



Measures taken by the Spanish Government to combat COVID-19

In the extremely dynamic development of measures to combat the corona virus COVID-19, the Spanish State Government declared a State of Alert last Saturday, the 14th March of 2020. This State of Alert will initially be declared for 15 days, but may be extended by Parliament.

The State of Alert has been declared for the entire Spanish territory. In addition, on Monday, the 16th March of 2020, it was decided to close the Spanish national borders so that border traffic is restricted to a minimum. Trade traffic is one of the exceptions to this.

The main regulations in the context of the state of alert and the accompanying legal regulations of the COVID-19 crisis are:

I. General information:

It is an emergency ordinance, within the framework of which certain basic rights can be suspended, state power is concentrated in a few bodies and confiscations of certain industries (e.g. private hospitals, or other supply industries etc.) can also be enforced.

II. Restriction of freedom of movement:

In principle, all residents of Spain are prohibited from entering and using public spaces, i.e. the population is obliged to remain in their homes (curfew), with the exception of:

- Grocery shopping
- For medical care
- Way to work and back
- Return to normal residence
- Completion of banking transactions etc
- Supply and care of the needy, the elderly, minors etc.
- Analogue purposes, force majeure, emergency situations

Within the scope of the previous purposes, vehicles may also be used on public roads.

III. Closure of public institutions, schools and universities, business premises, reduction of public transport:

All educational institutions have been closed, and where possible training will be continued through online formats.

All business premises, gastronomy and retail outlets will be closed. Exceptions are food retail, medical care and other basic needs. Where retail trade is maintained, care must be taken to ensure that a minimum standard of hygiene is maintained. Online trading will be maintained.

Public authority traffic is closed except for emergency supply.

Museums remain closed, sports events, public festivals etc. are cancelled.

Public transport has been largely restricted and reduced by 50%, but not local transport, as this is intended to provide the necessary transport with as large a capacity as possible in order to keep contact between individual passengers as low as possible.

IV. Legal proceedings, administrative procedures, procedural deadlines, substantive deadlines:

Generally, all legal and administrative proceedings are suspended, i.e. time limits are interrupted, the running of the time limit is continued at the earliest after the alarm condition has ended.

In addition, substantive periods are also interrupted, e.g. periods of limitation or expiry of all types and rights.

V. First economic measures:

Subject to more far-reaching measures, the announcement of which is scheduled for 17th March, the Spanish legislator announced initial measures in the course of last week:

- Interest-free deferral of the payment of tax debts for a period of up to 6 months (except for large companies with a turnover of €6 million or more) up to €30,000 upon application.
- Acknowledgement of absence from work due to quarantine as an occupational disease.
- Granting of certain state credit lines to the tourism sector to secure its liquidity.

Further regulations are expected, especially in the areas of making the application for short-time work more flexible and further-reaching credit assistance to secure the liquidity of companies.

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