

EU Member State Economic Measures in response to COVID-19¹

On 9 January 2020, the [European Centre for Disease Control](#) published one of its regular [risk assessments](#), which noted an obscure incident in the Chinese Wuhan district of an outbreak of a pneumonia. Within two short months, a cluster of 27 cases of what was thought to be pneumonia had exploded into a global pandemic of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) with Europe now its epicentre.

On 23 January, the first case of Covid-19 was confirmed in Europe. Ireland saw its first confirmed case on 1 March.

Ireland has been quick to act both medically (through social distancing and self-isolation) and economically (the restriction of non-essential services and social welfare support packages). Many other EU member states have also introduced a range of measures in the same manner, placing moratoriums on repayments of personal and business loans, as well as freezes on the payment of a range of taxes and supports for the continuity of business post-crisis.

At the European level, the EU Institutions are working to resolve some of the economic impacts. Some measures taken include:

- The European Commission has relaxed its [State Aid](#) rules with the introduction of a [Temporary Framework](#) which introduces five categories of measures designed to help member states to support businesses facing a sudden shortage or unavailability of liquidity as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The [European Central Bank](#) (ECB) has announced a €750bn [Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme](#) until the end of the year, in addition to the €120bn they committed to on 12 March.
- The [European Parliament](#) approved three urgent proposals: the [Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative](#) (€37bn); an extension of the [EU Solidarity Fund](#) (€800m); and a [temporary suspension of EU rules on airport slots](#).

The following document is to serve as a policy comparison tool between Ireland's actions and those of other EU member states. This document will continue to be updated as new measures are announced.

¹ *The information in the below table is correct as of **31 March 2020**.

*The table also includes the UK for comparative purposes.

	Fiscal & Monetary Stimulus Measures	Income Continuance	Tax Forbearance & Rebates	Loans & Grants	Special Measures
Austria	<p>€38 billion package:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €10bn towards tax deferrals • €15 billion towards emergency • €4bn for SMEs and Short Time Working • €100m for tourism sector 	<p>Working hours may be reduced to up to 10%, at 80 to 90% of normal pay for 3-months</p> <p>Employers will only pay the hours worked, the rest will be paid by the state. Since the 10% working time is an average value for three months, in reality it means that companies can send their employees on paid holidays for weeks almost free of charge, and in 2.5 months (when the coronavirus situation possibly eases) they can start up operations again.</p> <p>Companies can thus keep their people and then start up again with a full workforce – in theory. The government has currently planned €400 million for this measure and is considering an extension to 6 months.</p>	<p>No stamp tax (duties) would be levied on any documents directly or indirectly related to any measures required to deal with the coronavirus crisis.</p> <p>The tax relief measures concern tax payments and tax return filings, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction regarding income and corporate tax prepayments in 2020 • Deferral of tax payments and ability to pay tax in installments • Reduction or relief from late payments of tax • Suspension of tax audits <p>Relief from interest or late-payment penalties is available for taxpayers that are able to demonstrate that a liquidity issue is linked to the COVID-19 situation.</p>		
Belgium	<p>Initial budget of €1 billion :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €100m aid for SMEs, up to 75% of the requested guarantee. 	<p>Temporary unemployment due to force majeure will be extended by 3 months, until June 30, 2020. The benefits for</p>	<p>The Flemish government has postponed property tax for 6 months.</p>	<p>Aid scheme intended to top up the existing schemes in order to support those SMEs.</p>	<p>The Federal State will not impose fines or sanctions on service providers, companies or the self-employed for any</p>

temporary unemployment - both for economic reasons and force majeure - will be increased from 65% to 70% for a period of 3 months.

Employment Fund pays 80% of normal salaries, subject to a maximum of 250% of the minimum social wage for an unskilled employee, for a maximum of 1,022 hours per employee per year.

'Nuisance premium' for traders, catering, small self-employed persons and service providers affected by the virus to partly compensate them for serious income loss.

At full closure: The entrepreneurs affected by a full closure receive a one-off premium of €4,000 and if they have to close their business after 21 days, a fee of €160 per day. When closing on weekends: For companies that have to close on weekends, there is a one-off premium of €2,000 and if they still have to close their business after 21 days, they receive a fee of €160 per day.

Restaurants and chip shops that switch to take-away: Restaurants that do not close completely but switch to take-away can still enjoy the Corona

Payment plans for social security contributions for the first and second quarters of 2020: the COVID-19 issue will be accepted as a factor allowing for amicable payment terms.

It will be possible to spread VAT payments and to be exempt from the usual fines. This is on condition that the debtor demonstrates that the payment difficulties are related to COVID-19.

With regard to the withholding tax, it will be possible to spread deposits and to be exempt from the fines. Under the same condition.

It is possible to request deferment of payment for personal income tax and corporate income tax if the taxpayer can demonstrate difficulties due to covid19.

If self-employed persons find that their income is less than the amount used as the basis for calculating their contribution, they may request a reduction in the contribution. For social

The costs admissible under the new scheme of aid will be limited to the documented loss of income. The aid will take the form of a recoverable advance payment.

Entrepreneurs who have a loan from microcredit provider Qredits do not have to repay their loan for a period of 6 months. During this period, the interest will be reduced to 2%. The government supports Qredits with €6 million.

A temporary provision, available for at least 3 months, will help out viable entrepreneurs and self-employed professionals. They can apply for support in the shape of additional livelihood support and/or a business capital loan.

Flemish government have introduced guaranteed bridging loans or existing non-bank debts, up to a maximum of 12 months

federal government procurement that is found to be delayed or non-executed due to COVID-19.

		<p>nuisance premium. They can receive a one-off premium of €4,000 and after 21 days a daily fee of €160.</p>	<p>security contributions (for self-employed) for the first two quarters of the year 2020, the one-year extension with no default interest and the exemption from payment of social security contributions is allowed. Again on condition that there is a demonstrable link to COVID-19. Under the same condition, self-employed persons in the main occupation are eligible for the bridging right on the grounds of a compulsory cessation of the activity, if it lasts longer than a week. The financial support amounts to 1,266.37 euros per month without family expenses and 1,582.46 euros with family expenses.</p>	<p>(previously only up to 3 months). This measure is in addition to the existing guarantee options for investment credits and working capital.</p> <p>Flemish government have announced a one-off premium to businesses to enjoy the crisis guarantee with a reduction granted from 0.5% to 0.25% of the guarantee amount. This premium is available until the end of August 2020 and is now available for existing bank debts (as previously the long standing 'generic' guarantee only covered existing, non-bank debts). Condition of flexibility is at the discretion of the bank and businesses must be viable.</p>	
Bulgaria			<p>Deadlines for filing the VAT returns or for paying monthly VAT liabilities will not be adjusted, but it may be that penalties and interest for late filings or payments could be waived.</p>		

Croatia			<p>Deferment of income tax, profit tax and contributions on wages for 3 months initially, with the possibility of an extra 3 months grace period after this if necessary. After that these payments can be made in installments of up to 24 months.</p> <p>There are rules for value added tax (VAT) payments due within three months, starting with the VAT liability due in April 2020</p>	3 month moratorium on business liabilities and personal loans.	Banned increase on essential items such as bread, pasta, detergent, disinfectants, PPE equipment, medication, etc. Stated that the price of these goods on 30 January 2020 will remain as the highest possible price
Cyprus					
Czech Republic		<p><u>Targeted employment support program</u>: The period of validity of the Program is provisionally fixed until 30 June 2020, with the possibility of eventual extension. The program can be used to pay a contribution to reimburse employers' eligible costs incurred after March 1, 2020.</p> <p>The aim of the program is to compensate for wage costs, or part thereof, in the form of wage or salary reimbursement due to employees for periods of obstacles to work, caused by quarantine, emergency</p>	<p>A general waiver of penalties and default interest in respect of income tax (for tax returns for the 2019 tax period with an original filing deadline of 1 April 2020). Corporations with taxable periods other than the calendar year may not make use of the general waiver and must apply for a waiver separately.</p> <p>Waiver of penalties for the late payment of tax, and penalties for the late filing</p>	The Czech-Moravian Guarantee and Development Bank have launched COVID credit applications. Target group are SMEs and self-employed, whose economic activities are limited due to the outbreak of coronavirus infection and related preventive measures. It aims to facilitate access to operational financing for these businesses through interest-free	

measures and crisis measures related to the spread of COVID-19 in the Czech Republic and abroad.

There are several regimes (A – E) depending on the kind of obstacle:

- Employees in ordered quarantine - wage or salary compensation.
- Inability to assign work to employees in connection with government crisis resolutions.
- Inability to assign work to employees with no ordered quarantine, due to the quarantine of significant portion of employees – 30%.
- If the employee must stay at home to take care of a child younger 13 years because of the schools shutdown. (*was only up to 10 years before*)
- Limited availability of inputs for continuing the company operations caused by the COVID-19 situation. Including missing inputs from foreign suppliers.
- Reduction in demand for employer's services, goods and other products as a result of quarantine measures at the employer's point of sale (Czech Republic and abroad) or otherwise causally related to COVID-19.

of returns in respect of all taxes (to be determined on a case-by-case basis).

Waiver of default interest for the late payment of tax (including prepayments).

General waiver of penalties for the late filing of value added tax (VAT) ledger statements.

General waiver of administrative fees.

In addition to the tax relief measures, there are also other procedural options that may enhance cash-flow, such as:

- Application for the release from an obligation to pay corporate income tax prepayments: If a decline in income is expected, it is possible to apply for the cancellation of a duty to pay tax prepayments, covering also a prepayment payable on 16 March that has already been paid.
- Application for tax deferment (in form of a postponement of the

loans. The range is €18,000 to €540,000. Entrepreneurs will be eligible to use it for example, to pay employees' salaries, energy costs, rent, to finance supplies, to pay supplier-customer invoices, to pre-finance receivables, etc.

CMZRB also provides Guarantee for commercial loans for small and medium-sized enterprises (for companies, not self-employed).

			<p><u>tax due date or the division of tax into instalments</u>): The tax administrator can allow the deferment of a specific tax liability amount (such as VAT or income tax). It is appropriate to file the application together with the tax liability calculation or the relevant tax return. The tax relief package then allows for the waiver of interest on the deferred sum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Extension of the deadline for filing corporate income tax returns (including fiscal years)</u>: It is possible to apply for the extension of the statutory deadline for up to three months, or 10 months where income from abroad is also involved. If the tax administrator agrees to the extension, the due date for the payment of tax will also be postponed. 		
Denmark	Approx. €38.5 billion package (13% GDP)	Under the 3-month aid period that will last until June 9, the state offers to pay 75% of employees' salaries at a	The payment deadline for "A-tax" and labour market contributions for April, May,	The state agreed to compensate companies for their fixed expenses, like rent and contract	

maximum of €40,000, while the companies pay the remaining 25%. This is under the condition that private companies do not fire anyone during this period.

For hourly workers covered by the salary agreement, the government will cover 90% of their wages, up to approx. €3,162 per month. The State will also cover 75% of employee salaries (including benefits) not on an hourly wage in businesses under budget pressure. As part of the new package, everyone contributes to maintaining existing contracts. While the state pays three-quarters, the employer provides the last 25% of the salary. In return, each of the employees give up five paid vacation days. This scheme will run from March-June, and the target group is companies, who have to lower their work force with 30 percent or fire more than 50 persons. The monthly cap for regular employees who are not paid hourly is €3,077. (The philosophy here is that the government wants companies to preserve their relationship with their workers. It's going to be harder to have a strong recovery if companies have to spend time hiring back workers that have been fired.)

and June 2020 is to be postponed by four months.

The payment of "B-tax" for self-employed persons for April is to be postponed from 20 April 2020 to 20 June 2020. Similarly, payment of B-tax for May 2020 is to be deferred from 20 May 2020 to 20 December 2020.

The payment deadline for VAT for monthly settlement companies is to be postponed by 30 days for March, April, and May 2020. The VAT period for the first and second quarters (Q1 and Q2) of 2020 must be stated by 1 September 2020. However, if VAT liability for Q1 2020 is negative, it is still possible to report VAT for Q1 by 1 June 2020 so that the negative response can be "paid out" (refunded). The VAT for the whole of 2020 must be stated by 1 March 2021. If the VAT liability for the first half of 2020 is negative, however, it is still possible to report the VAT for the first half by 1 September 2020 so that the negative response can be paid out.

obligations, depending on their level of income loss.

Guarantee scheme for SMEs to help them bridge the two-and-a-half week lockdown. The government will allocate €25 billion to guarantee up to 70% of new bank loans to help companies keep solvent. This will encourage more lending even in the case of more bankruptcies.

		People on unemployment benefits are put on pause.			
Estonia			Interest penalties on late corporate tax payments for two months. VAT payment holiday until May 1.		
Finland	<p>€15bn package:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> €12bn guaranteed loans to SMEs <p>Consideration of an addition €400m supplementary budget.</p>	Workers laid off can claim income-linked benefits, provided they are a member of an unemployment fund through their trade union or independently.	<p>Deferral of corporate tax payments.</p> <p>Temporary reduction in the employers' pension insurance contribution of 2.6%, remaining in force until 31 December 2020. This is aimed to be rebuilt by a raise in the employers' contribution from 2022-2025.</p>	<p>Government will increase its coverage of credit and guarantee losses from 50% to 80%.</p> <p>€73 million in liquidity to businesses.</p>	The notice period for temporary lay-offs would be shortened from 14 to 5 days, saving firms salary costs as they cut back.
France	<p>€345 billion package:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment benefits linked to forced part-time employment will cost the government €8.5 billion, while a solidarity fund for the self-employed and shopkeepers will require at least €2 billion. €300bn guaranteed loans for businesses €1bn solidarity fund for affected businesses. 	Sick leave payments to parents who are not ill but have to stay at home to look after their children will also be provided.	<p>Reduced social security contributions and tax payments on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Force majeure applying for all public contracts, so penalty clauses abandoned.</p> <p>Tax rebates to be granted to certain companies facing extreme difficulties as a result of the coronavirus</p>		

			<p>situation. The tax rebate opportunity, however, appears to be limited because rebates generally would be available only with respect to corporate income tax and would be granted on a case-by-case basis after an examination of the company's situation. The difficulties required to benefit from the rebate appear relatively significant, given that they are described as "companies threatened with disappearance due to the economic impact of COVID-19.</p>		
Germany	<p>€550 billion package:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The package includes a supplementary government budget of €150bn, €100bn for an economic and stability fund that can take direct equity stakes in companies, and €100bn in credit to public-sector development bank KfW for loans to struggling businesses. 	<p>Deferral of tax payments.</p>	<p>The social insurance contributions that employers must normally pay for their workforce will be fully reimbursed.</p>	<p>German state guaranteeing "unlimited" liquidity to impacted companies.</p> <p>Bavaria has launched a €10bn fund to buy stakes in struggling companies.</p>	<p>Short Time Work Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a company sees orders decline as a result of difficult economic trends, it can announce short-time work, if a minimum of <u>10% of its workforce</u> could be affected by the lack of work. The limit has hitherto been 30% of the workforce. It is to be possible to dispense in full or in part with the requirement that negative working hours balances be established before short-time work allowance can be paid. The current legal

					<p>situation means that companies that have agreements to deal with fluctuations in workload must also use these to avoid short-time work, meaning that workers' working hour balances become negative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract workers will also be eligible for short-time work allowance.
Greece	€450 million	For a 6-month period, all businesses can employ 50% of their employees for two weeks per month, giving them 50% of their wages.	<p>A four-month extension of tax payments generally otherwise due in the month of March 2020, without imposition of penalties or late-payment interest</p> <p>Extension to 31 August 2020 of the payment deadlines for tax remittances due in the period from 11 March 2020 until 31 April 2020</p> <p>Suspension of tax collection of assessed taxes that were unpaid as of 11 March 2020, suspended until 31 August 2020</p> <p>A reduced rate of value added tax (VAT)—reduced to 6% from 24%—for certain products that are necessary to protect</p>		

			<p>against COVID-19 (such as mask and gloves, antiseptic liquids and wipes, etc.) effective until the end of the year (31 December 2020).</p> <p>A four-month extension for the payment of real estate tax, when the owner (landlord) is an individual.</p> <p>Acceleration of refunds of income tax and VAT, when the refund amounts do not exceed €30,000 per type of tax and per taxpayer</p> <p>Certain freelancer, self-employed or independent contractors will be eligible for compensation payment of €800 to address COVID-19 implications, and tax payments due in March 2020 by these persons will be extended for four months.</p>		
Hungary		<p>Exemption from taxes listed across this table does not affect the entitlement to social security benefits and the amount of those benefits.</p> <p>Employees will only be liable for their 4 percent health-care contribution rather than the total</p>	<p>Moratorium on principal and interest payments until the end of the year for all households and enterprises. This will mean that customers who are on a moratorium do not become an unbearable burden for future restart payments.</p>	<p>From 1 January 2021, the amount of an original installment of a loan taken out earlier may not increase. The maturity is extended so that the amount of the installment is unchanged during the maturity.</p>	<p>Media service providers will also be tax exempt due to loss of advertising revenue.</p> <p>Evictions and seizures are also suspended until after the end of the pandemic for both private and commercial premises.</p>

18.5 percent social security contribution.

Tax authorities are to exempt 81,480 SMEs from the flat-rate tax liability until June 30 and delay tax debts already incurred before 1 March until after the end of the state of emergency.

SMEs are exempt from taxes until 30 June 2020.

Any debts incurred before 1 March shall be deferred.

However, if the taxpayer fails to pay the due installment on the next agreed date (30 June or thereabouts), he will lose his entitlement to benefits and the debt will be due in one lump sum.

Employers will not be required to pay the employer side of social security contributions (17.5 percent + 1 percent) from March through June

Hungarian government are also further extending soft loans to employer loans and extending it to the National Asset Management Program. Employer loans are also subject to a deferred payment, meaning that until 31 December 2020, employees are not required to repay the loan amount or interest to their employer.

Participants in the National Asset Management Program not only receive a deferral of payment of the purchase price and the obligation to pay rent, but also housing, as the company cannot terminate the lease due to non-payment.

In the case of unsecured consumer loans taken under a contract entered into after its entry into force, the total annual percentage rate of charge may not exceed the central bank base

Maternity benefits that end during the period are to be prolonged.

Childcare entitlement, education benefit and child-raising allowance are all extended for the duration of the crisis.

Hungarian farmers to receive grants of up to €2.8bn over the next 3 months.

				rate plus five percentage points.	
Ireland	<p>€6.7bn package²</p> <p>EU Approves €200m fund to support Irish business during Covid-19 pandemic. The scheme was approved under the State aid Temporary Framework to support the economy in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak, adopted by the Commission on 19 March 2020.</p> <p>The fund will be administered by Enterprise Ireland, operating in addition to the SBCI Working Capital Scheme.</p>	<p>Ireland has introduced 2 measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment of €350 per week for employees who have been let go by their employers. This is funded by INTREO, and is paid directly to the employee or self-employed. 2. Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme that provides, for 12 weeks from 26 March 2020. The Scheme increases the maximum non-taxable refundable payment to €350 or 70% of the employee's Average Net Weekly Pay, whichever is lesser, for those earning over €586 per week net and less than or equal to €960 per week net. To qualify for the scheme a business must be able to demonstrate that turnover is likely to decrease by 25% for quarter 2, 2020. See www.revenue.ie for the most up-to-date information. 	<p>Deferral rates payments due from the most immediately affected businesses (primarily in the retail, hospitality, leisure, and childcare sectors) until the end of May 2020.</p>	<p>A deferral of up to 3 months on loan repayments will be available to many businesses.</p> <p>In addition, banks are adopting a customer-focussed approach to these businesses with a wide variety of tailored supports including extensions of credit lines, risk guarantees, and trade finance.</p> <p>SBCI COVID-19 Working Capital Loan Scheme (with DBEI). Loans made available through AIB, BOI and Ulster Bank, worth between €25,000 and €1.5m per eligible enterprise, with a maximum interest rate of 4%.</p>	<p>3 month moratorium on mortgage repayments.</p>

² https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/parliamentaryBudgetOffice/2020/2020-03-26_ireland-s-fiscal-response-to-covid-19-a-pbo-analysis-of-the-emergency-measures-in-the-public-interest-covid-19-bill-2020-and-previous-act_en.pdf

Italy

€25 billion emergency decree

One-off payments of €500 per person for the self-employed, government support for companies paying redundancy payments to their staff, a freeze on any worker lay-offs, and a cash bonus for Italians still working during the lockdown.

All tax payments due between February 23 and April 30 extended until May 31.

Tax credits will be granted to companies that suffer a 25% drop in revenues.

Businesses will receive a 50% tax credit for sanitation expenses, such as daily cleaning services, masks, and other precautions that help stop the spread of new coronavirus.

Banks have been given options to take some loss deductions and convert them to tax credits.

€10bn to support families and workers, with incentives extended to self-employed and precarious workers. For these 'weaker' categories, government will provide a one-off contribution of €600.

3 month moratorium on business and mortgage repayments.

There will also be financial support for Italian families that have children at home, and for taxi drivers and postal workers who are continuing to work providing urgent services during the outbreak.

Families with children, forced to skip school due to the outbreak, will be helped with longer parental leaves and so-called "babysitter" vouchers.

Italian exchange commission issues a resolution that lowers the threshold for the reporting of substantial interest to 1% (down from 3%) for companies with "high market capitalization" and a large number of shareholders, and to 3% (down from 5%) for SMEs. The resolution is a relief measure relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and its implications for the Italian financial market. The intention is to determine that corporate governance operates efficiently and transparently.

Latvia

Approx. €1bn:

- Initial estimate that sick pay costs will amount to €200m.

If employers working in the industries affected by the crisis do not employ workers or if the company is idle. The law provides for the government to compensate idle workers' wages up to 75% of the remuneration, but no more than €700 per month.

Plans are being evaluated how the state could pay sick leave payments to COVID-19 patients and persons in quarantine, instead of payments being made by employers.

Support measures for the state of emergency also relieve alcohol used for the production of disinfectants from excise tax. The State Revenue Service is permitted to provide businesses with a special permit to perform storage operations and who manufacture alcohol with an excise tax discount of up to 90%. Businesses have to inform Revenue about alcohol production commencement no later than one week prior to commencement of the manufacturing process

Companies can request an extension for the repayment term for delayed tax payments if the delay was caused as a result of Covid19 without incurring a penalty fee.

Cancellation of advance payments of individual (personal) income tax for self-employed individuals, and no late-payment fees for failure to remit the advance payments.

The Tax Administration authorities have the right to divide repayment into

For guarantee, new programme for covid19 include the possibility of providing support of up to €100m per every €10m-15m of risk coverage. SMEs and MNCs eligible for support.

Conditions for supporting businesses of any size that must be met include that the business must not have been in financial difficulty *before* the crisis. The maximum amount permitted is €1m with a maximum repayment term of up to 3 years.

Loans interest rates will be charged at a reduced and subsidised rate.

Postponement of real estate tax payments.

			<p>terms or postpone repayment for up to 3 years from the day the application is submitted.</p> <p>Postponement of current and overdue tax payments, for up to three years, or the ability to make instalment payments when the delay is related to COVID-19 without triggering late-payment penalties; a request must be submitted to the tax authority.</p> <p>A quicker process for refunds of VAT; beginning 1 April 2020, the tax authority will refund the approved input VAT within 30 days after the due date of submitting the VAT return (and not until end of the tax year), and the faster refund of input VAT will also apply for January and February 2020.</p>		
Lithuania	Approx. €5.4bn	Subsidies will be paid to employers who preserve jobs during downtime that will amount to 60% of a salary for those businesses whose activity was not banned because of the emergency but restricted for various reasons. Employers will have to pay the remaining amount from their own funds.	Concerning corporate income tax, the deadline for filing advance corporate income tax returns and making payments of tax is deferred until 30 March 2020 (instead of 16 March 2020).		

		<p>The second subsidy would amount to 90% if a business's activity was completely suspended, and employers would have to pay the remaining 10%. In both cases, subsidies would not exceed the minimum salary in Lithuania (€607) and employers would be required to pay 10 or 40% in addition to that.</p> <p>Parents staying home to look after sick children will be eligible for full sick leave benefits for children only for 2 weeks.</p>	<p>Also, taxpayers are being allowed the ability to revise their advance corporate income tax calculation methods (for instance, based on estimates for the current year, instead of using the previous years' results).</p> <p>Taxpayers may also apply for a tax installment agreement to defer tax underpayments (without interest); to request a suspension of collection of tax underpayments; and to seek abatement of penalties and late-payment interest.</p> <p>For individual taxpayers, the deadline for submitting their annual income tax returns and for remitting payments of tax is extended until 1 July 2020 (instead of 4 May 2020).</p>		
Luxembourg	€300 million	<p>It should be noted that no payment extension is granted for withholding tax on salaries; employers are required to levy and pay such tax within the ordinary deadlines.</p> <p>Employment Fund pays 80% of normal salaries, subject to a maximum of 250% of the</p>	<p>Legal entities and individuals exercising commercial, agricultural and forestry or self-employed activities facing liquidity problems due to COVID-19 can request a cancellation of their advance corporate income and municipal business tax</p>		

		<p>minimum social wage for an unskilled employee, for a maximum of 1,022 hours per employee per year.</p>	<p>payments for the first two quarters of 2020.</p> <p>A request can be made to postpone by four months the payment of corporate income, municipal business and net wealth tax for which the due date is set after 29 February 2020. This extension of the payment date will be granted without computation of interest for late payment.</p> <p>Businesses are allowed to resort to various short-time working schemes.</p> <p>Starting this week, the Indirect Tax Administration will reimburse VAT credit balances below €10,000, which should help to improve cash positions of approximately 20,000 enterprises established in Luxembourg.</p>		
Malta					
Netherlands		<p>The new temporary measure Temporary Emergency Bridging Measure for Sustained Employment will provide financial help for employers to help pay their employees' wages</p>	<p>Payment extension for income tax, corporate tax, payroll tax, and turnover tax (VAT). The Dutch Tax Administration will put on hold any measures in place</p>	<p>If you have a business in the Netherlands and employ no more than 250 workers (you have an SME), you may be eligible for a guarantee</p>	<p>Schools and childcare centres will be open for children of key workers to enable these parents to continue to work. Key workers are people who work in healthcare, public</p>

if they expect a turnover loss of 20%. The unemployment benefit during short-time working scheme has been cancelled.

Employers can claim a maximum for 90% of wages, depending on the amount of turnover that they lose. You can claim the compensation for 3 months, with the possibility to extend it for a further 3 months. You can claim the compensation for turnover you have missed from 1 March onwards.

- If the turnover loss is 100%, the compensation will amount to 90% of wages
- If the turnover loss is 50%, the compensation will amount to 45% of wages
- If the turnover loss is 25%, the compensation will amount to 22.5% of wages

to collect payment immediately upon reception of your request.

No fines for late payments.

The normal collection interest rate for paying after the payment term has passed has been decreased temporarily to nearly 0%. This applies to all tax debts. The tax interest rate will also temporarily be set to the lowest possible percentage for all entrepreneurs

for part of a loan through the SME credit guarantee scheme (BMKB). The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy stands as guarantor. This will enable you to borrow more than would otherwise be possible based on your collateral. Businesses can use the BMKB scheme for a bridge loan, or to increase the overdraft limit (how much they are allowed to be 'in the red') on their current account. The guarantee runs to 75% of the credit given by the financing party.

The Business loan guarantee scheme has been increased. Per business you can now take out a loan of a maximum of €150m. Capital providers receive a 50% guarantee from the government. The maximum term for the Business loan guarantee scheme is maximum 8 years.

transport, the police and fire services and other crucial sectors. This childcare will be provided at no extra cost.

Most Regional Water Authorities allow you to apply for a temporary extension of payment.

Self-employed professionals who run a viable business can claim an extra, temporary financial support. The support is for the self-employed who are experiencing financial difficulties due to the corona crisis. The scheme comes into effect with retroactive effect on 1 March 2020, and will remain in place until 1 June 2020 at least.

- Income support, depending on the income and your household situation this can amount to a maximum of €1,500 (net). You do not have to repay, and there is no capital or partner test.
- A loan for business capital to a maximum amount of €10,157. You do have to repay this loan, but it is possible to request a delay of your payment obligation. The interest rate will be reduced.

				<p>Entrepreneurs in the sectors that are hit hardest by the coronavirus measures will be able to apply to the Netherlands Enterprise Agency for the €4,000 Compensation for affected sectors scheme. The terms for this compensation are yet to be announced. A list will be made available of all the sectors that can apply.</p>	
Poland		<p>State coverage of payments of social security contributions for three months for micro-enterprises reported as remitters before 29 February 2020, and employing up to 9 employees (contributions for all employees), as well as self-employed and contractors, provided that they were operating before 1 February 2020 and their revenue from business activities obtained in February 2020 did not exceed 300% of the expected average monthly gross salary in the national economy in 2020.</p> <p>Payment by the Polish social security administration of guaranteed monthly benefits</p>	<p>Deadlines for submitting returns by corporate taxpayers and the payment of the amount of corporate income tax due for 2019 are extended for all taxpayers until 31 May 2020.</p> <p>For taxpayers that have only tax-exempt income or have revenue consisting of revenue from work for public benefit (at least 80%), the deadline for submitting the return will be extended until 31 July 2020.</p> <p>The personal income tax deadline is extended by</p>		

		<p>(non-taxable and not being subject to social insurance contributions) to self-employed and employed under contract of mandate (at 80% of the minimum wage)</p>	<p>one month, and businesses can apply to defer social security contributions for three months.</p> <p>Other changes—include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitations related to split-payment mechanism • Accelerated VAT refunds • Possible recognition of expenses as tax deductible costs, due to cancellations of tours by entities operating in the tourism sector • Relief from prolongation fee. 		
Portugal	<p>€3 billion provided under 4 guarantee schemes for SMEs and midcaps in tourism, hospitality, extractive and manufacturing industry, and event organisation.</p>	<p>Portuguese government providing up to 70% of employee pay from social security.</p> <p>Outside of school break periods, absences from work due to unavoidable care of a child or other dependent under the age of 12 or, regardless of age, with a disability or chronic illness, arising from the suspension of school and non-teaching activities in school or social support equipment, determined by a health authority or by the Government, <u>the employee is</u></p>	<p>Suspension of social security contribution payments for companies affected by the coronavirus outbreak. VAT and withholding tax payment schedules can be adjusted for businesses with less than €10 million in revenues in 2018 or a 20 percent reduction in revenues.</p>		

		<p>entitled to receive an exceptional monthly support, or proportional, corresponding to two thirds of his/her basic salary, with a minimum limit corresponding to a guaranteed minimum monthly salary and a maximum of three, paid in equal parts by the employer and the Social Security (the employer must pay in full and receive the Social Security portion). This support is granted automatically, as long as there are no other forms of alternative provision of the activity, namely teleworking, cannot be received by both parents and can only be perceived once, regardless of the number of dependent children under their care</p>			
Romania			<p>Suspension of most tax audits.</p> <p>Extension of the deadline for an annual profits tax from March 25 to April 25.</p> <p>Speed up VAT refunds to help businesses.</p>		
Slovakia			<p>Companies and individuals will receive an automatic tax payment deadline extension of up to three months.</p>		

			Cancelation of the penalty for underpayments of income tax.		
Slovenia	€2 billion package	An emergency law providing wage compensation in the case of temporary lay-offs is anticipated.	Measures to delay tax filings and payments for businesses. Businesses can apply for a tax deferral of up to two years or for a 24-month installment plan.		
Spain	<p>€200 billion package</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €117 billion will come from the public purse, with the remainder being private money. • €400 million credit line for tourism sector • Providing measures to support small and medium size entities in terms of research and development (R&D) and the financing of projects to support “remote working”. 	<p>Workers will be able to receive unemployment benefits even if they have not paid enough in social security contributions, and companies will not have to pay taxes for employees who have been temporarily made redundant.</p> <p>Those who become unemployed or lose their regular income will be able to postpone their monthly mortgage payments as well as their utility bills.</p> <p>In a bid to help Spain's more than 3 million self-employed workers, the government will allow them to halt their business by citing 'force majeure.' This would allow them to receive benefits similar to those for the unemployed, which until now were available to only a very small number of self-employed workers.</p>	<p>SMEs and freelance workers are exempt from tax payments.</p> <p>Tax relief measures include extensions or suspensions of the deadlines for certain tax procedures to 30 April 2020 or 20 May 2020. However, the extensions do not apply with regard to the requirement to self-assess taxes or to file information returns—those remain subject to the usual deadline.</p> <p>Streamlining and promoting the use of temporary collective layoff procedures, as adapted for COVID-19-related issues; broadening unemployment protection and granting exemptions on social security contributions (to address and prevent</p>	<p>€100,000 million will be made available to businesses in the form of public guarantees to help them to stay solvent.</p> <p>Moratorium on mortgage payments for 1 month will imply both the suspension of the mortgage payments and of the accrual of ordinary and default interest during its duration; therefore the lender will not be able to request payment of any amounts owed under the loan agreement regardless of its nature (principal, interest, default interests, fees, etc). It will also prevent lenders from triggering the events of default set out in the loan agreements.</p>	<p>Companies will not be able to take measures against employees who cannot show up for work because they need to look after children or the elderly.</p> <p>Suspension of the obligation of debtors to file for insolvency while the estate of crisis is in force.</p> <p>Providing public procurement-related measures to protect contractors who encounter delays or failures to comply.</p> <p>Removing restrictions on the freedom of foreign (non-EU) investment in Spain's strategic sectors.</p>

			<p>employment dismissals and to enable companies to adjust their employment costs).</p> <p>Recognizing a right to an “economic benefit” for self-employed workers who stopped their business activities due to the crisis or who are experiencing a drastic drop-off in revenues.</p>	<p>Requested that extraordinary postponement of the repayment schedule for loans granted by the General Secretariat for Industry.</p> <p>Government to provide “extraordinary liquidity” to businesses and the self-employed—essentially in the form of bank financing secured by the central government or backed by CESCE (the Spanish export credit agency).</p>	
Sweden	<p>Package of approx. €300 billion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €90 million to cultural sector and sports movement • €5.3 billion to help businesses that have seen their revenues decline by 40% or more. 	<p>Introduced a model that is similar to short-time work, but the subsidy level is significantly increased. The employee receives more than 90% of their wage. It is proposed that the proposal on short-term layoffs enter into force on 7 April and be in effect throughout 2020, but be applied from 16 March.</p> <p>It is proposed that central government assume the entire cost of all sick pay during April and May. Self-employed persons will also be compensated in that they can receive standardised sick pay for days 1–14.</p>	<p>Businesses to be allowed to defer tax payments for up to a <u>year</u> at a cost of more than €27.5bn to the treasury, or 6% of gross domestic product. VAT payments are also deferred. This proposal means that employers’ wage costs can be halved, in that central government will cover a larger share of the costs - between 75-90% of the salaries of employees that businesses send home during the crisis.</p>	<p>The businesses will receive grants to help cover between 25-80% of their fixed costs. Self-employed and firms with up to 10 people who see their revenues fall more than 30% will also be offered compensation worth 75% of their normal monthly income - up to a maximum of €3,000-a-month. These 2 grants will be available for 3 months.</p> <p>The Swedish financial supervisory authority</p>	

			<p><u>Liquidity reinforcement via tax accounts:</u> Under this proposal, companies can defer payment of employers' social security contributions, preliminary tax on salaries and value added tax that are reported monthly or quarterly. Company payment respite covers tax payments for three months and is granted for up to 12 months.</p> <p>It is proposed that the new regulations take effect on 7 April 2020, but can be retroactively applied from 1 January 2020. This means that companies that have paid into their tax account for January to March can receive repayment of the tax from the Swedish Tax Agency.</p>	<p>has announced that it is lowering the countercyclical capital buffer to zero to safeguard a well-functioning credit supply, freeing up €27.5bn in potential liquidity.</p>	
*UK	<p>£350 billion, equivalent to 15% of GDP.</p>	<p>HMRC will reimburse 80% of furloughed workers wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month.</p> <p>Proposed legislation would allow SMEs to reclaim statutory sick pay amounts paid for sickness absences due to COVID-19. The repayments will be available for employers with fewer than 250</p>	<p>Rates holiday for businesses in retail, hospitality and leisure for 3 months.</p> <p>VAT deferred for 3 months until 30 June 2020. All statutory Sick Pay costs for SMEs to be met by UK government for 14 days.</p>	<p>Cash grants of £10,000 for small firms</p> <p>£25,000 for medium sized businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors with a rateable value of between £15,000 and £51,000.</p>	<p>Complete ban on evictions for 3 months.</p> <p>3-month mortgage pause.</p> <p>Nursery businesses will have a rates holiday for the 2020 to 2021 tax year.</p> <p>Paused plans to expand rules on the employment status of</p>

employees as of 28 February 2020. Employers will need to consider keeping records of staff absences for purposes of refund claims; there will be no need for employees to provide a doctor's note.

Self-employed tax payments due in July 2020 will be deferred to January 2021.

Income tax payments deferred from 31 July 2020 to 31 January 2021.

The UK is also expanding the Universal Credit and working tax credit by £1,000 and delaying £30 billion in VAT payments until June 30.

Retail and Hospitality Grant Scheme provides businesses in these sectors with a cash grant of up to £25,000 per property. For businesses in these sectors with a rateable value of under £15,000, they will receive a grant of £10,000.

SMEs will be able to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for sickness due to Covid-19. The refund will cover up to 2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee and employers with fewer than 250 employees will be eligible.

The government will provide additional Small Business Grant Scheme funding for local authorities to support small businesses that already pay little or no business rates because of small business rate relief (SBBR), rural rate relief (RRR) and tapered relief. This will provide a one-off grant of £10,000 to eligible businesses to help meet

contractors in the private sector.

The Government is **removing administrative barriers** to make it easier for businesses to supply PPE to the NHS and, for those businesses who wish to do so, manufacture hand sanitiser.

A free-to-use **Government WhatsApp service** for people to get up to date advice and guidance. It is available by texting "hi" to 07860 064422.

their ongoing business costs.

The **Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme** offering loans of up to £5 million for SMEs through the British Business Bank, up from £1.2 million, for up to 6 years. The government will pay to cover the first 12 months of interest payments and any lender-levied fees, so smaller businesses will not face any upfront costs and will benefit from lower initial repayments. The government will provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on each loan (subject to a per-lender cap on claims) to give lenders further confidence in continuing to provide finance to SMEs.

Under the new **Covid-19 Corporate Financing Facility**, the Bank of England will buy short term debt from larger companies.

A temporary coronavirus business interruption loan scheme is to be delivered by the British Business Bank to support businesses in accessing bank lending and overdrafts. The government would provide lenders a guarantee of 80%, free of charge, on each loan to foster confidence when lending to SMEs. This would be extended to cover loans up to £5 million (previously £1.2 million) and no interest would be due for the first six months. This scheme is expected to be available as of Monday, 23 March 2020. It is expected that the loan scheme would only be available for companies with a turnover of up to £41 million and is designed for small businesses with a “sound business proposal” but insufficient security to get a lender comfortable without the government guarantee.

