

SUBJECT: national information about COVID-19

The Romanian President issued the Decree no.195 on 16.03.2020, instating the emergency situation due to COVID-19 pandemic. Following this several measures have been taken by the Government, as it follows:

STATE AIDS

- companies that suspended their activity, fully or in part, due to state authorities decisions, will receive help in form of payment for the technical unemployment of their employees, up to 4.072 lei for each employee;
- companies that have 25% lower income than January and February will receive help in form of payment for the technical unemployment of only 75% of their employees, up to 4.072 lei for each employee;

FINANCE AND BANKING MEASURES

- small and medium companies (up to 250 employees and with an annual net turnover of less than 50.000.000 Euro or assets up to 43.000.000 Euro) can receive credits for investments up to 10.000.000 lei and the state will guarantee for 80% of the credit;
- small companies (up to 50 employees and with an annual net turnover of less than 10.000.000 Euro) can receive credits for working capital up to 1.000.000 lei and the state will guarantee for 90% of the credit;
- the National Bank started to buy government securities in lei from the secondary markets;
- in case the a bank or a non-bank financial institution decides to renegotiate the credit contract with their clients and offer payment postponement, they have no obligation to create a reserve for those amounts;
- the banks can use, temporarily, the capital amortization and are allowed to surpass the minimum liquidity indicator;

PAYMENT DELAYS

- small and medium companies (up to 250 employees and with an annual net turnover of less than 50.000.000 Euro or assets up to 43.000.000 Euro) that suspended their activity, fully or in part, due to state authorities decisions, benefit from postponement of payment for utilities, rent, phone or internet invoices until the emergency situation ends;

TAX EXEMPTIONS

- the due date for all local land, building and vehicle taxes has been postponed with 3 (three) months;

- the due date for income tax, labor related taxes, state health insurance contribution and any other fiscal obligation has been postponed up to the expiry of a 30 days period after the emergency situation ends;

EMPLOYMENT LAW MEASURES

- employees with kids under 12 years (18 years if with disabilities) can receive days off if the schools are closed;
- the companies have to implement a way for the employees to work from home, when possible, for the entire duration of the emergency situation;
- traveling from home to work and back needs to be justified by the employees, in case the police stops them, by a certificate issued by the employer;

OTHER SPECIFIC MEASURES

- all commercial centers with a surface of over 400 square meters will be closed, except for the shops selling food, veterinary products, medicines or cleaning services;
- the drivers of all vehicles used for goods transport, that are heavier than 2,4 tons, have to wear protection equipment (gloves, mask) and use sanitizers when crossing the border;
- all dental clinics are closed except for emergency situations;
- it is forbidden to walk outside in groups bigger than 3 persons, unless they all live together;
- it is forbidden to walk outside your house, no regardless of the hour, even if in groups smaller than 3 persons or not, unless for the following purposes:
 - a) moving between your home and work place, for work related purposes;
 - b) buying basic necessity goods for your family, pets or for your professional business;
 - c) finding medical assistance that can't be postponed or done remotely;
 - d) the need to care of your baby, elderly persons, sick persons or with disabilities or in case a family member died;
 - e) short travels, close to your home, related to physical needs or your pet needs;
 - f) donating blood, humanitarian or volunteering activities.

Persons older than 65 years can get out of their home only between 11:00 and 13:00. Going out outside the determined hours can be done only for work related purposes.

In order to justify the purpose of your travel, you need to carry and present to the police, depending on the case (i) your work identification card, (ii) employer issued certificate or (iii) a personal statement already filled. The draft of the employer issued certificate and personal statement are presented below, as published on the Ministry of Internal Affairs website. The employer issued certificate or personal statement can also be presented through your smartphone.

- all foreign citizens are forbidden to enter the country, except for (a) family members of Romanian or EU citizens, (b) persons that have a valid stay visa or permit, (c) diplomats, (d) travel for business purposes and have a visa.