


Covid-19 – Construction observatory
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<p>European Commission</p> 	<p>EU Commission Communication: Coordinated economic response to the COVID-19 Outbreak (13/03/2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustment of EU budget and EU funds: Proposal for Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (€37 billion) + Proposal to extend the scope of EU Solidarity Fund to public health (up to €800 million) + all potential expenditures under structural funds should be eligible for the fight against COVID-19 • Guidance on State Aid conformity of dedicated measures → decisions on state aid will be taken within days • Proposes to Council to make use of full flexibility within EU fiscal framework → applicability of “unusual events outside the control of government”-clause + readiness to activate the general escape clause 	
	<p>Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and services (16/03/2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restriction should exist on the circulation of goods in the Single Market • Professional travel to ensure transport of goods and services should be enabled • Control measures should not undermine the continuity of economic activity and should preserve the operation of supply chains 	


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	<p>The European Commission adopts a State Aid Temporary Framework to complement existing possibilities (19/03/2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The new Temporary Framework will enable Member States to (i) set up schemes direct grants (or tax advantages) to a company, (ii) give subsidised State guarantees on bank loans, (iii) enable public and private loans with subsidised interest rates. Finally (iv), the new Temporary Framework will recognise the important role of the banking sector to deal with the economic effects of the COVID-19 outbreak, namely to channel aid to final customers, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises. The Temporary Framework makes clear that such aid is direct aid to the banks' customers, not to the banks themselves. And it gives guidance on how to minimise any undue residual aid to the banks in line with EU rules.</i> 	
	<p>COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION on the implementation of the Green Lanes under the Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services (23/03/2020)</p>	
	<p>COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION Guidelines concerning the exercise of the free movement of workers during COVID-19 outbreak (30/03/2020)</p>	
	<p>COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION Guidance on using the public procurement framework in the emergency situation related to the COVID-19 crisis (01/04/2020) → document</p>	

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	<p>European Commission proposes COUNCIL REGULATION on the establishment of a European instrument for temporary support to mitigate unemployment risks in an emergency (SURE) following the COVID-19 outbreak → document</p>	
	<p>Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 as regards specific measures to provide exceptional flexibility for the use of the European Structural and Investments Funds in response to the COVID-19 outbreak (02/04/2020) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2020:138:FIN</p>	
	<p>Joint European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures (15/04/2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint roadmap by the European Commission and the European Council • Commission has developed a set of recommendations to Member States on how to gradually lift containment measures → amongst others: gradually restoring normal functioning of Schengen area & phasing in re-start of economy 	
	<p>After having received guidance from the European Council on 23/04, the European Commission will eventually issue a legislative proposal on a European recovery Fund in May.</p> <p>The European Recovery Fund is expected to use a budgetary technique already tested with the ‘Juncker’ investment plan.</p>	


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	<p>A public guarantee from the EU budget and the Member States is reportedly being set up to leverage huge sums of money on the capital markets. The funds raised in this way – at low cost, thanks to the Commission’s AAA financial rating – will then be redirected, via the EU budget, to the States.</p>	
<p>Council of the EU</p> 	<p>Eurogroup Statement on COVID-19 economic policy response (16/03/2020) “determination to do whatever it takes” <u>Implementation by public authorities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate fiscal spending targeted at the containment and treatment of the disease • Liquidity to support companies (tax measures, public guarantees etc.) • Support of affected workers <p><u>Stability and Growth Pact:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicability of “unusual events outside the control of government” • Automatic stabilisers & budgetary measures taken in response to COVID-19 will be excluded when assessing compliance with EU fiscal rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waving of delay penalties in public procurement contracts
	<p>Council of the EU approves two legislative proposals without amendment (30/03):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (€37 billion) • Extension of the scope of the EU Solidarity Fund (up to 800 million) 	


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	<p>Finance Ministers approve the activation of the General Escape Clause of the EU Fiscal Framework allowing to depart from budgetary requirements (23/03/2020)</p>	
	<p>The Council of the EU agrees on three safety nets adding up to around €500 billion (09/04/2020)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) For workers and self-employed: Council welcomes Commission's SURE which will channel up to €100 to the national systems facing the greatest pressures 2) For businesses: Council welcomes EIB's pan-European shield which aims to guarantee €200 billion of lending with a focus on SMEs 3) For Member States: Council agrees to establish Pandemic Crisis Support close to €240 billion. Only requirement to access the credit line will be that the country would commit to using these funds to support domestic financing of direct and indirect healthcare, cure and prevention related costs. 	
	<p>On 16 April, the Finance Ministers called European banks and insurers to make full use of the flexibility provided for in the prudential and accounting framework.</p>	
	<p>On 22 April, the Council adopted the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII Plus). The Parliament gave its approval on 17 April. It introduces extraordinary flexibility to allow a full mobilisation of all non-utilised support from the European Structural and Investment Funds. This gives member states exceptional flexibility to transfer money between funds and between regions to meet their particular needs in mitigating the social and</p>	

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	<p>economic damage of the pandemic. This means that all existing reserves in the structural funds for 2020 can be deployed to tackle the effects of the outbreak. In addition, member states will be able, for the period between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021, to request 100% financial support from the EU budget. → https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32020R0558</p>	
<p>European Parliament</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Development Committee triggers the urgent procedure to adopt the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (17/03/2020) → speeding up of legislative process → the Parliament will shortly announce the details of the urgent procedure <p>On 26 March, the Parliament approved the proposals by the European Commission: Corona Response Investment Initiative & Extension of the EU Solidarity Fund Parliament’s President and political group leaders (Conference of Presidents) agreed to convene an extraordinary plenary session on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 April in Brussels.</p> <p>On 17 April, the plenary approved the European Commission’s Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 as regards specific measures to provide exceptional flexibility for the use of the European Structural and Investments Funds in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.</p>	


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<p>AT - Austria</p> 	<p>Adoption of COVID-19 law (15/03/2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 law changes several laws, social and labour laws amongst others • Key provision is an interdiction to stay/move at public spaces → some exceptions 	<p>Bundesinnung Bau and Fachverband der Bauindustrie created a Coronavirus Information page on their website containing legal guides for companies https://www.wko.at/branchen/gewerbe-handwerk/bau/coronavirus-bauwirtschaft.html</p> <p>The federation issued letters interpreting the new law regarding the conformity of working on construction sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction sites aren't public spaces as not everyone can have access to them • However, workers have to move through public spaces to get to the construction site which is forbidden in principle <p>→ application of two possible exceptions/justifications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgency measures → concerns few construction works essential for preservation of key infrastructure such as water pipes 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at the construction site (also during breaks and for arrivals and departures to/from the site), it must be ensured that there is a minimum distance of one meter between the persons • If the minimum distance can't be ensured, working is only permitted if "appropriate protection measures" are being taken (as of 20/03/2020) → no official guidance on these measures, but presumably protection masks, safety glasses and gloves <p>The social partners in construction publish a guide on health and safety at construction sites (26/03/2020) → STRABAG gradually restarts work in Austria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide is declared binding by health ministry (29/03/2020)

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifications in addition to guide (29/03/2020): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WKÖ sales restricted quantity of masks → companies should only order the quantity of masks needed for 2-3 weeks - WKÖ provides companies with information on hotels that are open and can host construction workers (due to restriction in number of workers sleeping in one room) • Federation clarifies rules for transport to/from construction sites as guide by social partners only applies to construction site (03/04/2020) → as of 14 April stricter rules have to be applied: in vehicles, passenger still have to keep a distance of 1 m AND every passenger has to wear a face mask • A short <u>guide</u> from 22/04 sums up the measures to take to ensure health and safety of workers
		<p>STRABAG AG is closing all construction sites in Austria (18/03/2020) because...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum distance between workers can't be ensured • Supply chains are disrupted • Projects of public interest will be continued upon approval of the client <p><u>STRABAG gradually restarts work in Austria (31/03/2020)</u> Under the new agreement, the minimum distance between staff engaged on essential work need not be maintained, as long as the mouth and nose of all persons involved are protected and that no members of risk groups are working on the task. Other measures include regular disinfection of facilities and organisational measures such as staggering work over time.</p>

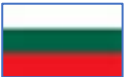
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<p>BE - Belgium</p> 	<p>On 6th March, the federal government adopted the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employers can use temporary unemployment to force majeure. Concretely, this means that employees will receive 70% of their daily remuneration capped at 2,754.76€ per month; - Delays of payment for social security contributions, VAT and payroll tax for the first and second trimesters of 2020 can be allowed without any fine; - For self-employed, a payment scheme can be put into place according to the evolution of the financial situation. Besides, a compensation of between 1.266€ and 1.582€ can be granted in case of temporary termination of the activity due to COVID-19 <p>-No penalty will be applied if delays occur in public procurement because of COVID-19.</p> <p>In addition, an “Economic Risk Management Group” has been set up under the patronage of the National Bank, in which social partners (intersectoral level) will participate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations with regards to public contracts. <p>Cross-border activities are allowed but border crossing is strictly checked and supporting documentation required. However, the conditions are not very clear. It is easier in the context of professional activities, provided that you are able to demonstrate what your situation and motive to cross are.</p>	<p>On 19th March, the federal government announced that the suspension of construction sites related to the COVID-19 pandemic can be considered as "force majeure" - as requested by Confédération Construction - and that companies can benefit from temporary unemployment related to force majeure (employees will receive 70% of their daily remuneration capped at 2,754.76€ per month).</p> <p>The federal government also agreed to allow an additional compensation of 5,63€/ day to help compensate the decrease of revenues for employees.</p> <p>Construction activities may continue with the exception of non-urgent works inside occupied dwellings and provided that measures of protection and social distancing (1.5 m) are fully respected, including during transport.</p> <p>Constructiv, the Belgian paritarian fund for the construction sector, published an information document to avoid the propagation of COVID-19 on construction sites (in FR and NL): http://www.constructiv.be/Constructiv/media/News/Mesures-contre-la-propagation-du-coronavirus-sur-les-chantiers.pdf</p> <p>Together with the government and the Unions, the Belgian Federation is currently negotiating on a protocol on how to work safely in construction.</p> <p>During the first week of April, the Belgian Federation estimated that around 44% of all construction companies completely suspended their activities while the majority was still active or even fully active. A new survey was launched on 6 April in order to reevaluate the situation.</p> <p>At the beginning of April, the Federation estimates that if the current situation goes on for one month and if there wasn't a clawback effect, production in construction would decrease by 4,5% in 2020.</p>


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		<p>On 16th April, the social partners of the construction sector came to an agreement that they will draft a joint protocol by 21st April with the aim of resuming construction activity by 4th May, as requested by the Prime Minister: http://cms.confederationconstruction.be/Presse/cadre-sectoriel-au-sujet-des-activites-de-construction-pendant-la-periode-covid-19</p> <p>In particular, this agreement foresees that the respect of social distancing rules remain primordial, but also that the worker can refuse to work in buildings i which COVID-19 cases have been detected or if he belongs to the "risky groups" (i.e. if he has diabete for example). Non-urgent tasks will be performed only if the social distancing rules can be respected. However, in the case of urgent works and in the case where social distancing can't be put in place, everything must be done to respect social distancing as much as possible. In the case where social distancing can't be observed in transport, individual transport means must be used. Social distancing rules remain applicable for posted workers.</p> <p>Since the 4th of May, all construction activities (indoor and outdoor) are authorized to start again in Belgium as long as preventing measures can be respected. The FAQ page from the Construction Confederation website gives information about how the re-start of activities is envisaged:</p> <p>https://www.confederatiebouw.be/fr-be/acc%C3%A8smembres/faq-activiteiten.aspx?utm_source=Email+Contacts&utm_campaign=7fcc90b164-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_17_05_08_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f37fb3010d-7fcc90b164-227036066</p>


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<p>BG - Bulgaria</p> 	<p>On March 24, the Bulgarian government announced a package of economic measures that would be in force during the state of emergency. The government has prepared a program that provides</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BGN 4.5 bil (EUR 2.3 bil) is earmarked for a program aiming at sustaining employment in companies. It is expected to help the affected sectors. As of today construction has not been officially declared as an affected sector! The program is intended to provide 60% for the payment of the workers' wages, but only if the employer would keep the employee on an employment contract. 2. BGN 200 mil (EUR 102 mil) is foreseen for non-interest consumer loans granted by commercial banks and backed by the state. Persons on unpaid leave but under an employment contract would be entitled up to BGN 1500 (EUR 767) per month non-interest consumer credit. Therefore, the government will raise the BDB's capital tomorrow. This refers to cases where the employer has temporarily ceased its activities and the employees were forced to take unpaid leave. 3. Deferral of corporate tax until June 30. 4. BGN 500 mil (EUR 256 mil) is earmarked for the increased salary payments in the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior; 5. BGN 50 mil (EUR 26 mil) are planned for the poorest as Easter allowances <p>The Bulgarian Parliament voted a bill on state of emergency measures intended to restrict the spread of the Covid-19 outbreak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bulgarian Construction Chamber, addressing in an open letter national and local authorities last Thursday, expressed its position that the construction should nevertheless proceed in line with the strong anti-epidemic measures. The sector is systemically important for the country's economy and employs more than 200,000 workers and employees. Suspending construction activities would mean they and their families would be unable to pay loans, bills and buy basic goods and medicine. As for the large EU infrastructure projects, the suspension may result in extension of project duration and financial corrections. In accordance with sanitary and epidemiological measures, anything necessary must be done to ensure that the economy continues to thrive. BCC calls on the administration institutions not to suspend their work, to ensure that documents, reports, certificates etc. are processed quickly. • In an interview for Bulgaria ON AIR BCC's President Iliyan Terziev warned that the losses for the construction sector due to the Covid-19 outbreak would be at dramatic level, especially for the small construction companies that would not be able to survive if appropriate measures had not been taken soon. Construction industry already suffers from the lack of enough skilled workers and the only way to retain them is to ensure their monthly payments. BCC's President suggested that the public authorities should not cancel tenders for public procurement where possible. • BCC circulated a guide of binding measures to prevent and restrict the spread of coronavirus in construction companies, construction sites, storage areas, office buildings, logistics centers, etc.

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	<p>by introducing strong anti-epidemic measures. The legislation amends many laws, including social code and labor laws. The bill shall enter into force on 24 March 2020.</p> <p>In addition to that Bulgarian authorities restrict movement between cities, closes parks, city gardens, playgrounds, sporting fields, public outdoor and indoor areas. However, there will be no restriction on transport lorries and trucks.</p>	
<p>CY - Cyprus</p> 	<p>The Federation of Building Contractors of Cyprus (OSEOK), welcomes the announced measures to safeguard public health and support the economy after our country declared itself in emergency.</p>	<p>OSEOK Recommendations for the Construction Sector / Impact of a coronoid pandemic (March 17, 2020)</p> <p>At the same time, however, OSEOK Notes that, in relation to the Cypriot construction sector, it is not possible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of strict hygiene rules and safety distance of 8m² of living area per employee, as long as the work is in teams. • doing distance work (work from home) • ensuring the health of project contributors (project managers, forensics), who are either 60 years old or are in the vulnerable groups of the population, as well as younger craftsmen and their families • safeguarding workers' basic income in the event of compulsory redundancy or preventive self-restraint as long as workers in the industry are not placed under a compulsory suspension of their employment. <p>In view of the above, OSEOK points out the need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the adoption of specific measures for the construction sector, [as adopted in the tourism sector (hotels)] which make up for the inability to implement the already announced ones, or • integrating employees into a system of compulsory suspension of employment • ensuring the liquidity of contracting firms with additional credit from credit

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		<p>institutions in the event of delays in the issuance and / or payment of certificates of payment in public, wider public and private sector projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizing available unused funds from European Structural or Investment Funds or funds from the release of the 1.3 billion funds that will be used by systemic banks to help affected businesses and households benefit and / or support the Cypriot sector. <p>For all the above reasons, OSEOK appeals to the State for immediate action in the Construction sector.</p>
		<p>All construction activity recommenced on 4th May 2020. During the period beginning from the second half of March and ending on 30th April 2020, construction activity in the private sector was completely or partially stopped (normally running only in exception). Construction activity for public works projects kept normally running.</p>
<p>CZ - Czech Republic</p> 	<p>https://www.vlada.cz/en/</p> <p>An accelerated plan to relax restrictions on businesses and other activities has been introduced by the government, in details at https://www.vlada.cz/en/media-centrum/aktualne/measures-adopted-by-the-czech-government-against-coronavirus-180545/</p> <p>The most significant easing of General measures related to business are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A partial adjustment of the rules for crossing the borders of the Czech Republic for cross-border workers from 1 May 2020 has been adopted. A test for covid-19 with a negative result every 30 days will be sufficient for them from now on. If they are unable to submit a negative test, they will 	<p><u>Measures to construction sector</u></p> <p>RESOLUTION THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC of 20 April 2020 No. 438 to minimize the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on selected transport and water infrastructure constructions and constructions related to them (at state procurement).</p> <p>Extract from the document:</p> <p>The procedure below applies to construction contracts with a performance period exceeding 6 months realized primarily under the FIDIC Red Book with an Accepted Contractual Amount over CZK 50 million without VAT and is analogously applicable to the FIDIC Yellow and Green Books, or for contracts not implemented on the basis of model contract conditions - unless the text of</p>


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	<p>have the opportunity to submit it back to the relevant regional hygienic station within 72 hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bill on the abolition of Real estate acquisition tax, has been adopted with retroactive effect. Anyone who acquired the property in December 2019 at the latest will be exempted from the obligation to pay the tax. Already paid taxes will be refunded. <p>Following steps of easing emergency measures are: as of 11 May – shops in shopping centres, business premises over 2,500 m2, restaurants can open their gardens while serving food there, beauty services, museums, galleries, outdoor premises of castles and chateaus, outdoor training activities for professional athletes without public access. All theatres, cinemas and circuses may now be opened (max 100 persons), as of 25 May – restaurants, accommodation services, taxi services, theatres, cultural and sporting events (limit on number of participants TBC), weddings, indoor expositions of zoological gardens</p> <p>Ministers also changed the rules for crossing state borders starting from Monday 27th April at the suggestion of the Ministry of the Interior. The circle of foreigners who can enter the Czech Republic under the conditions set by the government has expanded to include EU citizens who come to perform economic activities or as university students from EU countries. For Czech citizens and foreigners with permanent residence, it is</p>	<p>these contracts precludes it.</p> <p>Entitlement to additional payment</p> <p>a) Flat-rate compensation for costs caused by aggravated emergency work and recovery periods</p> <p>Following the procedure in point 4 below for works (including Variations and Improvements) for which the contractor has declared that there have been aggravated conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic or related public action (the existence of a causal link is not otherwise proven) and which were indeed physically carried out during the emergency period and in the period after its completion corresponding to "recovery period "calculated in days) 25% of the total duration of the emergency, the Contractor may quantify his claim for additional payment by flat-rate compensation for difficult implementation conditions corresponding to the amount specified according to the formula:</p> <p>The following coefficients determined by expert opinion (%) x (contractual value of these works).</p> <p>Road infrastructure constructions - 10.2%; Water infrastructure constructions - 10.2%; Bridges - 11.1%; Railway - 7.2%; Bridges - Railway - 7.2%.</p> <p>The Contractor is entitled to this additional payment regardless of when such works are billed in accordance with the Contract.</p> <p>b) Compensation for Costs for the Extension Period</p> <p>In the case of justified claims for extension, the Costs for the period of extension will be reimbursed to the Contractor in addition to the Costs caused by the aggravated conditions pursuant to letter a) according to the Methodology for Quantification of SFDI Financial Claims. These costs will also be reimbursed for the extension period within the meaning of point 3 (a).</p>

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	<p>now true that they will either submit a confirmation of a negative test for covid-19 when they return to the Czech Republic /MEDICAL CERTIFICATE ON SARS-CoV-2 PCR TESTING RESULTS TO BE SUBMITTED WHEN CROSSING THE CZECH REPUBLIC BORDERS/, or they will go to quarantine.</p>	<p>(a) only to the extent of the direct costs incurred during the extension period (such as bank guarantee, insurance, site equipment, traffic engineering measures).</p> <p>c) Compensation for Costs for Delays The flat-rate compensation for aggravated conditions referred to in point (a) shall be full compensation for the costs of the delay due to the emergency. If the Contractor considers that its accumulated financial claims due to the state of emergency exceed the flat-rate compensation for difficult implementation conditions, it may document them according to the Methodology for Quantification of SFDI Financial Claims and in this case is not entitled to flat-rate compensation for difficult conditions. Extensions of the Completion Time, the Commissioning Period and the Period for Completing the Progressive Mandatory Milestone.</p>
		<p>(a) a flat-rate time entitlement If the Contractor carries out work on the Work during a declared state of emergency, it is entitled to a flat-rate entitlement to an extension of the Completion Time, Commissioning Time and Time to Fulfill the binding milestone affected by the emergency (calculated in days, rounded up to full days) 25% of the time the contractor has worked during this emergency and recovery period, if the contractor has declared in a binding manner that aggravated conditions have occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic or related public action (existence of a causal link). context is not otherwise proven).</p> <p>(b) a detailed reasoned time claim If the Contractor considers that he is entitled to a longer extension of individual Periods than under letter a), may submit a detailed time claim proving its justification under Sub-Art. 20.1 of the Terms and Conditions</p>



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<p>DE - Germany</p> 	<p>A protective shield for employees and companies (13/03/2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making reduced hours compensation benefits (Kurzarbeitergeld) more flexible • Tax-related liquidity assistance for businesses • A protective shield worth billions for businesses with focus on public promotional bank KfW • The Federal Ministry of Justice is preparing a legal regulation to suspend the obligation to file for insolvency in order to protect companies that get into financial difficulties as a result of the corona epidemic. <p>The Bundestag suspends the debt brake (25/03/2020)</p>	<p>and has no possibility to assert a flat-rate time claim under point a). The calculation of this time requirement must be in accordance with the Agreement and the SFDI Time Management Methodology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZDB created an extranet webpage assembling all relevant information for companies: guide with general information about COVID-19 + guide regarding labour law and construction contracts + information on tax measures for companies in financial difficulties • HDB puts comprehensive information on its website https://www.bauindustrie.de/themen/informationen-corona/ • HDB issued a guide (https://www.bauindustrie.de/media/documents/Corona_2020-03-13-FINAL.pdf) regarding social, labour and contract law • HDB reports that some contracting authorities are refusing to pay invoices pointing to the running support programs → HDB points out that contracting authorities should continue paying in order to ensure companies' cash flows + support programs target those companies which don't have orders anymore but don't replace contractually agreed payments • On 17/03, HDB sent a <u>letter to all German Federal Ministers asking for the following points:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disruptions due to COVID-19 should be declared as "force majeure" - construction period should be prolonged in such cases - simplified and rapid payments by public authorities for completed works - continuous planning of projects and calls for tenders

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDB sent a letter to the German Ministry for Economy on 23/03 pointing to the restrictions of the free movement of workers within the Single Market • Berufsgenossenschaft Bau publishes guidelines on health and safety measures for construction companies on 23/03 • HDB sent a letter to German MEPs on 25/03 pointing to the restrictions of the free movement of workers within the Single Market • German Infrastructure Ministry issues an enactment on the continuation of infrastructure construction (25/03/2020) → press release HDB https://www.bauindustrie.de/media/documents/gemPM_200325_HDB_ZDB_BVMB_Spitzengespraech_Scheuer.pdf • On 1 April, HDB points to the necessity of one single set of rules for health and safety on construction sites as some regional authorities issue guidelines which come in addition to those published on 23/03. HDB points out that different guidelines within a country lead to confusion. • On 30/03. HDB and ZDB together with the union, publish a common statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how to ensure safety and health at construction sites - request to continue planning of public projects - disruptions need to be qualified as occurring due to force majeure • HDB calls for rules ensuring the free movement of workers and companies (concerns mostly Eastern Europe) after Easter in order to prevent construction activities coming to a halt due to lack of labour (09/04/2020) • On 24/04, HDB issued a poster showing the essential health and safety measures to implement


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<p>DK - Denmark</p> 	<p>All public places are closed, no gatherings over 10 people – does not affect business/construction. All malls are closed and all shops where you have close contact with customer, hairdresser, restaurants etc. Until 30th March but could be extended until Easter.</p> <p>A lot of initiatives have been taken to ensure financial stimuli.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All public employees have been sent home on full payment (doesn't affect hospitals etc) All businesses over 10 employees cannot fire people at short notice and are covered 75% of salary by government The rules in the collective agreements are no longer in effect when it comes to hire/fire Special packages expected for one-man company/self-employed. A number of municipalities have decided on quicker payment (so not late-payment but quick-payment) The budget ceiling municipalities have to apply to due to government and EU rules has been cancelled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public buyers have been encouraged to initiate any maintenance or ne construction as soon as possible. Dansk Byggeri website updated daily to help members. <p>https://www.danskbyggeri.dk/nyheder-og-presse/nyheder/aktuelt-for-medlemmer/2020/coronavirus-spoergsmaal-og-svar/</p>
<p>EE - Estonia</p>  <p>(google translation – news)</p>		<p>On behalf of its members and the entire Estonian construction sector, the Estonian Association of Construction Entrepreneurs wishes to draw public attention to key issues related to the construction sector and the need to ensure long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Message of the Estonian construction association to the public authorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> with the request to keep the construction sector afloat by significantly increasing public investment in the construction sector and the support measures needed to maintain the sector, so that we can continue to provide additional tax revenue to the state budget while continuing to work, Affirming that we will comply with the requirements established on construction sites for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 virus and will


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<p><i>published on the website of our member on 15 April)</i></p>		<p>continue to do our utmost, as important employers, to ensure that work can continue as safely as possible,</p> <p>3. by offering to assist the country in the activities necessary to prevent the spread of the pandemic, which require skills and knowledge in the field of construction, and the readiness to think in the development of measures to support the capacity of the construction sector.</p> <p>In many sectors of the economy, the COVID-19 pandemic has put an end to work or made it impossible, and companies have been forced to lay off workers. In the construction sector, we see an opportunity both in today's special situation and in the subsequent recovery period to stimulate the Estonian economy and ensure income and security for a large number of Estonians. The consequences of a possible shutdown of the sector are very far-reaching. Investments in the construction sector have a significant impact on the Estonian economy.</p> <p>On construction sites, the health status of the employees is closely monitored in close cooperation with the main contractors and subcontractors, and people with symptoms of illness do not have access to the site. The work has been rearranged to allow maximum compliance with the 2 + 2 rule. In order to reduce close contacts, shifts are made, workers are scattered within the boundaries of the site and all non-essential exposures are avoided.</p> <p>Adherence to strict hygiene and health protection rules is mandatory for everyone, with a special focus on work whose nature requires working close to each other. These are just some of the measures that have been put in place on Estonian construction sites over the last three weeks so that work can continue and the health of all people working on construction sites can be protected. Continuing to work is important to ensure a sense of economic security for construction workers, as well as those working in areas closely related to construction. The Estonian Association of Construction Entrepreneurs is ready to actively participate in the development of measures and implementation steps that would help mitigate the negative</p>


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		consequences of the pandemic and stimulate the future of the construction sector. We also offer our comprehensive assistance to the state in situations where emergency and pandemic control requires the application of construction know-how.
<p>ES - Spain</p> 	<p>On 12 March, the <i>Real Decreto-ley 7/2020</i> was approved. It contained the first measures to respond to the economic impact caused by Covid-19. Among other provisions, there are measures related to the postponement of deadlines to pay taxes by companies with volume of operations below € 6,010,121. Repayments of State loans granted to SMEs and industrial projects were also postponed. For public procurements in cases related to the COVID 19 crisis, emergency procedures are allowed.</p> <p>On 14 March the Government declared the “<i>estado de alarma</i>” due to the situation as a consequence of Covid-19 (<i>Real Decreto 463/2020</i>).</p> <p>Among other aspects, this means that mobility of people is strongly limited, only possible individually in situations of essential needs and as well possible to go to the workplace. Different business activities have been suspended (bars, restaurants, shops except for food, museums, theatres, cinemas, etc.) but not the construction activity at that moment when the construction activity was permitted but extra health/safety requirements were requested and problems arose because of difficulties in the supply of materials, shortages of personnel, and in addition the criteria that labour authorities were applying in their respective territories were not homogeneous.</p> <p>Deadlines in administrative procedures in Public Administration</p>	<p>On 17 March, the <i>Real Decreto-ley 8/2020</i> was approved. It contains a series of urgent measures to face the social and economic impact of Covid-19. In the area of public procurement, it gives the contractor the possibility of asking for the suspension of a public works contract when the situation due to Covid-19 or the measures adopted by the Public Administration to combat it, lead to the impossibility of continuing with the development of the contract; but it is the Public Administration who decides about the suspension or not. If the Public Administration does not respond within five days, the request of suspension must be considered as refused. There are also measures in the area of concession contracts, aimed at re-establishing the economic equilibrium of the contracts. The <i>Real Decreto-ley</i> contains other measures of economic character and socio-labour character. The Ministry of Labour has published a guide about these labour measures: <i>Guía sobre medidas laborales excepcionales contra el Covid-19 aprobadas por el Real Decreto-ley 8/2020</i>). Among the fiscal measures, it's worth noting the extension of deadlines for payment of fiscal debts. There are also flexibility measures applicable to legal entities governed by private law.</p> <p>On 29 March, the <i>Real Decreto-ley 10/2020</i> restricted the mobility of workers to go to work from their homes unless they worked in an activity considered by this piece of legislation as essential and construction sector was not considered as essential (except some maintenance and urgent works to fix breakdowns and work related to supply of water and sewerage).</p> <p>This basically meant that construction sector was paralysed from 30 March to 9 April. CNC has informed the Ministries in charge about the problems reported by our members since the announcement of the State of Alarm, so</p>

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	<p>have been interrupted. Basic essential services and their supply are guaranteed.</p> <p>On 17 March, the <i>Orden INT/239/2020</i> was approved. It states strict limitations regarding the entrance in national territory by road which is only possible to nationals, residents in Spain, frontier workers or cases of force majeure or need proved with documents.</p> <p>There are in force strict rules regarding circulation by car, only possible individually as a general rule.</p> <p>On 27 March, the Real Decreto-ley 9/2020 introduced complementary measures of labour character to diminish the impact on employment issues because of Covid-19 pandemia.</p> <p>On 28 April, the Government announced a Plan to de-escalate progressively from the lockdown. The Plan, in general terms, will have four phases beginning on 4 May.</p>	<p>that authorities can give solutions which enable companies, from 13 April, to work as soon as possible. CNC has also asked the Ministries in charge to carry out some legislative reforms and to undertake initiatives which may help to mitigate the severe impact caused by the health and economic crisis.</p> <p>On 8 April CNC jointly with the most representative trade unions, issued the "Guía de actuación en materia preventiva por causa del Covid-19 en las obras de construcción", Guidelines in relation to preventive measures because of Covid-19 at worksites. Nowadays, since 13 April, although Spain continues under the State of Alarm, construction activity is permitted with the exception, according to the Orden SND/340/2020, of renovation works in existing buildings where there are people living; however, the Orden SND/385/2020 issued on 2 May has introduced some flexibility and in this sense from 4 May it is possible to carry out some renovation works if, due to the characteristics of the building or of the work, no interference with resident people can be ensured. But not all the possible worksites are active, there are problems of different type which impede or which make still difficult the development of the activity.</p> <p>Recent economic data published by the National Institute of Statistics show that construction production in the first quarter of the year fell around 10% compared to the previous quarter.</p>
<p>FI - Finland</p> 	<p>The Government has prepared an extensive package of approximately EUR 15 billion to support companies and to alleviate the negative effects of the coronavirus epidemic.</p> <p>The Government will make additional domestic financing of EUR 10 billion available to businesses, primarily in the form of Finnvera guarantees. Temporary changes affecting companies and employees:</p>	<p>Despite the corona epidemic and restrictions related to it, work in the construction industry has continued quite normally. Demand is expected to be weakening because of market uncertainty, but there are no significant signs of that yet. Renovation and repair sites are in a slightly more challenging position due to restrictions.</p> <p>The majority of foreign labor in Finland comes from or through Estonia. Almost all cross-border traffic has been restricted now for two weeks. So far</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The notice period for lay-offs is shortened: employers will be required to inform employees of the lay-off no later than five days before the lay-off begins. • The duration of co-operation negotiations on lay-offs is shortened: duration of the negotiations will be at least five days. • Employees on a fixed-term contract may be laid off: employers will have the right to lay off an employee in a fixed-term employment relationship under the same conditions as an employee with an employment contract of unspecified duration. • Termination of employment during trial period permitted: the employer may terminate the employment contract during the trial period for financial or production-related reasons. • Employee re-employment obligation extended: the employer will be obligated, for a period of nine months, to re-employ those employees who were dismissed for financial or production-related reasons between 1 April and 30 June. <p>Legislative amendment extends employees' right to unemployment benefit during lay-off and provides easier and quicker access to unemployment benefit. Finland has restricted all cross-border traffic. Discussions are ongoing that which cross-border traffic is necessary.</p>	<p>most foreign labor in construction business has remained in Finland. A large part of the foreign labor force is directly employed by Finnish companies.</p> <p>Confederation of Construction Industry in Finland RT conducted a survey for its member companies 2.-7.4. According to the survey the majority of Finnish construction companies expect the slowdown and at least postponement of planned projects to be quite likely. Nearly 70 percent of respondents estimate that access to working capital and project financing will become more difficult as the crisis go on. Lay-offs are probable in many companies, but one third did not see them coming yet.</p> <p>Confederation of Construction Industry in Finland RT's messages for the Finnish Government</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financing of ongoing projects and housing production must be secured <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. State guarantee programs must include construction sector 2. Governmental aid packages are needed especially for infrastructure sector 3. Government needs to ensure necessary cross-border traffic for labor and materials
<p>FR - France</p> 	<p>The French government is putting in place different measures to support business (incl. construction) :</p> <p>1) Deadlines for the payment of social and/or fiscal deadlines (URSSAF: network of private organizations whose main task is to collect employee and employer social security contributions that finance the general account of France's social security system ; taxes).</p>	<p>On 17th March, joint appeal from construction industry (FFB, FNTP, CAPEB) to the Government to suspend construction works for about 10 days in order to be able to get organised regarding H&S measures to be put in place on construction sites; and solve supply chain difficulties.</p> <p>After tough negotiations with the Government, representatives of construction</p>


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Extension until the end of June. On April 30, 1,7 million companies and self-employed persons concerned. 2) In the most difficult situations, direct tax rebates may be decided on the basis of an individualised examination of the applications. 3) €1,500 aid for all small companies, the self-employed, and micro-enterprises through the Solidarity Fund. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Allocation of a complementary aid by 5,000 €. On April 30, a total amount of 1,32 billion € paid. 4) The mobilization of the State to the tune of 300 billion euros and of Bpifrance to guarantee bank lines of credit that companies may need because of the epidemic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On April 30, 50 billion € credit lines accepted for 322,000 companies. 5) Support from the State and the Banque de France (credit mediation) to negotiate with his bank a rescheduling of bank loans. 6) Maintaining employment in companies through the simplified and reinforced short-time working system. 7) Support for the handling of a conflict with customers or suppliers by the Médiateur des entreprises (French companies Ombudsman). 8) The recognition by the State and local authorities of the Coronavirus as a case of force majeure for their public contracts. Consequently, for all State and local government procurement contracts, penalties for delays will not be applied. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ May 2 : extension of the national health emergency status until July 24 	<p>companies (FFB, FNTP, CAPEB) and the Government agreed on several principles that will make it possible to strengthen, in the coming days, the continuity of the sector's activity and the continuation of the construction sites.</p> <p>In order to specify all the applicable measures and procedures and to support professionals in construction, the professional organisations of building and public works companies will in the next few days disseminate a guide of goods practices, previously validated by the Ministries of Labour and Solidarity and Health (validation still pending on March 27).</p> <p>In parallel, the Government invites the clients not to seek contractual liability from companies, their subcontractors or suppliers who, when the conditions of execution no longer made it possible to guarantee the health and safety of their employees, had to suspend their activity. https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/covid-19-continuite-de-l-activite-pour-les-entreprises-du-batiment-et-des</p> <p>Besides, both FFB and FNTP provide dedicated information to their members concerning all the aspects of their activity affected by the pandemic and the restrictive measures.</p> <p>On 2nd April, the construction industry (OPPBTP, FNTP, FFB, CAPEB) published a H&S guide – validated by the Government – to advise companies on how to resume work under COVID-19 circumstances: https://www.preventionbtp.fr/Documentation/Explorer-par-produit/Information/Ouvrages/Guide-de-preconisations-de-securite-sanitaire-pour-la-continuite-des-activites-de-la-construction-Covid-19#.XoY1Zi6mvd4.twitter</p>

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		<p>On 23 March, FNTP launched a survey among its member companies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% of companies are in total shutdown • The problem of supply of materials/equipment concerns 90% of companies, and for all types of materials/equipment. It mainly results from the closure of supplier, industrial or distributor sites. • Protective measures cannot be complied with due to insufficient supply of protective equipment <p>On 26 March FFB launched a survey among its member companies of which the results were published on 2 April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91% of the activities in the building sector came to a halt • 93% of the companies had to suspend their works, entirely or partly → reasons: for, 63% the lack of protective equipment; for 61%, supply chain disruptions; for 58%, decision of the client; for 54%, decision of the company itself • under certain conditions (supply of protective equipment and supply of construction material) 26% of the companies estimate that they could resume their activities <p>Since March 21st, FFB publishes a weekly special COVID-19 edition of its “Bâtiment Actualités” magazine, aiming at informing building companies about all the aspects linked to the pandemic. Last edition on May 2.</p> <p>Last week, FNTP also called on the Prefects of the Department to fully play the role that has been entrusted to them in the resumption of public works activity. Although public works companies are willing to resume their activities, they nevertheless encounter many obstacles which remain open.</p>

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		<p>For the implementation of the H&S guide, the FFB provides sheets adapted by crafts (masonry, carpenters...) and by situation (interventions in housings or professional premises, emergencies, etc.).</p> <p>New FFB enquiry among its member companies between April 24 and April 27:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64% of companies have resumed their activity. However, the turnover achieved represents only 1/3 of an “average” activity; • The resumption is more difficult in some regions, such as Paris region (Ile-de-France), Northern and Eastern regions; • Estimated extra-costs by 10% to fulfil H&S requirements; • Their main constraints: lack of protective equipment, supply shortage of material, refusal of the client; • Around 75% of companies still use the partial unemployment scheme. <p>A partnership charter on good practices is deployed in order to reinforce the dialogue between housing actors on the construction site and to share good practices</p>
<p>GR – Greece</p> 	<p><u><extracts from information sent by our Member PEDMEDE></u></p> <p><u>Measures supporting economy</u></p> <p>In an attempt to keep the economy afloat in the aftermath of the coronavirus crisis, the Greek government announced on 6 April, additional support measures for some 800,000 businesses, 1.7 million private-sector employees and 700,000 self-employed and small business owners.</p> <p>“We are implementing policies to keep the economy alive,” said</p>	<p>The Greek federation PEDMEDE launched instructions to all its members asking to strictly respect :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing • Personal hygiene measures • Avoiding gathering and organising virtual meetings as much as possible. <p>Most of construction worksites remain open for the moment but new restrictive measures could be announced by the Government.</p> <p>-----</p>



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	<p>Finance Minister Mr. Christos Staikouras of the March-April aid package amounting to 6.8 billion euros – or 3.5 percent of GDP – and including a 800-euro benefit for 1.7 million private-sector employees (81 percent of the impacted private-sector workforce) that have been suspended from their employment contracts and a freeze on their value added tax and debt payments to the state for four months.</p> <p>The aid is meant to buffer some 800,000 affected businesses on the condition that there are no layoffs. Additionally VAT and tax debt payments of businesses had been suspended for April. However, if payments are made on time, there will be a 25% discount. The measures also foresee the extension of financial aid for some 700,000 self-employed and small business owners.</p> <p>Analysts expect growth to contract by 3 percent in 2020 due the Covid-19 crisis, which comes shortly after Greece began to recover from a decade-long debt crisis.</p> <p>Additionally the government reiterated that the annual Easter benefit will be paid by all businesses in full to all employees.</p> <p>The Minister went on to add that a supplementary budget is in place to address the coronavirus fallout earmarking 5.1 billion euros in additional spending for March and April.</p> <p>From the part of the Ministry of Development was announced that the government will provide 1 billion euros in guarantees for loans to struggling businesses and would bear the interest costs of all up-to-date business loans for April, May and June – a measure which may be extended for an additional two months.</p> <p><u>TAX PROVISIONS</u></p> <p>1. Extension of deadlines for submission of the following returns:</p>	<p><u>Labour contractual issues <extracts>:</u></p> <p>Concerning the Labour issues the most important are summarized below:</p> <p>1. Businesses that have been negatively affected by the situation could be categorized as following:</p> <p>a) <u>Businesses that have ceased their operations with a State decision.</u> In this case the employees are not entitled to their salary, for the period the business is closed due to the Sate decision, since this is considered a force majeure event.</p> <p>b) <u>Businesses that have been substantially affected by the situation.</u> Greek authorities have created a list of the latter based on the Code of Business Activity (KAΔ) as this has been declared to the Tax Authorities. The list is updated regularly.</p> <p>In this case the employer is entitled with the right to suspend the employment contracts of their employees, and this can be decided within one month from the date of March 21st 2020 (up until the 20th of April). This measure can be extended by a decision of the competent Greek authorities, however no further information is available at this moment in time.</p> <p>The Government has now issued new clarifications on the issue of suspension of employment contracts, as follows:</p> <p>In case (a) the employees are entitled to a special purpose compensation of € 800 paid by the State. The relevant amount is free of tax and covers the period until 30th of April 2020.</p> <p>It is important to mention that the above businesses are not allowed to terminate the employment contracts of their employees and such terminations, starting from 18.03.2020 will be considered void. Unpaid leave applications that have been filed before the employer ceased operations are considered to have been revoked and the employees qualify for the special purpose compensation of € 800.</p>

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	<p>Extension for two months from their expiration, where applicable, of the deadlines for the submission of stamp duty and capital duty, having a new deadline in the end of March and April 2020.</p> <p>Extension until 30/6/2020 instead of 30/4/2020 for the deadline of the submission of the environmental plastic bags duty, for the first quarter of 2020.</p>	
	<p>Extension until 29/5/2020 instead of 31/3/2020 for the deadline of submission of accommodation tax for invoices issued in February.</p> <p>Extension until 30/6/2020 instead of 30/4/2020 for the deadline of submission of accommodation tax for invoices issued in March.</p> <p>Extension until 29/5/2020 for the deadline of submission of inheritance tax and gambling tax returns that expire in the end of March and April. The same applies to donation and parental tax returns for which a notarial document is not drawn up.</p> <p><u>2. Measures related to rental payments</u></p> <p>Businesses who compulsorily discontinue their operation due to the spread of coronavirus or whose Code of Activity (KAD) is included in the list of the Ministry of Finance, are entitled to a 40% reduction in their rent for the months of March and April. Even if the employer/company paid the full rent of March, they have the right to offset the rent of April by paying 20% of it without any legal consequences. The same applies for the employees of affected businesses' who have already paid the rent of March.</p> <p><u>3. Handling of commercial cheques</u></p> <p>Suspension for 75 days of expiration and payment deadlines of commercial cheques for businesses whose Code of Business Activity (KAD) is already or will be included in April in the list of affected KAD.</p>	

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	<p>The measure applies to all securities / cheques that will be submitted electronically by their issuers to banks within three (3) days of the issuance of the Legislative Content Act, through a specific application of the Greek Credit Profile Database (Tyresias system), regardless of whether the business is currently listed in the list of affected companies or will be included in the near future.</p> <p><u>4. Payment of Social Security contributions</u></p> <p>The deadline for payment of installments related to restructurings which are active and fall due by 31/3/2020 and the deadline for all related subsequent monthly installments is extended for three (3) months without additional fees and late payment surcharges.</p>	
<p>HU - Hungary</p> 	<p>- Government Decree 61/2020. (III. 23.) on the immediate measures required to mitigate the effects of the coronary pandemic on the national economy (III. 18.) on public charges and certain new measures</p> <p>- Government Decree 47/2020. (III. 18.) on Immediate Measures to Mitigate the National Economy Impact of the Coronary Epidemic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes several laws, social and labour laws amongst others • Key provision is an interdiction to stay/move at public spaces → some exceptions 	<p>ÉVOSZ published information on its website (www.evosz.hu) recommendation for its members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A package of suggestions to help the construction industry • Summary of the impact of COVID-19 on the construction industry • Government measures to mitigate the effects of the pandemic • A recommendation to construction companies to reduce the health and business risks of the coronavirus epidemic • Economic stabilization package of MKIK - Hungarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce
<p>HR - Croatia</p> 	<p>The government on 23 April 2020 adopted a conclusion on measures to relaunch economic and other activities in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic, which regulates the gradual relaxation of restrictions as of Monday, 27 April.</p> <p>The measures would be relaxed in three turns - on April 27, May 4 and May 11.</p>	<p><u>ECONOMIC measures / not specific to construction:</u></p> <p>The Croatian Government presented on 1st April 2020, new, second package of measures aimed at suppressing the effects of the coronavirus crisis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government will raise the financial support for workers from HRK 3,250 to a net sum of HRK 4,000 and at the same time, the state will


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first phase, starting on Monday, 27 April, will enable the opening of all retail entities apart from those in shopping centres, the exception being those stores that have been operating in shopping centres the entire time since the introduction of restrictions. <p>Services too, will be able to operate except those that require close contact with clients, on the condition physical distance is respected. This refers to tailors, key cutters, cobblers, tourist agencies and the like.</p> <p>Public city and suburban lines as well as fast speed lines to islands that are not connected with ferry lines will start operating again. Libraries, museums, galleries, second-hand and regular book shops too will be allowed to open. Athletes will be allowed to recommence training in individual sports as will those competing in senior team sports.</p> <p>State public servant examinations will also be conducted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The second phase would follow on May 4 if the first phase proves to be successful and the epidemiological situation does not deteriorate. Relaxation of restrictions in that phase would refer to the public health system, which would fully restore its services, with certain exceptions, and to private clinics. <p>Other services requiring close contact with clients would be allowed to operate as well if they comply with special measures in force, and this refers to cosmetic salons, pedicurists, barbers and hairdressers.</p>	<p>take over from employers the burden of mandatory taxes and contributions, meaning that the effective support will be HRK 5,460 per worker. The total value of this measure is HRK 8.5 billion. The employers are required to keep the workers and secure all the existing jobs. The measure worth 3,250 has already been introduced in the first set of Government measures and has been used so far by 65,000 companies for 400,000 workers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondly, the Government will spare companies that face business difficulties due to the crisis from paying tax obligations (income and profit tax) and contributions (health and pension) for April, May and June. Those companies with the revenue drop between 20 percent and 50 percent are entitled to deferrals and interest-free instalment payments of up to 24 months. Companies with usual revenues of less than HRK 7.5 million, which encompasses roughly 93 percent of all Croatian companies and will have revenue drop of more than 50%, will be completely exempted from paying their taxes and contributions. The companies with the usual revenue of more than HRK 7.5 million, with the revenue drop between 50 percent and 100 percent will be released from paying taxes and contributions in the next three months proportionally to their revenue drop (e.g. if the revenue drops for 75 percent, the company will pay only 25 percent of its fiscal obligations). The third important fiscal measure is the postponed payment of VAT (value added tax) until invoices are paid in full, not upon their issue. The deadline for submitting financial statements for 2019 will be postponed until June 30. All public tenderers (particularly in health, army and police sectors) will be asked to give preference to domestic agriculture producers and procure up to 60 percent of domestic products. The State will intervene and buy milk surplus from Croatian milk producers.


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The third phase, starting on May 11, would enable up to ten people to gather in the same place on the condition of physical distancing and shopping centres would be allowed to reopen as would kindergartens and elementary schools from Grades 1 to 4. Special classes for disabled children who have personal assistants would be restored as well, and students would be allowed to attend laboratory, art and clinical practical classes in small groups. <p>As of May 11, inter-city bus routes and domestic air traffic would be relaunched and hospitality premises would be allowed to open but exclusively providing their services in outside terraces in compliance with epidemiological measures.</p> <p>Hospitality services in accommodation premises would be allowed as well but only to staying guests, national and nature parks would be allowed to reopen and conditions for e-passes would be expanded.</p> <p>All three phases imply maintaining physical distancing and the highest hygienic standards and for premises to be disinfected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employers are forced to provide working conditions according to epidemiological measures and where possible to allow work from home and organise virtual meetings. Any worker with a temperature or respiratory symptoms will be banned from going to work. <p>Public events and large gathering will still not be permitted. High school exit exams will be held June 8 to 29 and religious gatherings will be allowed as of May 2.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government proposed the set of measures for tourism sector, will discuss with the social partners (unions) the possibility to correct salaries or temporarily suspend the agreed raise of public sector salaries. The Government announced the new loan of HRK 45 billion on the domestic and foreign financial market, with the EU institutions and the World Bank.

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<p>IE - Ireland</p> 	<p>From CIF website :</p> <p>The government has decided that everyone, until 12 April 2020, can only travel to and from work or for the purposes of work only where the work is an essential health, social care or other essential service and cannot be done from home.</p> <p>Government has on 28 March published its list of essential services as outlined in the attached document. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to employers and employees as to what constitutes an essential service where workers cannot work from home and have no option but to travel to work.</p> <p>The government also recognises that many companies in Ireland are critical to global supply chains that are responding to the COVID-19 crisis, and many companies also perform critical global roles in other aspects of medicine, as well as security, cyber, cloud and data centre infrastructure. It is intended that these essential global roles are encompassed within this national guidance.</p> <p>What employers should do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refer to this guidance to decide whether your organisation is providing an essential service; it is not necessary to seek official authorisation • if you are providing an essential service, you should identify those employees (including sub-contractors and so on) who are essential to the provision of that service and notify them. This can be done by category of employee or 	<p>CIF has set up a dedicated webpage to assist its members: https://cif.ie/coronavirus/</p> <p>CIF has published new operating procedures: https://cif.ie/2020/04/15/new-operating-procedures/</p> <p>The CIF Safety and Health Subcommittee, mindful of the best available guidance, nationally and internationally, has developed this “Construction Sector C-19 Standard Operating Procedures” which serves as a guide for the management of COVID-19 on a construction site for the duration of the pandemic. The actions set out in this document should be implemented in tandem with an amended Construction Stage Health and Safety Plan. The purpose of this document is to protect workers, their families and the community, whilst also recognising the need to protect livelihoods.</p> <p>Essential Services</p> <p>Construction services provided under the following headings are considered to be essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • essential health and related projects relevant to the COVID-19 crisis, and supplies necessary for such projects • repair/construction of critical road and utility infrastructure • delivery of emergency services to businesses and homes on an emergency call-out basis in areas such as electrical, plumbing, glazing and roofing


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	<p>by individual; it could include all employees of the organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if you are providing an essential service, latest public health guidance should be followed at all times 	<p>All contractors contracted by Government Departments or Public Bodies will be advised as to whether a project is deemed essential or not.</p> <p>Further details on CIF website</p>
<p>IT - Italy</p> 	<p>Deferral of payments and tax obligations;</p> <p>Tax credit for workplace sanitization/hygiene expenses;</p> <p>Increase of the resources of the SME Guarantee Fund;</p> <p>Possibility of suspending the payment of the instalments of loans for the purchase of the first house;</p> <p>Measures of financial support to enterprises and SMEs in particular;</p> <p>Support for companies' liquidity through guarantee mechanisms;</p> <p>Increase in Advance payments from the Development and Cohesion Fund;</p> <p>Suspension of the capital share of local authority loans and loans to Regions;</p> <p>Additional protective measures in favour of workers and the community;</p> <p>Special rules on the ordinary salary integration and ordinary allowance;</p> <p>Leave and indemnities for employees in the private;</p> <p>Contributions to companies for the security and strengthening of health care facilities;</p>	<p>5TH UPDATE OF THE ANCE OPERATIONAL GUIDE FOR THE ITALIAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES TO DEAL WITH THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY</p> <p>Ance has elaborated a new update of the operational guidelines for companies. The document has changed significantly in the light of the Dpcm of 22 March with which non-essential production activities are suspended.</p> <p>http://www.ance.it/docs/docDownload.aspx?id=54455</p> <p>PROTOCOL ON HEALTH & SAFETY OF THE WORKERS OF THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR SHARED BY THE SOCIAL PARTNERS (24.03.2020)</p> <p>On 24 March, the social partners in the construction industry signed a regulatory protocol to combat and contain the spread of the Covid-19 virus in the workplace, containing guidelines to ensure the protection of workers' health and safety for the entire construction sector.</p> <p>This protocol follows the Protocol of the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport shared with ANCE, Anas (the Road Contracting Authority), RFI (the Railway Company), and Feneal Uil, Filca - CISL and Fillea CGIL (the building sector unions).</p> <p>http://www.ance.it/docs/competenze.aspx?id=20&pid=11&pcid=13&docId=39126</p>

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	<p>Extension of terms for payments related to social security and welfare contributions and compulsory insurance premiums;</p> <p>Property requisition for health purposes;</p> <p>Extension of vehicle revision deadline;</p> <p>Extension of validity of identity documents;</p> <p>Urgent measures for the restoration of the functionality of prisons;</p> <p>Provisions on delays or breach of contract resulting from containment measures;</p> <p>Advance payment for public contracts;</p> <p>Suspension of time limits in administrative proceedings and effects of expiring administrative acts;</p> <p>Special Commissioner for the implementation and coordination of health measures to contain and combat the epidemiological emergency Covid -19.</p> <p>FOR FURTHER DETAILS, YOU CAN CONSULT THE FULL DOCUMENT ON THE FIEC INTRANET</p>	<p>SHARED REGULATION PROTOCOL FOR THE CONTAINMENT OF COVID-19 DIFFUSION ON THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (19.03.2020).</p> <p>The Ministry for infrastructures and transports (MIT) has developed an ad hoc protocol for the construction sector to combat and contain the spread of the COVID 19 virus in the workplace.</p> <p>The document has been shared with ANCE, Anas (the Contracting authority for Roads) , RFI (the Railway company), and Feneal Uil, Filca – CISL e Fillea CGIL (the Trade Unions of the construction sector).</p> <p>These safety measures concern the owners of the site, all subcontractors and sub-suppliers present on the site. Although the MIT measure is a concrete step forward with regard to activities on construction sites, a clear and unequivocal national measure would be needed, which would state that the health emergency linked to the COVID-19 virus is a cause of force majeure.</p> <p>The final part of the Protocol presents, by way of example, a non-exhaustive list of cases involving the suspension of works. The recurrence of such hypotheses must be certified by the Safety Coordinator in the execution of the work.</p> <p>http://www.mit.gov.it/sites/default/files/media/notizia/2020-03/Linee%20Guida%20Cantieri%20Edili.pdf</p> <p>DECREE 22 MARCH (DPCM of 22.03.2020)</p> <p>The decree suspends all industrial and commercial production activities not included in the list in the annex of the decree.</p> <p>The activities not suspended include those referred to in ATECO Code 42 (Civil engineering), 43.2 (Installation of electrical and plumbing systems and other construction and installation work) and 94 (Activities of membership</p>


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		<p>organisations).</p> <p>Non-suspended activities also include those related to waste collection, treatment and disposal, including construction activities (included in ATECO Code 38).</p> <p>However, it remains necessary to comply with the regulatory protocol for the containment of the spread of Covid - 19 on construction sites shared Thursday evening between ANCE, Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, Anas S.p.A., RFI, Feneal Uil, Filca - CISL and Fillea CGIL (See above).</p> <p>http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/coronavirus-firmato-il-dpcm-22-marzo-2020/14363</p>
<p>LT - Lithuania</p> 	<p>General business support measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The revised Labor Law simplifies the procedure by making it easier for an employer to let workers for a downtime 2. The Economic and Financial Action Plan provides for EUR 500 million for preservation of jobs and income. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following support for downtime and partial downtime will be made available: employee allowance no less than a minimum monthly wage (MMW), State funds will account for 60% but no more than one MMW. • In the case of quarantine in educational institutions or social care and employment centres, a provision is made to receive sickness benefits for the care of children and the disabled. • It is also planned to allocate funds for the self-employed who have paid social security contributions: to pay EUR 257 a 	


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	<p>month for up to 3 months when they are unable to carry out their activities due to quarantine, and to provide a state guarantee to extend the deferred period from 3 to 6 months for mortgage payments (excluding interest) for those who have lost their jobs.</p> <p>3. The Economic and Financial Action Plan provides for immediate tax loans, deferred payments or payment in instalments by the agreed schedule without interest; stopping recovery actions based on criteria of reasonableness; possibility to defer payment of personal income tax; to increase the guarantee limit for the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Fund and INVEGA by EUR 500 million and to extend the terms of the guarantee provision; to allow businesses deferment or payment in instalments of payments for the electricity and natural gas consumed. It is also recommended that municipalities exempt businesses from the commercial real estate and land taxes, and recommended that municipalities be allowed to defer or schedule instalment payments for utilities and heating energy.</p> <p>4. The Economic and Financial Action Plan provides for accelerating investment programmes by accelerating payments and increasing the intensity of funding. Also, it plans to reallocate EU investment funds to health, employment and business, accelerate the use of public budget funds for running costs, to use all funds from the Climate Change and Road Maintenance and Development</p>	

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	<p>Programs and to accelerate renovation of apartment buildings. Also, it is planned to recommend the Bank of Lithuania to take the following measures to increase the lending potential of banks by EUR 2.5 billion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reduction of capital adequacy requirements for credit institutions; 2) Reduction of liquidity reserves; 3) Reduction of other supervisory measures. <p>5. State will be more flexible in different situations, eg.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Competition Council of The Republic of Lithuania will not treat agreements among competitors as cartel agreements if it is not necessary, to ensure the stability of existing contracts enforcement • The Public Procurement Office will be more flexible about changes to existing procurement contracts; • Facilitating the implementation of EU projects 	
<p>LU - Luxembourg</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government issued a summary of information and recommendations for companies. • Advance on the reimbursement of Extraordinary Family Related Leave • Support to companies and the self-employed by offering them greater flexibility in their management of the payment of social security contributions • French/German/Belgian cross-border workers: exceptional measures have been adopted with the respective countries. 	<p>Following the Prime Minister announcement, construction sites have close on Friday 20th March, 17.00. There are some exceptions (urgent works, health care infrastructure...).</p> <p>https://gouvernement.lu/fr/dossiers.gouv_msan+fr+dossiers+2020+corona-virus.html</p> <p>https://meco.gouvernement.lu/fr/dossiers/2020/coronoavirus-entreprises.html</p>


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government put in place simplified measures for companies applying for coronavirus-related short-time work: accelerated procedure for companies directly affected by a government decision; online system will be available soon; "force majeure / coronavirus" short-time working scheme whose form can be downloaded electronically. • Tax advance facilities and payment deadlines will be granted to companies and self-employed persons. In addition, these same persons may apply for a four-month payment deadline for taxes due after 29 February 2020. • Economic stabilisation programme adopted on 25 March (up to 8.8 billion Euros = about 14% GDP): immediate expenses for unemployment etc.; postponed collection of social security contributions; and State aid to the economy. • Series of measures to combat COVID-19: limitation of a series of non-essential economic activities • Series of measures in support of companies by insurance company ODL: e.g. softened conditions and extended coverage. 	
<p>LV - Latvia</p> 	<p>On 12th March, Cabinet of Ministers issued the Cabinet Order No. 103 On the Declaration of Emergency Situation (consolidated redaction available in English: https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/313191-on-declaration-of-the-emergency-situation). Thus declaring emergency situation throughout the national territory until 14th April 2020, to restrict the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>On 20th March, The Parliament of the Republic of Latvia has adopted and the President has proclaimed the following law On</p>	<p>In order to reduce the risk of further spread of Covid-19, the government has expanded the range of precautionary measures. Changes pertain to incoming travelers, public gatherings, as well as the work of education institutions. Furthermore, significant support measures for industries, including construction, are adopted.</p> <p>The main support measures, among others, are as follows:</p> <p>1) Downtime allowance for companies, which meet specific criteria, f.e. – significant decreases of income in comparison to previous year. The downtime</p>


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	<p>Measures for the Prevention and Suppression of Threat to the State and Its Consequences Due to the Spread of COVID-19 (available in English: https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/313373-on-measures-for-the-prevention-and-suppression-of-threat-to-the-state-and-its-consequences-due-to-the-spread-of-covid-19#_ftn1&pd=1).</p> <p>Government decides on aid to businesses and expands precautions to restrict spread of Covid-19.</p> <p>On 26th March, Cabinet of Ministers adopted Regulation No. 165 Regulations Regarding the Employers Affected by the Crisis Caused by COVID-19, which are Eligible for the Allowance for Idle Time and Division of the Payment for Late Tax Payments in Instalments or Deferral Thereof for up to Three Years (available in English: https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/313514-regulations-regarding-the-employers-affected-by-the-crisis-caused-by-covid-19-which-are-eligible-for-the-allowance-for-idle-time-and-division-of-the-payment-for-late-tax-payments-in-instalments-or-deferral-thereof-for-up-to-three-years).</p> <p>All legislative acts adopted following the Cabinet Order No. 103 are available: https://likumi.lv/ta/tema/covid-19. Additionally, all information (f. e. health recommendations, information for businesses, travelers, etc.) regarding the COVID-19, compiled by the State Chancellery of the Republic of Latvia and is available (only in Latvian and Russian): https://covid19.gov.lv/.</p>	<p>allowance is paid in the amount of 75% of the average monthly gross salary for the previous six-month period, but not more than 700 euros per calendar month.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Tax payment deadline extensions. 3) Extension of the deadline for submission of annual reports. 4) Deferral of advance payments of personal income tax. 5) Refund of the overpaid Value Added Tax. 6) State and municipal capital companies temporarily exempt affected companies from rent or decide on a reduction in rent. 7) For companies that have experienced objective difficulties in making loan payments to banks due to the spread of Covid-19, the financial institution offers a credit guarantee that will allow the bank to defer the payment of the principal amount. Altum is a state-owned development finance institution, which offers state aid for various target groups with the help of financial tools. For more information regarding the aid for businesses please see the webpage of Ministry of Economics (https://em.gov.lv/en/news/27672-mechanisms-for-entrepreneurs-and-employees-to-support-them-during-the-state-of-emergency-regarding-covid-19). <p>To mitigate the damages brought by this crisis, the social partners and NGO's are taking an active part in finding and communicating the possible solutions. F. e. the state of emergency also affects the field of public procurement not only at the procurement stage, but also in the performance of concluded procurement contracts. Partnership of Latvian Contractors are taking an active part in communication to the government having a great understanding and representation of Latvian construction industry.</p> <p>For example, we are calling the government to adopt guidelines for public procurement and EU funded projects due to the effect on the timely or full performance of the obligations under the contracts, etc.</p> <p>The Latvian Construction Council calls on the Government to involve</p>


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		<p>the construction sector more actively in planning a medium-term stimulus measure for the Latvian economy.</p> <p>Furthermore, Partnership has developed public safety guidelines and recommendations for construction sites, which are available for the public. In addition, the Procurement Monitoring Bureau has published explanations that will help customers and suppliers during the emergency.</p>
<p>NL - Netherlands</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dutch government presented a package of € 20 billion for all companies ranging from delayed tax payment to support and guarantee of the payment of wages. <p>Relaxation of tax deferrals and reduction of fines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon written request, the Dutch tax authorities can grant a deferral of the payment of income tax, corporate income tax, turnover tax and payroll tax. Any request should mention that Covid-19 has resulted in financial difficulties for the tax payer. On receipt of a request the tax authorities will put the collection of taxes on hold. At a later stage, the validity of the request may be reconsidered by the tax authorities. Until further notice, no penalties will be payable if a taxpayer fails to pay its taxes on time. Interest rates for the late filing of returns and payment of taxes have been temporarily reduced to 0.01%. Many taxpayers pay taxes on the basis of a preliminary tax assessment. In many cases, this preliminary tax assessment will prove to have been too high if, as is expected, Covid-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main message of Bouwend Nederland is that construction works should continue and that clients should not stop planning for future construction projects. A great concern is what happens after summer and next year when the sanitary crisis is over \Rightarrow as of April 5 the Dutch Economical Construction Institute (independent from Bouwend Nederland) predicts a 15% decrease of construction turnover and 40.000 job losses for the next two years due to the Corona crisis BNL continues to lobby (at national, regional and local level) for new projects and tenders so that works in the near future are ensured Stricter confinement since 23/03 but construction works can continue The construction of new buildings and houses continues. Renovation works are causing problems as inhabitants don't want workers to come to their houses and workers don't want to go there either. Personnel problems are moderate (due to sickness or Poles returning to Poland) BNL checks the governments' package with regard to construction. A first conclusion is that a "cash flow fund" would be needed for the construction sector. BNL developed 'Corona Clauses' for new contracts (see intranet) Together with the Unions and the Dutch government, BNL set up a


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	<p>has a significant impact on the economy. A taxpayer can file a request to reduce their preliminary tax assessment, taking into account the effects of the crisis.</p>	<p>protocol on ‘how to work safely in construction’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together with 40 organisations and the government, BNL concluded an <u>agreement</u> on the continuation of construction works • Minister for Infrastructure Van Nieuwenhuizen, in consultation with BNL and other industry associations, has taken measures to maintain ongoing works on infrastructure and, where possible, to accelerate them • BNL launched a <u>public campaign</u> on “continuing construction work” • BNL created a supporting <u>movie</u> for the health and safety protocol which was diffused on public television • BNL put up a crisis team having a daily videoconference • There is a <u>Q&A for companies on the federation’s website</u> • A daily newsletter is sent out covering the crisis and new developments. • Every colleague doing home office has been instructed to call 10 member companies per day asking them about the problems they face.
<p>NO - Norway</p> 	<p>After the first week of panic the situation has calmed down a bit. The biggest issue through this weekend has been the local quarantine rules the municipalities have applied. Two weeks quarantine to if you travel from Oslo to Tromsø.</p> <p>The unemploymentrate has risen from 3,8 to 11,4. But still that is among the lowest in the private sector. In total 10,4 is unemployed in Norway.</p> <p>The interest rate has been cut from 1,5 to 0,25. The lowest ever in Norway.</p>	<p>The construction sector is encouraged to stay in production, if it is possible and safe.</p> <p>Some problems for construction workers who have returned from abroad – in quarantine for 14 days.</p> <p>Among our members this is the situation:</p> <p>36% have temporary laid off employees (permittering)</p> <p>19% of the businesses respond that they lack money to pay bills because of the virus</p> <p>41% have problems delivering goods and services</p> <p>63% have been notified of delays or cancellations of deliveries by suppliers</p>

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	<p>You can find all the governments initiatives and other information here: https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/koronavirus-covid-19/id2692388/</p>	<p>73% is experiencing lower demand 71% reports that layoffs may be needed shortly 10% have plans for layoffs 3% have already laid off employees</p>
<p>PT - Portugal</p> 	<p>Since 13/3 exceptional and temporary measures have been introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extraordinary measures have been taken to support companies in the payment of remunerations, in which is included the creation of a simplified layoff, all those measures with the temporary exemption from employer contribution payments • social security allowances are taken for workers in the event of illness or prophylactic isolation and in family assistance • it has been created a special regime of absences from work • extension of vehicle revision deadline • extension of validity of identity documents • deadlines in administrative procedures in Public Administration have been suspended • exceptional rules for Public Procurement aimed at the Health Sector: direct awarding of contracts is generally authorised, and the threshold for simplified direct awarding of contracts is raised to €20.000,00, with derogations on the repeated direct awarding to a specific supplier • deadline extension and phased payments for social security 	<p>The construction sector is not expressly included in the list of facilities and establishments closed due to the declaration of a state of emergency – Decree No. 2-A/2020 of 20 March</p> <p>On 26 March 2020 FEPICOP requested to the Government an action plan with specific measures for the Sector.</p> <p>On 18 March 2020 the Portuguese federation FEPICOP asked the national authorities to implement for construction companies the following emergency measures :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast and easy access to emergency financing through dedicated credit lines and to “lay-off” regimes; • Temporary suspension of all tax and social contribution obligations; • Large scale moratorium of debt repayments; • Immediate payment of invoices and credits of public procurement, regardless of the contractual terms established; • Upfront payment of the totality of works not carried out, in accordance with the approved work plan, resulting from the suspension of public works due to the current crisis and the possibility of accessing a factoring instrument, for awarded contracts, not yet executed.


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	<p>contributions, phased payments of VAT, Personal Income Tax and Corporate Income Tax for the second trimester of 2020 can be allowed without penalties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deadline extension for communication of 2019 results in Corporate Income Tax, without penalties • flexibility in communication of VAT of February 2020, without penalties, and permission to accept PDF invoices for VAT • granted a credit moratorium to companies and families until September 30th, 2020, without penalties • financial support with credit loan facilities to enterprises, in particularly SME´s. <p>For further information please see https://dre.pt/legislacao-covid-19-por-areas-tematicas</p>	
<p>RO - Romania</p> 	<p>News from our Romanian member ARACO (24 March): The developments over here are the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emergency state has been declared 2 weeks ago. 2. Two military ordinances are in place regarding lock downs for unnecessary business, restrictions for getting outside (no more than 3 individuals) with very specific exceptions. 3. During the night it is prohibited to get outside. 4. The Govt has taken last week a decision (in Official Journal since 21.03.20) about economic and social measures mainly for SME, HORECA and transport. 	<p>ARACO have sent on 17.03.20 a letter of requests for the construction sector. (<i>original RO – English = google translation</i>)</p> <p>Proposals for social - economic measures needed for the construction sector in the context Covid pandemic – 19</p> <p>The pandemic generated by Covid -19 will negatively impact the construction sector in Romania in the short and medium term, given the effects already generated or expected to manifest in the next period, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Companies already face problems arising from the need to protect health and safety in work of own staff. b) Anxiety of employees in the construction sector generated by the uncertainties anchored in the dynamics Covid epidemic - 19. c) Companies are facing major problems related to supply chains with

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	<p>5. Technical unemployment is supported by the state for the businesses closed by COVID-19 and by Govt decision. For the rest you have to prove a decrease for the total turnover of 25%. Payments to be done in 30 days.</p> <p>6. Payments back for VAT and medical holidays are to be made asap.</p> <p>7. Some municipalities (Bucharest, Craiova) have decided to lock down their construction sites.</p> <p>8. Loans for businesses at zero interest rate guaranteed by the state have been decided by Govt decision.</p> <p>9. The Govt is preparing for this week a new additional decision for social and economic measures.</p>	<p>materials and yard equipment.</p> <p>d) There were logistical problems regarding the transport of labor force.</p> <p>e) There are potential risks for certain sites to be suspended as a result of the authorities decision central / local or as a result of the problems generated by the impossibility of using the labor force.</p> <p>f) Companies are facing problems in ensuring financial liquidity, which will be escalated under unpredictable conditions of the effects of the Covid-19.</p> <p>g) The impact of the epidemic will be severe in the construction sector, generating major delays and interruptions/ suspensions of activities on site.</p> <p>ARACO proposes to urgently promote a first set of social-economic measures that will limit the predicted damages, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emergency payment of outstanding (late payment) invoices to construction companies (including VAT) reimbursed, medical leave, etc.). 2. The cancellation of the ANAP Instruction no.1 / 2019 and the return to ANAP Instruction no.2 / 2018 and its application under the conditions of the contracts during the period affected by the epidemic thus allowing a correct process of dynamic adjustment of prices. 3. Promote emergency measures that allow the suspension of activity on certain sites without prejudice to critical infrastructure. 4. Clarification and fluidization of the procedure for activating the force majeure clause. 5. Promoting the emergency measures necessary to finance the conservation / security of the sites where the activity will be temporarily interrupted / suspended. 6. Extension of the execution terms for the ongoing contracts for both public


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		<p>and private projects with a period at least equal to that of the Covid pandemic</p> <p>7. Ensuring the financial resources for the payment of the technical unemployment (75% of the monthly net salary) for the next 3 - 6 months for the personnel who temporarily suspend their activity in the context of the Covid pandemic - 19.</p> <p>8. The granting of loans with zero interest, guaranteed by the state, in order to ensure the minimum liquidity necessary for the activity of companies in the construction sector.</p> <p>9. Temporarily suspend the payment of taxes for the next 3 to 6 months.</p> <p>10. Promote measures to allow the full or partial release of the guarantees of good execution - GBE, constituted by the construction companies.</p> <p>11. Promote a clear mechanism for clearing mutual debts between the economic agent and the state.</p> <p>12. Ensuring the financing of the projects for the ongoing contracts and the firm confirmation of the support of the public investment policies in Romania.</p>
<p>SE - Sweden</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary leave introduced to lower wage cost for the companies (the state accounts for a larger part of the wage cost) • The state is taking over the sick pay responsibility for two months (April and May) • Different measures to enhance liquidity in the companies • Swedish Riksbank lent 500 bn sek to banks for re-lending to companies • Swedish Riksbank is buying housing and municipality bonds up to 300 bn sek • Sweden's financial supervisory authority has lowered the countercyclical buffer rate to zero 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A central government loan guarantee has been proposed to make it easier for companies to access financing. • The proposal means that the central government will guarantee 70 percent of new loans banks provide to companies that are experiencing financial difficulty due to the COVID-19 virus but that are otherwise robust. The guarantee will be issued to banks, which in turn will provide guaranteed loans to companies. Each company be allowed to loan up to SEK 75 million, although exceptions can be made. • Temporary reduction of employers' social security contributions and individual contributions. • Temporary discount for rental costs in vulnerable sectors. • To reduce costs for companies with considerable difficulties as a result of the COVID-19 virus – in sectors such as durable consumer goods, hotels, restaurants and certain other activities – the Government proposes providing support that aims to facilitate and speed up renegotiation of rents. The approach is that central government will cover 50 per cent of the rental reduction up to 50 per cent of the fixed rent. • A future proposal is that the rules for tax allocation reserves will be temporarily changed so that sole proprietors severely affected by the COVID-19 outbreak will receive tax cuts. The new rules mean that 100 per cent of the taxable profits for 2019, up to SEK 1 million, can be set aside in the tax allocation reserve, which can then be set off against possible future losses. • New opportunities to defer tax payments will be expanded. This means that value added tax reported annually from 27 December 2019 until 17 January 2021 will also be covered by 	


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	<p>the above proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banks may grant all mortgagors amortisation exemption • The exemption will be in force until the end of June 2021. • Further additional funding to municipalities and regions • It is proposed that municipalities and regions receive an additional SEK 20 billion in general government grants this year, rather than the SEK 5 billion previously announced by the Government. This new additional funding of SEK 15 billion for 2020 is being provided to strengthen the ability of the local government sector to maintain essential services such as health care, education, social services and public transport. • Of the total increase of SEK 20 billion, SEK 12.5 billion is a permanent increase in appropriations; in other words, this is money that municipalities and regions will also have at their disposal in the years ahead. 	
<p>SI - Slovenia</p> 	<p>SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC MEASURES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA WITH REGARD TO CORONAVIRUS</p> <p>On 24 March 2020 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia presented guidelines with a set of measures to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus epidemic on citizens and the economy. On the basis of the measures set out in these guidelines, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia plans to come up with intervention COVID-19 legislation on 27 March 2020. Below is the summary of the guidelines:</p> <p>Measures to safeguard jobs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All contributions for healthcare and pension insurance 	


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	<p>schemes for temporarily laid-off employees until 31 May 2020 will be covered by the state. The country further co-finances 20% of the net compensation for temporarily laid-off employees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sick pay for all workers during the epidemic from the first day onwards will be covered by the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, not the employer. <p>Measures to keep business in operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pension insurance contributions for employees in economy who remain in the workplace during the crisis period will be paid by the Government for both employers and employees. <p>Measures to improve the liquidity of businesses and to provide support for scientific research projects to fight the epidemic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state shall provide sufficient funds through capital increase or performance guarantees for the purchase of trade debt from Slovenian businesses. • The prepayment of corporate income tax and the payment of self-employment income tax will be suspended. • The imposition of contractual penalties for delays in the provision of supplies and services under contracts with the public sector will be suspended. • Payment deadlines for payments to private suppliers from public funds are reduced to 8 days <p>Procurement Measures:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The threshold values for the application of the Public Procurement Act in the case of goods and services should be increased from EUR 20,000 to EUR 40,000, and in the case of construction services, from EUR 40,000 to EUR 80,000. 	
<p>SK - Slovakia</p> 	<p>As of 12 March 2020, the Government of the Slovak Republic declared an „emergency situation“ for the risk of spreading COVID-19. It does not affect or limit any rights of citizens. An emergency situation has been declared for the needs of state authorities, and public forces.</p> <p>Current Restrictive measures of the Slovak Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperature will be measured in all hospitals, factories and shops. Ban on walking and moving in public without covering the nose and mouth. 14 days quarantine for all persons coming from abroad Closed accommodation facilities including dormitories for workers Stopped international passenger transport by air, rail, road, ship Ban of business and working trips abroad. Recommendation - using the home office as much as possible, especially for employees whose work is not dependent on physical presence in the workplace, reduce personal communication and meetings with employees from other branches, partners 	<p>The Slovak Association of Construction Entrepreneurs (ZSPS) treats the problems caused by the spread of the virus and governmental measures: supply difficulties and break-outs, labour shortages (closed state borders for foreign workers, closed hostels for commuters), suspension or closure of construction in touch with the public.</p> <p>ZSPS communicates with the Slovak construction sector intensively via web site www.zsps.sk and public media – share information and safety recommendations for construction work</p> <p>ZSPS negotiates (jointly with industrial employers' associations) with the Ministry of Economy on general measures in the area of taxes, employment, financial support, etc. to stabilize entrepreneurs.</p> <p>ZSPS requested to negotiate with the Ministry of Transport Construction specific measures for the construction sector to minimize negative impacts as force majeure and extend the deadlines agreed in public procurement contracts without recourse and treat the same issues as force majeure in the private sector, to agree a special regime for works on publicly accessible construction sites, etc.</p>


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Country	General measures	Measures for construction
<p>TR – Turkey</p> 	<p>Economic Stability Shield Programme The Turkish government has announced a TRY 100 billion Economic Stability Shield Program as part of its stimulus plan.</p> <p>Credit Supports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal and interest rate payments of companies having cash flow problems is postponed for a minimum 3 months and additional financial support will be available if needed. Inventory financing support will be available for exporters in order to protect capacity utilization rates. 	<p>Turkish Contractors Association (TCA) prepared and circulated in electronic medium a guide, providing general information on the economic measures announced by the Government within the context of Covid-19; as well as information on pandemic related labour law, tax law and construction contract issues.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal and interest rate payments of artisans and craftsmen to Halkbank for April, May and June 2020 is postponed for 3 months free of interest. The Credit Guarantee Fund limit is increased from TRY 25 billion to TRY 50 billion. Loan priority will be channelled to companies and SMEs that are in need of liquidity and that are showing a collateral deficit as they are negatively affected by recent developments. Social credit packages will be incentivized under the most favourable and advantageous conditions for citizens. Companies that may default in April, May or June due to the measures taken against the spread of the virus will have a “force majeure” note on their credit record. The payment terms of the Turkish Eximbank loans extended by 3 to 6 months and the commitment closure period for short-term loans has been extended 1 year. 	<p>TCA also circulated informative notes of information on the measures introduced recently by the authorities on labour and tax laws targeting companies in financial difficulty.</p> <p>The national authority, so far, did not signal any decisions on shutdown of the construction sites among the measures against Covid-19.</p> <p>TCA meanwhile submitted proposals to the government to mitigate the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic specifically on the construction sector that can be summarized under following topics;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency financing facilities, A tax deferral for 6 months (for taxes and social security contribution obligations) Flawless payments from the employer public administrations Fulfilment of extension of duration requests as needed, Introduction of flexible working models and allowances from the Unemployment Fund.

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	<p><u>Labour Incentives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible and remote working models, stipulated in the legislation, will be ensured to allow for operations to continue efficiently. • The lowest pension wage will be increased to TRY 1,500. • The EID payment for the retired is paid at the beginning of April. • Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services will provide financial support of TRY 2 billion for needy families. • 2 months compensation working period will be increased to 4 months to provide sustainability in employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of temporary regulatory measures for housing sector, • Assisting the construction companies and personnel operating in foreign countries. <p>It has been announced by the Turkish Government that the contractors, under certain conditions, can request for termination or extension of the projects in public tender contracts in the context of pandemic.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up programmes including social services and homecare periodical visits will be initiated for the elderly who are above 80 years old and live alone. • Non-payment of the rent of a workplace in the period of March-June 2020 will not be accepted as a cause to termination and evacuation. <p><u>Tax Incentives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withholding tax, VAT declarations and social security payments for April, May and June are postponed for 6 months in building construction activities, retail, shopping mall, iron and steel, automotive, logistics, transportation, cinemas-theatres, accommodation, food and beverages, textile and event organization sectors. • Tax declarations containing payments stemming from deductions such as withholding is postponed for a period of 3 months. • The easement rights and revenue share payments related to 	


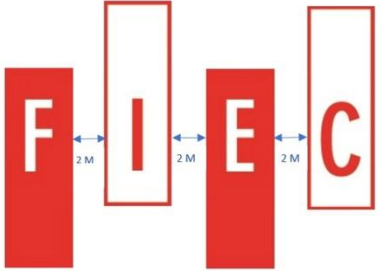
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Country	General measures	Measures for construction
	<p>hotel rentals for April, May and June have been postponed for 6 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VAT is lowered to 1% from 18% for 3 months in domestic flights. <p>Accommodation tax will be delayed until November.</p>	
<p>UA – Ukraine</p> 	<p>According to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 11.03.2020 No. 211 “On Prevention of the Spread of the Crown of the COVID-19 Virus in Ukraine”, a quarantine was established in the whole territory of Ukraine from March 12 to April 3, 2020, which was subsequently extended and introduced. Restrictive measures until 24 April 2020.</p> <p>Currently prohibited in Ukraine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - visiting educational institutions by its applicants; - conducting of all mass (cultural, entertaining, sports, social, religious, advertising and other) events with more than 10 people. - the work of business entities which involves the reception of visitors, including catering establishments (restaurants, cafes, etc.), shopping and entertainment centers, other entertainment establishments, fitness centers, cultural establishments, commercial and consumer services, - transportation of passengers by subways of the cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv and Dnipro; - carriage of passengers by rail in all types of domestic traffic. <p>Obligatory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - temperature measurement and health check of citizens coming 	

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	<p>from abroad; - mandatory self-isolation or observation of citizens who came from abroad.</p> <p>Fines will be levied in case of violation of quarantine norms. Quarantine restrictions in Ukraine as of 16 April 2020: -it is forbidden to stay in public places without a mask or a respirator; • it is not possible to go in a group of more than two people, except in cases of emergency and accompanying children; • children under 14 years of age are forbidden to stay in public without parents or guardians, or adult relatives; • you cannot visit sports grounds; • restricted walks in parks, squares, forest areas, except for walking animals 1 person; • visiting social or palliative care facilities; • observation sites cannot be left unintentionally; • exit only with identity documents.</p> <p>New important controls: - The government has introduced mandatory self-isolation for people over 60; - Checkpoints from all regions of Ukraine will be arranged - all who will return from abroad will definitely be in the 14-day observation; - violators of the regime of self-isolation will be forcibly sent to observation, - Coronavirus patients banned from going to pharmacies and stores - limited number of border crossing points with Ukraine</p>	

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<p>FIEC Actions</p> 	 <p>Social Distancing Saves Lives</p>	<p>2020-03-23 - Covid19 FIEC Message to EU Commission to support the Construction sector</p> <p>2020-03-27 - Covid19 crisis - Joint Statement of the main Stakeholders of the Construction Sector</p> <p>2020-04-01 Covid19 - FIEC calls for <u>preserving free movement of services and workers in construction</u></p> <p>2020-04-21 FIEC-EFBWW joint recommendations on COVID-19 crisis</p>