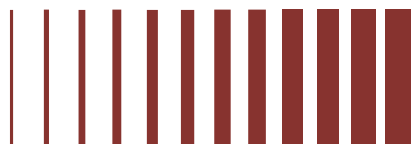


**2nd Update on the most
important emergency
measures for businesses
issued by the Greek
government**

**April 24
2020**

C O V I D 1 9



**KARATZAS
& PARTNERS**



2nd Update on the most important emergency measures for businesses issued by the Greek government

Newsletter of 23.03.2020, updated on 23.04.2020

As the world experiences an unprecedented shock from the spreading of COVID-19, Europe faces a severe public health emergency with outbreaks spreading in all Member States.

With a view to contain the infection, the Greek government, has in the past ten days adopted measures which gradually lead to a lock-down of businesses and activities in the country and announced measures to sustain the Greek economy.

The EU Commission has announced its full support to Member States using national budgets to take swift and effective action to support citizens and companies, in particular SMEs, facing economic difficulties due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Commission official announcements allow Member States to design and adopt support measures such as wage subsidies, suspension of payments of corporate and value added taxes or social security contributions as well as granting direct financial support to consumers, or businesses to deal with liquidity shortages and needs of urgent rescue aid including measures in sectors such as aviation and tourism.

Greece was quick to react to the threat, adopting measures to protect the general population as well as measures to protect the market and employment posts. These measures are constantly updated. This is an overview of such provisional measures as at this point have been adopted or simply announced.



Note: for the purposes of the present the terms below shall have the following meaning: **i) affected businesses, affected companies and self-employed professionals and sole practitioners who operate in business sectors affected:** those which belong to sectors determined by the Ministry of Economy based on day-to-day available e-commerce data, according to the primary or secondary (where the secondary activity generates higher revenues than the primary) Code of Professional Activities (CPA), regardless of whether they continue to operate normally or partially, if they were forced by the law to shut down or, they closed on their own initiative as a matter of precaution, **ii) emergency measures:** provisional measures adopted by the Greek government in order to tackle the adverse effects of the spread of Covid-19 and at the same time sustain businesses and employment posts.

A. ADOPTED EMERGENCY MEASURES

I. Measures regarding Businesses

1. Suspension of the operation of private businesses (KYA 17.03.2020, as further specified by PNP 20.3.2020 and amended by KYA 28.03.2020. It is noted that PNP 20.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4683/2020)

Following the suspension of operation of private businesses throughout the country from 18.03.2020 and until 31.03.2020, a new suspension was decided until 27.04.2020, with the exception of the following retail businesses:

- Retailing of haberdashery,
- Kiosks,
- All retail businesses with e-shops or telephone call centers providing delivery services at home,
- Food Delivery Services,
- Fuel retail businesses,
- Cleaning Products retail businesses,
- Online gambling services,
- Optician shops and shops selling hearing aid devices for urgent telephone orders,
- Shops in airports and ports throughout the country will continue their operations.



All retail businesses operating as “shops-in-shops” in shopping centers have been shut down.

Super-markets and pharmacies in shopping malls may continue their operations as long as they have a different/independent entrance for customers.

All shops continuing to operate must ensure that costumers have a distance of 2 meters between them.

The retail commercial businesses selling food shall remain open for an additional one (1) hour from Monday to Friday and two (2) hours on Saturday. The implementation of this measure shall not exceed a 6-month period starting from 20.03.2020.

2. Deferral of tax payments for affected businesses, employees and lessors of affected businesses (PNP 11.03.2020, as further specified by PNP 20.03.2020, PNP 30.03.2020 and YAs from 03.04.2020. It is noted that PNP 11.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4687/2020 and PNP 20.03.2020 by Law 4683/2020).

A deferral of payment has been provided for regarding affected businesses as well as their employees and natural persons owners of immovable property leased to such businesses as follows:

- Affected Businesses: payments of debts to the Greek Tax Authorities, VAT payments and schedule payments in the context of a debt settlement scheme with the Greek state, due in 11.3.2020 and from 1.4.2020 until 30.4.2020, are deferred until the 31st of August 2020.
- Employees of Affected Businesses: payments of debts to the Greek Tax Authorities and schedule payments in the context of a debt settlement scheme with the Greek state, due from 11.3.2020 until 30.4.2020, are deferred until the 31st of August 2020.
- Natural Persons Owners of Immovable Property Leased to Affected Businesses: payments of debts to the Greek Tax Authorities, as well as schedule payments in the context of a debt settlement scheme with the Greek state, due from 11.3.2020 until 30.4.2020, are deferred until the 31st of August 2020.

The recovery of the above debt payments is suspended until 31.08.2020, without the imposition of any interest, penalty or surcharge.



The maintenance of existing employment agreements and employment posts constitutes a prerequisite for the deferral of taxes for the affected businesses and employers.

It is in the discretion of the Government to extend the application of these measures to other natural persons that are financially affected.

A 25% reduction of tax payments, which are due from 30.03.2020 until 30.04.2020, is provided for affected businesses and natural persons in case of timely payment. This measure applies, also, in case of timely payment of scheduled payments in the context of a debt settlement scheme. Such reduction is provided for tax payments after 30.03.2020. A 25% reduction on VAT payments is provided in case of timely payment, solely in the context of a debt settlement scheme.

Affected businesses may have the right to a 25% offset of their VAT payments. The benefit to offsetting an amount equal to 25% on the VAT payments, with other debts or installments of debts or facilities of partial payments due in 01.05.2020, to Tax Authorities, is provided for the affected businesses which will timely pay the total amount of their VAT debts until 30.04.2020. In particular, the amount of the VAT debts to be paid is specified in the statements of the first quarter of 2020 for businesses who keep holographic/simplified books and the third month of 2020 for those who keep diplographic/ duplicative books. The payment of VAT debt due in February 2020 constitute a prerequisite for businesses who keep diplographic/ duplicative books, in order to be granted the benefit of a 25% set off. Liable businesses who have already been granted a suspension of their payments at 26.03.2020 are not entitled apply to this measure. For any affected business that reduces its initial amount of VAT debt to be paid by means of an amendment statement regarding the above periods, the amount of the provided set off shall be reduced accordingly.

3. Deferral of Payment of Social Security Contributions (PNP 11.03.2020, as further specified by KYA 26.03.2020 and 27.03.2020. It is noted that PNP 11.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4687/2020)

A deferral of social security contribution payments is provided for affected businesses and employers, as well as self-employed professionals and sole practitioners who operate in the business sectors affected. [for the deferral of social security contributions for self-employed professionals and sole practitioners who operate in business sectors affected see relevant section below.] Furthermore, a deferral of social security contributions payments is also provided regarding employees whose employment agreements have been suspended. [see relevant section below].



For affected businesses, scheduled payments of social security contributions, which were due for the months February and March, are deferred as follows, without accrual of interest or surcharges:

- Scheduled payments of social security contributions, which were due for in February are deferred until 30.9.2020; and
- Scheduled payments of social security contributions, which were due for in March are deferred until 31.10.2020.
- Instalments under debt settlement schemes with the social security authorities, which were due in 31.3.2020 and any following relevant instalments, are suspended each for three months, without accrual of interest or surcharge.

The businesses and employers affected shall submit regularly and within the provided deadline the Detailed Periodic Report (ΑΠΔ) regarding their personnel for the months February and March. Surcharges will be imposed for any Detailed Periodic Report (ΑΠΔ) not submitted pursuant to the above procedure.

Procedures for enforcement action for the collection of payments to social security institutions are suspended until 31.08.2020.

The maintenance of existing employment agreements and employment posts constitutes a prerequisite for the suspension of social security obligations for the affected businesses and employers.

4. Payment of reduced commercial and primary residence leases (PNP 20.03.2020. It is noted that PNP 20.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4683/2020)

Businesses that lease commercial properties and are in suspension or in temporary prohibition of their operation, as a result of the spread of COVID-19 shall pay only 60% of the total rent due in March and April.

Same applies to financial lessees regarding movable or immovable property they lease for professional use.

Same reduction of 40% applies to the primary residence of employees of affected businesses.



The lessor is not entitled to terminate the lease agreement and has no other civil claim against the lessee because of the partial non-payment of the rent amount in the above cases.

According to Article 26 of Law 4683/2020, the reduction of 40% of commercial leases is, also, extended to affected businesses for the month of April. The same applies to financial lessees regarding movable or immovable property they lease for professional use, and to employees of affected businesses, concerning their primary residence.

Lastly, it is announced that the relief of 40% is expected to be extended to students studying out of their permanent residence.

5. Repayment of any overdue liabilities by the Independent Authority for Public Revenue (“IAPR”) (PNP 20.03.2020. It is noted that PNP 20.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4683/2020)

The Independent Authority for Public Revenue shall immediately refund all tax or other amounts due to physical persons and businesses. In particular, the amounts incurred in the context of audits shall be refunded, provided they do not exceed EUR 30,000.00 per tax and per beneficiary. The present measure applies to all pending cases of income tax refund for legal entities or VAT for physical persons and legal entities.

6. State funding support to affected businesses (PNP 20.03.2020 and 30.03.2020, YA 3.04.2020, as amended by YA 10.04.2020) It is noted that PNP 20.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4683/2020)

Affected businesses will have the right to request financial assistance from the Greek State which has committed to make available an amount of up to EUR 1 (one) billion for affected businesses, allowing them to request for financial assistance in the form of loans to be repaid in an extended time period. According to the Ministerial Decision 2.4.2020, every private business affected, including the sole entrepreneurs who employ from 1 to 500 employees, having its registered seat or permanent establishment in Greece, regardless of the industry it belongs to, is entitled to receive the repayable advance. Such businesses shall conclude submissions to the Independent Public Revenue Authority (AADE) through the electronic platform "myBusinessSupport", under the conditions and within the deadlines laid down in the Ministerial Decision.



The provided deadline has been extended until 21.4.2020 following a relevant Announcement by the Ministry of Finance.

All or part of the financing, depending on the case, will be repaid to the Greek State within the next years together at a low interest rate

The criteria on which the repayable advance will be based on, the exact amount of the financing, the procedure of its granting, as well as any other detail on this matter will be specified by further Ministerial Decisions. The present financing shall be granted pursuant to the conditions laid down in the relevant Announcement of the European Commission.

The exact amount of the financing will depend on the turnover decrease, as well as on the impact of the net employment cost, provided always that the pertinent businesses has not laid off any employees.

Such advances are not taxed and can neither be confiscated nor set off.

The financial assistance to the affected businesses may be covered by the national or co-financed part of the Public Investment Program, following a relevant Decision by the Minister of Economy and Development, pursuant to the enabling provision of law in the Legislative Act dated 20.03.2020. Secondary legislation on this matter is expected.

7. “Special Purpose” Compensation for specific categories of affected business owners (KYA 16.04.2020)

A special purpose compensation of €800 for the period 17.03.2020- 30.04.2020 has been provided for affected employers who employ up to five employees (an amendment of the measure to include employers who employ up to twenty employees has been announced), sole proprietors, partners of partnerships (O.E.), and of limited liability partnerships (E.E.), owners of limited liability companies and private capital companies (I.K.E.), excluding Sociétés Anonymes.

These businesses must have their registered seats or permanent establishment in Greece, pursuant to article 4 of the Income Tax Code, and Agreements for the Avoidance of double taxation which have been ratified by Greece and are in force.

In order to be eligible for this compensation, employers must not terminate any employment contracts in case they have suspended some or all employment agreements, and must also maintain the same number of employment posts

The final date for the submission of the relevant application to *myBusinessSupport* is 24.04.2020.



II. Measures Regarding Employment

- 1. Amendment of employers' publication formalities and provision of "special purpose" paid leave (PNP 11.03.2020 as amended by KYA 07.04.2020, KYA 10.04.2020 and D1. 13521/13.09.2019. It is noted that PNP 11.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4687/2020.)**

Given the extreme circumstances of people having to remain at home, the obligation of the employers to submit in advance certain information to the ERGANI Digital Information System was suspended effective on 11.03.2020 until the 30th of April 2020. More specifically: (a) form E4 schedule of personnel and arrangement of working hours, (b) form E8 for the announcement of legal overwork and legal overtime working and (c) form E12 for the announcement of occupied personnel in building activities. For the duration of this measure the employer must submit these forms to ERGANI Digital Information System up until the 10th day of the following month. Exceptionally, regarding March 2020, these forms must be submitted until 10.05.2020.

For business activities still taking place employers are required to provide employees with a transition statement. It has been announced that employers who provide transition statements for persons not employed by them will be fined €10.500.

Working parents are entitled to a "special purpose" paid leave of at least three (3) days for a private sector parent, accompanied by one (1) day of regular annual leave day until 24.04.2020 (as the YA 03.04.2020 amended the original date 10.04.2020). The leave is to be divided between both parents if both parents are employed. In cases where one parent is not employed, the "special purpose" paid leave will only apply exceptionally. This leave will be funded up to 2/3 by the employer and 1/3 by the state budget. Public Sector working parents will be entitled to four (4) days of leave three (3) days "special purpose" paid leave and one (1) day of regular annual leave. The submission of the relevant form to ERGANI Digital Information System must be completed within the first 15 days of the following month. Exceptionally, regarding March 2020, this announcement must be submitted until 15 May 2020.



2. Operation of Businesses with Safe Operation Personnel (PNP 20.03.2020 as further specified by KYA 28.03.2020, D1. 4770/03.04.2020 and D1. 13521/13.09.2019. It is noted that PNP 20.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4683/2020.)

As long as the emergency measures are in force, and in any case for a period which cannot exceed 6 months, employers of affected businesses (this measure applies to affected businesses, as was clarified in YA 03.04.2020 by the minister of Employment) can decide to appoint Safe Operation Personnel.

Under this provision, each employee must be employed for a minimum of two weeks every month, while each week at least 50% of the personnel must be employed. The schedule shall be determined on a weekly basis.

The maintenance of the same number of employees constitutes a prerequisite for the operation of a business with Safe Operation Personnel.

The employer must submit all relevant information to ERGANI Digital Information System under a specific form within the first 10 days of the following month. Exceptionally, regarding March 2020, this form must be submitted until 10.05.2020.

3. Suspension of employment agreements, provision of “special purpose” compensation for employees, reduction of rent (PNP 20.03.2020 as further specified in the KYA 28.03.2020, and D1. 13521/13.09.2019. It is noted that PNP 20.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4683/2020.)

Businesses and employers which have suspended their operations by virtue of the imposed measures shall suspend employment agreements. Any unpaid leave which has been agreed upon for this period is rendered invalid. The relevant employment contracts are suspended, and the employees are entitled to a special purpose compensation.

Other affected businesses and employers are given the option to suspend all or some of the employment agreements which were in force in 21.03.2020, for forty-five days, a term which may be extended. Businesses can proceed to such suspensions at any time within the period from 21.03.2020 until 20.04.2020, a period which might also be extended.



Employers having suspended the employment agreements of their employees can agree with up to 10% of those employees that they still provide work remotely to cover occasional temporary needs. This information needs to be submitted in advance to the ERGANI Digital Information System. The occasional remote work must be compensated for by an amount commensurate with the employee's salary. Together with the "special purpose" compensation the compensation provided for occasional remote work will not exceed the employee's salary. Also, this information must be included in the Detailed Periodic Report (ΑΠΔ) so that part of the social security obligations is covered by the employer for this amount. With the exception of the aforementioned option, according to the Minister of Labor's most recent announcement, there will be a fine of €1.200 for employers who keep employees working while having them formally suspended.

Employees whose employment contract is temporarily suspended will receive a "special purpose" compensation amounting to 800 euros and covering a period of 45 days. This compensation is not taxed and can neither be confiscated nor set off. The State shall cover the social contributions of employees who receive "special purpose" compensation for this period, based on their total nominal wages.

Employers may choose to further compensate employees up to their gross salary, in which case this information must be included in the Detailed Periodic Report (ΑΠΔ) so that part of the social security obligations is covered by the employer for this amount.

There has also been specific provision for the reduction of rent by 40% for the primary residence of employees of businesses which have suspended their operations by virtue of the imposed measures.

The procedure for the declaration of the suspension of employees and the payment of the "special purpose" compensation requires for both the employer and the employee to make relevant submissions to different digital portals. More specifically, employers must conclude their submissions to ERGANI Digital Information System within the deadlines provided for under the relevant legislative acts, after which employees make a self-statement which they submit to *supportemployees.yeka.gr*.

For employers having suspended their operations by virtue of the imposed measures the final date for the submission of the above statement which was previously 31.03.2020 has been extended until 10.04.2020.



4. Invalidity of termination of employment agreements and “special purpose” compensation for employees whose employment was terminated or who resigned (PNP 20.03.2020 as further specified in the KYA 28.03.2020. It is noted that PNP 20.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4683/2020.)

Businesses and employers which have suspended their operation by virtue of the imposed measures shall not reduce their personnel by terminating employment agreements for the duration of the emergency measures. Both the obligation for provision of labor and that of compensation are halted, as the suspension of the operation of the business was imposed by a public authority, qualifying as force majeure.

Affected businesses and employers which have utilized the option to suspend employment agreements are also prohibited from reducing their personnel by terminating employment agreements. They are also required to maintain the same number of jobs after the expiry of the suspension period for another forty-five days, with the exception of resignations, retirements, and fixed term employment agreements which expire earlier.

Any such termination taking place after 18.03.2020 will be invalid.

A “special purpose” compensation of 800 euros will be given to employees whose employment agreements have been terminated or they have resigned in the period from 01.03.2020 to 20.03.2020. This compensation is not taxed and can neither be confiscated nor set off.

5. Suspension of social security and deferral of tax obligations for employees of Affected Businesses (PNP 11.03.2020 as further amended by KYA 28.03.2020 and YA 03.04.2020. It is noted that PNP 11.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4687/2020.)

For employees of affected businesses all scheduled payments of social security contributions as well as instalments under debt settlement schemes with the social security authorities due on 31.03.2020 are suspended for three months, without accrual of interest or surcharge.

Further, payments of debts to the Greek Tax Authorities and schedule payments in the context of a debt settlement scheme with the Greek state, due from 11.3.2020 until 30.4.2020, are deferred until the 31st of August 2020.



6. Transfer of employees to different companies of the same group (PNP 20.03.2020, YA 03.04.2020 and D1. 13521/13.09.2019. It is noted that PNP 20.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4683/2020)

Companies which have suspended their operation by virtue of the imposed measures as well as other affected companies have the option to transfer employees to different companies of the same group of companies following an agreement with such employees. These companies shall be required to maintain the same number of jobs after the transfer, under the same terms and conditions. Every termination of the employment contract is ruled as invalid, with the exception of any voluntary resignation of the employee and the termination of the employment contract due to retiring. This information must be submitted to ERGANI Digital Information System within the first 10 days of the following month. Exceptionally, regarding March 2020, this form must be submitted until 10.05.2020.

7. Easter Bonus (PNP 30.3.2020)

Businesses and employers which have suspended their operation by virtue of the imposed measures, and also affected businesses and employers shall be given the option to defer the payment of Easter bonuses without penalty, until 30.06.2020. The businesses and employers will cover the part of the Easter bonus which corresponds to the work already provided, and the State will cover the rest.

III. Measures regarding Sole Entrepreneurs and Self-Employed Professionals

1. Sole Entrepreneurs' and Self-Employed Professionals Support Measures (PNP 20.03.2020, as further specified by YA 27.03.2020, and PNP 30.03.2020)

The following measures concern sole entrepreneurs' and self-employed professionals as defined in article 22 of law 4670/2020, as well as persons covered under former Farmers' Security Organization, who operate in business sectors affected. [For measures regarding the special category of scientific disciplines: lawyers, economists, accountants, engineers, doctors, teachers and researchers see below.]



A special purpose compensation of €800 for the period 17.03.2020- 30.04.2020 has been provided for various categories of affected self-employed professionals, namely self-employed professionals and sole practitioners and employers who employ up to five employees (an amendment of the measure to include employers who employ up to twenty employees has been announced). The final date for the submission of the relevant application to *myBusinessSupport* is 24.04.2020.

The maintenance of any existing employment agreements and employment posts constitute a prerequisite for the provision of the special purpose compensation.

Further, scheduled payments of social security contributions (with the exception of optional insurance contributions), which were due for the month February and March, are deferred as follows, without accrual of interest or surcharge:

- Scheduled payments of social security contributions, which were due for 31.03.2020, and 30.04.2020, as well as any additional clearance contributions, are deferred and rescheduled to be paid in four equal monthly instalments, starting 30.09.2020.
- Instalments under debt settlement schemes with the social security authorities, which were due in 31.03.2020 and any following relevant instalments, are deferred each for three months, without accrual of interest or surcharge.

A 25% reduction of current social security obligations payments, regarding the contributions for the months of February and March, is provided in case of an earlier payment than the date provided by the extension adopted.

2. Special Category of Scientific Disciplines: Lawyers, Economists, Accountants, Engineers, Doctors, Teachers and Researchers (Public Call for Participation no. 2/2020 by the Ministry of Labor, as amended on 14.04.2020 approved by KYA 15.04.2020, and has now been recalled)

Pursuant to Public Call for Participation 2/2020, these categories of professionals were to be granted a subsidy of €600 by participating in a training program with a view to adapting to a digitally based provision of their services.

This measure has since been revoked, and it has been announced that the same categories of professionals will be granted a compensation of €600 for April without the requirement of their participation in the training program.

It has been clarified that all lawyers and all trainee lawyers who are registered in the Registers of Bar Associations in Greece will benefit from the above subsidy.



In case the crisis has not been resolved before May, it has been announced that these professionals will be eligible to receive the “special purpose” compensation. Further, it has been clarified that they will also benefit from a reduction up to 40% of their commercial lease.

Any employees under such employers are covered by the measures adopted for employees of affected businesses.

IV. Measures Facilitating Remote Provision of Work and Services

1. Business Continuity measures (PNP 11.03.2020, as further specified by PNP20.03.2020, PNP 30.03.2020, YA 03.04.2020, KYA 07.04.2020 and D1. 13521/13.09.2019. It is noted that PNP 11.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4687/2020 and PNP 20.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4683/2020)

Each employer is entitled to unilaterally introduce remote working (working from home). This provision will remain in force until 30.04.2020. Employers must submit a form to the ERGANI Digital Information System within the first ten (10) days of the following month from the date of their decision to apply a remote working system. Affected businesses are, also, obliged to submit a relevant form before starting to apply this measure to their daily operation activities. Exceptionally, regarding March 2020, this form must be submitted until 10.05.2020.

As of 20.03.2020 until 30.06.2020 the General Assembly of shareholders and partners can be conducted via teleconference for some or all of its parties, even if there is no relevant provision in the articles of association of a company. In this case, the invitation to the General Assembly shall include all necessary information and technical guidelines, regarding the participation in the meeting.

As of 30.03.2020 until 30.06.2020 the meeting of the Board of Directors of private companies can also be conducted for some or all of its parties via teleconference, any other appropriate telecommunications platform, and by circular resolution. In such cases, the signatures of the members of the Board of Directors can be substituted by the exchange of emails or other electronic means.



2. Adopted Measures for the Digitalization of the Greek Administration (PNP 20.03.2020. It is noted that PNP 20.03.2020 is ratified by Law 4683/2020)

As of 21.03.2020 the Single Digital Gateway initiates its operation, from which legal entities and natural persons can submit applications and receive documents they are interested in, having the function of Centers of Services for Citizens.

Available actions include:

- Issuance of documents
- Affidavits
- Delegation Acts
- Electronic signatures and seals

V. Bank Loans

1. Suspension of instalments of principal and loan installments (Announcements by the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Development and Investment and the Hellenic Bank Association)

A suspension of the payment of instalments of principal for performing loans owed by businesses, which are due on 18.03.2020, will be granted for entities operating in sectors affected by COVID-19, until at least 30.09.2020. The contractual interest will continue to accrue.

A suspension of the payment of loan instalments regarding the performing loans will be, also, provided for employees, for self-employed persons and sole entrepreneurs who operate in business sectors affected by the spread of COVID-19 and who receive the “special purpose” compensation of 800 euros, for a period of three months (or more after a decision of the bank/credit institution).

The debtor (entity or natural person) shall submit a request and communicate with the bank/credit institution in order to be granted the suspension of the payment of its principal and loan instalments.



2. State Aid regarding the amount owed as interest of business loans (YA 1291/10.04.2020)

The Greek State has undertaken to cover the total amount owed as interest of business loans for the months April, May and June. This support may be further extended for a period of two months. The Greek State will cover the total amount owed as interest of overdue loans, bond loans, revolving credit accounts, securitized loans and credits for small and medium businesses affected, regardless their legal form, provided however that the total amount of support of each enterprise will not exceed the amount of 800.000 Euro. Such businesses are entitled to apply to the State Aid Information System of the Ministry of Development (www.ependyseis.gr) from 15.04.2020 until 30.06.2020.

The details of the process, as well as the eligibility criteria of the businesses to be selected are defined in the relevant Invitation of the Ministry of Development, as attached in the Ministerial Decision and as published in the following websites, www.mindev.gov.gr, www.espa.gr and www.antagonistikotita.gr.

Following an explanatory announcement by the Ministry of Finance on 22.04.2020, this support measure applies solely to loans of affected businesses that were not overdue for more than 90 days on 31.12.2019 or on 29.02.2020 regarding SMEs with active Code of Professional Activity, as defined in the relevant Annex of the Ministerial Decision. Moreover, another prerequisite for receiving the support is for the subsidized business to maintain at least the same number of employees from 19.03.2020 until 31.12.2020.

3. Suspension of debt instalments under specific laws (PNP 30.03.2020)

A 3-month suspension of payment is granted for instalments of debt settlements agreed under the laws protecting over-indebted households and primary residences mortgaged for residential and business loans, for entities operating in affected sectors as well as employees, self-employed persons and sole entrepreneurs who receive the “special purpose” compensation of 800 euros. The suspension will not result into an extension of the term of the settlement agreement and will not have the adverse results of a defaulted payment.

Any entities or natural persons not falling within the scope of the provided suspension of payment of their loan instalments may still be granted such suspension by submitting a relevant request and a pursuant to an affirmative response by the bank/credit institution.



The suspension of the above debts of affected businesses or natural persons to banks/credit institutions is based on their personal data, which will be provided to the relevant banks/credit institutions by the Ministries of Finance, Development and Investment and Employment.

Further to a Decision of the Hellenic Bank Association (HBA) members in 19.03.2020 regarding the suspension of any loan instalments payable within three months for certain affected debtors and in light of the regulatory calls to support the economy, Greek banks further offered consensual payment relief measures through separate announcements each as published in their websites.

VI. Judicial System and Cadastral Offices

1. A general suspension of the Judicial System is imposed in Greece until 27.04.2020. (KYA 15.03.2020, as amended by KYA 27.03.2020, KYA 11.04.2020 and PNP 13.04.2020)

Originally, a suspension was imposed from 16.03 until 27.03.2020. Following the general suspension of all procedures within the Greek Judicial System, that was imposed from 16.03.2020 until 27.03.2020, a new suspension was decided from 28.03.2020 until 27.04.2020. Consequently, all hearings, all enforcement proceedings and auctions and all deadlines are suspended, with certain exceptions to meet emergency cases. Namely:

In the Council of State and Administrative Courts:

- Petitions for provisional orders and in cases of emergency are heard by the court
- The processing of urgent Presidential Decrees
- Urgent meetings continue to take place via teleconferences.
- Judicial decisions and transcripts of processes continue to be published

Furthermore, regarding the Administrative Courts, petitions continue to be submitted against decisions of imprisonment of foreigners. Also requests for appeals against judgements given in respect of objections, in accordance with Article 76 (3) – (6) of the Law 3386/2005, which refers to the entrance, residence and social integration of third-country nationals in Greece.



In the Court of Auditors:

- Only urgent cases of overriding public interest can be carried out while decisions are published
- Petitions for provisional orders
- Urgent meetings continue to take place via teleconferences

All Civil Courts have suspended their operations with the following exceptions:

- Decisions are published.
- Petitions for provisional orders are being examined, but without a hearing. It is also provided that provisional orders which were granted until the date of hearing continue to be valid during the suspension period.

As regards Criminal Law and Military Courts hearings continue to take place:

- Hearings for flagrante delictii (“red-handed” arrests).
- Selection of juries and commencement of hearings in the Jury Courts and Jury Courts of Appeal as well as drawing lots for seats in criminal cases and cases of interim relief.
- The trial of felonies for defendants that are temporarily imprisoned, and the maximum temporary detention time is expiring.

Criminal cases which were postponed for a date within the suspension period may resume or get a further continuance at the discretion of the seating court.

The deadline for declarations of intention to proceed with pending criminal proceedings for acts prosecuted ex officio, that were initiated without submitting a complaint and for their prosecution the submission of complaint is necessary, are not suspended.

All judicial and court services including Public Prosecutor’s Office will continue to operate in order to respond or attend to urgent matters only.

2. Suspension of Operation of Land Registries and Cadastral Offices (KYA 19.03.2020)

A temporary prohibition of operation of all Land Registries and Cadastral Offices in Greece is imposed from 20.03.2020 until 27.04.2020. All kinds of transactions, review of records, all deadlines for any transcription, description, registration of any application and deed, or for the receipt of certificates and copies and the claims time-barring are suspended. Administrative operations are excluded from the present suspension.



In the Court of Auditors:

- Only urgent cases of overriding public interest can be carried out while decisions are published
- Petitions for provisional orders
- Urgent meetings continue to take place via teleconferences

VII. Public Procurement

Suspension of the ongoing processes of public tenders (PNP 20.03.2020, as further specified by Y.A. 24.03.2020 and PNP 13.04.2020. It is noted that PNP 20.03.2020 is now ratified by Law 4683/2020).

As regards public tender processes which are ongoing, the competent Minister may decide to suspend for a period not exceeding six months:

- The launching of public tenders
- The extension of periods, regarding submission of participation or bidding offers
- The suspension and extension of periods, concerning ongoing processes of public procurements

Hence, the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport issued a relevant decision according to which all public tender procedures and relevant deadlines launched and regulated under laws 4412/2016 and 4413/2016 are suspended as of 24.03.2020 and until 30.04.2020. Public tenders announced until the 20th of March 2020 will be postponed for another 2 months. It is also highlighted that, every deadline concerning any ongoing process regarding the procurement and execution of contracts with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport has been suspended until the 30th of April 2020.

Article 41 of PNP 13.04.2020 now resolves the issue of successful bidders in public tenders which had to submit judicial or other public certificates in order to complete a contract following a public tender and were unable to do so due to the suspension of operations of the courts and relevant public services. It is now provided that state counterparties have the option to conclude the contract and tender process, by temporarily replacing the submission of physical certificates required under the public procurement rules and/or the tender rules with a solemn declaration of article 8 of Law 1599/1986, in which they will verify the following:

- i) There is no legal impediment to their participation in the procedure,
- ii) The successful bidder still meets all the qualification criteria as set out in the relevant tender rules,



iii) The participant is obliged to submit the certificates within thirty (30) days from the signing of the contract. This deadline can be extended following a request of the concessionaire to the relevant awarding authority if the COVID-19 continue to apply and restrict access to the competent issuing authorities.

It is noted that failure to submit the supporting documents or award documents within the prescribed period shall constitute a reason for disqualification of the concessionaire.

It is, also, highlighted that the concessionaire shall not receive any payment for his services or products provided before the submission of the documents required.

B. ANNOUNCED EMERGENCY MEASURES

The following measures are expected to be implemented by Legislative Acts according to official announcements by the Greek Government press office.

1. Calculation of Real Estate Property Tax 2020 (ENFIA)

The Real Estate Property Tax for the year 2020 will be calculated based on the currently applicable regime, while the changes in the “objective values” system of real estate property will enter into force in the following year.

Authors:

Alexandra Agorastou, Trainee Lawyer

Nina Leopoulou, Trainee Lawyer

Nikos Stefas, Trainee Lawyer

Vassiliki Salaka, Partner

Christina Faitakis, Partner