

**CORONA overview - national measures**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Economic measures</b>	<b>Practical measures</b>
<p><b>Austria</b></p>	<p>On 13 March additional measures affective by next Monday have been set. Almost all the schools will be closed as well as all shops not needed for the daily demand (for at least a week). All the bars and restaurants have to close at 3 pm. 2 regions in the western part are even under fully quarantine. Also flights to France, Spain and Switzerland are cancelled. Everything needed for the daily supply and infrastructure will still be in place. Retail, Bank, Post Office, Gas Station, pharmacy.....!</p> <p>Concerning cross border delivery, the government promised to keep the delivery of goods active, and it still is, also from Italy. Unfortunately, especially at the Brenner border, due to individual travellers and controlling them and road construction on the Italian side it was a really long waiting time, also for trucks.</p> <p><b>Update 17 March</b> General information about the coronavirus situation in Austria in English: <a href="https://fm4.orf.at/stories/3000031/">https://fm4.orf.at/stories/3000031/</a></p> <p><i>Economic measures taken in Austria (WKÖ press release):</i> "Our companies bear a particularly high risk and great responsibility in this difficult time," said WKÖ President Harald Mahrer on Saturday. "I would like to thank the Federal Government and the social partners for the quick and unbureaucratic way to put aid measures in place for companies and their employees."</p> <p>Overview of the measures decided: <b>GOAL: SECURE CASHFLOW</b></p>	<p>WKÖ advise and support to our members (only available in DE), but gives idea the info point hotline, FAQs, webinars etc.</p> <p><b>Infopoint:</b> <a href="https://www.wko.at/service/aussenwirtschaft/corona-virus-wirtschaftskammer-als-anlaufstelle.html">https://www.wko.at/service/aussenwirtschaft/corona-virus-wirtschaftskammer-als-anlaufstelle.html</a> FAQs: <a href="https://www.wko.at/service/faq-coronavirus-infos.html">https://www.wko.at/service/faq-coronavirus-infos.html</a></p> <p>In parallel WKÖ is closely working with the government and the other Austrian Social Partners on the support measures taken for companies and their employees in these difficult times.</p> <p><b>Update 24 March</b> WKÖ info on Corona short time working model: <a href="https://www.wko.at/service/faq-coronavirus-infos.html#heading_corona_kurzarbeit">https://www.wko.at/service/faq-coronavirus-infos.html#heading_corona_kurzarbeit</a></p>

- Loan guarantees for bridge financing: The state issues guarantee to companies that have run into financial difficulties due to the corona virus.
- Bridging loans: Funds are available for companies concerned to maintain their solvency.
- Tax deferral and reduction of tax prepayment for affected companies
- Discussions with leading banks: The goal is additional credit guarantees and credit deferrals by the institutes
- Strengthening and accelerating export promotion: Faster exports ensure faster availability of financial resources.

### **GOAL: SECURE JOBS**

Childcare: Three weeks extra special childcare time for employees, a third of the cost is borne by the government.

Corona short-time working model: The new model agreed by the social partners is cheaper and less bureaucratic for the companies concerned, the procedure is shorter. Corona short-time working can be started on Monday, March 16. 2020, first be applied for at the AMS (employment office) for up to 3 months.

### **GOAL: HELP IN HARDSHIP CASES**

Establishment of two hardship funds for EPU's (sole trader business) and family businesses: This is necessary because those affected generally do not benefit from short-time work or from the guarantees.

### **Update 24 March**

#### **Economic measures:**

On 18 March, the Austrian government announced an aid package for the economy of up to 38 billion euros. Of this amount, up to 4 billion euros are earmarked for supporting SMEs

	and short-time working, around 9 billion euros for loan guarantees, around 15 billion euros for companies and sectors that have been particularly hard hit, and around 10 billion euros for tax deferrals.	
<b>Belgium</b>	<a href="https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/faqs/">https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/faqs/</a>	<a href="https://www.comeos.be/home">https://www.comeos.be/home</a>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<p><b>Update 19 March</b></p> <p>On March 16, the Czech government imposed a nationwide quarantine effective at midnight until March 24. Borders remain closed and people are required to stay home, except for going to work and carrying out essential duties.</p> <p>Under the quarantine, free movement will be prohibited EXCEPT FOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• commuting to and from work or conducting business</li> <li>• necessary trips to visit family</li> <li>• trips to medical facilities and escorting relatives to medical facilities</li> <li>• provision of necessities such as <b>food, medicine, sanitary goods, animal feed</b></li> <li>• carrying out <b>banking, postal services, and refuelling of vehicles</b></li> </ul> <p>Those working in security, healthcare, social care, public transport, and delivery services will be exempt from the free movement ban for those purposes. People at high risk should work from home. Those at 70 years of age and older are recommended to stay at home.</p> <p>All individuals in Prague outside of their home MUST cover your mouth and nose with either a protective medical mask, self-made mask or scarf. The Czech government has banned going anywhere in public without such cover. People should also maintain a safe distance of at least two meters.</p> <p>Grocery stores, pharmacies and drugstores are now limited to seniors over 65 years of age between the hours of 10:00-12:00. Others (as well as the elderly) are permitted to shop at all other opening times.</p> <p>Public transportation will continue to operate but authorities will limit the number of people per vehicle. Larger cities such as Prague, Brno and Ostrava have announced that they</p>	

	will be disinfecting trams and buses on a daily basis and in Prague all metro and tram doors will automatically open at all stops. A protective mask is MANDATORY and the front doors will remain closed to create a safe distance for drivers.	
<b>Denmark</b>	<p><b>Update 24 March</b></p> <p>A number of new legislative measures aimed at businesses have now been implemented and then extended to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Denmark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary ban on organizing events, etc., with more than 10 people. The ban applies both indoors and outdoors activities.</li> <li>• Temporary shutdown of nightclubs, bars, taverns, etc.</li> <li>• Temporary ban on serving guests in restaurants and cafés. It is still possible to offer take away under certain conditions, e.g. special requirements on hygiene, number of waiting guests, etc.</li> <li>• Shutdown of malls, department stores, bazaars, etc.</li> <li>• Shutdown of businesses with close contact to customers, e.g. hairdressers, tattoo artists, masseurs and cosmetologists.</li> </ul> <p>Finally, several initiatives have been taken to support the business community by the Government, e.g. postponement of tax payments, salary compensation, etc.</p>	
<b>Estonia</b>	The government has declared emergency situation on Mar 12, until May 1. All public gatherings are prohibited, schools are closed Estonia has started to test for Coronavirus in the early stages of its propagation. There are so far 283 confirmed cases, but the rate of increase is relatively stable, it is not accelerating. The government has restricted crossing of the Schengen internal and external borders.	
<b>France</b>	<p>Economic or tax reduction, you can see it on these websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government website with a Q&amp;A daily update: <a href="https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus">https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus</a></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Communiqué de presse (11March):</u></b> Coronavirus : Union de la filière alimentaire pour assurer l’approvisionnement des consommateurs sur tout le</p>

## Eurocommerce Briefing Update 25/03/20

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health ministry website Site du Ministère de la santé + Points de situations quotidiens</li> <li>Labour ministry website Site du ministère du travail</li> </ul>	territoire 11 mars 2020, L'ANIA, la Coopération Agricole, la FNSEA, la FCD et les autres distributeurs indépendants unissent leurs forces pour prendre toutes les dispositions permettant à la filière alimentaire de fonctionner de manière optimum.
<b>Finland</b>	<p>Corona overview, informing about the COVID-19 situation and changes in it in Finland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finnish Government's website: <a href="https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/frontpage">https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/frontpage</a></li> <li>Finnish institute for health and welfare - latest updates on Corona information: <a href="https://thl.fi/en/web/infectious-diseases/what-s-new/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-updates">https://thl.fi/en/web/infectious-diseases/what-s-new/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-updates</a></li> </ul> <p>As of 26 March midnight, Helsinki will be shut down, country borders closed for foreigners for a period of 3 weeks.</p>	
<b>Germany</b>	<p>No harmonized cross-Federal State measures in place. In all German Federal States only supermarkets, food &amp; drug stores, pharmacies, banks, post offices and fuel stations are open. Contact restrictions set up for all public places (2 persons max). Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg and Saarland have implemented even stricter stipulations.</p> <p><b>Update 18 March</b> Guidelines issued from yesterday, but the „Länder“ yet have to transpose.</p> <p>News on <a href="http://www.bundesregierung.de">www.bundesregierung.de</a>: 'Agreement between the federal government and the heads of government of the federal states in view of the corona epidemic in Germany' -&gt; <a href="https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/aktuelles/vereinellation-intermediate-of-the-federal-government-and-the-government-chiefs-of-the-federal-states-in-view-of-the-corona-epidemic-in-germany-1730934">https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/aktuelles/vereinellation-intermediate-of-the-federal-government-and-the-government-chiefs-of-the-federal-states-in-view-of-the-corona-epidemic-in-germany-1730934</a> (in German)</p>	<p>To facilitate your processes and save you some time, please find below a first draft on what the text on this company certificate could look like. Of course, this is only a first proposal, which does not claim to be complete nor legally mature, but it can save you some time and be enriched by legal provisions in each individual region of Germany, the more so as sometimes stipulations in Germany may vary from Federal State to Federal State.</p> <p><b>Please see the template <a href="#">at the end of this document.</a></b></p>

	<p>Neues auf <b>www.bundesregierung.de</b>: 'Vereinbarung zwischen der Bundesregierung und den Regierungschefinnen und Regierungschefs der Bundesländer angesichts der Corona-Epidemie in Deutschland' -&gt; <a href="https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/aktuelles/vereinbarung-zwischen-der-bundesregierung-und-den-regierungschefinnen-und-regierungschefs-der-bundeslaender-angesichts-der-corona-epidemie-in-deutschland-1730934">https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/aktuelles/vereinbarung-zwischen-der-bundesregierung-und-den-regierungschefinnen-und-regierungschefs-der-bundeslaender-angesichts-der-corona-epidemie-in-deutschland-1730934</a></p> <p>The German state aid measures agreed between government and parliament yesterday: SMEs with 1-5 employees will receive as of next week via electronic tools a one-time payment of 9,000€ for the coming 3 months. SMEs with 5-10 employees are entitled to receive 15,000€ as “liquidity booster”. Contact points at communes and Federal State offices. Additional support schemes to be implemented for 1-man/woman-enterprises, free-lancers, artists as well as tax suspension plans, state aid coverage for company’s social contributions under an umbrella called “Kurzarbeitergeld”, etc.</p>	
<p><b>Greece</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Suspension of tax payments:</b> Suspension of tax payments until 31/8/2020 which have already expired or expire soon (from 11/03/2020 to 30/04/2020) for businesses affected financially by COVID 19. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• those assessed by Tax Offices (D.O.Y.) and the Debt Centers,</li> <li>• the monthly instalment payments (120 instalment measure and relative settlements),</li> <li>• and VAT debit statements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Overdue Government Debt to Businesses:</b> AADE will immediately repay all government overdue liabilities to businesses and individuals up to € 30,000.</li> <li>- <b>VAT:</b> VAT Reduction from 24% to 6% on products needed for the treatment of Coronavirus (masks, gloves, antiseptics, tissues, soap, etc.) and ethyl alcohol, if used to produce the above products. The 6% low VAT rate will apply until the end of the year.</li> <li>- <b>ENFIA:</b> The status of ENFIA remains unchanged and the new values will apply from 2021.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Requirement:</b> Job retention clause / Package measures do not apply to companies which will make dismissals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of tax measures should include all forms of companies (individuals’ legal entities) affected by the COVID 19</li> <li>- Abolition of enforcement measures and freezing of business accounts until the Covid-19 effects are finally eliminated.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Hellenic Bank Association (EET)- Suspension of payments for borrowers without arrears (for Businesses):</b> Installments (excluding interests) are suspended until 30/9/2020 for debtors-businesses without arrears until 31/12/2019.</li> <li>- <b>Hellenic Bank Association (EET)- Suspension of payments for borrowers without arrears (for freelancers and self-employed):</b> Suspension of installments (excluding interests) for 3 months by telephone contact with the borrowers. The beneficiaries will be freelancers / self-employed</li> <li>- Individuals, who were directly affected by COVID 19 will receive state aid of 800 euros.</li> <li>- <b>Debt Collection &amp; Law Firms:</b> Borrowers will not be bothered.</li>   <li>- <b>Interest rate subsidy on business loans:</b> The measure will have a validity of 3 months for the sectors of the economy that are directly affected by the Covid-19 crisis. Should the crisis continue, the measure may be further extended.</li> <li>- <b>New Guarantee Facility:</b> In consultation with the European Commission and in order to restart the economy, a Guarantee Facility for SME loans will be implemented up to € 6 billion, from the originally planned of 3 billion. These funds will be available for the post-COVID 19 / post crisis period.</li> <li>- <b>Simplification of Entrepreneurship Fund (Τ.ΕΠΙΧ) of the Greek Development Bank (Ε.Α.Τ.):</b> Facilitation of loans provided by the Entrepreneurship Fund (Τ.ΕΠΙΧ) of the Greek Development Bank (Ε.Α.Τ.) by raising by € 250 million the funds towards businesses affected by the Covi-19, <b>with a 100% interest rate subsidy for 2 years.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Unemployment Benefit for Traders:</b> Extension of the unemployment benefit to freelancers for an additional of 2 months. Therefore, those who are entitled to receive it by March 31, will receive it for a further 2 months, that is until May 31, 2020.</p>	<p><b>Requirement:</b> Job retention clause / Package measures do not apply to companies which will make dismissals. In any case, we must demand the extension of affiliation to the successor scheme of Katseli scheme (protection of the main/first residence) after 30/4/2020, possibly for the whole of 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What will happen with the "sealed" or bounced checks and the "Tiresias" database? Possible ESEE request for an extension of the time before a check is official declared as bounced milder treatment of debtors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Requirement:</b></p>
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	<p>The employer is obliged to declare the employees who he/she suspends from their employment contracts in the «CS ERGANI» and notify it to the employees; otherwise the enterprise will be excluded from all favourable suspension measure package (instalments and payments) to the State.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Easter Gift:</b> The Easter Gift will be paid in its total amount, but with the option for employers to pay later, without penalties, in order to alleviate the adverse effects of COVID 19. In particular, it may be paid to beneficiaries in summer, along with the summer holidays (days off) allowance, without being prohibited from paying it earlier, provided that it is financially feasible.</li> <li>- <b>Reduction of rentals for businesses:</b> For businesses that are obliged to stop their business due to the spread of the Covid-19, only 60% of the rent of the commercial real estate, if rented, will be paid for March and April 2020. The same applies also to employees of undertakings whose employment contracts are suspended due to Covid-19, when the rented house is the main residence.</li> <li>- <b>Emergency Payment:</b> All freelancers, self-employed and skilled traders / employers affected by the Covid-19 crisis will receive the € 800 cash payment in early April for the period between 15/3/2020 to 30/4/2020. In particular, the beneficiaries are those who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- closed their business by government decision (eg cafes, restaurants, private schools, tutoring, hotels, etc.),</li> <li>- have not closed their business by a government decision, but have been affected by the current financial crisis due to COVID 19,</li> <li>- not affected by the economic crisis of the consequences of COVID 19.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Special 'repayable deposit' measure:</b> The measure concerns all businesses affected, and is practically a government loan of € 1 billion total, which will be repaid in part or in full by</p>	<p><b>Requirement:</b> Job retention clause / Package measures do not apply to companies which will make dismissals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete rent exemption as long as it is required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Use European Funds or State budget to reimburse the owners of commercial premises καταβολής μισθώματος.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Requirement:</b> Job retention clause / Package measures do not apply to companies which will make dismissals.</p>
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	<p>businesses back to the state in the future. In real terms, eligible will be the businesses which fulfil a number of criteria such as turnover decline, wage and non-wage costs or possibly destruction of stocks. The aid will be given in cash through enterprises «Taxisnet» accounts.</p> <p><b>Municipality of Athens:</b> For companies which are obliged to cease operation because of Covid-19 dissemination measures, there will be no payment for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Charges for services in return (cleaning and lighting charges and tax on electrically powered premises)</li> <li>- Public Space Occupancy fees</li> <li>- Residence fees (5%)</li> <li>- Fees on gross store revenue (0,5%)</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Power Corporation (DEI):</b> From 26/3/2020 and for the following quarter PPC offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Free fixed charge for all low voltage customers.</li> <li>- 5 € discount for all e-bill customers, old and new</li> <li>- 8% discount for low voltage households and businesses consuming over 2,000 KWh, so as not to be burdened by high consumption while staying at home with their families, but also for businesses that are currently being under pressure.</li> <li>- On the website of PPC <a href="http://www.dei.gr/epayment">www.dei.gr/epayment</a> all customers can pay their bills simply and quickly, without any extra commission with all debit and credit cards</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporation of Greek government bonds into the <b>QE/PEPP</b> (<a href="https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ecb.pr200318_1~3949d6f266.en.html">https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ecb.pr200318_1~3949d6f266.en.html</a>) : Greek ECB's latest decisions bonds will be included in the QE program (essentially the PEPP: Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program), with the beneficial effects for banks and the Greek government reflected on cheaper borrowing costs</li> </ul>	<p>The relief of citizens and businesses, based on what the City of Athens and PPC have decided, set a good example.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>General Escape Clause:</b> On the basis of this clause, which also applies to Greece and was adopted in 2011, the Member States of the European Union can take any measures necessary to support public health, business liquidity, employment and social cohesion, deviating from the medium-term budgetary target of the Stability and Growth Pact, as long as the impact of the Covid-19 is in effect. Thus, there is a greater flexibility framework concerning all the options available in order to tackle in a timely and efficient manner the implications of this pandemic.</li> <li>- <b>Supplementary Budget - Increase of funds:</b> An additional budget will be presented, with the Ministry of Finance's regular reserve being increased by € 4 billion, without the need to cash in or intervene to the 'safety cushion/ buffer'. The total amount of measures, from the state budget and European resources, is now up to EUR 20 billion by 20/3/2020.</li> </ul>	<p>The purpose of these measures should be to divert resources to the real economy as quickly as possible, particularly to smaller enterprises which are being hit disproportionately hard.</p>
<b>Hungary</b>	<p>Closure of the borders for passenger transport, only Hungarian citizens may enter Hungary, closure of airports, public transport on reduced frequency in bigger cities, no public events, no sport events, schools, universities closed, no bars, no movies, only grocery shops, pharmacies, drugstores operate with normal schedule, other shops including horeca-units close at 15h. The government ordered sanitary equipment, devices, masks worth 3 billion HUF from China, expected to arrive until the end of week (21-22 March).</p>	
<b>Ireland</b>	<p><b>Update 24 March</b> <b>Business measures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Irish Government have offered a COVID19 temporary unemployment payment to people who have been temporarily let go from work for a period of up to 6 weeks (€203)</li> <li>• Reduction in wait period to avail of sick pay to 1st day of sickness and increased amount of payment to €302</li> <li>• Temporary freeze of business rates for 3 months with a review period after this</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All non essential recreational businesses have been mandated to close, including Bars. Restaurants are not yet included. Schools have been closed over a week and many who can are working from home.</li> <li>Many non essential retail outlets such as clothes stores are closed including major department stores.</li> </ul> <p>It is envisioned that the Irish Government will announce a significant fiscal package this week, including wage certainty and further liquidity for business.</p>	
<p><b>Italy</b></p>	<p>(NON official) TRANSLATION of the main points of the Decree Law issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 by the Italian President of the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>- Having regard to (list of decrees issued for the COVOD-19 emergency) [The President of the Council of Ministers] Orders:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Article 1</p> <p>(Urgent measures to contain the spreading of the virus for the entire national territory)</p> <p>1. in order to counter and contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the following measures are adopted on the entire national territory:</p> <p>a) All industrial and production activities are suspended, except for what is listed in Annex 1 and for what it is provided below. Professional activities are not suspended and the provisions of article 1, point 7<sup>1</sup> of the decree of 11 March 2020 remain</p>	<p><b>UPDATE 15 March</b></p> <p>Movement of persons is allowed solely for work requirements, health reasons or reasons of necessity, such as <b>shopping for food and other essentials</b>. It should be noted that in some territories <b>the possibility of movement of people from one town/municipality to another for food shopping is also contested</b>.</p>

<sup>1</sup> (Article 1, point 7 of decree of 11/3/2020) 7 - With regard to production and professional activities, it is recommended:

- a) maximum use by the companies of smart working mode, for the activities that can be carried out at home or remotely;
- b) holidays and paid holidays are incentivized for the employees, as well as the other instruments provided for in the collective agreement;
- c) the activities departments that are not indispensable for production are suspended;

	<p>unchanged. For public administrations, the provisions of article 87 of law decree no. 18 of 17 March 2020. For commercial activities, the provisions of the decree of 11 March 2020 and the ordinance of the Minister of Health of 20 March 2020 remain valid<sup>2</sup>. The list of codes in Annex 1 can be modified by decree of Minister of Economic Development, once consulted with the Minister of Economy and Finance.</p> <p>b) It is forbidden for persons to move, by public or private means, to a municipality other than the one in which they are currently located, except for proven work needs, for urgent needs or for health reasons.</p> <p>c) The production activities that would be suspended pursuant to point a, may continue if organized remotely or with smart-working.</p> <p>d) The activities that are functional to ensure the continuity of the supply chains of the activities of Annex 1 are allowed. The activities that are functional to ensure the continuity of the public utility services and of the essential services referred to in letter e) are allowed, upon communication by the Perfect of the province in which the activity is located. In this communication, the companies and administrations benefiting from the products and services relating to the permitted activities are specifically indicated. The Perfect may suspend the described activities, when he believes that the conditions described in the previous paragraph no longer exist.</p> <p>e) Activities that provide public utility services are allowed, as well as essential services as per law no. 146 of 12 June 1990<sup>3</sup>. Museums, institutes and places of culture</p>	<p>C20 - Chemicals C201 - base chemicals C2011 - industrial gases C2012 - dyes and pigments C2013 - other inorganic basic chemicals C2014 - other organic basic chemicals (Petrochemicals) C2015 - fertilisers and nitrogen compounds C2016 - plastics in primary forms C2017 - synthetic rubber in primary forms C202 - pesticides and other agrochemical products C203 - paints, varnishes and similar coatings, printing ink and mastics C204 - soap and detergents, cleaning and polishing preparations, perfumes and C2041 - soap and detergents, cleaning and polishing preparations, perfumes and C2042 - perfumes and toilet preparations C205 - other chemical products C2051 - explosives C2052 - glues C2053 - essential oils C2059 - other chemical products n.e.c. C206 - man-made fibres</p> <p style="background-color: #e6f2ff;">C21 - basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations C211 - basic pharmaceutical products C212 - pharmaceutical preparations</p> <p style="background-color: #fff2cc;">C22 - rubber and plastic products C221 - rubber products C2211 - rubber tyres and tubes; retreading and rebuilding of rubber tyres C2219 - other rubber products C222 - plastics products C2221 - plastic plates, sheets, tubes and profiles C2222 - plastic packing goods C2223 - builders' ware of plastic C2229 - other plastic products</p>
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- d) the adoption of anti-contagion, safety protocols and, where it was not possible to respect the social distancing of 1 mt as main containment measure, the adoption of individual protection measures;
- e) working spaces sanitization operations are encouraged

<sup>2</sup> Commercial activities in Decree of 11/3/2020: Retail activities are suspended, except for activities related to the sale of food and basic necessities listed in Annex 1. Regardless of the activity carried out, the markets are closed. News-stands, tobacco shops, pharmacies and Para pharmacies remain open. The social distance of 1mt must always be guaranteed.

<sup>3</sup> Law 146 of 12/6/1990: For the purposes of this law, they are considered public services essential, those aimed at ensuring the enjoyment of constitutionally protected rights of the person to life, health, freedom and security, freedom of movement, assistance and social security, education and freedom of communication.

	<p>remain closed to the public. The same is valid for education-related services when they are not issued remotely, within the limits currently allowed.</p> <p>f) The production, marketing and delivery of medicines, healthcare technology, medical-surgical devices, and agricultural and food products is always allowed. Any functional activity to cope with the emergency is allowed.</p> <p>g) The activities of the continuous-production-cycle plants are permitted, when from their interruption a serious damage for the plans themselves or a danger of accidents derive, subject to communication from the Prefect of the province where the production activity is located. The Prefect may suspend those activities, when he believes that the prescribed conditions no longer exist. In any case, the activity of plants aimed at guaranteeing the provision of an essential public service is not subject to communication.</p> <p>h) Activities of the aerospace and defense industry are allowed, as well as other activities of strategic importance for the national economy, subject to authorization by the Prefect of the province where the production activities are located.</p> <p>2. The Prefect informs the President of the Region, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Economic Development, the Minister of Labor and Social Policies and the police forces of the communications received, and the measures issued.</p> <p>3. Companies whose activities are not suspended comply with the contents of the <a href="#">protocol on measures to combat and contain Covid-19 signed between the Government and the social partners, on March 14, 2020</a>.</p> <p>4. The companies whose activities are suspended due to this decree complete the activities necessary for their suspension by March 25, 2020, including the shipment of the goods in stock.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Article 2</p>	
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	<p style="text-align: center;">(Final provisions)</p> <p>1. The provisions of this decree have effect from 23 March 2020 to 3 April 2020. The same provisions apply in a collective manner to the provisions of the <a href="#">Decree of 11.3.2020</a> and of the <a href="#">ordinance of the Minister of Health of 20.3.2020</a>, whose validity is extended to 3 April 2020.</p> <p>Annex 1 (note: ATECO (number identifying an economic activity) are missing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agricultural cultivations and production of animal products</li> <li>- Fishing and aquaculture</li> <li>- Coal extraction</li> <li>- Extraction of crude oil and natural gas</li> <li>- Support activities for the extraction of oil and natural gas</li> <li>- Food industries</li> <li>- Beverage industry</li> <li>- Manufacture of other technical and industrial textile articles</li> <li>- Fabrications of twine, ropes, ropes and nets</li> <li>- Manufacture of non-woven fabrics and articles made of these materials (excluding clothing)</li> <li>- Packs of overalls, uniforms and other work garments</li> <li>- Manufacture of wooden packaging</li> <li>- Production of Paper</li> <li>- Prints and reproduction of recorded media</li> <li>- Manufacture of coke and petroleum products</li> <li>- <b>Manufacture of chemicals</b></li> <li>- Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products of pharmaceutical preparations</li> <li>- Manufacture of rubber articles</li> <li>- Manufacture of plastic products</li> <li>- Manufacture of glassware for laboratories, for hygienic use and for pharmacies</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manufacture of irradiation equipment, electromedical and electrotherapeutic equipment</li> <li>- Manufacture of electric motors, generators and transformers and equipment for the control and the distribution of electricity</li> <li>- Manufacture of agricultural and forestry machinery</li> <li>- Manufacture of machines for the food, beverage and tobacco industries (including parts and accessories)</li> <li>- Manufacture of machines for the plastics and rubber industry (including accessories)</li> <li>- Manufacture of medical dental instruments and supplies</li> <li>- Manufacture of safety protective clothing and equipment</li> <li>- Manufacture of funeral boxes</li> <li>- Repair, maintenance and installation of machines and equipment</li> <li>- Supply of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning</li> <li>- Collection, treatment and supply of water</li> <li>- Sewerage management</li> <li>- Waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; recovery of materials</li> <li>- Remediation and other waste management services</li> <li>- Civil engineering</li> <li>- Installation of electrical, plumbing and other construction and installation works</li> <li>- Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles</li> <li>- Sale of motor vehicle parts and accessories</li> <li>- For the sole activity of maintenance and repair of motorcycles and trade of related parts and accessories</li> <li>- Wholesale of agricultural raw materials and alive animals</li> <li>- Wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco products</li> <li>- Wholesale of pharmaceutical products</li> <li>- Wholesale of books, magazines and newspapers</li> <li>- Wholesale of machinery, equipment, accessories, agricultural supplies and agricultural tools, including tractors</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wholesale of other transport vehicles and equipment</li> <li>- Wholesale of scientific instruments and equipment</li> <li>- Wholesale of fire prevention and accident prevention articles</li> <li>- Wholesale of petroleum products and self-haulage lubricants, and heating fuel</li> <li>- Land transport and pipeline transport</li> <li>- Sea and water transport</li> <li>- Airplane transport</li> <li>- Storage and transportation support activities</li> <li>- Postal services and courier activities</li> <li>- Hotels and similar establishments</li> <li>- Information and communication services</li> <li>- Financial and insurance activities</li> <li>- Legal and accounting activities</li> <li>- Business management and management consultancy activities</li> <li>- Architectural and engineering studies, technical testing and analysis</li> <li>- Scientific research and development</li> <li>- Professional, scientific and technical activities</li> <li>- Veterinary services</li> <li>- Private security services</li> <li>- Services related to surveillance systems</li> <li>- Cleaning and disinfestation activities</li> <li>- Call center activities</li> <li>- Third-parts packaging and packaging activities</li> <li>- Distribution of books, newspapers and magazines</li> <li>- Public administration and defense; compulsory social insurance</li> <li>- Instruction</li> <li>- Health care</li> <li>- Residential social work services</li> <li>- Non-residential social assistance</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activities of economic organizations, employers and professionals</li> <li>- Computer repair</li> <li>- Repair and maintenance of landline, cordless and cell phones</li> <li>- Repair and maintenance of other communication equipment</li> <li>- Repair of household appliances and household items</li> <li>- Activities of families and partnerships as employers for domestic staff</li> </ul>	
<b>Latvia</b>	<p>A working group (representatives from Bank of Latvia, Employers' Confederation, Chamber of Trade and Industry, Free Trade Unions, Ministry of Economy, Prime Minister's Office, State Revenue Service, State Development Institution Altum) has been set up to elaborate measures to support SMEs, employment and continuity of business operations. Many industries were pleading the government for emergency help and companies started to notify State Employment Service of collective lay-offs; however, food production and wood processing reported healthy demand. Food processing industry association warned that, should the crisis last more than 6-8 weeks, food stocks will run low and supply chains over borders will be disrupted. Latvia produces more food than it consumes, but much of the food is exported. Criticism was mounting that the government was not doing enough and messaging right about helping business; which resulted in the government talking some generous support decisions at their meeting on 17 March.</p>	
<b>Lithuania</b>	<p>No special, targeted measures so far. There are regular mechanisms, that work on case by case base, when companies apply for tax credit. The same with the labour code – just general rules. The authorities are at the beginning of considerations what support measures they will apply.</p> <p><b>There is a lack of disinfection liquids at the moment.</b></p> <p><b>On 16 March</b> the Lithuanian government presented the anti-crisis measures. Available in Lithuanian.</p>	

	<p><b>Update 24 March</b></p> <p><b>State aid to business and individuals</b></p> <p>Government has introduced EUR 5 billion economic measures plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- financial aid for employers to help pay their employees' downtime;</li> <li>- childcare: payment of childcare time for employees;</li> <li>- fixed monthly compensation for self-employed;</li> <li>- tax deferral for the companies that are on the list of companies affected by quarantine; no interest on deferred taxes;</li> <li>- additional EUR 500 mln. loan guarantees for SMEs;</li> <li>- reduction of capital requirement for banks (Pillar 2 Requirement, P2R) in order to raise lending capacity.</li> </ul>	
<b>Luxembourg</b>	We will have temporary unemployment solutions, extra paid leave for parents of kids having less than 13 years. By Monday, we expect also to have extended deadlines for paying VAT and social contributions.	
<b>Malta</b>	As of 22 March, the Maltese Government has announced restrictive measures for circulation. Additionally, anyone travelling back from mentioned countries must follow a mandatory self-quarantine. The Prime Minister announced a number of measures including; the closure of all schools, university and childcare centres, the closure of day centres for the elderly, stop on all mass activities unless absolutely necessary, all senior football games to be played behind closed doors. Malta is also closing all non-essential shops and services. Public gatherings, of whatever nature, are also being banned. Malta has also closed all schools, restaurants, bars and gyms and stopped court sittings. All overseas travel has been banned.	
<b>The Netherlands</b>	Please find here the link with all relevant Corona-information for businesses in the NL (including the announced government measures): <a href="https://business.gov.nl/the-coronavirus-and-your-company/">https://business.gov.nl/the-coronavirus-and-your-company/</a>	CBL has formed a “corona crisis” team. We are spokesman on behalf of food retail and wholesale towards the (health) authorities and the press.

### Update 19 March

Last night, (Tuesday 17 March) the Dutch government announced emergency measures to support entrepreneurs to

- Keep jobs
- Let companies survive

Involved are: Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment.

Briefly the announced measures (total between 10-20 billion, for 3 months)

#### Businesses

- There will be an emergency counter, where companies in the hardest-hit sectors can immediately receive 4,000 euros. This applies to those affected, including in the hospitality and travel industry. An additional compensation scheme is still being worked on.
- All entrepreneurs, from SMEs to self-employed persons, can be granted a deferment of tax payment for the next three months. This concerns, for example, income tax, corporate tax, turnover tax and wage tax. Any default penalties for late payment of taxes do not have to be paid.
- The Cabinet is consulting with the municipalities about the possibility of ending local attacks on entrepreneurs, such as tourist tax, and withdrawing assessments already imposed.
- Since last Monday, companies that are in danger of financial difficulties, can ask the government to guarantee loans from their bank. She normally does that for half of the loan, but that has now been widened to 90 percent.

#### Self-employed

In the last few days, our members have done a massive social media campaign on stimulating customers to pay with cards instead of cash (for hygiene-reasons)

<https://www.cbl.nl/pinnen-als-voorzorgsmaatregelen-tegen-coronavirus/>

- Self-employed people are on 'the front line', according to Minister Koolmees (SZW), they first feel the consequences of missed work. That is why there is a relaxation of the assistance for the self-employed (Bbz). All self-employed persons can receive a supplement to their income up to the minimum social wage for a period of three months. Unlike the current Bbz, this amount does not have to be repaid.
- Until now, self-employed workers were only eligible for assistance if they had a viable business, could not rely on a partner's equity or income. Those conditions will lapse.
- Municipalities are instructed to pay the assistance within four four weeks. Now it can take thirteen weeks for an application to be approved.

### Update 23 March

- The Dutch government has announced additional measures: elderly homes are in lockdown. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-covid-19/nieuws/2020/03/19/bezoek-aan-verpleeghuizen-niet-langer-mogelijk-vanwege-corona>
- The Minister of Healthcare (Bruins) has stepped down because of fatigue, the Corona portfolio will be taken over by Hugo de Jonge. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/03/19/ontslagaanvraag-minister-voor-medische-zorg>
- The rest periods for truck drivers for supermarkets and pharmacies have become more lenient. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/03/19/van-nieuwenhuizen-versoepelt-tijdelijk-regels-voor-rij--en-rusttijden-voor-bevoorrading-supermarkten-en-apotheken>

### Update 24 March

	<p>On Sunday 22 March, the Dutch government sent out a NL-Alert asking everyone to follow the guidelines. Saturday 21 March it was very busy in several places (nice weather - parks/forest, DIY stores) and the rules were not always followed properly. This brings the measure to close all non-crucial shops closer. An intermediate step could be a ban on gathering (as in Belgium and Germany). This trend was repeated on Monday.</p> <p>Next week will be a crucial week for the Netherlands: more measures will be considered on the basis of data on IC and hospital occupancy, as well as how well people follow the rules. After a call from entrepreneurs, a call to suspend holiday pay (normally pay out at the end of May) is now also being considered. Trade unions would also agree.</p> <p>On Friday 20 March, the government announced the measures that healthcare institutions will no longer allow visitors in. Personnel only.</p> <p>On Monday the government announced new measures: shops, markets must be closed and public transport must be terminated if there is no or too little compliance with the applicable hygiene measures and the 1.5 m distance. If we cannot get citizens to adhere to these rules when shopping, then non-essential stores will be closed from next week on.</p>	
<b>Norway</b>	<p>The Norwegian parliament has decided on an economic help package yesterday (16 March), effectuated immediately</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postponement of VAT</li> <li>• Postponement of employer's tax</li> <li>• The government covers employer's cost on layoffs, sick pay and care pay (care for children that are now out of schools and kindergartens).</li> <li>• The government establishes a guarantee for bank loans to small and medium enterprises (if they are economically sound) and have established a government bonds fund – so far these funds and guarantees amount to 10 billion euros</li> </ul>	
<b>Poland</b>	<p>The Ministry of National Education has decided to stop education activities in all types of schools, nurseries, kindergartens and universities from 12 to 25 March. Museums, cinemas</p>	

	<p>and theatres are also closed. The government is considering similar solutions for restaurant and bars.</p>	
<p><b>Portugal</b></p>	<p>On 11 March the Government announced 30 measures to deal with the situation and also decreed the state of alert (<i>readiness of the armed forces and firefighters</i>). These thirty measures follow in the attached document (Google translation from Portuguese to English).</p> <p><b>Update 17 March</b> <b>Decree-Law n.º 10-A / 2020 of March 14</b> Summary: Establishes exceptional and temporary measures regarding the epidemiological situation of the new Coronavirus - COVID 19 <a href="https://dre.pt/web/guest/home/-/dre/130243053/details/maximized">https://dre.pt/web/guest/home/-/dre/130243053/details/maximized</a></p> <p>Main decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exceptional regime in terms of composition of medical boards, human resources management and services acquisition</li> <li>• Suspension of academic and non-academic activities</li> <li>• Limitation of access to spaces frequented by the public</li> <li>• Social protection measures in illness and parenting</li> <li>• Support measures for self-employed workers</li> <li>• Alternative forms of work</li> </ul> <p><b>Ordinance n.º 71-A / 2020 of March 15</b> Summary: Defines and regulates the terms and conditions for the allocation of immediate support of an extraordinary, temporary and transitory nature, intended for workers and employers affected by the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. <a href="https://dre.pt/web/guest/pesquisa/-/search/130273586/details/normal?!=1">https://dre.pt/web/guest/pesquisa/-/search/130273586/details/normal?!=1</a></p>	<p>APED assumes the role of spokesman on behalf of food retail and wholesale member companies towards the health authorities, Government and the press. We give continuous assurance to the Government and the population (via press release, interviews- tv and newspaper) on what concerns to the normal functioning of the food supply chain. Follow-ups to member companies on legislation and guidelines are made on a daily basis.</p> <p>Companies prepared their own contingency plans and prevention, safety and labour measures based on the guidelines provided by OMS and DGS (National Health Authority) <a href="https://covid19.min-saude.pt/">https://covid19.min-saude.pt/</a></p>

	<p><u>Main decisions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extraordinary support for maintaining employment contracts in a business crisis situation,</li> <li>• Extraordinary financial incentive to support the normalization of the company's activity; and</li> <li>• The temporary exemption from the payment of Social Security contributions, borne by the employer</li> </ul> <p><b>Order n.º 3301-D / 2020 of March 15</b> Summary: Determines the adoption of additional measures of an exceptional nature to address the prevention and containment of the pandemic COVID-19. <a href="https://dre.pt/web/guest/pesquisa/-/search/130277342/details/normal?!=1">https://dre.pt/web/guest/pesquisa/-/search/130277342/details/normal?!=1</a></p> <p><u>Main decisions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibition of holding events, meetings or gathering of people, regardless of reason or nature, with 100 or more people;</li> <li>• Prohibition of the consumption of alcoholic beverages in open spaces of public access, except for the outside areas of the catering and beverage establishments, duly licensed for the purpose;</li> <li>• Suspension of regular services, specialized services and occasional international passenger transport services, with the exception of excursions carried out by national citizens.</li> </ul> <p><b>Council of Ministers of March 12</b> <a href="https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc22/governo/comunicado-de-conselho-de-ministros?i=330">https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc22/governo/comunicado-de-conselho-de-ministros?i=330</a></p>	
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	<p><u>Main decisions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credit line to support companies' treasury of € 200 million.</li> <li>• Credit line for micro companies in the tourism sector in the amount of € 60 million.</li> <li>• Simplified lay off: Extraordinary support for maintaining employment contracts in company in a business crisis situation, worth 2/3 of the remuneration, ensuring Social Security pays 70% of that amount, the remaining amount borne by the employer.</li> <li>• Promotion, in the contributory field, of an exceptional and temporary exemption regime payment of Social Security contributions during the lay off period by from employers.</li> <li>• Measures to accelerate payments to companies by the Public Administration.</li> <li>• Extension of deadlines for payment of taxes and other declaratory obligations</li> </ul> <p><b>Update 19 March</b></p> <p>A state of emergency was declared yesterday in Portugal, which may result in requisition by the Government of productive units, a ban on the movement of people - measures to be taken today by the Government;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International flights outside EU space are prohibited for 30 days.</li> <li>• Border with Spain closed for tourism and leisure - only goods and goods or cross-border workers can pass</li> <li>• Some distribution chains have reduced opening hours. with this measure they keep half of the team at home on a rotating basis, in order to ensure operationalization.</li> <li>• Most of the office workers are working from home.</li> <li>• Most small businesses closed on their own initiative</li> </ul>	
<b>Romania</b>	<p>On 16/03/2020, the Romanian President declared a state of emergency for 30 days in response to the growing number of COVID-19 cases across the country. During this time, all schools and universities are closed. Anyone within Romania's borders who needs medical</p>	

	<p>help as a result of the Covid 19 infection, will get it for free. All government members, as well as some members of National Liberal Party (PNL) are in self-quarantine. The activity of serving and consuming food and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages is suspended, organized by restaurants, hotels, cafes or other public places, in the spaces destined for this purpose inside or outside the location. It is allowed to organize by the economic units of the profile of the activities of commercialization of the food products and of the alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks that do not suppose to remain the clients in the spaces destined for this purpose, like those of type "drive-in", "room-service" or delivery to client. All cultural, scientific, artistic, religious, sports, entertainment or gambling, spa treatment and personal care activities, held in confined spaces, are suspended.</p>	
<b>Slovakia</b>	<p>The government has announced national emergency for health care. It has been taken as a preventive decision. Under this regime, some professions, including health care workers, fall under state orders. Schools are closed. The automotive industry has been halted; sine VW has shut down all its European factories for the next three weeks.</p>	
<b>Spain</b>	<p><b>Shutdown prolongation until 11 April announced on 25 March.</b></p> <p>On 12 March the Central Government approved the following economic measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Protection medical activity:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• € 2.8 billion is transferred to the Autonomous Regions in order to strengthen regional health services.</li> <li>• 1,000 million euros are mobilized through the Social Contingency Fund for priority actions determined by the Ministry of Health.</li> <li>• The centralized supply of medicines and health products is guaranteed, as well as that they are affordable.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>Social care for families:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A budget of 25 million is approved for the Autonomous Regions, destined to the fight against child poverty.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic requirements are made more flexible in order to adapt them to the current situation of school and university closing.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Protection of employment and SMEs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved the deferment and fractioning of debts with the Public Administration for six months and without interested to the affected SMEs</li> <li>• The repayment of loans from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism to companies in the tourism sector is approved.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Support measures for certain productive sectors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A specific ICO line of 400 million euros is opened for the transport and hostelry sector.</li> <li>• The Social Security bonuses are extended in discontinuous fixed labour contracts, from February to June.</li> <li>• The 'slots' of the airlines are made more flexible so that they are not compulsory and can do so when it is convenient and profitable for them.</li> <li>• The General State Administration is authorized so that it can contract any type of goods and services that it needs to deal with COVID-19 as an emergency.</li> <li>• The Government is actually working in another Royal Decree on labour measures, at the proposal of employers and unions, to speed up temporary lay offs, work sick leave, telework, labour flexibility and job protection.</li> </ul> <p><b>Update 14 March:</b> These are some of the measures taken by the Spanish Government to tackle the Covid-19 crisis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decree to approve liquidity for companies and families up to 18 billion €. 14.5 billion for SMEs and self-employed and 3.8 billion for the health system.</li> <li>• The Decree is based in 5 chapters: measures to reinforce the health system, to support families, to support the most affected sectors, measures to support financing and management of public administration.</li> </ul>	
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- State controlled prices for certain products related to health protection.

**In addition to this Decree approved yesterday, the Government announced the State of Alert.**

- This extraordinary measure allows the government to limit free movement and can forbid people to stay at some hours, or in certain places or condition them.
- Temporary requisition of all kinds of products.
- Intervene and occupy in a transitory way industries, factories or other sites, except for private households.
- Limit or ration the use of services or the consumption of first need products.
- Ensure, via the necessary orders, the supply of goods to markets and the functioning of production centres.

**UPDATE 15 March 2020**

\*Criteria on how to act for police and armed forces in relation to the state of alert.

- Customers will be able to be on the street to buy food.
- Workers can go to work if strictly necessary and go back home. They can use their vehicles.
- Police can establish the necessary measures to guarantee safety in retail stores.
- if anyone doesn't comply with these rules there will be fines up to 30.000€.
- police will guarantee that workers can access to its work.
- police will guarantee all the process from the supplier to the consumer (transport, logistic blocks).
- Police, if necessary, can escort lorries.
- if necessary, according to the situation we will be considered a critical Operator as a retail chain.

**Update 23 March**

measures adopted yesterday by the Spanish Government:  
Real Decreto-ley 8/2020, de 17 de marzo, de medidas urgentes extraordinarias para hacer frente al impacto económico y social del COVID-19.

The first telematic Council of Ministers in history has approved a Royal Decree on measures aimed at limiting the negative effects of the coronavirus on the economy and employment. The Cabinet mobilizes 200,000 million to alleviate the effects of the coronavirus on the economy.

The main approved measures, which are divided into four priority action areas, are:

**PROTECTING FAMILIES IN SITUATION OF VULNERABILITY**

- 600 million euros for social services, with special attention to the elderly and dependents.
- Protection of energy and water supplies, guaranteeing essential public services.
- Telecommunications services are guaranteed.
- Moratorium on the payment of mortgages for people in vulnerable situations.
- Interruption of the term for the return of products during the validity of the state of alarm. During the validity of the Alarm State or its possible extensions, the deadlines for the return of the products purchased by any modality, either in person or online, are interrupted. The computation of the terms will resume at the moment in which Royal Decree 463/2020, of March 14, which declares the State of Alarm or, where appropriate, the extensions thereof, becomes invalid.

**PROTECT WORKERS**

- Employees: reduction of working hours of up to 100% to meet the needs of conciliation and care.
- Teleworking as a primary measure of flexibility when circumstances permit.
- Flexibility of ERTES (temporary lay off of workers)
- ERTES caused by COVID-19 will be considered force majeure and workers will be entitled to contributory unemployment benefit.
- In the case of ERTES, the employer will be exempt from the business contribution of Social Security contributions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flexibility of access to the cessation of activity for the self-employed and the collection of their benefit in case of economic difficulty.</li> </ul> <p><b>SUPPORT COMPANIES AND SELF-EMPLOYED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Line of public guarantees and guarantees of up to 100,000 million euros.</li> <li>Additional guarantee line of 2,000 million euros for exporting companies and SMEs.</li> <li>Measures to facilitate credit restructuring to farms affected by drought.</li> <li>Programs to support the digitization and R&amp;D of SMEs, which will facilitate the implementation of teleworking.</li> <li>Specific regime of suspension of public contracts with extension of terms and compensation of wages, to avoid loss of employment.</li> <li>By means of regulatory reform, companies from outside the EU are prevented from controlling Spanish entities in strategic sectors.</li> </ul> <p><b>SUPPORT FOR INVESTIGATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 million euros for the Higher Council for Scientific Research and the Carlos III Institute to investigate a vaccine.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Sweden</b></p>	<p>Things are moving quite fast at the moment, so this is more of a snapshot of where things stand atm in Sweden (on behalf of both Svensk Handel and ICA).</p> <p>The Swedish authorities have so far been rather limited in terms of new measures due to the Corona outbreak. The most relevant extraordinary rule thus far for the commerce sector is a limitation of gatherings to a maximum of 500 people. Svensk Handel together with our member companies are considering how to implement this in practice in the stores.</p> <p><b>Economic measures announced by your national authorities.</b></p> <p>The central bank has promised to lend 500 billion SEK (€50 billion) with zero percent interest over two years to help companies struggling economically. Especially non-food has seen a sharp drop and in particular SMEs are having trouble with liquidity. The Swedish supervisory authority has also announced that they will allow banks to lower buffer's which will open up an additional €80-90 billion for loans to companies.</p>	<p>Companies have implemented restrictions for business trips, visitors and home-comers from risk areas. They have also increased readiness to ensure that vital infrastructure such as distribution centres and warehouses can continue functioning.</p> <p><b>Update 24 March</b></p> <p>Svensk Handel has done a survey among its membership. The result shows that up to 70 000 jobs are at risk in the commerce sector, especially in non-food retail and wholesale.</p>

**Update 17 March**

In an effort to increase liquidity among companies that are affected, the Swedish government today took the following measures:

The crisis package can – depending on how the situation develops – encompass more than SEK 300 billion if the entire liquidity reinforcement through tax accounts is used.

Short-term layoffs introduced. This proposal means that employers' wage costs can be halved, in that central government will cover a larger share of the costs. This model is similar to short-time work, but the subsidy level is significantly increased. The employee receives more than 90 per cent of their wage. The aim is to save Swedish jobs.

It is proposed that central government assume the entire cost of all sick pay during April and May. Self-employed persons will also be compensated in that they can receive standardised sick pay for days 1–14.

Liquidity reinforcement via tax accounts.

Under this proposal, companies can defer payment of employers' social security contributions, preliminary tax on salaries and value added tax that are reported monthly or quarterly.

Company payment respite covers tax payments for three months and is granted for up to 12 months. It is proposed that the new regulations take effect on 7 April 2020 but can be retroactively applied from 1 January 2020. This means that companies that have paid into their tax account for January to March can receive repayment of the tax from the Swedish Tax Agency. Payment respite will not be granted to companies that mismanage their finances or are in some other way unethical. Nor will respite be granted to companies that have large tax debts.

The government has also relaxed the rules for sick leave by abolishing the need for a doctor's approval. They have also made changes so that you get paid from the first day of sick leave.

The negotiations for new collective agreements were underway when the corona crisis started. Together with our counterpart for the Union we have now decided stop the negotiations until the situation stabilises and to extend the old agreement to run until October 31, 2020. There have also been an agreement to interpret the rules of the collective agreement in a more flexible way, to better be able to respond to the current situation.

As we all know, the situation is not the same for all commerce companies. Food and pharma are doing relatively well while non-food are down up to 85% in sales. This means that while some companies are understaffed, other commerce companies are struggling to keep their staff.

As an extraordinary measure, Svensk Handel has started **connect these two categories of companies in order for them to share staff and costs**. In short, excess staff from non-food companies get the possibility to work for understaffed grocery stores. Discussions with **the real estate owners** have intensified. Svensk Handel's aim is to significantly reduce or even abolish rents for the duration of the crisis. We have also proposed to base rents on turnover for the time being.

<p><b>UK</b></p>	<p><b>Update 18 March</b> Department for Transport has confirmed BRC application for the much-needed drivers hours relaxation has been approved. The order was issued late last night and is available via the <a href="#">link</a>.</p> <p><b>Main points are as follows:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is effective from Wednesday 18 March</li> <li>• Expires on Thursday 16 April at 23.59</li> <li>• Applies to GB</li> </ul> <p><b>The scope is for drivers of vehicles involved in the delivery of</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Non-food (personal care and household paper and cleaning)</li> <li>• Over the counter pharmaceuticals</li> </ul> <p><b>The journeys covered are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution centre to stores (or fulfilment centre)</li> <li>• From manufacturer or supplier to distribution centre (including backhaul collections)</li> <li>• From manufacturer or supplier to store (or fulfilment centre)</li> <li>• Between distribution centres and transport hub trunking</li> <li>• Transport hub deliveries to stores</li> </ul> <p><b>Update 23 March</b> The government is temporarily relaxing elements of competition law as part of a package of measures to allow supermarkets to work together to feed the nation. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/supermarkets-to-join-forces-to-feed-the-nation">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/supermarkets-to-join-forces-to-feed-the-nation</a></p> <p><b>VAT Deferral:</b> Following exceptional BRC and wider pressure, the Chancellor has confirmed that companies will be able to defer their next quarter VAT payment until the end of the</p>	<p>BRC Coronavirus support hub: <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
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financial year. This will be a vital support for cashflow. We will examine the detail of this measure to ensure that it delivers for members.

**Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme:** The Chancellor announced an unprecedented grant scheme, to be administered by HMRC under which the Government will pay 80% of wages for employees not working as a result of Coronavirus, up to £2,500 a month. However, it was made clear that while the Government would be moving rapidly to put the scheme in place, it would take at least a number of weeks to get up and running. The detail of the scheme is not yet available as they are still being worked on – as soon as it is, we will look to ensure that it delivers rapidly and effectively for members.

### **UPDATE 24 March**

The contactless limit for payment cards is to be lifted to £45 from April to assist in preventing the spread of coronavirus through touching payment machines.

The Government has now put the UK into a sort of lockdown with non-essential shops forced to close – though many had done so already. The definition of essential shops includes (currently) food stores, corner shops, pharmacies, banks, post offices, garages, and bicycle shops. The last is somewhat controversial. People are allowed out to shop for food and medicines and to take one form of exercise once a day with one other person who lives in the same house – and go to work if an essential worker and it is not possible to work from home. It is recommended to shop once a week. Schools are basically shut except for the children of essential workers. The regime is for 3 weeks initially and will be enforced through fines – though the police have made clear they will use persuasion as the main tool. Public gatherings are banned. The Guidance is at: [here](#).

### References

#### Health

- Please see the [following link](#) for guidance on COVID-19 in the workplace by EU-OSHA (EU Agency for Health and Safety in the Workplace) – based on WHO, CDC, ECDC and HSE guidance.
- Situation **update worldwide** [here](#)
- Situation **update for the EU/EEA and the UK** [here](#)
- **Sources of updated information** on COVID-19 in the EU/EEA and the UK [here](#)
- **Q&A** on the virus, symptoms and prevention [here](#)

#### European Commission

- [Press corner Commission here](#)
  - [MEMO: European Coordinated Response on Coronavirus – Questions and Answers](#)
  - [Factsheet: EU Coronavirus Response](#)
  - [Communication on the economic aspects of the COVID-19 crisis](#)
  - [Annex to the Communication on the economic aspects of the COVID-19 crisis](#)
  - [Proposal for a Regulation on COVID-19 Response Investment Initiative](#)
  - [Proposal for a Regulation on airport slots](#)
  - [Proposal for a Regulation to provide financial assistance to Member States and countries negotiating their accession to the Union seriously affected by a major public health emergency](#)
  - [Coronavirus website: COVID-19 Video - COVID-19: 5 ways to help prevent the spread.](#) [Go to related site.](#)
- **24 March) Coronavirus: Commission presents practical [guidance](#)** to ensure continuous flow of goods across EU via green lanes ([press release here](#)). The European Commission wants countries to roll out green lanes at borders to cut down waits for trucks to a maximum 15 minutes, President Ursula von der Leyen said in a video message yesterday. <https://twitter.com/vonderleyen/status/1242074748827447296>

## Eurocommerce Briefing Update 25/03/20

- **(24 March)** Today at the initiative of the Commission, all European Competition Authorities have issued an **antitrust statement**: [https://ec.europa.eu/competition/ecn/index\\_en.html](https://ec.europa.eu/competition/ecn/index_en.html); Direct link [https://ec.europa.eu/competition/ecn/202003\\_joint-statement\\_ecn\\_corona-crisis.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/competition/ecn/202003_joint-statement_ecn_corona-crisis.pdf)
- **(24 March)** DG SANTE has informed third countries (TCs) of the **exceptional measures that they have put in place in order to maintain the best conditions for documentary checks in the EU border control posts (BCPs)**. Attached is an official letter developing the different options to communicate the TC official certificates. The EU operators responsible for the imported consignments will have to provide the BCPs with a written commitment that they will present the original certificates at a later stage, as soon as technically feasible. In addition, the BCPs might extend the same approach to all exchanges of documents, in the case they would need to limit their physical contacts with the operators (sending of scanned copies of certificates by mail accompanied with the written commitment that the original will be provided at further stage, as soon as feasible). Please find the mail just received – important for trade and wholesale.
- DG MARE has published an **information note** on “Coronavirus emergency response to support the fishing and aquaculture sectors” as well as a **factsheet**. You can find these [here](#).
- Europol eradicates criminal gangs flogging fake coronavirus medicine, surgical masks: Europol has seized €13 million in drugs being illegal peddled to consumers concerned about contracting coronavirus. On Monday, the European law enforcement agency said a worldwide investigation, dubbed Operation Pangea, has brought together police from over 90 countries in a bid to stem a rising flood of criminal enterprises relating to COVID-19. The pandemic has prompted panic-buying, not only stripping shelves of basic necessities but also medication and masks, the latter of which some individuals believe will help protect them -- leaving medical staff short of equipment. More at: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/europol-takes-down-coronavirus-fake-medicine-surgical-mask-criminal-gangs/>
- Remarks by Mário Centeno following the Eurogroup videoconference of 24 March 2020 [here](#)
- SME Envoy Network: Measures taken by Member States **to support SMEs** (as of 24 March 2020, 14h)
  - The COVID-19 SME Policy Responses note developed by the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SME's, Regions and Cities (CFE) – updated per March 23. It examines how SMEs are likely to be affected by the current coronavirus epidemic, reports on early evidence and estimates about the impact and provides a preliminary inventory of country responses to foster SME resilience. [https://oecd.dam-broadcast.com/pm\\_7379\\_119\\_119680-di6h3ggi4x.pdf](https://oecd.dam-broadcast.com/pm_7379_119_119680-di6h3ggi4x.pdf)

## Eurocommerce Briefing Update 25/03/20

- EU Commission asked mobile operators to give them datasets with metadata on their customers, so they can anticipate peaks and local needs in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.
- ECHA: To increase the manufacture and supply of disinfectants on the European market, ECHA is supporting EU/EEA authorities to apply derogations from the normal authorisation requirement for biocidal products. Read more at: <https://echa.europa.eu/-/speeding-up-the-supply-of-disinfectants>
- DG MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT: Commission presents **practical guidance** to ensure continuous flow of goods across EU via green lanes ([press release here](#)). The European Commission wants countries to roll out green lanes at borders to cut down waits for trucks to a maximum 15 minutes. President Ursula von der Leyen video message: <https://twitter.com/vonderleyen/status/1242074748827447296> . More information on **transport measures** [here](#)
- ECN: Initiative of the Commission, all European Competition Authorities have issued an **antitrust statement**: [https://ec.europa.eu/competition/ecn/index\\_en.html](https://ec.europa.eu/competition/ecn/index_en.html); Direct link [https://ec.europa.eu/competition/ecn/202003\\_joint-statement\\_ecn\\_corona-crisis.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/competition/ecn/202003_joint-statement_ecn_corona-crisis.pdf)

### Associations

- Food Industry association (US): Information, links, and related resources on Coronavirus page <https://www.fmi.org/food-safety/coronavirus>
- National Retail Federation (NRF): Coronavirus resource page retailers to keep track of the various new regulations and orders in the US. You can view it here: <https://nrf.com/resources/retail-safety-and-security-tools/coronavirus-resources-retailers>
- Federation of International and European associations in Belgium (FIAB) - On behalf of our Associate member DKW, Newsflash managing Covid19 in the workplace [\(NL/FR/EN\)](#).
- European Food Banks Federation (FEAB)/ [COVID-19 The commitment of each person for the good of all.](#)
- **World Road Transport Organisation (IRU)**: Please find a link to their various initiatives in the Coronavirus context. Stopping every vehicle at the border even for a 2-minute check is unacceptable and will not dissolve massive traffic jams. Systematic checks of freight of newly created borders must stop. Overview of MS border measures: <https://www.iru.org/resources/tools-apps/flash-info>

European Association of Chemical Distributors (Fecc)

Rue du Luxembourg 16b, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

T: +32 2 679 02 60

[www.fecc.org](http://www.fecc.org)

### Other

- OECD Economic Outlook, Interim Report March 2020: [Coronavirus: the world economy at risk](#)
- Article on the effects of free movement of goods during this period of Corona. <https://coreblog.lexxion.eu/corona-and-eu-economic-law-free-movement-of-goods/>
- **Irish Data Protection Commission published guidelines on Protecting Personal Data when working remotely/** Considering the current situation with the outbreak of the coronavirus, the Irish Data Protection Commission has published guidance on how to keep your data secure while working from home. The Irish Commission created a list of suggestions/advice including taking extra care that the devices, such as phones, laptops, tablets or USB's are not lost or misplaced, and the software is updated when necessary. More information [here](#).

### PRESS

- LSA : <https://www.lsa-conso.fr/coronavirus-toutes-les-affiches-indispensables-en-magasin,343195>
- EurActiv: [Coronavirus: What's happening in Europe.](#)

## Coronavirus Situation: National Taxation Measures

Eurocommerce has collected measures taken by European governments in the field of taxation to counteract the effects of the coronavirus situation. Please note that this list is not exhaustive and we would like to invite you to send us any additional information which we would be happy to share with other members and which could be an inspiration for possible measures in other Member States. In some countries concrete measures are still under discussion and details will only be published in the coming days or weeks.

### Austria

- Tax deferral and reduction of tax prepayment for affected companies
- Suspending fees, extending deadlines and tax exemptions for Corona aid
- Grants to deal with the Corona crisis are tax-free. However, the expenses covered by this should remain in full as operating expenses. The exemption is intended to include funds that come from the COVID 19 crisis management fund or the hardship fund and all grants that are made for such purposes, regardless of who makes them and how the funds are raised.
- Fees should also not apply for applying for assistance in an emergency. The amendment of the Fees Act creates a comprehensive exemption from fees, charges for all documents and official acts.
- Further information (in German): <https://www.wko.at/service/steuern/sonderregelung-coronavirus.html>

### France

- Deadline extensions for tax payments
- Settlement plans for companies for direct taxes (direct tax rebates)
- More information: <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/coronavirus-soutien-entreprises>

### Germany

- Advance payments e.g. to income tax or corporation tax can be reduced quickly and easily as soon as it is clear that the income of taxpayers is expected to be lower in the current year.
- Tax payments that are due are to be deferred more easily if the collection would be a considerable hardship. The tax authorities are instructed not to impose any strict requirements.
- Enforcement measures (e.g. garnishment of accounts) or late payment surcharges should be waived until December 31, 2020.
- The General Customs Directorate (GZD) and the Federal Central Tax Office (BZSt) are instructed to deal with taxpayers in an appropriate manner with regard to the taxes they manage (e.g. energy tax and air traffic tax, insurance tax).

### Italy

Regarding the first urgent economic measures put forward so far by the Government but still under discussion:

- extension of the deadline for the pre-filled form for income declaration (adopted and in force);
- suspension of tax assessment activities by the tax/fiscal authorities (“Agenzia delle Entrate” and “Guardia di Finanza”) (adopted and in force);
- a six-month postponement of the VAT payments due;
- 30-day deferral for payment deadlines for customs duties

### Lithuania

- No special, targeted measures so far. There are regular mechanisms, that work on case by case base, when companies apply for tax credit.

### Luxembourg

- Extended deadlines for paying VAT and social contributions are expected.

### Netherlands

- You can apply for a payment extension for income tax, corporate tax, payroll tax, and turnover tax (VAT). The Dutch Tax Administration will put on hold any measures in place to collect payment immediately upon reception of your request.
- You will not have to pay any fines for late payment. Also, it is not necessary to send in any proof straightaway. You will have more time for this.
- The normal collection interest rate for paying after the payment term has passed will be decreased from 4% to nearly 0% temporarily. This applies to all tax debts. The tax interest rate will also temporarily be set to the lowest possible percentage for all entrepreneurs.
- More info (in Dutch): <https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/nl/home/content/coronavirus>

### Norway

The Norwegian parliament has decided on an economic help package on 16 March, effectuated immediately:

- Postponement of VAT
- Postponement of employer's tax

### Portugal

- Extension of deadlines for payment of taxes and other declaratory obligations.
- More information (in Portuguese): <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc22/governo/comunicado-de-conselho-de-ministros?i=330>



### Spain

- Approved the deferment and fractioning of debts with the Public Administration for six months and without interest to the affected SMEs
- For some sectors like tourism, retail, horeca and also for hourly workers there will be tax reliefs and flexibility in social security payments. Also, a moratorium for the payment of some taxes for SMEs and self-employed.
- The city council of Madrid has adopted the following measures for retail: - property tax income (discount of 25%, affecting more than 106.000 retailers in Madrid), business tax income (discount of 25%)

### Sweden

- Liquidity reinforcement via tax accounts: Under this proposal, companies can defer payment of employers' social security contributions, preliminary tax on salaries and value added tax that are reported monthly or quarterly.
- Company payment respite covers tax payments for three months and is granted for up to 12 months. It is proposed that the new regulations take effect on 7 April 2020 but can be retroactively applied from 1 January 2020. This means that companies that have paid into their tax account for January to March can receive repayment of the tax from the Swedish Tax Agency. Payment respite will not be granted to companies that mismanage their finances or are in some other way unethical. Nor will respite be granted to companies that have large tax debts.

### United Kingdom

- The government announced a business rates relief package worth £20bn for businesses affected by Covid-19. This was particularly targeted at retail, leisure and hospitality businesses. The Chancellor's announcement means that the extension of the 100% business rates relief for 2020/21 applies to all retail businesses of any size, not just those below £51,000 in rateable value. This is worth around £7.9bn to retailers in England in 2020/2. The UK business rates system has been criticised by BRC, UK companies and EuroCommerce as a tax targeted at retail.