pharma industry and medical offices. [Read more](#).

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