

CORONA overview - national measures

Dear Members,

Please find the information collected until today.

Further below you can find the main [reference](#) websites for situation updates, Commission sources etc.

All docs here: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dPAg\\_LRQH6ygLMRcxD\\_y6pCVer4MJ7FL?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dPAg_LRQH6ygLMRcxD_y6pCVer4MJ7FL?usp=sharing)

Country	Economic measures	Practical measures
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	<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.</p> <p>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></p> <p>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><b>Concerning retail:</b> Food stores, pharmacies, post offices, petrol stations, banks, tobacconists and animal feed stores remain open as usual. Other</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>Infopoint: <a href="https://www.wko.at/service/aussenwirtschaft/coronavirus-wirtschaftskammer-als-anlaufstelle.html">https://www.wko.at/service/aussenwirtschaft/coronavirus-wirtschaftskammer-als-anlaufstelle.html</a></p> <p>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></p> <p>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> <p>Initiatives and platforms to support Austrian retailers: <a href="https://www.wko.at/site/handeldigital/gemeinsam-durch-die-corona-krise.html">https://www.wko.at/site/handeldigital/gemeinsam-durch-die-corona-krise.html</a></p> <p>WKÖ info on protective measures for employees:</p>

stores remain closed. The authorities say there is no need to make large "hamster purchases".

**Economic measures taken in Austria (WKÖ press release):**

"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."

Overview of the measures decided:

**GOAL: SECURE CASHFLOW**

- Loan guarantees for bridge financing: The state issues guarantees 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**

<https://www.wko.at/branchen/handel/corona-schutzpaket-fuer-beschaeftigte-im-handel.html>

**Update 30 March**

From Wednesday it will be mandatory in Austria to wear a mouth mask in the supermarket. Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz announced this in a press conference. The mouth masks, which are not suitable for the medical sector, will be distributed at the entrance of supermarkets.

	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Update 24 March</b></p> <p><b>Economic measures:</b>  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.</p>	
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<p><a href="https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/faqs/">https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/faqs/</a></p> <p>The National Security Council has banned all promotions and discounts, several Flemish newspapers report on Thursday, noting that shopping in stores is therefore more expensive. Yves Stevens, spokesperson for the Home Affairs Crisis Center. "So there is no longer any question of carrying out 'buy 5 and pay for 3' actions. All the more so as we want to avoid that attractive promotions attract more people inside the stores. want to avoid gatherings at all costs. " The ban on offering discounts does not apply to online sales.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.comeos.be/home">https://www.comeos.be/home</a></p> <p><b>Update 26 March</b></p> <p>COMEOS reported the same issues as most other countries, measures for loans, Government postpones tax payments, negotiation with trade unions is ongoing, whole food supply chain is considered essential; big sales losses for non-food (75% to 100%);</p> <p>Asked to postpone payment of rent from real estate (<a href="#">see press release here</a>); ask to postpone payment terms and no advance invoices f.ex. for energy; ask to be able to transfer staff from non-food to food. Overview of the measures already decided attached (<i>google drive</i>).</p>
<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> </ul>	<p>Detailed information about 2020 coronavirus pandemic in the Czech Republic you can find on:</p> <p><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_coronavirus_pandemic_in_the_Czech_Republic">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_coronavirus_pandemic_in_the_Czech_Republic</a></p>

- trips to medical facilities and escorting relatives to medical facilities
- provision of necessities such as **food, medicine, sanitary goods, animal feed**
- carrying out **banking, postal services, and refueling of vehicles**

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

#### **Update 31 March**

The Czech government today **extended the restrictions on movement and business taken to combat the spread of the coronavirus until April 11.**

The conditions remain the same – people should stay at home as much as possible with the exception of trips to work, necessary visits of family and loved ones and purchases of food, vital supplies, fuel and medicine. The restrictions on shops, restaurants, pubs, cafes, galleries, sports facilities and other institutions will also remain in place until April 11.

	<p>Prime Minister Andrej Babiš and Health Minister Adam Vojtěch said earlier they were in favour of extending the state of emergency beyond April 11, for another 30 days. However, that would require approval from the lower house of Parliament.</p>	
<p><b>DENMARK</b></p>	<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> <li>• All other retail stores and businesses can stay open if they; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Secure at least 4 m2 of available floor area per customer</li> <li>- Ensure that all employees comply with the health authorities' recommendations for good hygiene and appropriate behavior</li> <li>- Display information material by the health authorities that people who have symptoms of covid-19 should isolate themselves at home</li> <li>- Display information material by the health authorities on good hygiene and appropriate behavior in the public space</li> <li>- To the greatest extent possible, make water and soap and/or hand sanitizers available to customers</li> <li>- Employees must wear gloves when selling unpacked foods</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The six major food retailers in Denmark and the Danish Chamber of Commerce have established a corona task force and reports daily to the authorities on food supply security on various critical food and non-food categories, hoarding and in-store behavior. Together with the Ministry of Business and the Ministry of Food, we have made an agreement on daily reports every day for two weeks until further notice.</p> <p>All retailers are following the instructions by the authorities on good hygiene, etc. In addition, several have closed selected in-store stations, e.g. self-service of certain food products, and they have initiated distance lines, hand sanitizing at the entrance and checkout. Only a few have so far made restrictions on selected goods and number of customers in stores.</p> <p>Finally, several initiatives have been taken to support the business community by the Government, e.g. postponement of tax and VAT payments, salary compensation, etc.</p> <p><b>Update 30 March</b></p> <p>New <a href="#">member survey</a> from Dansk Erhverv:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They see no improvements compared to the one done earlier this month (despite all the support measures). Key points:</li> <li>- In the retail sector companies on average experienced a 75% drop in turnover in March.</li> <li>- 2 out of 3 companies (not only retail) have experienced a drop in export</li> <li>- 70% of importers have experienced that it got more difficult to import goods of importance to their business</li> <li>- 37% of the companies that claim to have an understanding of the support measure (which is 60% of the asked companies) say that the measures will be sufficient.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that the premises are designed in a way that allows customers to keep a proper distance - even in purchasing situations, e.g. distance lines.</li> </ul> <p><b>All of the actions above apply until 13th April 2020.</b></p> <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>	
FRANCE	<p>Economic or tax reduction, you can see it on these website:</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> <li>• Health ministry website <a href="#">Site du Ministère de la santé</a> + <a href="#">Points de situations quotidiens</a></li> <li>• Labour ministry website <a href="#">Site du ministère du travail</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Update 27 March</b></p> <p><u>Week 22 March</u></p> <p><b>Latest key measures taken by the government (Ordinances)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bill deferrals reserved for small businesses Payment facilities (deferral, staggering, etc.) for rents, water, electricity and gas bills will be reserved for businesses benefiting from the Solidarity Fund. This is specified in the ordinance on the subject.</li> <li>- Working time arranged for priority sectors. Companies "in sectors deemed essential to the continuity of economic life and the security of the nation" will be able to benefit from derogations concerning holidays and working hours. The dedicated ordinance states that the working week may be increased to 48 hours for employees of companies manufacturing masks, medicines, employees in the energy, logistics, telecoms, agriculture or food sector. In the same week, it will be possible to employ labour for a maximum of 60 hours.</li> <li>- cf <a href="https://www.lefigaro.fr/economie/le-scan-eco/coronavirus-60-heures-de-travail-par-semaine-dans-les-secteurs-essentiels-la-bonne-decision-20200325">https://www.lefigaro.fr/economie/le-scan-eco/coronavirus-60-heures-de-travail-par-semaine-dans-les-secteurs-essentiels-la-bonne-decision-20200325</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Communiqué de presse</b> (11March): Coronavirus : Union de la filière alimentaire pour assurer l’approvisionnement des consommateurs sur tout le 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.</p> <p><b>Update 27 March</b></p> <p><u>Week 22 March</u></p> <p><b>Global economic situation:</b></p> <p>The situation in France is worrying. Many sectors of activity, such as construction, stopped. At a comparable stage, these sectors functioned better in Italy and Spain. The East of France is particularly affected economically and in terms of health. Our sector is experiencing very serious difficulties in the fuel and non food. Moreover, food shops are beginning to experience a deceleration in purchases, as the French have stocked up.</p> <p><b>Points of concerns for the sector</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disparate application of government measures according to regions (e.g. labour law) or even reinforcement of these measures (e.g. ban on the sale of alcohol, ban on the use of cash, restriction on the number of people per shop and police intervention).</li> <li>- Increase in the number of missing employees: affected by Covid in the trade or exercising their right of withdrawal.</li> <li>- Transport and logistics: very low activity. In addition, absenteeism and the risk of trade union deadlock make us fear a shortage of drivers.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adaptation of administrative formalities: an ordinance adapts the rules relating to assemblies and collegiate administrative, supervisory and management bodies. It concerns in particular civil and commercial companies, EIGs (economic interest groupings), cooperatives, mutual and mutual insurance companies, associations and foundations. Another text extends a certain number of time limits relating to the administration of the accounts of companies and other structures.</li> <li>- No measures yet on B to B contracts: Concerning contractual relations between customers and suppliers, the ordinance presented on 25 March is limited to the tourism sector. Agricultural cooperatives are off limits.</li> </ul> <p>These 25 ordinances are the first in a longer series. Others are to follow in order to cover all aspects of the emergency bill, such as fragile businesses and farms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agriculture: Difficulty in the sectors: lack of personnel for the crops and lack of outlets with the closure of markets. Bruno le Maire called to buy national, and commitment of the distribution to support the French agricultural sectors.</li> </ul> <p>NB: on the masks: the end of government requisitions should allow the food trade to have a quick supply from China.</p>
<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>	
<b>FINLAND (II)</b>	<p><b>Update 26 March</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On 16 March <a href="#">government declared</a> a state of emergency in Finland over coronavirus outbreak. Public gatherings were limited to no more than ten persons, and it was recommended to avoid spending unnecessary time in public places.</li> <li>- On 20 March <a href="#">government proposed</a> extensive economic measures to minimise the impact of the coronavirus epidemic. The overall scale of the measures will be approximately EUR 15 billion. The measures included direct payments and state guarantees among other.</li> <li>- On 24 March <a href="#">government submitted</a> a proposal on closing restaurants to customers. Ordering takeaway was still permitted. These restrictions will remain in force until 31 May 2020.</li> <li>- On 25 March 2020, the <a href="#">Government decided</a> to restrict traffic between the Region of Uusimaa and other regions as of 27 March. The restrictions will be in force until 19 April 2020.</li> </ul> <p><b>Financial measures announced by Finnish government on 17th March:</b></p>	

- 5 bln euro further support to economy.
- The State Pension Fund will buy 1 billion euros worth of commercial papers.
- The government will increase Finnvera Oyj's (Export Credit Agency) capacity to guarantee working capital loans to small and medium-sized companies by 2 billion euros.
- 1 billion euro fund to invest in corporate bonds. E.g. also about 73 million euros to stave off acute corporate funding pressures.
- Companies having difficulties paying taxes due to the coronavirus situation can request a payment arrangement with eased terms starting 25 March 2020. According to the new terms, the first instalment of the payment arrangement will fall due in three months after the arrangement has become active, as opposed to just one month. The Tax Administration will automatically include in the arrangement any new tax debts that form after the payment arrangement has been taken into use until 31 May 2020. In addition, the rate of late-payment interest on taxes included in a payment arrangement will be lowered from 7% to 4%. The lowered interest rate would only apply to taxes that are included in a payment arrangement and that fall due after 1 March 2020. The arrangement is available for businesses/entrepreneurs that do not have taxes in recovery by enforcement and have filed all the required tax returns and reports to the National Incomes Register (earnings payment reports and employer's separate reports).
- Businesses and private individuals can request more time for filing your tax return, if necessary, if you have a justified reason, such as illness, that prevents from filing the tax return by its original deadline. However, the Finnish tax administration does not grant more time for filing VAT returns. However, a request can be made for a fine for late payment to be removed. If you have a justified reason for filing late, such as illness, you may not have to pay a fine.
- Postponement option for pension insurance payments (Tyel and Yel) as well as easing the pension insurance company capital requirements.
- To review further measures based on the negotiations with the social parties (enclosed proposal made by parties 19th March).
- Financial Supervisory Authority (FIN-FSA) decided to lower Finnish credit institutions' capital requirements. The reduction is implemented by removing the systemic risk buffer and by adjusting credit institution-specific requirements so that the structural buffer requirements of all credit institutions will fall by 1 percentage point, all in all. The decision will increase the lending capacity of the Finnish banks by around EUR 52 billion.
- The Bank of Finland has decided to restart its activities in the domestic corporate paper markets. The size of the programme is initially EUR 500 million. The decision was announced on 15th March

**New package of measures on 20 March:**

The first supplementary budget will safeguard the resources of the authorities and increase the appropriations allocated to companies. The scope of the supplementary budget will be around EUR 400 million. Further supplementary budgets will be introduced over the coming weeks.

- The guarantee mandate of the state-owned special financing company Finnvera will be increased by EUR 10 billion to a total of EUR 12 billion. The increase in the mandate will allow additional financing of € 10 billion for businesses.
- Employers' earnings-related pension contribution shall be reduced by 2,6% of salaries. It will be implemented as soon as possible and will be valid until the end of 2020. It will ease the companies' payments by EUR 910 million. Pension companies refrain from paying customer bonuses for a period when employers' pension contributions are reduced.
- An increase of EUR 150 million in Business Finland's mandate to be used for fast-start business support activities. An increase of EUR 50 million is proposed to support business development projects.



- Own-risk days in unemployment benefits are cancelled in the event of lay-offs and redundancies.
- Unemployment insurance is immediately accessible. Working conditions to be eligible for income-related unemployment benefits are shortened. These measures will cost the state more than EUR 100 million.
- Notice period for layoffs is reduced from the current (from 14 days to 6 weeks) to five days. The right to lay-offs is also extended to fixed-term workers.
- Unemployment protection for entrepreneurs and freelancers is ensured. In order to be eligible for unemployment insurance, you don't have to close your business.
- The Government promises max. EUR 600 million guarantees to airline company Finnair.
- An increase of EUR 26 million is proposed for the control of infectious diseases. An additional budget of EUR 12,8 million is proposed for the operating costs of the Institute for Health and Welfare for coronavirus expenditure.
- An increase of EUR 5,6 million is proposed to the police for additional expenditure due to the coronavirus epidemic.
- An amount of EUR 200 million is proposed for non-specific expenditure linked to exceptional circumstances.

Country	Economic measures	Practical measures
GERMANY	<p><b>Update 18 March</b></p> <p>Guidelines issued from yesterday, but the „Länder“ yet have to transpose. What we hear, the approaches are very diverse and things change every minute.</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><b>Update 23 March</b></p> <p>Please find below the measures that HDE has so far taken in order to support our members in the crisis - for your information and your overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urgent Letter of HDE President to the German Chancellor and different government ministers</li> <li>• HDE has published an 8 point programme with demands to the German government with regards to measures for emergency aid for SMEs, tax measure, longer deadlines for social security contribution, etc.</li> <li>• One page advertisement by food retailers in the BILD-Zeitung (largest German newspaper) as well as other newspapers addressing the topics of panic buying/availability of products, etc.</li> <li>• Talks at the government minister and state secretary level with the ministries</li> </ul>

	<p>Neues auf <a href="http://www.bundesregierung.de">www.bundesregierung.de</a>: '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>for economy, agriculture and social affairs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Company queries regarding assessment of the current situation</li> <li>• <a href="#">Central Information website by HDE</a></li> </ul> <p>HDE <b>press release</b> estimating a loss of 1.15 billion Euro A DAY for the German non-food sector:  <a href="https://einzelhandel.de/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=12597">https://einzelhandel.de/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=12597</a></p>
<p><b>GREECE</b></p>	<p><b>UPDATE 19 March</b></p> <p>THE PACKAGE OF GREEK GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO ENTERPRISES</p> <p>The impact on the Greek economy is expected to be strong and has already spread to businesses, workers and households. According to Finance Minister Christos Staikouras' estimate, the Greek economy will be at 0% when in Europe the same rate is expected to reach -1.5% to -2%. Within this framework, the Ministers of Finance, Development and Labor, Christos Staikouras, Adonis Georgiadis and Yiannis Broutsis, announced support measures for businesses, workers and households.</p> <p>In particular, the <u>new measures</u> announced by Christos Staikouras include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discounts of business taxes and contributions. The measures are horizontal. The period of application of the measures is in March and if necessary an extension will be required. Suspension of tax and insurance benefits is to maintain jobs</li> <li>- Financing businesses in the form of a refundable advance for all affected businesses. A total of € 1 billion</li> <li>- All workers for whom work contracts are suspended due to forced closure will receive compensation of 800 euros in April. The measure concerns about 500,000 workers.</li> <li>- All tax liabilities payable in March are deferred for four months</li> <li>- Reduced to 6% from 24% on products needed to prevent coronavirus transmission, such as masks, gloves, antiseptics, etc. This reduction aims to reduce the cost of products.</li> <li>- We are intervening in the real estate market. Affected businesses will pay 60% of their rent in March and April. The same is true for workers who lose their jobs.</li> <li>- The 2020 ENFIA will be based on the previous regime, as the new objectives will take effect from next year.</li> <li>- Public debt is paid directly to the citizens</li> </ul> <p><u>Business liquidity enhancing measures</u></p> <p>"All measures are linked to maintaining jobs. Those who choose to make redundancies stay out of the measures we adopt. The first step for the measures is to maintain jobs," said Development Minister Adonis Georgiadis. "We will all come out of this crisis together and no one will be left behind. We are judged by all, government, businesses, working citizens" he added.</p>	

- For self-employed, self-employed and self-employed individuals affected for the period March 15-April 30, 800 euros will be given at the beginning of April.
- Interest rate subsidy on business loans for 3 months for sectors directly affected by the coronavirus. If the crisis continues, it may extend further
- In consultation with the European Commission, a guarantee mechanism for lending to small and medium-sized enterprises up to EUR 3 billion will be implemented.
- The European Investment Bank will provide banks with liquidity for up to 2 billion euros in new business loans.
- In co-operation with the European Investment Bank Group, a guarantee mechanism for investment loans of up to EUR 500 million has been set up. - We are simplifying the entrepreneurship fund of the Hellenic Development Bank, increasing its resources by 200 million to grant new loans to corporations affected by the coronavirus by subsidizing up to 100% of their interest rate for two years.

Labor Minister: We are at all costs to ensure social cohesion

The second set of emergency measures to support workers, the unemployed, businesses, freelancers and self-employed workers linked to the job retention clause, announced Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Yiannis Vroutsis at a joint press conference with the Finance Minister. Staikoura and Development Minister Adonis Georgiades.

"In a climate of creative co-operation with the relevant Ministries of Finance and Development, and the entire government as a whole, with the Prime Minister himself, we are coming to actively support all employees and businesses, both those that have been suspended and those that have been suspended. Unfortunately, the picture of the labor market to date, for March, is disappointing and even tragic, according to data from the 'ERGANI' information system, "Mr Vroutsis noted.

As he said, entrepreneurs should not unreasonably and unjustifiably dismiss and exhibit abusive behaviors or operate in a state of panic. "The crisis has come and will pass and in the end we will win," the Labor Minister stressed.

He stressed that all favorable measures and announcements of ministries and government are linked to the job retention clause. "We must fight against this unprecedented crisis and contribute together, united - Government, business and employees," said Mr Vroutsis, adding that social cohesion must be ensured, at the end of the crisis to be healthy and , above all, that society be upright and alive.

Specifically, Mr Vroutsis announced the following measures:

Employee measures:

- Retention clause in all businesses that were not suspended, as a condition of suspension of insurance and tax obligations and the use of exceptional financial support tools.
- Explicit prohibition of dismissal of employees in companies suspended by order of a public authority and, if so, it shall be considered invalid.
- A special purpose allowance of EUR 800 for the period from 15 March to 30 April as exceptional financial assistance to all employees of undertakings suspended from work, to be paid in the first ten days of April.
- Full insurance coverage of the above employees for the entire period of suspension of business, calculated on their nominal salary.

Measures for the unemployed:

- Extension of regular unemployment benefit and long-term unemployment benefit and unemployment allowance to self-employed and self-employed persons for a further two months to those unemployed with the relevant entitlement to benefit on 31 March.

Measures for self-employed and self-employed persons:

- Suspension of payment of contributions for self-employed and self-employed persons for the month of February for three months, without interest and

	<p>surcharges.</p> <p><u>Measures for businesses and employers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suspension of payment of insurance contributions for the month of February for three months, without interest and surcharges, on affected employees.</li> <li>- Suspension of payment of regulated debts to Social Security Funds for three months for all affected companies.</li> </ul> <p><u>Measures to increase the flexibility of enterprises to adapt to the operational consequences of coronavirus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision for the operation of businesses with safe operating personnel, with a job retention clause.</li> <li>- Adopt measures to ensure the unhindered provision of occupational health services and remove administrative barriers to business, services and physicians and, in particular, to protect the health and safety of workers and public health.</li> <li>- Utilization of electronic services of e-EFKA and OAED</li> <li>- Introduce important facilities for all citizens. For example, remotely servicing citizens in the Electronic Social Security Agency (e-EFSA) and the Labor Force Employment Organization (OAED), by accelerating the planned implementation of key functions of these two organizations."</li> </ul>
<p><b>GREECE (II)</b></p>	<p><b>Update 25 March</b></p> <p>A Short list of ESEE's PROPOSALS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tax measures should be applied to all enterprises independently of their legal form.</li> <li>2. The time-line for submitting tax-statements for income taxes should be extended.</li> <li>3. Easter wages should be paid to employees till summer 2020.</li> <li>4. Enterprises' bills should not be tied down till the elimination of coronavirus' consequences.</li> <li>5. The protection of the first home (law 4605/2019) should be extended by the end of the year</li> <li>6. Enterprises should be exempted from paying rents till the elimination of coronavirus' consequences. Rents should be paid by the State either through state's budget or by European funds.</li> <li>7. Enterprises which closed voluntarily due to coronavirus' dispersion should be helped by economic measures independently of not being closed by state's order.</li> <li>8. The digitalization of enterprises, regarding their tax obligations (i.e. the connection of cashiers with taxisnet, Mydata, e-voices), should be postponed.</li> <li>9. There should be a serious concern for Bounced cheques and for these cheques that are expiring in next months. An extension in bouncing cheques should be forecasted.</li> <li>10. There should be a forecast in calculating enterprises' 40% turnover reduction.</li> <li>11. Economic measures should be extended to wholesale enterprises which face a sharp turnover's reduction due to the closing of retail enterprises.</li> </ol>

		<p>12. There should be a concern for those enterprises that are merchandising seasonal commodities (i.e. Eastern gifts).</p> <p>13. ESEE is ready to participate in state's commissions regarding coronavirus' economic consequences.</p> <p><b>Update 27 March</b></p> <p>SURVEY ON THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS ON THE GREEK ECONOMY</p> <p>In "Red" has raised Greek concern about the new coronavirus pandemic COVID-19, according to a <b>recent survey conducted by PULSE-RC between March 15 and 17, 2020</b>. According to the survey, 83% of Respondents worry quite a lot. Almost everyone (94%) estimates that the pandemic and its consequences will negatively affect business activity in our country. Indeed, together with the previous crisis will affect the course of the Greek economy, negatively, believes the 86%.</p> <p>Due to this negative situation, optimism about the Greek economy and the personal financial situation of the respondents declines and pessimism comes first. Specifically, 45% of respondents said they were certainly and rather optimistic about the course of the Greek economy, while 54% were certain or rather pessimistic. Correspondingly, 48% are optimistic and 52% are pessimistic about the course of their personal financial situation.</p> <p>However, the government's assessment does not appear to be particularly affected, at least in terms of attracting investment and social policy. Specifically, 57% favorably assess the government in terms of attracting investment and 43% negative. For social policy respectively, 56% favorably assess the government and 44% negative.</p> <p>Of the measures announced by the government by March 17th when the survey was completed, the majority (73%) believe they are heading in the right direction.</p> <p>However, most respondents (55%) felt that these were not enough, expressing the immediate need for additional support and confirming the serious impact of recent negative developments and on business activity.</p>
IRELAND	<p><b>Update 24 March</b></p> <p><b>Business measures:</b></p>	<p><b>Update 24 March</b></p> <p>Here are some of the measures that the Retail Sector in Ireland are putting in place along with Government fiscal measures. I am also including the priorities that Retail Ireland/Ibec have for the business sector.</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> <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>Update 26 March</b></p> <p>Some further announcements from Ireland last night,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All non essential retail to shut down, keeping only grocery, DIY, Pharmacy etc open</li> <li>• Food services must close if they cannot provide a take way or delivery service, planning regulations in this regard will be suspended by legislation on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March</li> <li>• €200 million in liquidity supports for effected business. With a further €200 million in loans</li> <li>• Wage subsidy by Government of up to €410 per employee</li> <li>• Temporary unemployment payment of €350 per person for employees temporarily laid off due to the pandemic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining social distancing of 2 meters in store by markers at checkouts and at self service tills.</li> <li>• Deep cleaning of stores regularly.</li> <li>• Clear Perspex screens between the cashier and the customers to maintain a sanitary barrier</li> <li>• Alcohol hand gels in store and at entrances, wipes and protectives gloves.</li> <li>• Encouraging contactless payments.</li> </ul>
<b>ITALY</b>	<p>Latest Decree adopted last night, in force from today until 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020, that further strengthen the restrictive measures taken over the last two weeks in Italy.</p> <p>In particular, the Decree provides that:</p> <p><i>“Retail sales activities are suspended, with the exception of food retail and primary activities identified in Annex 1, both in the context of small retail</i></p>	<p>Food retailers are running out of the so called “Dispositivi Personali di Protezione”.</p> <p>Federdistribuzione sent a letter to the Minister for Health today to consider the food sector as a priority in that sense, after of course the medical sector. –</p> <p>Federdistribuzione is in permanent contact with all relevant national, regional and local authorities to monitor the situation and to raise any possible issue of application of the restrictive measures retail companies have to comply with.</p>

*businesses, and in the medium and large-scale distribution, also included in shopping centers, as long as access to only of the above mentioned activities is allowed".*

The activities of the catering services are suspended, including bars, pubs, restaurants, ice cream desks, pasty shops. Only catering with home delivery is allowed.

#### **UPDATE 13 March**

Situation in Italy is the following:

- Today, food retailers have been confronted with the issue of differences of interpretation of the 11th March Decree by local authorities carrying out controls in stores (categories of non-food products not authorised to be available for consumers to buy);
- Regarding the official numbers about the diffusion of the virus by regions and provinces, the Civil Protection Department has put in place a dashboard updated on a daily basis.
- 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;
  - measures for SMEs to support financial liquidity;
  - for the agricultural sector: creation of a fund of € 300 million to ensure the continuity of the primary sector activities; increase from 50 to 70% of the percentage of advances to companies entitled to CAP contributions; vouchers up to € 10,000 to support a series of business costs;
  - exemption until 31 October 2020 from the payment of the Antitrust contribution for large companies;
  - on social aspects: social safety nets; supplementary parental leave (12 or 15 days); measures to encourage smart working (both in the private and public sector); baby-sitting voucher (€ 600 one-shot)

#### Communication initiative from the Police Department

**MoU (guidelines)** signed this morning between the Social Partners (employers' / business organisations and Trade Unions) on measures to be adopted to contain the virus diffusion in working environments.

- These are guidelines are about:
- measures regarding information to employees/ suppliers;
- measures regarding modalities for access / entry to working places;
- measures regarding modalities for access from suppliers;
- measures regarding sanitisation of working environments;
- measures regarding personal hygienic behaviours
- measures regarding personal safety/protective equipment;
- measures regarding common spaces in working places;
- measures regarding the organisation of work (smart working, reduction of working time etc);
- measures regarding access of employees;
- measures regarding movements within the working environment, meetings, training activities;
- **measures regarding the procedure to follow in case of a positive case to covid-19 within the workforce.**

#### **UPDATE 15 March**

Movement of persons is allowed solely for work requirements, health reasons or reasons of necessity, such as **shopping for food and other essentials**.

It should be noted that in some territories **the possibility of movement of people from one town/municipality to another for food shopping is also contested**.

#### **Federdistribuzione has intervened on some Prefects:**

- to stick to the content of a Circular from the Ministry for Home Affairs (12<sup>th</sup> March 2020), which clarifies the possibility of moving from municipality to municipality and within the same municipality to go for food shopping, with all the due precautions;

*"...costituiscono validi motivi di spostamento le esigenze lavorative, di salute o di necessità, da comprovare secondo quanto già indicato nella Direttiva del Sig.*

- an export tax credit for the tourism sector;
- suspension of home mortgage loan reimbursement in case of suspension of work activity or reduced-working time for a period of at least thirty days.

Daily situation [here](#)

#### Update 16 March

Link to the FAQ prepared by the Government about the Decree on emergency restrictive measures, now available also in SP, FR and DE.

<https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/ministero/normativaonline/decreto-iorestoacasa-domande-frequenti>

#### Update 23 March

##### At national level

As announced last night by the Premier (the new Decree is not available yet), production activities of non-primary necessity are suspended until April 3. Measures regarding food retail and other commercial activities remain unchanged (Annex 1 of the March 11 Decree). No particular reference to the opening hours, on which there is (still) no restriction or change at national level.

##### At regional level

Lombardy has adopted last night additional restrictive measures (with respect to the March 11 Decree) through an “Ordinanza” (see attached, in force from today, March 22 till April 15), mainly on the free movement of persons and controls/sanctions. Other regions are adopting similar restrictive measures.

In the Ordinanza of the Lombardy Region, it is recommended to **systematically screen clients’ temperature in the supermarkets** (“Si raccomanda di provvedere alla rilevazione sistematica della temperatura corporea anche ai clienti presso i supermercati [...]”).

#### Update 24 March

As anticipated on Sunday, from yesterday until April 3, additional restrictive measures have been adopted at national level to further contain the virus propagation.

*Ministro dell'8 marzo scorso. Nel confermare che **le suddette regole si applicano agli spostamenti da un comune ad un altro, si evidenzia che le medesime regole sono valide anche per gli spostamenti all'interno di uno stesso comune, ivi compresa quella concernente il conseguente rientro presso la propria abitazione. Per quanto riguarda le situazioni di necessità, si specifica che gli spostamenti sono consentiti per comprovate esigenze primarie non rinviabili, come ad esempio per l'approvvigionamento alimentare, o per la gestione quotidiana degli animali domestici, o svolgere attività sportiva e motoria all'aperto, rispettando la distanza interpersonale di almeno un metro.***”.

- to remind that **large commercial structures of our sector are often characterized by extended catchment areas (“zone de chalandise”, i.e. beyond the administrative limits) and therefore provide a service especially to users from neighboring municipalities, being often located in smaller towns.** A limitation to such movement of persons by some control bodies would lead to 1. a serious limitation of the service to the population; 2. to a waste of food goods, with consequent blockage of the supply chain and therefore serious damage to the production and agricultural chain, which it conveys through the large supermarkets and hypermarkets over 70% of production. These structures, which are also those in which it is easier to adopt all the necessary safety measures, also thanks to the available spaces, would consequently remain deserted, creating imbalances in the food distribution of the territory.

#### Update March 18

Federdistribuzione’s press cuts.:

- this is an interview of our President about the critical situation of the non-food sector, heavily hit;
- decision taken by some food retailers to close stores on Sundays (in Italy, opening days/hours are fully liberalised) to “slow down” the activity and allow employees (under high pressure for almost a month now) to rest;
- the decrease of the productivity of the agrifood production due to reorganization of the working time and conditions in productive plans;
- the economic measures adopted yesterday to support businesses, workers, households etc.

#### Update 24 March

Initially Federdistribuzione had to intervene to ask Prefects to stick to the content of a Circular from the Ministry for Home Affairs, which clarified the possibility of



	<p>The provisions laid down in the new Decree (see attached DPCM 22 marzo) foresee that:</p> <p><u>=&gt; regarding production activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- are suspended all non-essential production activities; those considered as essential are listed in Annex 1 of the new Decree (see attached - ATECO codes - production activities); primary food production, food and beverage industries, pharmaceutical industry are considered essential production activities; transports and logistics as well.</li> <li>- companies whose activities are considered as essential should implement the guidelines of the MoU subscribed between the Government and Social Partners regarding the organization and hygienic measures to be adopted on production sites / in working places;</li> <li>- suspended production activities may proceed if re-organized (distance / forms of smart working);</li> <li>- companies whose production activities are suspended have until March 25 to proceed to the suspension of the production process (e.g. shipping of goods in stock).</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><u>=&gt; regarding free movement of persons:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it is forbidden for anyone to move by public or private means of transport from the municipality in which they are currently located, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- for proven work needs,</li> <li>- for absolute urgency or</li> <li>- for health reasons.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Guidelines</b> from the Ministry of Transport (MoU with transports / logistics associations) regarding transport activities (by air, road, rail etc) have been made available.</p>	<p>moving from municipality to municipality to go for food shopping, with all the due precautions. We are again trying to have this new provision interpreted in the same sense.</p>
<p><b>LITHUANIA</b></p>	<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<sup>th</sup> March</b> the Lithuanian government presented the anti-crisis</p>	<p>All actions taken by retailers are individual, no centralized measures have been imposed by authorities so far. Actions include: more often disinfection of premises, trolleys, shopping bags (3-5 times per day and more often if needed), ventilation, filtration of air, wearing gloves, etc. No limitation of customers applied. Retailers try to fulfil the increased demand for some goods.</p>

	<p>measures. Available in Lithuanian. Quarantine has been announced from March 16 till March 30 and will be extended for 2 more weeks</p> <p><b>Update 24 March</b></p> <p><b>Retail activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Retail shops are closed except for food shops and pharmacies. No limitations for e-commerce, home / office deliveries and collections of pre-ordered goods from a retailer respecting hygiene requirements;</li> <li>- Bars and restaurants, shopping malls and other are closed.</li> <li>- There are real intentions to regulate the flow of consumers in the food shops.</li> <li>- There are political intentions to regulate the prices of basic products.</li> <li>- The Competition Council announced that they are relieving the supervision of competitors when they deal for the sake of consumers.</li> </ul> <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>	
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Country	Economic measures	Practical measures
<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.	For the moment, no action taken by Retail (except very limited number restrictions on some items)
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<p>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></p> <p><b>Update 16 March</b></p>	<p>CBL has formed a “corona crisis” team. We are spokesman on behalf of food retail and wholesale towards the (health) authorities and the press. We also advise our members on a daily basis in conference calls and mailings.</p> <p>Attached our overall plan of last week. We are now updating the plan. Also attached a poster we distribute to our members (<a href="#">see also websites</a>). Stores use this poster to ask customers to pay electronically.</p>

New measurements were announced yesterday:  
<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/03/15/aanvullende-maatregelen-onderwijs-horeca-sport>

Schools, sportsclubs and restaurants & bars will be closed until April.

#### **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

- 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.

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/>

Online – orders are delivered at the door – not in the kitchen.

<https://www.omroepbrabant.nl/nieuws/3170322/Jumbo-bezorgt-boodschappen-niet-meer-in-huis-maar-bij-voor-deur-vanwege-coronavirus>

Important to prevent panic and ensure that food supply will continue uninterrupted (no extreme measures for cleaning or disinfecting stores, trollies etc.)

#### **Update 17 March**

Developed by the CBL:

It is also desirable that shoppers keep a sufficient distance from each other to prevent the virus from spreading. For shops, there is currently no restriction on the number of people (“no more than 100 people”) in the store as it does for other sectors.

Furthermore, the government is now differentiated in communicating to (a) an audience that has no complaints, (b) does have complaints and (c) the 'general 4 guidelines'. There is one new poster that says it all, which you could hang in your shop. [Here](#)

#### **Update 23 March**

DetailHandel Nederland:

This is an update on Dutch retailers (with the exception of supermarkets):

- The Retirement Fund for retailers has opened a special help desk for assisting retailers in delaying retirement contributions.
- The Raad Nederlandse Detailhandel has also published an advertisement in Dutch newspapers
- More and more stores are willingly closing.

#### **Update 24 March**

- 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 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

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.

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.

On Friday 20 March, the government announced the measures that healthcare institutions will no longer allow visitors in. Personnel only.

#### DetailHandel Nederland:

So far, shops are still open, but after last weekend, we fear a closure this week of non-essential stores.

Trade unions and employers call on the Parliament to adopt new law quickly (press release 21 March)

In a letter, the social partners, represented in the Labour Foundation, call on the members of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament to quickly adopt a new law - which offers companies in financial distress a new rescue procedure - because of the corona crisis.

With this law, companies can be rescued more quickly if necessary, now that that the need is increasing. We therefore call on political parties to adopt the law now,' said the trade unions and employers in the appeal to Members of Parliament.

<https://www.vno-ncw.nl/nieuws/vakbonden-en-werkgevers-neem-nieuwe-faillissementswet-snel-aan>

Leniency for retirement contributions for companies and sectors affected by the corona crisis.

Retirement administrators will help entrepreneurs who are or have been faced with acute problems as a result of the corona crisis as much as possible if they experience problems in paying pension contributions. Pensioenfonds Detailhandel has also taken this measure. The Labour Foundation and the umbrella organisations of pension providers, the Pension Federation and the Association of Insurers, have agreed on this. <https://www.vno-ncw.nl/nieuws/coulance-bij-betalen-pensioenpremies-voor-door-coronacrisis-getroffen-bedrijven>

Saturday newspapers and social media call on people to adhere to guidelines to keep a distance of 1.5 meters (CBL), but employees are also thanked for their efforts.

#### Update 25 March

#### DetailHandel Nederland:

- the limit for contactless card payments has been raised to 50 euro (see annex).

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, than non-essential stores will be closed from next week on

- A call has been made to tenants and landlords in the retail sector with various organisations within the real estate and retail sector in the Netherlands. The call contains a number of tools that the organisations involved agree on when it comes to finding a short term solution regarding the payment of the rent. Long-term solutions must be found by 20 April (see annex). This is all we could agree on at this stage

A **Protocol on responsible shopping** has been drawn up with retail organisations together with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Change protocol responsible shopping (see *google drive*). These will be translated into communication materials (not yet available on the Rijksoverheid website at the time the mail is sent).

#### **Update 30 March**

CBL: Letter to the minister for Justice and security: asking for the food chain to be counted among the vital processes for Dutch society during the corona crisis. The professions in the food chain are already included in the list of key professions. However, there remains uncertainty about the work instructions for employees in the food chain, because the important links in the food chain are not included in the official NCTV list of vital processes.

Update from the NL:

#### **Update 31 March**

Government decided on an extension of the TOGS (compensation affected companies) scheme: entrepreneurs in the non-food sector can also submit applications. Even though they are still open, they are faced with tremendous decreases in sales (80-90%)

Extra groups of entrepreneurs in the non-food sector such as shopkeepers can also make use of the scheme COVID-19 (TOGS) from Monday 30 March 2020. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Change (EZK) today announced the expansion of the scheme, which was previously known as the Emergency Desk. The TOGS is specifically intended for companies that are directly affected by cabinet measures to combat the coronavirus.

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/03/28/uitbreiding-togs-regeling-ook-ondernemers-in-de-non-food-kunnen-aanvragen>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Roadmap: <a href="https://business.gov.nl/your-company-and-the-coronavirus/">https://business.gov.nl/your-company-and-the-coronavirus/</a></li> <li>➤ FAQ: <a href="https://business.gov.nl/the-coronavirus-faq-for-entrepreneurs/">https://business.gov.nl/the-coronavirus-faq-for-entrepreneurs/</a></li> </ul>
<b>NORWAY</b>	<p><b>Update 18 March</b></p> <p>A lot of services are closed down by government order and retail, except grocery, pharmacies and construction, are having a sharp fall in demand. Layoffs are reported by the thousands (30.000 so far).</p> <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> <p><b>Update 30 March</b></p> <p>Update on the economic measures in Norway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compensation measures for retail and services: The government announced Friday 27 March that a model of compensation for loss of turnover and to cover fixed costs for businesses that are closed or have a big fall in turnover due to the measures against the corona virus is being worked out in cooperation with Virke, NHO and the banks. The details in the model will be worked out week 14 and the system will be in place week 15/16. It will be a digital solution operated by the banks, where the companies can put in their loss of turnover and fixed costs such as rent and insurance and have the money immediately on their account (if they qualify for compensation).</li> <li>- Guarantee for bank loans: The government guarantee for bank loans to small and medium enterprises is effectuated 27 March (if they are economically sound). The government guarantees for up to 90 percent of</li> </ul>	<p><b>Update 18 March</b></p> <p><u>Virke</u>: We have a problem with property owners, particularly the shopping centers that stick to their rent contracts regardless of the situation. A lot of services are ordered to closed down, and retail (except for grocery and construction) have a sharp fall in demand.</p> <p>We are coordinating action among our members, who threaten the shopping center owners with closing down and legal action. We are trying to get help from the government to put pressure on the property owners. I am discussing this issue with my Nordic colleagues, who have the same problem.</p>

	<p>the loans to companies that are affected by the measures against the corona virus, limited to NOK 50 million (5 million euros) for each company, if the companies are economically sustainable. Virke has pushed to include companies with more than 250 employees, and we expect the government to follow up on this. Including bigger companies has to be approved by the EFTA European Surveillance Agency. There is also in place a Fund of Government Bonds.</p> <p><b>Tax measures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Postponement of VAT</li> <li>- Postponement of employers tax</li> <li>- The government temporarily covers employers cost on layoffs, sick pay and care pay (care for children that are now out of schools and kindergartens).</li> <li>- Losses in 2020 can be deducted against taxed profits in 2019 and 2018.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PORTUGAL</b></p>	<p>On 11<sup>th</sup> 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>).</p> <p>These thirty measures follow in the attached document (Google translation from Portuguese to English).</p> <p><b>Update 17 March</b></p> <p><b>Decree-Law n.º 10-A / 2020 of March 14</b>  <u>Summary:</u> 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><u>Main decisions:</u></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 / 2020 of March 15</b>  <u>Summary:</u> Restrictions on access and the allocation of spaces in commercial, food</p>	<p>We have also a private guard in every store and marking distances inside and outside the store</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.</p> <p>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. We also request consumers to keep their normal buying behaviour.</p> <p>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>APED prepared a guidance booklet (attached to the email), addressed mainly to the small and medium member size member companies.</p>

and beverage establishments

<https://dre.pt/application/conteudo/130243070>

Main decisions:

- The allocation of publicly accessible spaces in retail stores, large commercial areas and commercial complexes must comply with the maximum indicative occupancy rule of 0.04 person per square meter of area. The limits provided. they do not include employees and service providers who are exercising functions in these spaces and do not apply to wholesale establishments.
- The allocation of spaces accessible to the public in food and beverage establishments must be limited to one third of their capacity,.

**Ordinance n.º 71-A / 2020 of March 15**

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.

<https://dre.pt/web/guest/pesquisa/-/search/130273586/details/normal?!=1>

Main decisions:

- Extraordinary support for maintaining employment contracts in a business crisis situation,
- Extraordinary financial incentive to support the normalization of the company's activity; and
- The temporary exemption from the payment of Social Security contributions, borne by the employer

**Order n.º 3301-D / 2020 of March 15**

Summary: Determines the adoption of additional measures of an exceptional nature to address the prevention and containment of the pandemic COVID-19.

<https://dre.pt/web/guest/pesquisa/-/search/130277342/details/normal?!=1>

Main decisions:

- Prohibition of holding events, meetings or gathering of people, regardless of reason or nature, with 100 or more people;
- 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;
- Suspension of regular services, specialized services and occasional international passenger transport services, with the exception of excursions carried out by national citizens.



	<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>  <b>Main decisions:</b></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>An AMRCR (Romanian members) letter co-signed by several retailers has reached almost 10.000 likes and 5000 shares on facebook in Romania, on Lidl's facebook page. <a href="#">Here</a></p> <p>The letter encourages rational consumption and responsible behaviour, following panic buying episodes in the last couple of days.</p>
<b>SPAIN</b>	<i>(See further updates below)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific measures have been adopted by the Retailers: only a</li> </ul>

12th March, the Central Government approved the following economic measures:

**1. Protection medical activity:**

- € 2.8 billion is transferred to the Autonomous Regions in order to strengthen regional health services.
- 1,000 million euros are mobilized through the Social Contingency Fund for priority actions determined by the Ministry of Health.
- The centralized supply of medicines and health products is guaranteed, as well as that they are affordable.

**2. Social care for families:**

- A budget of 25 million is approved for the Autonomous Regions, destined to the fight against child poverty.
- Academic requirements are made more flexible in order to adapt them to the current situation of school and university closing.

**3. Protection of employment and SMEs:**

- Approved the deferment and fractioning of debts with the Public Administration for six months and without interested to the affected SMEs
- The repayment of loans from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism to companies in the tourism sector is approved.

**4. Support measures for certain productive sectors:**

- A specific ICO line of 400 million euros is opened for the transport and hostelry sector.
- The Social Security bonuses are extended in discontinuous fixed labour contracts, from February to June.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

**Update 14 March**

These are some of the measures taken by the Spanish Government to tackle the Covid-19 crisis:

- 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.
- The Decree is based in 5 chapters: measures to reinforce the health system,

message that the production, logistics and distribution chain continue to operate normally and therefore no disproportional storage of food or products is necessary. And we are also working with trade unions to be able to apply in an agile way all the prevention, safety and labour measures demanded by the health authorities and, on the other hand, guarantee the commercial activity.

- The city council of Madrid has adopted the following measures for the retail: - property tax income (discount of 25%, affecting more than 106.000 retailers in Madrid), business tax income (discount of 25%)

**Update 19 March**

In Spain the situation around food retail is more quiet today than last week, when we faced like a tsunami. People run to our stores to buy everything and we all worked hard to communicate that there was not going to be problems regarding food access or distribution at the same time that workers at stores, worked hardly.

Learning each day, our companies are now focused on security measures implementation and we, as association, have continued both communicating and lobbying trying to convince our government to help us.

We have no many recommendations from our government regarding security measures. So that we are learning so much from Italy thanks to Helene from Federdistribuzione and our companies are applying those measures that they think are the most appropriate in this situation.

We are also helping our companies to deal with new rules and authorities control activity.

We think it is important to tell de EC, EP and every institution that our workers need support and recognition because of the hard work that the are developing these last days.

Please remain all at home if it is possible and be prepared for hard days. Our claim is being.

to support families, to support the most affected sectors, measures to support financing and management of public administration.

- 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.
- State controlled prices for certain products related to health protection.

**In addition to this Decree approved yesterday, the Government announced today 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 centers.

We expect more measures from both, the national and the regional and local governments and we are working with them to ensure the supply of our stores and the safety of our employees.

#### **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.
- Flexibility of access to the cessation of activity for the self-employed and the collection of their benefit in case of economic difficulty.

#### **SUPPORT COMPANIES AND SELF-EMPLOYED**

- Line of public guarantees and guarantees of up to 100,000 million euros.
- Additional guarantee line of 2,000 million euros for exporting companies and SMEs.
- Measures to facilitate credit restructuring to farms affected by drought.
- Programs to support the digitization and R&D of SMEs, which will facilitate the implementation of teleworking.
- Specific regime of suspension of public contracts with extension of terms and compensation of wages, to avoid loss of employment.
- By means of regulatory reform, companies from outside the EU are prevented from controlling Spanish entities in strategic sectors.

#### **SUPPORT FOR INVESTIGATION**

- 30 million euros for the Higher Council for Scientific Research and the Carlos III Institute to investigate a vaccine.

In addition, the Royal Decree on the State of Alarm has been adapted in the following points:

- The opening to the public of the premises and establishments is suspended for retailers, except for retail business establishments in food, beverages,

products and basic necessities, establishments pharmaceutical, health, veterinary centers or clinics, optics and products orthopedic, hygienic products, press and stationery, fuel for automotive, tobacconists, technological and telecommunications equipment, food for pets, e-commerce, telephone or correspondence, dry cleaners, laundries and the professional exercise of the hairdressing activity at home. In any case, the activity of any establishment that, in the opinion of the competent authority, may pose a risk of contagion by the conditions in which it is developing.

- The movement of people in certain specific areas is limited, such as beaches.
- The activities must be carried out individually, with some exceptions.
- Hairdressers may only practice at home.
- The Ministry of Health is empowered to modify, expand or restrict the permitted activities.

**Good Practice Guide on hygiene measures in the Retail sector** approved yesterday by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.

It is a “living” Guide that will be modified as circumstances suggest. That same Ministry has also opened a mailbox for doubts and will publish a web page in which they will post questions and answers on the corona issue

Update economic measures Spain:

#### **Update 26 March**

The Spanish Council of Ministers has approved on 24th march, the Agreement that includes the characteristics of the first part, for an amount of up to 20,000 million euros (out of a total of up to 100,000 million euros), of the **Line of Guarantees** for companies and the self-employed, included in the Royal Decree Law 8/2020 on extraordinary urgent measures to face the economic and social impact of COVID-19.

The Line of Guarantees will secure new loans and renewals granted by financial entities to companies and the self-employed that meet the financing needs derived, among others, from payment of wages, invoices, need for money or other liquidity needs, including those derived from maturities of financial or tax obligations. This Line will be managed by the Official Credit Institute (ICO), in collaboration with financial entities.

The main conditions and requirements of this Line of guarantees are the following:

- 50% of the approved amount (€ 10,000 million) is reserved to guarantee loans to self-employed workers and SMEs.
- These guarantees may be requested by companies that were not in default as of December 31, 2019 and in bankruptcy procedure as of March 17, 2020.
- The guarantees will be retroactive and may be requested for operations formalized after the entry into force of RD Law 8/2020.
- The guarantee will cover 70% of the new loan granted and 60% of the renovations for large companies.
- The guarantee will be valid for the term of the loan granted, with a maximum term of five years.
- The cost of the guarantee, (between 20 and 120 bp) will be assumed by the financial entities.
- The deadline for requesting the guarantee for its operations extends until September 30, 2020. The request will be processed before the financial entities with which the ICO has signed the corresponding collaboration agreements.

#### **Update 27 April**

The state of alarm is extended until April 12, also the restrictions for the physical sale of non-food products. [Here](#)

#### **Update 30 March**

In an extraordinary Council of Ministers, last Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, **the following Royal Decree-Law 10/2020, which regulates a recoverable paid leave for employed persons who do not provide essential services, in order to reduce the mobility of the population in the context of the fight against COVID-19.**

**OBJECT.**

Grant a recoverable paid leave for non-essential services workers, between March 30 and April 9, 2020. It indicates which are the essential services and activities and, consequently, which are the only activities that can be carried out. However, the Ministry of Health can modify by order the activities affected by the recoverable paid leave.

**EXCEPTION.**

They are considered essential services and activities, so they may continue to work normally, without granting paid leave to their workers, the following (I only list the ones that have to do with retail activity)

- Workers who provide services in private companies and whose activity could be carried out pursuant to RD 463/2020, such as:
  - Retail commercial establishments for food, beverages, products and essential goods, pharmaceutical establishments, health centres, veterinary centres or clinics, optical and orthopedic products, hygiene products, press and stationery, automotive fuel, tobacco shops, technological and telecommunications equipment , pet food, internet commerce, telephone or correspondence, dry cleaners, laundries and the professional practice of hairdressing at home.
  - Home delivery services in the hotel and restaurant sector.
  - The transport of freight to guarantee the supply and delivery of products purchased in commerce by internet, telephone or correspondence.
  - Critical operators of essential services and companies and providers that, not being considered critical, are essential to ensure the supply of the population and the essential services themselves.
  - Those others determined by the Competent Authority and the Delegated Competent Authorities
- Workers who participate in the market supply chain and in the functioning of the services of the production centres of basic goods and services, including food, beverages, hygiene products, medicines, sanitary products or any product necessary for protection health, allowing the distribution of those goods from the origin to the final destination.
- Workers who provide freight services that continue to be developed since the declaration of the state of alarm, as well as those that must ensure the maintenance of the means used for it.
- Workers of the cleaning, maintenance and repair service for urgent breakdowns and surveillance, as well as waste collection.
- Workers in the distribution and delivery of products purchased in commerce by internet, telephone or correspondence.
- Workers who are already providing remote services (teleworking).
- Others considered essential.

Decree passed yesterday by the Government. Confinement measures are increased and only certain critical sectors will be allowed to operate (new measures don't affect food retail). For the sectors affected this will be in place in principle for 15 days. In an extraordinary Council of Ministers,

Country	Economic measures	Practical measures
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<p><b>SWEDEN</b></p>	<p>As for the questions. 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><b>Update 17 March</b></p> <p>In an effort to increase liquidity among companies that are affected, the Swedish government today took the following measures:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Liquidity reinforcement via tax accounts</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>So far one store in Sweden has been temporarily closed after one staff member was diagnosed with COVID-19. After sanitizing the store overnight it was re-opened again the day after. Our international members have also closed stores in China and Italy.</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> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>As an extraordinary measure, Svensk Handel has started <b>connect these two categories of companies in order for them to share staff and costs</b>. In short, excess staff from non-food companies get the possibility to work for understaffed grocery stores.</p> <p>Discussions with <b>the real estate owners</b> 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>
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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.

#### **Update 27 March**

On the 25 of March the Swedish government presented a **new crisis package**. Measures include:

- A loan guarantee to make it easier for companies to access financing. The central government will guarantee 70 per cent of new loans banks provide to companies. The main target are SMEs but there are no formal limit on company size. Each company will be allowed to borrow up to 75 million SEK.
- A temporary reduction of employers' social security contributions and individual contributions for the period 1 March to 30 June 2020 so that only the old age pension contribution is paid. This reduction should apply to up to 30 employees and on that portion of the employee's wage that does not exceed SEK 25 000 per month. This entails tax relief of up to SEK 5 300 per employee and month. To provide equivalent relief to sole traders, a reduction of individual contributions is also proposed.
- Temporary discount for rental costs in vulnerable sectors such as durable consumer goods, hotels, restaurants and certain other activities. The approach is that central government will cover 50 per cent of the rental



	reduction up to 50 per cent of the fixed rent. The support can be applied for the period 1 April until 30 June 2020.	
UK	<p><b>Update March 18<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>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>Chancellor’s Package of Support for Retail :</b></p> <p>17 March, the Chancellor announced a tremendously bold and significant package of support for business, with £330bn of loan funding being made available to support businesses in the UK. More pertinently for retailers, he also announced a business rates relief package worth £20bn for businesses affected by Covid-19. This was, rightly, particularly targeted at retail, leisure and hospitality businesses. I wholeheartedly welcome this announcement. It is the right and necessary thing to do at this time. 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 2020/21, and represents a huge cash flow boost to the sector. We have long campaigned for the rates</p>	<p><a href="https://www.competitionpolicyinternational.com/%E2%80%AFuk-supermarkets-call-for-competition-laws-to-be-waived/">https://www.competitionpolicyinternational.com/%E2%80%AFuk-supermarkets-call-for-competition-laws-to-be-waived/</a></p> <p><b>BRC Coronavirus support hub:</b> <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Food industry representatives are urging the government to add supply chain and store staff to the so-called key workers list to ensure they can carry on with their jobs and send their children to schools, amid widespread school closures for the rest of the population. (Politico)</p> <p><b>Update 27 March</b></p> <p>Click and collect is not allowed from non-essential retail stores but IS allowed from amazon boxes and similar or from essential stores eg argos from Sainsbury, m and s clothes from m and s food, john lewis from waitrose.</p> <p><b>Update 31 March</b></p> <p>Measures to facilitate implementation of Government advice in warehouse and distribution to ensure the safety of our staff and customers. Over and above these specific measures there should be open dialogue with colleagues to reassure them and discuss any concerns about the safety of their role. This guidance has been prepared by the BRC based on input from across the membership. <a href="https://brc.org.uk/news/corporate-affairs/social-distancing-in-warehouse-and-distribution-settings/">https://brc.org.uk/news/corporate-affairs/social-distancing-in-warehouse-and-distribution-settings/</a></p>

burden to be lightened on retail, and have particularly called for rates relief in the last week in light of current events, and so this is a very positive step by the Government. Press release [here](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-cma-approach-to-essential-business-cooperation>

#### Update 23 March

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.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/supermarkets-to-join-forces-to-feed-the-nation>

**VAT Deferral:** 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 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](#)

### **Update 30 March**

#### Suspension of Competition Act in UK for certain purposes

Note (*see google drive*) explaining the suspension backdated to March 1. This goes beyond acquiescence by competition authorities because there is now nothing to enforce – it also means that the opportunity for private prosecutions is removed.

The BRC supported by legal experts from member companies has worked with Government officials to suspend specific elements of competition call to give grocery retailers, should they choose to, the opportunity to collaborate on commercial issues which would ordinarily be prohibited. The full SI is [here](#) but below are the key elements

- It covers two broad elements, collaboration with retailers and suppliers by maximising production, agreeing specifications, sharing data and resources; secondly co-ordinating store opening and closing hours to ensure access to stores for the local community
- It covers all 4 UK countries
- It does not cover agreements on price
- It enables conversations about issues to happen even if collaborative action isn't taken forward
- It is time limited. It has been backdated until 1 March and will run until the SoS considers it unnecessary and removes the SI
- It requires a level of record keeping and notification to the SoS of any actions which are agreed. Those actions will be visible to any consumer or organisation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It does not remove the coverage of GSCOP. It is important members recognise they could breach the code even if the action is not illegal within competition law. We are continuing to speak to Government about the best way to reduce the problem of GSCOP deterring collaborative activities such as changing contracts at short notice with suppliers.</li> <li>- More guidance on the SI and application of GSCOP is expected shortly</li> </ul>	
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## 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](#)

## EU ACTION

(31<sup>st</sup> March) DG SANTE - In order to provide for a **temporary possibility for Member States to perform official controls on the agri-food chain in a simplified manner** in view of the ongoing situation linked to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Commission has today adopted a Commission Implementing Regulation on temporary measures to contain risks to human, animal and plant health and animal welfare during certain serious disruptions of Member States' control systems due to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) (C(2020)2049). See link [here](#).

- COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION [Guidelines concerning the exercise of the free movement of workers during COVID-19 outbreak \(attached\)](#) : The European Commission issued a set of guidelines that allows workers with “critical occupations” to cross EU internal borders amid the coronavirus crisis. The list includes health professionals, child and elderly care workers, scientists, medical device technicians, firefighters, police officers, transport workers, persons working in the food sector and fishermen. Many EU governments were also worried that they wouldn’t have enough seasonal agricultural workers for harvesting and planting jobs. The guidelines say that “member states should exchange information on their different needs” and if the situation in the agricultural sector in their respective country is critical, then seasonal agriculture workers should be allowed to cross the border.
- DG SANTE/IMCO the Commission is making available **guidance to assist manufacturers** in ramping up production of essential medical equipment and material in three areas: the production of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE), leave-on hand cleaners and hand disinfectants and 3D printing in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. A guidance on medical devices will also be made available within the coming days. Commission issues questions and answers to help increase production of safe medical supplies: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_558](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_558)
- The COUNCIL today adopted two legislative acts to quickly release funding from the EU budget for tackling the COVID-19 crisis. One of the acts amends the rules of the structural and investment funds, while the other extends the scope of the EU Solidarity Fund. **The Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative** will give member states access to €37 billion of cohesion money to strengthen healthcare systems, as well as support small and medium-sized enterprises, short-term working schemes, and community-based services. Of the total, about €8 billion will come from unspent pre-financing in 2019 under the structural funds. The new measure allows member states to spend unused money to mitigate the impact of the pandemic instead of returning it to the EU budget. Another €29 billion will be disbursed early from allocations which would have been due later this year. Given the urgency of the situation, both legislative acts will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 31 March and will enter into force on 1 April 2020.
  - o Regulation concerning the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative
  - o Regulation extending the scope of the EU Solidarity Fund
  - o Visit the website
- (30 March) DG TRADE: Based on the consultation last week, where EuroCommerce underlined the need of relaxing rules on export credit insurance as a consequence of the coronavirus crisis, the European Commission has now decided **to temporarily remove all countries from the list of “marketable risk” countries under the Short-term export-credit insurance Communication**. This will make public short-term export credit insurance more widely available in light of the current crisis linked to the coronavirus outbreak. The Commission has decided to consider all countries listed in the Annex as temporarily non-marketable and to remove all countries from the list of “marketable” countries until 31 December 2020. More here: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_542](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_542)

- TRADE - EuroCommerce received **guidance** from the Commission, outlining practical solutions to the usual application of customs procedures during the current Covid-19 emergency. The document covers eCommerce, customs decisions, customs debts and guarantees, entry of goods (including medical, surgical and laboratory for emergency, treatment), presentation of goods, customs procedures (such as temporary storage), transit, special procedures (i.e. inward/ outward processing and re-exportation) and exit of goods. Wherever possible, customs authorities are being asked to relax time limits or, where the UCC does not allow a relaxation, apply force majeure on a case by case basis. If members face difficulties at the local customs level, please refer the customs office to this document in the first instant.
- (26 March): The European Commission [issued advice](#) to EU countries to boost the transport of goods via air until coronavirus-related traffic and travel restrictions are lifted. That should include exempting plane crews that have no coronavirus symptoms from restrictions, keeping regional airports open for cargo traffic only and lifting night curfews or slot restrictions.
- (26 March) Joint statement of the members of the European Council,: The members of the European Council adopted a statement on the EU actions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, EU enlargement, the earthquake in Croatia and the situation at the EU's external borders. [Joint statement of the members of the European Council, 26 March 2020](#)
- (25 March) Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, in Wednesday's [video message](#): "Today we are issuing guidelines to help member states screen foreign direct investment and acquisition of control or influence." She stressed the importance of protecting key sectors such as "health, medical research or strategic infrastructure."
- (26 March) Commission President Ursula von der Leyen addressed the EP [https://twitter.com/EU\\_Commission/status/1243110186329559040?s=20](https://twitter.com/EU_Commission/status/1243110186329559040?s=20)
- (25 March) EU agriculture and fisheries ministers held a videoconference in order to discuss the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on the agricultural and fisheries sectors. Croatian Presidency issued a [press release](#). In response to the difficulties the sectors are facing, the Commission referred to the Corona Response Investment Initiative to quickly direct €37 billion of European public investment to deal with the fallout of the COVID-19 crisis. Regarding state aid, maximum amounts were raised, up to EUR 120 000 per undertaking active in the fishery and aquaculture sector or EUR 100 000 per undertaking active in the primary production of agricultural products. For companies active in the processing and marketing of agricultural products, the threshold is set at EUR 800 000. The Commission also announced an extension by 1 month of the deadline to submit the single application for direct payments and other area- and animal-related measures in 2020.
- (25 March) DG SANTE: Commission sent 2 letter to the EU's trading partners, related to export certification
- (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 <https://twitter.com/vonderleyen/status/1242074748827447296> :
- (24 March) 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 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) (*attached*)
  - o 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-di6h3qgi4x.pdf](https://oecd.dam-broadcast.com/pm_7379_119_119680-di6h3qgi4x.pdf)
- 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). [Here](#)
- European Food Banks Federation (FEAB)/ [COVID-19 The commitment of each person for the good of all.](#)

- The European Recycling Industries' Confederation (EuRIC): the waste managers and recyclers' lobby, wants the Commission and the EU27 to recognize the "strategic importance for the European economy" and the "essential role" waste management and recycling industries play during the pandemic and allow these industries to use priority "green lanes" for trucks when transporting secondary raw material across borders. Statement attached.
- 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 has to stop. Overview of MS border measures: <https://www.iru.org/resources/tools-apps/flash-info>
- European DIY (EDRA): The Essential Role of Home Improvement Stores [press release here](#)
- Business Europe: Message to the EU Council: [here](#)
- FDE/CELCAA/COPA: [joint statement sent out today with Copa and Celcaa](#). FDE [this Q&A](#)
- ECR: COVID-19 [retail supply chain best practices](#) compiled by logistics operators and companies from Italy as attached. These twenty four best practices represent the combined best thinking and learnings of over one hundred Supply Chain Directors, Academics and Industry Association experts.
- FoodDrinkEurope <https://www.fooddrinkeurope.eu/news/press-release/5-urgent-actions-to-help-ease-food-supply-pressure>

#### Other

- OECD Economic Outlook, Interim Report March 2020: [Coronavirus: the world economy at risk](#)
- Article on the effects of free movement of goods during Corona period <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](#).
- Communication initiative from the Police Department