



*Measures to control the spread of Covid-19*

## **EUROSCOPE COVID-19**

Main sanitary, economic  
and institutional measures  
adopted in 36 countries

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*Euroscope Covid-19*

## **European Union member States**

## Austria

Population : 8.83 M hb

Federal Chancellor: Mr. Sebastian KURZ (ÖVP)  
Coalition: Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) and The Greens

### Sanitary measures

- Figures at 04/05: 15,538 cases and 598 deaths
- Gradual deconfinement, since 14/04
- A distance of one metre between people who are not members of the same household must be respected in all public and work places and a mask must be worn indoors.
- When travelling in a vehicle, a maximum of two passengers must be seated per row.
- In shops, customers must be assured to have 10 m<sup>2</sup> at their disposal.
- Only students in the fields of health, care, social welfare and law are allowed to return to their place of study.
- Tourist accommodation and restaurants are closed, with a few rare exceptions.
- Events involving more than 10 people are prohibited.
- As an indication, the objectives of the deconfinement plan provide for restaurants to reopen in mid-May and hotels and tourist sites to reopen at the end of May.

### Economic measures

- 4 billion euro emergency aid package
- €9 billion in guarantees and debt to secure loans
- 15 billion will be invested in emergency aid
- Ten billion euros in planned tax deferrals
- A short-time working allowance is granted at a flat rate per hour lost. All employers are eligible, including temporary workers - except federal and state governments, municipalities and associations of municipalities, other legal persons under public law and political parties.
- Relief fund for SMEs and PSUs
- Deferral of social security contributions
- A new aid package is currently being examined by Parliament, in particular with a view to voting in favour of VAT exemption for protective masks.

### Institutional arrangements

- The parliamentary groups of the Bundesrat and the Nationalrat have agreed to halve the number of deputies present in session while maintaining political balance.
- In order to keep the length of the sittings as short as possible, there are no current affairs debates or parliamentary questions. In addition, the discussion of a number of documents ready for the plenary has been postponed to a later date by agreement between the political groups.

# Belgium



Population : 11.4 M hb

Prime Minister: Ms Sophie WILMES (MR)  
MR, CD&V and Open VLD Coalition

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05 : 50.267 cases and 7.924 deaths
- First phase of deconfinement starting on 4 May:
  - *Outdoor physical activity will be allowed with a maximum of 2 people not related to one's household (compared with 1 before). Certain outdoor physical activities with 2 people are allowed (ex: tennis)*
  - *Mandatory to wear a mask on public transport*
  - *Opening of fabric and haberdashery shops*
  - *All companies can go back to work but teleworking remains the norm*
- Other rules in place remain in force
- The next phases of deconfinement are scheduled for 11 May, 18 May and 8 June

## Economic measures

- At the federal level, adoption on 6 March by the Council of Ministers of [10 business support measures](#)
- At the regional level :
  - *Brussels-Capital: total aid of €150 million (with an emphasis on the sectors most affected such as hotels and restaurants, events, tourism, retail trade, recreational activities, taxis and service vouchers). Single premiums for businesses which vary from 4,000 to 2,000 euros for the moment. Further measures are expected for taxis*
  - *Wallonia: 350 million in aid, of which 233 million is earmarked for businesses. Grant of €5 000 for all firms forced to close down*
  - *Flanders: compensation of 4,000 euros per closed shop (+ 160 euros/day if the confinement lasts more than 21 days). The water, gas and electricity bills of the workers laid off will also be covered.*
- New measures since end of March: speeding up the reimbursement of VAT credits for businesses, possibility to defer payments of mortgages and credits to businesses, temporary modification of the system of advantages linked to advance payments for the self-employed and businesses, postponement of certain tax controls deemed non-essential
- 11/04: implementation of new socio-economic [measures](#) at the federal level
- Additional postponement of the payment of withholding tax (15 July) and VAT (20 July) for the month of April, in addition to that of March

## Institutional arrangements

- Sophie WILMES said she hoped that the special powers granted to her government on 26/03 would not be renewed in June. She reiterated the need to have a fully functioning government by September
- 06/04: establishment of the Expert Group in charge of the Exit Strategy (GEES)
- Since 12/03, Belgium is in a "federal phase of crisis management". The political body managing the crisis is the National Security Council (NSC)
- In the House of Representatives, only group leaders are admitted to the Chamber for debates and votes

# Bulgaria

Population : 7.05 M hb



Prime Minister: Mr. Boiko BORISSOV

Coalition GERB (Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria) and United Patriots

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 1.632 cases and 74 deaths
- Closure of all non-essential shops, restaurants and bars until 13 May. Food stores, pharmacies, post offices, banks and insurance companies are still open
- Mandatory wearing of a mask or any other means of protection in all open or closed public spaces
- Prohibition of:
  - *Public events*
  - *Going to parks, public gardens and playgrounds (except to walk your dogs)*
  - *All tourist activities*
  - *Entering and leaving major cities (Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, etc.) except in emergencies (health, family, professional reasons). Any such travel must be justified (employer's certificate, medical document, etc.)*
  - *Entry into Bulgaria for third-country nationals*
- Recommendation to employers to introduce remote work
- Recommendation to citizens not to leave the country except in case of emergency
- As from 18 March and for an indefinite period, nationals of the following countries are not allowed to enter Bulgarian territory: China, Iran, India, Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom.
- Establishment of medical checks at borders
- Schools will remain closed until the end of the school year

## Economic measures

- Introduction of a package of economic measures amounting to 4.5 billion leva, including interest-free loans of 4,500 leva over three months for individuals on unpaid leave and up to 300,000 leva for SMEs
- Wage bonuses for certain professions that are directly managing the crisis, including doctors, nurses, military and police officers
- Since the introduction of the containment measures, more than 17 000 people have registered at the National Employment Agency after losing their jobs due to the coronavirus crisis (mainly from the restaurant, hotel and tourism sectors)

## Institutional arrangements

- Members of Parliament and ministers announced that they would forego their salaries and donate them to the fight against Covid-19
- State and local government bodies will be able to sit and vote remotely
- The activities of the National Assembly focus mainly on the adoption of emergency measures to combat the coronavirus
- Establishment of a Task Force to closely monitor the evolution of the pandemic and to propose concrete measures to combat its spread. For the time being, all the suggestions made by the Task Force have been taken into account by the government and validated by the National Assembly

# Croatia



Population : 4.076 M hb

Prime Minister: Mr Andrej PLENKOVIĆ  
Croatian Democratic Union, centre-right

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 2,096 cases and 79 deaths
- Closure of primary, secondary and higher education institutions
- Closure of borders to all travellers, except those transiting.
- Confinement of all the population, except necessary movements that need to be certified
- Closures of bars, discos, shopping and sports centres, cinemas, theatres, museums and bookshops
- Interruption of religious ceremonies and sporting events
- The deconfinement strategy is in preparation and includes:
  - 27/04: reopening of all shops (except those in shopping malls) and public transport
  - 04/05: reopening of services with close physical contact
  - 11/05: gatherings of up to 10 people allowed and reopening of shopping centers
  - 11/05: bars and restaurants re-open with customers only allowed in outside spaces
  - An opening up of national tourism in July and of international tourism (90% of the country's tourism receipts) at the end of the summer, facilitated by a 10 to 20% reduction in road tolls.
  - A ban on festivals and concerts until the end of the summer.

## Economic measures

- Implementation of a 30 billion kuna (€3.9 billion) package of measures
  - Freeze on the payment of loans to companies and individuals for a period of 3 months
  - Facilitation of overdraft facility agreement for companies with their banks
  - Up to one billion euros of interest-free and low interest loans
  - Price freeze for basic necessities
  - The payment of taxes and social security contributions for companies and individuals can be deferred for 3 months and paid in 24 monthly installments.
- Sectoral measures:
  - increased fiscal flexibility for the tourism and fisheries sectors
  - Increased support to the agricultural sector, including through the buyback of unsold surpluses
- For the months of April and May, the government is planning in addition:
  - An increase in the minimum wage for temporarily unemployed workers...
  - Exemption from taxes and social security contributions for companies in a state of cessation of production and for SMEs which have seen their turnover fall by more than 50%.
  - For ETIs and large companies affected by a fall in turnover of more than 50%, their taxes and social security contributions will be reduced by an amount proportional to their losses.
  - For companies affected by a drop in turnover of 25 to 50%, a delay of 24 months in the payment of taxes and contributions is possible.

## Institutional arrangements

- Parliamentary activities are slowed down and focused on coronavirus-related measures
- Covid-19 crisis management has been put under the responsibility of the Civil Protection Directorate, which is an apolitical governmental department

# Cyprus



Population : 1.17 M hb

President: Mr Nicos ANASTASIADES  
Democratic Rally (centre-right)

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 872 cases and 15 deaths
- Confinement of the population except for compelling and certified medical and occupational reasons as well as curfew from 9pm to 6am.
- Closure of the country's two civil airports (Larnaca and Paphos) to all commercial flights
- Closure of the country's borders to all but citizens and residents
- Closure of several checkpoints between the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
- Compulsory 14-day quarantine in requisitioned holiday resorts for all those returning from a trip
- Closure of all non-essential businesses (in progress, see below)
- Two-stage deconfinement strategy (subject to changes in the epidemiological situation):
  - 4 May: reopening of certain sectors of the economy (construction, small businesses)
  - 21 May: end of containment measures for the population
  - 1 June: reopening of beaches, libraries and museums
  - July: gradual opening to tourists from abroad

## Economic measures

- 700 million emergency package announced on March 15
  - VAT reduction of two points
  - Energy bills reduced by 10% for March and April
  - Measures to support banking activity and loan repayments
  - 4 weeks paid leave for parents of children under 15 years old who cannot work remotely
  - Special temporary unemployment allowances

## Institutional arrangements

- Parliamentary activities are slowed down and focused on coronavirus-related measures

# Czech Republic



Population : 10.6 M hb

Government President: Mr Andrej BABIŠ  
ANO Coalition 2011 (Liberal-Conservative) - ČSSD (Social Democrat)

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 7 819 cases and 252 deaths
- State of emergency from 12/03 until 30/04
- Ban of gatherings of 30 or more people from 13/03 after 6pm
- Obligation to cover the nose and mouth in public (masks, scarves) from 19/03 onwards
- Closing of schools, universities, publicly accessible restaurants
- Different access times for young and old in the shops
- Progressive deconfinement measures:
  - From April 9 to April 27 : opening of shops and markets
  - May 11 : opening of cinemas, theaters, shopping centers, cafés; public gatherings with up to 100 people (social, sport and cultural events) will be allowed
  - May 25: opening of hotels and restaurants

## Economic measures

- The first economic measures were announced on 15/03 :
  - Zero interest rate over 2 years for affected SMEs
  - Deferral of tax payments
- Among the most affected sectors is tourism

## Institutional arrangements

- Use of mobile phone geolocation data and debit card payments for contact tracing (from 19/03)
- Public authorities open on 20/04 upon respect of special measures (physical meetings allowed through barriers or with 2 metres distance, etc.)

# Denmark



Population : 5.6 M hb

Prime Minister: Mrs Mette FREDERIKSEN  
Socialist Party

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 9523 cases and 484 deaths
- Closure of schools and universities
- Widespread use of remote work for companies
- Cancellation of events with more than 100 people
- Border Closure
- All non-essential utility employees are sent home
- Reopening of schools for children up to the age of 12
- Opening of certain non-essential stores and services, including hairdressers, dentists, and physiotherapists

## Economic measures

- SME guarantee scheme of €130 million to limit the risk for companies to obtain loans and guarantee the continuity of their activities
- 30 billion in loan guarantees for businesses, including 70% of loans for SMEs that have lost 50% of their turnover
- The State will cover 75% of employees' wages if they are placed on short-time work.
- Liberalisation of employment rules so that companies can temporarily reduce the number of employees
- Sectoral measures : State aid of 135 million for the SAS airline (shared with Norway and Denmark)
- 200 million € granted to the «Travel Guarantee Fund », which reimburses trips cancelled due to exceptional circumstances
- 1.3€ billion state aid scheme to compensate the self-employed
- 5.4€ billion state aid scheme to compensate companies affected by the crisis, with a maximum of 8€ by company. These aids are only for companies registered in non- tax havens.

## Institutional arrangements

- Freeze of parliamentary work, except for essential topics
- All non-essential issues and debates have been deferred

## Estonia

Population : 1.3 M hb



Prime Minister: Mr Jüri RATAS  
Coalition Centre Party, Estonian Conservative Party, and Pro Patria

### Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 1703 cases and 55 deaths
- Border closure
- Prohibition of public events
- Closure of cultural institutions
- Distance learning for schools
- Progressive loosening of lockdown rules to be announced within the next two weeks
- Loosening of movement rules: citizens with a second home in the island regions are allowed to travel; gradual reopening of shopping malls with social distancing rules enforced

### Economic measures

- 2 billion economic aid package to support businesses through the national financial institution Kredex and the Estonian Rural Development Foundation
- Temporary cancellation of government contributions to Pillar 2
- Guarantees of bank loans for businesses of up to EUR 500 million, up to a maximum of
- 70% of the wages of the unemployed will be covered by unemployment insurance.
- Cancellation of the waiting period for unemployment registration following job loss
- Access to unemployment for the self-employed
- 27 million increase in health sector expenditure
- Compensation for the cancellation of cultural and sporting events of €3 million

### Institutional arrangements

- Freezing of parliamentary work, except for essential work and topics directly related to Coronavirus

# European Union



Population : 512.4 M hb

European Commission President: Mrs. Ursula VON DER LEYEN (DE)

Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU)

## Sanitary measures

- Restriction on non-essential travel to the EU until 15 May
- The EU has recorded €7.4 billion in pledges as part of its Coronavirus global response, which will be used for the development of diagnostic tools, treatments and vaccines and their distribution worldwide
- Publication of a European Roadmap to lifting coronavirus containment measures
- Publication of guidances for a safe return to the workplace
- New guidelines on testing
- Guidance and EU toolbox for the use of mobile applications for contact tracing and warning
- Publication of practical guidelines to ensure the continuity of goods traffic throughout the EU by means of dedicated lanes ("Green Lanes") and on free movement of workers in critical professions

## Economic measures

- The European Council approved the 540 billion euro support plan presented by the Eurogroup on 9 April. It also instructed the European Commission to draw up a recovery plan
- The European Commission should present a revised proposal on the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2021 - 2027 where the global contribution of Member States would be 2% of the EU's gross national income for 2 or 3 years (currently the proposal is 1.2%)
- Adoption of a banking package to facilitate lending to households and businesses in the EU
- Amendment of the EU budget for 2020 allowing for increased commitments and payments
- New proposal to extend the temporary State aid framework to allow Member States to grant subordinated debt on favourable terms
- Second Investment Initiative in response to the coronavirus (CRII+) which, among other things, makes it possible to mobilise the maximum amount of unused aid from the European Structural and Investment Funds
- EUR 3 billion mobilised to support Member States' health systems through the EU Emergency Support Instrument for the healthcare sector
- Proposal to set up the SURE mechanism to support short-time working schemes in the Member States. The instrument will be able to support up to EUR 100 billion in the form of loans
- The ECB announced that it will release EUR 750 billion (buybacks of both government and corporate bonds), to be used by the end of 2020

## Institutional arrangements

- Implementation of a "Coronavirus Response Team"
- For institutions : generalisation of remote work for all non-critical staff of the institutions; European Schools, Commission nurseries and kindergartens closed; widespread use of videoconferences
- Changes to the work procedures of both Council and Parliament (remote meetings and votes). Plenary sessions in Strasbourg cancelled until September, mini plenary sessions in Brussels in the meantime
- Revision of the 2020 European Commission Work Programme

# Finland



Population : 5.5 M hb

Prime Minister: Mrs. Sanna MARIN

Coalition: Socialist Party, Centre Party, Green League, Left Alliance, and Swedish People's Party

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 5327 cases and 230 deaths
- Closure of universities and schools
- Widespread use of remote work for companies
- Banning of meetings with more than 10 people
- Closing borders to foreigners
- Fourteen day quarantine following entry into the country for citizens
- Closing of non-essential stores
- Re-opening of the border between the Uusima Region (Greater Helsinki) and the rest of the country on April 15
- Reopening of schools as of May 14th, reopening of restaurants and public establishments as of June 1st

## Economic measures

- 15 billion economic aid package, of which €10 billion will be made available to the national investment agency Finnvera to support businesses.
- Cancellation of the waiting period for unemployment registration following job loss
- Access to unemployment for the self-employed and freelancers
- 27 million euro increase in health sector expenditure
- 1 billion euro of direct financing for companies affected by the coronavirus, including:
  - 100 million aid package for independent workers
  - 200 million for SMEs
  - 700 million euros for midcaps

## Institutional arrangements

- Remote work (including video or written debates, Internet voting)
- Declaration of a state of emergency, granting the Prime Minister additional economic powers

# France



Population : 67 M hb

President of the Republic: Emmanuel MACRON  
Republic on the Move (LREM)

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04.05.2020 : 131,000 cases and 24,895 deaths in hospitals
- Closure of all non-essential businesses
- Widespread use of remote work for companies
- Strict traffic restrictions (and with an exceptional travel certificate) and controls by the police
- Suspension of weekend outings. Introduction of border checks on persons. Closure of borders to persons, except for cross-border commuters and those on a work permit. No ban on goods crossing the border
- On 28 April, Prime Minister Edouard PHILIPPE presented a plan for a gradual deconfinement by region from May. A map with red and green departments was drawn up, based on the rate of circulation of the virus and hospital intensive care capacities. In departments where indicators will be red on May 11, the date of deconfinement will be postponed or maintained with stricter measures.
- From 11 May, massive tests will be carried out on people with symptoms (700,000 per week).
- "Teleworking as many as possible at least until the summer" has been announced by Labour Minister Muriel PENICAUD.
- Implementation of a series of measures for the return of employees to the workplace

## Economic measures

- 45 billion aid plan divided into two measures:
  - *Exceptional extension of short-time working to all employees and up to 4.5 minimum wage ;*
  - *Deferral of deadlines for payment of corporate social security and tax charges*
- Cash-flow assistance :
  - *300 billion in state-guaranteed loans for new loans granted from 1 March ;*
  - *Deferral of bank loan maturities for businesses for 6 months at no charge*
  - *Suspension of gas and electricity bills and rents for shopkeepers in shopping centres*
- 2 billion Solidarity Fund for SMEs in difficulty and the self-employed : Compensation up to €1500 per month for companies that have been forced to close or have lost 70% of their turnover in March 2020 (compared to March 2019).
- Cancellation of late penalties for State and local authority public procurement contracts
- Support in the handling of a conflict with customers or suppliers by the Business Ombudsman.
- Specific measures for start-ups: €80 million to finance bridges (before fund-raising), advance payment of innovation aid; Specific measures for exporting companies: for SMEs, cash flow aid (guarantees, credits, deadlines).
- The Minister of the Economy Bruno LE MAIRE announces that a recovery plan will be implemented in September at the earliest.
- The Solidarity Fund will be maintained until May 31 for all companies. After 1st June, it will be maintained for activities that cannot be restarted during deconfinement, like restaurants or bars. A 2nd part of Solidarity Fund assistance is now extended to businesses without employees and to the self-employed that have been forced to close by administrative decision.

## Institutional arrangements

- Special procedures for Parliament: Each political group shall be represented in debates by its President and two Members; The Chairman of party groups shall vote on behalf of all of their members ; Creation of a fact-finding mission on the management of the coronavirus crisis within the National Assembly; Likely creation of a parliamentary committee of inquiry after the crisis
- Setting up crisis units: An economic continuity unit was set up on March 3 at the Ministry of Finance, responsible for taking daily information on the situation of companies and organizing meetings between the sectors and Bercy ; An inter-ministerial task force led by the Ministry of Health ; An inter-ministerial cell created on 17 March and led by the Ministry of the Interior is in charge of all issues related to general containment (other than health).
- Two exceptional Acts taken in order to face the crisis: Second Amending Finance Act for 2020 including additional budget openings dedicated to the solidarity fund, the partial unemployment scheme and the "State financial participation" scheme ; the Emergency Act to Deal with the Covid-19 Epidemic, which postpones the second round of municipal elections, establishes a state of health emergency and empowers the Government to legislate by ordinance to take any measures (including economic or labour law measures) to combat the Covid-19 epidemic.
- Suspension of all ongoing reforms (retirement, audiovisual, simplification of public action)

# Germany



Population : 82 M hb (2018)

Federal Chancellor: Angela MERKEL (CDU)

Coalition of Conservatives (CDU), Bavarian Conservatives (CSU), Social Democrats (SPD)

## Sanitary measures

- Figures at 05/05: 163,860 cases and 6,831 deaths
- Gradual deconfinement from 20/04, the Federal State and the Länder have agreed on the following measures:
- Reopening of shops under 800m<sup>2</sup>, possible reopening of hairdressers from 04/05.
- Distance of 1.5 metres, maximum of 2 persons from a different household in external travel
- Ban on events for the general public until 31/08.
- Reinforcement of testing capacities and health services (5 people per 20,000 inhabitants).
- Absolute quarantine of two weeks from the entry into the territory of people coming from countries at risk (non-compliance punished by a fine of 2,500€).
- The Länder are sovereign in the implementation of specific hygiene measures,
- The wearing of masks has been made compulsory for the use of public transport in all Länder. Some Länder have also made it compulsory for shops (for example in Berlin).
- The Länder are gradually reopening schools and some Länder some public places (zoos, museums etc...).

## Economic measures

- 156 billion € aid plan adopted by the Bundestag on 25 March 2020 :
  - Facilitation of recourse to short-time employment (lowering of the trigger threshold from 30% to 10% of staff), coverage of 60% or 67% of the difference in net and social security contributions, extension of eligibility to temporary workers.
  - Facilitation of the deferral and adjustment of corporate and business tax contributions
  - Reduction of the conditions of access to the credit facilities of the public bank KfW for young companies (less than 5 years of existence) and companies with 80% or 90% coverage of the guarantee for investments of up to €200 million.
  - Activation of the economic stabilisation plan (400bn guarantee fund; 100bn recapitalisation, 100bn KfW one-off loans)
  - Direct financial aid (subsidies subject to tax) for small businesses and self-employed people up to €9,000 (less than 5 employees) or €15,000 (5-10 employees) in a single payment for 3 months.
- 2 billion euros for German start-ups, new aid for SMEs: loan volume per company up to 3 months' turnover in 2019 with a 100% guarantee
- The Länder also provide specific aid to firms to complete that provided by the Federal Government. For example,
  - The Land of Berlin is providing direct financial aid of €5,000 for small businesses.
  - The Land of Bavaria is providing immediate financial support from €5,000 (less than 5 employees) to €30,000 (up to 250 employees) for businesses
- Sectoral aid is being discussed with several sectors particularly hard hit: catering (in particular a reduction in VAT), motor vehicles (scrapping and conversion premiums, purchase aid) in particular. As an example, representatives of the automobile sector met with the federal government on 5 May to agree on specific stimulus measures.

## Institutional arrangements

- While both parliamentary chambers deal primarily with issues related to the COVID19 crisis, the political and institutional agenda is maintained
- Federal Government is currently modifying the program of German Presidency of the Council.

## Greece



Population : 10.74 M hb

Prime Minister: Kyriakos MITSOTAKIS  
Centre Party

### Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05 : 2.620 cases and 143 deaths
- Deconfinement measures from 4 May :
  - *Travel to the workplace when remote work is not possible*
  - *Opening of retail shops, such as fashion stores, bookstores, sale of electronic products or hairdressers by appointment*
  - *Masks are mandatory in closed public spaces and on public transport*
  - *Citizens will be allowed to leave their homes without sending a text message to 13033, a number created ad hoc by the Greek government to monitor the confinement, and will be able to meet again as a group, although up to a maximum of 10 people*
  - *Churches may open for individual prayer from May 4, but will not celebrate mass until May 17*
  - *Schools are expected to reopen from May 11*
  - *Restaurants, cafés and bars to open as of June 1*
- Implementation of controls by law enforcement agencies

### Economic measures

- 10 billion aid plan (5% of the GDP) :
  - *2 billion to support companies in difficulty*
  - *Redundancies in the affected enterprises are prohibited.*
  - *A pay of €800 will be provided by the State for the month of April to workers who are unable to travel to the place of work.*
  - *Postponement of maturities of real estate loans for self-employed workers in economically vulnerable situations*
  - *Regarding liquidity, companies will benefit from a deferral of tax and social security payments (for 4 months).*
- Sectoral measures: Most of the measures are designed to favour SMEs through direct subsidies (budget €1.2 billion).

### Institutional arrangements

- The institutions are at a standstill except for ensuring minimum functioning.

# Hungary



Population : 9.7 M hb

Prime Minister: Mr. Victor ORBAN - Fidesz  
Fidesz-MPSZ - KDNP

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 3065 cases and 363 deaths
- Prohibition of open-air gatherings of more than 500 people and of more than 100 people in a closed environment.
- Closure of restaurants and cafés at 3pm with the exception of food shops and pharmacies.
- Closure of cultural and leisure facilities, schools and universities.
- Ban on the entry of aliens into Hungary from 17 March and establishment of Schengen border controls.
- Containment measures since March 28.
- As of April 27, people are mandated to wear face masks in public.
- As of May 4, the first coronavirus restrictions are being lifted :
  - *Curfew measures will remain in place in Budapest and in Pest County, but will be eased in the rest of the country (opening of all shops, museums).*
  - *Citizens of the Czech Republic, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Germany, Austria and Slovakia may enter Hungary for business purposes.*

## Economic measures

Several measures were put in place from 19 March onwards:

- The government has recognized the following sectors as being most affected by the health crisis: tourism, hotels, restaurants, entertainment, sports, cultural services and passenger transport.
- These sectors will benefit from a reduction in their tax obligations until 30 June 2020, which can be extended if necessary. As a result, lease contracts cannot be terminated and the rent cannot be increased during this period.
- Loan payments are suspended until the end of the year.
- Interest on new consumer loans has been limited (maximum 5% above the Hungarian National Bank's interest rate).
- Several derogations from the Labour Code have been implemented to increase labour flexibility.

## Institutional arrangements

- On March 30th, the Parliament adopted a bill imposing for an unlimited period of time the state of emergency introduced on 11 March, which gives the Prime Minister the possibility to legislate on all matters by decree.
- A decree on the creation of Special Economic Zones was adopted on April 17th.

# Ireland



Population : 5.176 M hb

Prime Minister: Mr Leo VARADKAR  
Fine Gael

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 05/05 : 21,772 cases and 1,319 deaths
- Closure of bars, clubs, theatres and sport centers extended until May 18th
- Limitation of gatherings of more than 4 persons
- Recommendation to employers to introduce remote work
- Irish people are asked to stay at home except for essential shopping, visits to a health professional or physical exercise
- Travel within the country and abroad is discouraged: anyone entering the country must be isolated for 14 days (with the exception of pilots and marine personnel).

## Economic measures

- A €3 billion package to finance health sector spending
- A €200 million scheme to help companies affected by the coronavirus crisis (repayable advances for companies having a decline in turnover of at least 15% and employing 10 or more full time employees)
- A number of banks (such as Bank of Ireland, AIB, KBC, Ulster Bank) have announced support measures for businesses and individuals, including easier access to credit and the possibility of suspending repayment of existing loans.
- Introduction of unemployment benefits of 350 euros per week for employees and self-employed persons who have lost their jobs as a result of the coronavirus

## Institutional arrangements

- Promulgated on March 27th 2020, the "Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act" enables the Minister of Health to adopt the necessary measures to restrict the movement of persons, confine certain parts of the country and put into quarantine persons who are carriers of Covid-19 but who refuse to isolate themselves.

# Italy



Population : 60.48 M hb

President of the Council of Ministers: Mr. Giuseppe CONTE  
5-Star Movement and Democratic Party Coalition

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 210,717 cases (active, recovered and deceased) and 28,884 deaths
- Closure of all non-strategic businesses and industries in the country (in evolution, see “deconfinement” below)
- Widespread use of remote work for companies
- Strict traffic restrictions except for (with self-certification form) and with a compulsory face mask and with no fever :
  - *Going to the workplace when remote work is not possible*
  - *Make essential purchases in authorized shops*
  - *Going to a health care professional*
  - *Travelling to care for children or visit relatives (not friends), only in the same region*
  - *Do sports*
- Suspension of visits to retirement homes and prisons
- Implementation of controls by law enforcement agencies
- Up to 12 years in prison if an infected individual knowingly breaks his quarantine.
- Introduction of border checks on persons
- Quarantine obligatory for all those returning to Italy
- Deconfinement plan (“phase 2”) which includes:
  - May 4: reopening of the industrial, building and wholesale sectors as well as take-away catering
  - May 18: reopening of all stores, libraries and museums, pending the application of social distancing measures
  - June 1: reopening of bars, restaurants and services involving close proximity

## Economic measures

- 750 billion aid plan under the “Cura Italia” and « Liquidità » decrees. A new decree is underway and should extend the measures already announced.
  - *Freeze on tax and social security payments for companies with a turnover below €2 million and those whose turnover has decreased by more than half until the end of May.*
  - *Tax credits (60% of rental charges, 50% of disinfection costs and face masks purchases)*
  - *Dismissals are prohibited for 60 days*
  - *Short-time work is allowed for all companies up to 9 weeks.*
  - *All mortgage payments are postponed for up to 18 months for people who are technically unemployed and those who have been made redundant due to the coronavirus, as well as for the self-employed who are particularly affected.*
  - *The Italian State investment bank guarantees 70% to 100% of more than 200 billion euros in bank up to 25% of the turnover of companies affected by the coronavirus, as long as they don’t lay-off their personnel and don’t transfer their production abroad.*
  - *Parents will be able to take up to 15 extra days off to look after their children, paid at 50% of the salary.*
- Sectoral measures :
  - *Allowance of EUR 600 for the month of March for self-employed workers, farmers and casual entertainment workers*
  - *Health personnel are entitled to a bonus of 1000 euros for hiring childcare staff*

## Institutional arrangements

- The Parliament (Chamber of Deputies and Senate of the Republic) is for the moment open and very active in the fight against the coronavirus (48 bills tabled since the beginning of the crisis) but possible evolution towards remote voting and debates.
- Referendum on reducing the number of parliamentarians postponed indefinitely
- The operational management of the health emergency is entrusted to the Department of Civil Protection and, for the economic and social part, to an extraordinary commissioner, Domenico Arcuri (current CEO of Invitalia, the Italian economic development agency).
- A team dedicated to the deconfinement plan has been formed around Vittorio COLAO (company manager, former CEO of Vodafone).

## Latvia



Population : 1.92 M hb

Prime Minister: Krišjānis KARIŅŠ  
Unity Party (Conservative)

### Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 897 cases and 16 death
- Generalisation of remote work
- All international transport has been cancelled and is now prohibited.
- Prohibition of events with more than 200 people
- Implementation of controls by law enforcement agencies
- Mandatory social distancing in public places
- Extension of the state of emergency until May 12th

### Economic measures

- State aid scheme of 35.5€ million to support agriculture, fishery and the food sector
- Government Assistance Plan :
  - *1 billion in tax aid: loan guarantees and tax deferrals*
  - *Postponement of tax deadlines for companies*
  - *250 million to guarantee and subsidise loans for businesses affected by the coronavirus*

### Institutional arrangements

- MPs are discouraged from travelling abroad and parliamentary officials make work
- Extension of state of emergency until May 12

# Lithuania



Population : 2.7 M hb

Government President: Gitanas NAUSEDA  
Centrist

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 1,419 cases and 46 deaths
- General Quarantine
- Prohibition of events with more than 100 people
- Closing borders to non-citizens
- Reopening of non-food markets, authorization to travel abroad, and enforced wearing of masks in public spaces as of May 4th

## Economic measures

- Government Assistance Plan :
  - *5 billion for tax breaks and subsidies*
  - *Postponement of tax deadlines for companies*
  - *Individual income supplement of up to 600 euros per month to avoid redundancies*

## Institutional arrangements

- Return to normal parliamentary work as of the 27th of April

# Luxembourg



Population : 0.6 M hb

Prime Minister: Mr Xavier BETTEL  
Coalition DP, LSAP and Déi gréng

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05 : 3,828 cases and 96 deaths
- Entry into the first phase of the deconfinement scenario as of April 20 ( resumption of construction sites and reopening of certain sites). As a reminder, phases 2 and 3 are :
  - Phase 2: Resumption of secondary education from 11 May 2020
  - Phase 3: resumption of basic education and of nurseries and childcare facilities from 25 May 2020
- Establishment of a hotline offering multilingual psychological support 7 days a week
- Call to respect a "social distancing" of 2m in shops

## Economic measures

- Launch of a €2.5 billion state-guaranteed loan scheme
- New financial support measures for micro and small commercial and craft enterprises
- Setting up an emergency fund for very small businesses and self-employed people who can thus benefit from immediate non-refundable financial aid of 5,000 euros. The self-employed can also receive an emergency allowance of 2,500 euros
- Businesses may apply to cancel the quarterly advances payable for the first two quarters of 2020. They can also request a four-month payment period for taxes due after February 29, 2020. In addition, VAT will refund all VAT credit balances below EUR 10,000.
- Acceleration and facilitation of the procedure to apply for and obtain partial unemployment aid for cases of force majeure related to the Covid-19 crisis (online form, application every month)
- Large, medium-sized and small enterprises as well as the liberal professions may receive aid of up to EUR 500 000 (in the form of a repayable advance). This advance may cover up to 50% of the eligible costs, including staff costs and rent for the period from 15 March to 15 May 2020
- Summary [table](#) of measures part of the economic stabilisation programme (as of 20 April)

## Institutional arrangements

- Suspension of time-limits in matters : jurisdiction, administrative (lodging of appeals), civil and commercial (preparation for bankruptcy, bankruptcy, declaration of birth, marriage certificate, evictions, etc.), penal and penitentiary (limitation of outings and visits)
- On 18/03, Luxembourg declared a state of crisis in the country, which gives the government the opportunity to put in place urgent measures to deal with Covid-19

## Malta



Population : 0.49 M hb

Prime Minister: Mr Robert ABELA  
Labour Party

### Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 20/04: 427 cases and 3 deaths
- Closure of primary, secondary and higher education institutions until the end of the academic year
- Quarantine obligatory for all those returning to Malta.
- Suspension of group sports, religious and political activities
- Prohibition of all organized gatherings
- Travel prohibited in Italy, Germany, Spain, France and Switzerland.
- Closing the borders to all migrants trying to come by sea
- Deconfinement strategy under development:
  - 4 May: re-opening of some shops and health services (compulsory face mask and limited number of customers)

### Economic measures

- 1.8 billion aid plan announced on March 18 :
  - *The payment of taxes and social contributions for the months of March and April is postponed to May.*
  - *Grant of 350 euros per employee in quarantine*
  - *Up to 4000 euros for companies investing in remote work*
  - *Facilitation of credit for cash flow requirements through government guarantees*
  - *Allowances of up to EUR 800 per month for economic and temporary unemployment*

### Institutional arrangements

- Parliament's activities are slowed down and focused on coronavirus-related measures

# Poland



Population : 38.4 M hb

President of the country - Mr. Andrzej DUDA- PiS  
Prime Minister - Mr. Mateusz MORAWIECKI- PiS  
PiS-Alliance-SP Coalition

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 14,242 cases and 700 deaths
- Introduction of border controls on 16/03
- Entry bans on foreign travellers until at least 09/05
- Closure of most non-essential stores, restaurants, schools, and universities
- Prohibition of all gatherings of more than 50 people, including religious masses
- Obligation to cover one's mouth and nose in public from 16/04 (using a mask or a scarf)
- Deconfinement measures as from April 20 (reopening of parks and forests). Further measures in May:
  - *May 4, non-essentials shops and cultural institutions*
  - *May 6, kindergartens, May 25 schools*

## Economic measures

- An Economic Package ("Crisis Shield") was introduced on March 18. It consists of 212 billion zlotys (47 billion euros) for measures targeted at :
  - *Safeguarding jobs : partial assumption of employee wages in companies with a lower turnover, income support for the self-employed*
  - *Enterprises : deferral of social security payments, relaxation of rules on the payment of fees, bank guarantees for credits, easier access to micro-credits*
  - *Financial stability : repurchase transaction*
  - *Public investments : PLN 30 billion in infrastructure spending*
  - *Public health services : 7.5 billion zlotys of health expenditure*
- These measures apply from 1/04

## Institutional arrangements

- Relaxing restrictions is planned in four stages starting with 20/04 through the opening of:
  - *Forests and parks while maintaining at least a two-metre distance and covering mouth and nose*
  - *Hotels and other accommodation, libraries, museums, art galleries*
  - *Stores in shopping malls, hairdressing and beauty salons, chèches, schools as well as the organisation of sporting events with the participation of up to 50 people in open space*
  - *Gyms, solariums, massage salons, theaters, cinemas*
- Presidential election should be held on 10/05
- Quarantine-enforcement app backed by the government

# Portugal



Population : 10.29 M hb

Prime Minister: Mr Antonio COSTA  
Socialist Party

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 20/04: 25,282 cases and 1,043 deaths
- The state of emergency expired on 2 May and is not being considered for renewal
- On May 4, the **first phase** of deconfinement begins:
  - *Care for the elderly, minors or the handicapped*
  - *Hairdressers, bookstores and other small businesses will be able to restart their activities*
  - *In the case of hairdressing salons, reservations will be necessary, as well as for public services that until now have only been open online, such as the Treasury, employment centres, notaries and the land registry*
  - *Stores of less than 200 square meters can open, as well as car dealerships, bookstores, archives, museum gardens and libraries, regardless of their size.*
  - *Individual outdoor sports are allowed*
  - *The **second phase** is scheduled to begin on May 18. On that day, kindergartens and the last years of compulsory secondary education will open. Museums and restaurants will also be opened (at half the maximum capacity and the greatest distance from the tables) and shops with a maximum area of 400 square meters*
  - *The **third and final phase** would begin on 1 June with the opening of shopping centres and pre-school education. Religious ceremonies could also begin this weekend with an audience. Cinemas, theatres and auditoriums will also open, with fewer seats and the mandatory use of masks.*
- Closed land borders with Spain (except for freight carriers, nationals and border workers)
- Implementation of controls by law enforcement agencies
- Temporary regularisation of all migrants who have applied for asylum

## Economic measures

- 9.2 billion aid plan :
  - *5.2 billion includes tax measures such as :*
  - *A flexible schedule for tax and social security payments*
  - *A reduction in social security contributions between March and May*
  - *70% of short-time working is covered by the social security system*
  - *Simplification of temporary layoff plans*
  - *Postponement of maturities of real estate loans for self-employed workers in economically vulnerable situations*
- Sectoral measures :
  - *About half of the EUR 3 billion in credit lines announced are intended for businesses active in tourism, hotels and restaurants.*
  - *The other half goes to the textile, clothing and wood industries.*
  - *Approximately one third is reserved for SMEs and micro-enterprises*
  - *The city of Lisbon has thus suspended all rents on its housing stock until June.*

## Institutional arrangements

- The institutions are at a standstill during the time it takes to adapt the technological devices to ensure minimum functioning.
- The management of the health crisis is ensured by the DGS (Directorate General for Health).

# Romania



Population : 19.5 M hb

President of the country - Mr. Klaus IOHANNIS - National Liberal Party

Prime Minister - Mr. Ludovic ORBAN - National Liberal Party

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 13,837 cases and 827 deaths
- State of emergency from 16/03 until 14/05
- Closing of schools, universities, restaurants, hotels
- National lockdown introduced on 24/03
- Mask-wearing mandatory in public transportation and indoor public spaces
- As from May 15, state of emergency will be replaced with the state of alert ( free movement within localities, opening of hairdressers, museums, dentists' offices)
- Restrictions will be lifted gradually every two weeks, depending on the epidemiological evolution

## Economic measures

- The first economic measures were announced on 18/03:
  - *Extended guarantees for corporate loans for investments and rolling funds*
  - *VAT refund to strengthen the working capital of businesses*
  - *Coverage of the cost of technical unemployment (75% of the gross wage, capped at 75% of the national average wage)*
- Micro-enterprises (1-3 employees), which represent 95% of Romanian enterprises, seem to be the most affected
- Sectors most affected: services, tourism, transport, HORECA

## Institutional arrangements

- Local elections were called off
- Order signed by the President of the country extending the state of emergency from 15/04 to 14/05

# Slovakia



Population : 5.4 M hb

Government President: Mr. Igor MATOVIČ

Coalition OĽaNO (conservative) - Sme Rodina (right) - SaS (liberal) - ZL (centre)

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 1,413 cases and 25 deaths
- State of emergency as of 15/03
- Closing of borders with neighbouring countries from 13/03
- Closing of shops (except food stores), restaurants, universities, schools
- Compulsory face masks from 25/03
- All persons traveling to Slovakia, both Slovak and foreign nationals are obliged to be isolated in state quarantine centers as from 20/04
- First deconfinement stage on April 22 : opening of small shops, sporting grounds, outdoor marketplaces

## Economic measures

- Action Plan approved on 16/03 :
  - 3 months deferral of tax payments
  - Facilitating access to credit
- Sectors most affected: tourism, culture, transport, automotive sector

## Institutional arrangements

- Mass testing launched by the government
- Four-stage plan for easing the coronavirus lockdown and giving details about which shops and public institutions may reopen successively

# Slovenia



Population : 2.1 M hb

Government President: Mr Borut PAHOR  
Socialist Party

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 1,439 cases and 97 deaths
- From the 4 May :
  - *hairdressers and beauty parlours, as well as outdoor bars and restaurants will be opened*
  - *Libraries and museums are open*
  - *Public transport continues to be suspended*
  - *Slovenians are obligated to wear face masks and are not allowed to socialize in public spaces*
  - *Citizens are not allowed to move outside their own municipality except if they need to go to work, to a doctor or in some other exceptional cases*
- Strong limitation of cross-border road traffic (stop of Italian freight traffic)
- Schools and kindergartens will gradually start reopening from May 18
- Infringements will result in fines of EUR 400.
- Implementation of controls by law enforcement agencies

## Economic measures

- 998 million aid package, of which €600 million is already available from the Slovenian National Bank for Investment and Development. Among the measures:
  - *Partial reimbursement of wage compensation for employers affected by the coronavirus*
  - *Moratorium on bank loan payments (on any loan for a period of 12 months)*
  - *The government will guarantee bank credits committed by SMEs.*
  - *Extension of deadlines for the submission of tax returns and annual reports and deferral of the payment of taxes*
- Slovenia approved (2 April) measures worth about €3 billion, or 6% of GDP, to help companies and individuals overcome the coronavirus epidemic
  - *The state will pay compensation and obligatory taxation for the national pension and health systems for businessmen and farmers hit by the virus, as well as to those who are temporarily laid off. ;*
  - *It will also enable businesses to postpone tax payments.*
- Sectoral measures :
  - *The National Bank has made financial products available to SMEs for a total amount of 800 million euros.*

## Institutional arrangements

- The Slovenian parliament on 7 April passed legislation which will enable the chamber to convene over the internet if that became necessary because of the coronavirus outbreak
- Till now parliamentarians have been meeting in parliament wearing masks

# Spain



Population : 46.7 M hb

Government President: Pedro SANCHEZ

Coalition: Podemos and Socialist Party

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 218,011 cases and 25,418 deaths
- The state of emergency ends on 9 May but President SANCHEZ will ask Parliament on 6 May for a 15-day extension
- Deconfinement begins in Spain after 50 days. There will be a total of four phases (0, 1, 2 and 3), which will be implemented gradually and asymmetrically in each territory, until the "new normality" is reached at the end of June (being this the best scenario)
- Phase 0' measures starting on 4 May :
  - *The use of masks will be compulsory for all users of all modes of transport (public and private). Only 2 people can travel in private vehicles*
  - *Shops of less than 400 m2 can open, by appointment only. It is necessary to define a specific schedule for those over 65 years of age and to make hydroalcoholic gels available to customers*
  - *Rehabilitation work can be carried out in houses and premises*
  - *Walks will be allowed with a defined timetable: From 14 to 69 years old: from 6am to 10am and from 8pm to 11pm / Over 70 years old: between 10am and 12pm and between 7pm and 8pm / Under 14 years old: from 12pm to 7pm*
  - *Outdoor physical activity is now permitted*
  - *Teleworking remains in force wherever possible*
- Closed land borders (except for freight carriers, nationals and border workers)
- Implementation of controls by the forces of law and order (police, Guardia Civil and army)
- Penal and administrative sanctions: sentences of up to 6 years in prison and fines of between €100 and €6,000

## Economic measures

- 200 billion aid plan through (updated on 21 April) the Royal Decree establishing the state of emergency:
  - *Deferral of the payment of social security and tax contributions*
  - *The government is currently working on a universal income proposal that would apply from mid-May. At this stage, there is nothing official but some members of the executive have suggested an amount of 500€ per person*
  - *Guarantee of bank overdrafts*
  - *Reduction of VAT and income tax payments in instalments, with the possibility of discounting the days falling within the state of emergency period in each trimester*
  - *Set up mechanisms for renegotiating the payment of rent for commercial premises*
  - *Simplification of temporary layoff plans*
  - *Postponement of maturities of real estate loans for self-employed workers in economically vulnerable situations*
- Sectoral measures :
  - *Postponement of social security and tax contribution deadlines for self-employed workers and SMEs (maximum of €30,000)*
  - *A credit line of 2 billion has been created for exporting companies.*
  - *Port sector: reductions or exemptions from various port charges where a significant reduction in their activity is justified*

## Institutional arrangements

- The legislative chambers (Congress of Deputies and Senate) continue to work through videoconferencing and the telematic voting system. The main texts are those concerning crisis management (although the executive has opted for the accelerated procedure of the decreto real).
- In Spain, health is a regional competence whose management is ensured by the Autonomous Communities. On the other hand, given that a state of emergency has been declared, it is the state structures that have taken the lead (Ministry of Health and Ministry of the Interior).

# Sweden



Population : 10 M hb

Prime Minister: Mr Stefan LÖFVEN  
Socialist Party and Green Party Coalition

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 22,721 cases and 2,769 deaths
- Only elementary and secondary schools that have reported cases of covid-19 are closed.
- Closure of universities and adult schools
- Widespread use of remote work for companies
- Cancellation of "major public events" (concerts, fairs, sports)
- Restaurants, bars, and cafés will be able to exclusively serve tables.

## Economic measures

- EUR 12.5 billion loan guarantees for SMEs
- Registration for "sick leave" from the first day of an illness
- 45 billion economic package for loans granted to banks to secure credits
- Compensation for temporary unemployment with reduced social security charges for companies
- Deferral of tax payments
- Sectoral measures :
  - 100 million support for culture and sport
  - State aid of €450 million for aviation and maritime, of which €135 million to SAS (shared with Norway and Denmark)
- Closure of Scania and Volvo factories, with more than 40,000 workers temporarily unemployed
- Authorisation to allow exemptions to loan amortization payments on mortgages
- Authorisation by municipal governments for companies to delay invoice payments and rent until September 1st
- 9.1 billion euro aid package for corporate loans and loan guarantees for SMEs affected by the coronavirus

## Institutional arrangements

- The work of the Riksdag continues with a reduced staff: 55 MPs are selected to represent the interests of their parties in the votes.
- Remote work for authorised Members

# The Netherlands



Population : 17.18 M hb

Prime Minister: Mr Mark RUTTE (VVD)

Coalition VVD, D66, CDA and CU

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05 : 40,770 cases and 5,082 deaths
- Restriction on entry into the Netherlands until 15 May
- Measures taken by the Netherlands to combat the Coronavirus are in force until 19 May included (teleworking; closure of cafés, bars, restaurants, sports halls, saunas; social distancing measures, etc.), except:
  - *Primary education and childcare, which will reopen on 11/05*
  - *Independent seniors aged 70 and over, who can be visited by one or two people since 29/04*
  - *The events, which remain prohibited until 1 September*

## Economic measures

- Enlargement of the credit guarantee scheme for SMEs: EUR 300 million of additional financing available to SMEs affected by the current situation
- Introduction of a temporary scheme allowing companies to apply for aid for the payment of their labour costs
- Additional support for independent entrepreneurs
- Relaxation of tax deferrals and reduction of fines
- Extension of the guarantee scheme for business financing
- Interest rebate to small entrepreneurs on microcredits Qredits
- Temporary guarantee for agricultural and horticultural undertakings
- Compensation scheme for affected sectors
- Possibility to request a payment deadline for income tax, corporation tax, payroll tax and turnover tax (VAT). No fine for late payment
- The normal recovery interest rate for payments made after the expiry of the payment deadline will be temporarily reduced from 4 % to close to 0 %. This measure applies to all tax debts. The tax interest rate will also be temporarily set at the lowest possible percentage for all contractors

## Institutional arrangements

- Introduction of an emergency bill which will provide for the temporary adoption of electronic solutions for certain sectors (e.g for the judiciary or for companies that are required to hold annual general meetings). It will cease to apply on 1 September 2020
- On 23 March, Martin VAN RIJN became Minister for Medical Care, replacing Bruno BRUINS who quit on 19 March. It should be noted that the new minister is a member of the opposition as he belongs to the PvdA party (Social Democratic Labour Party, S&D at European level), whose party is not a member of the government coalition

*Euroscope Covid-19*

## **Third Countries**

# Canada



Population : 37.5 M hb

Prime Minister: Mr. Justin TRUDEAU  
Liberal Party of Canada

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 60,616 cases and 3,842 deaths
- Closure of all but 4 international airports (Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Calgary)
- Closure of the land border with the United States for non-essential travel
- Non-residents prohibited from entering the country
- Compulsory 14-day isolation for anyone arriving from abroad
- Reopening of gardening centers and car dealerships in Ontario as of May 1st, reopening of daycare centres and elementary schools in Quebec as of May 18th

## Economic measures

- Tax assistance package of \$82 billion, of which:
  - 55 billion to cover delayed tax payments.
  - 27 billion for employment insurance
- \$1 billion economic package:
  - 500 million in support of provincial and territorial health systems
  - 275 million to fund research
  - 150 million to increase funding for public health, including Aboriginal Health Services Canada; and
  - 50 million for medical products
- Payment of \$2000 per month for 4 months for people who have lost their job due to Coronavirus.
- Deferral of the deadline for payment of taxes
- Waiving of one-week waiting period to qualify for Unemployment Insurance
- Lowering of bank rates by the Bank of Canada to 0.25%, and purchase of securities at a minimum of \$5 billion per week

## Institutional arrangements

- Parliamentary work began April 20
- MPs working from home
- Proposal to hold Committee meetings through video- and teleconference
- Parliamentary sittings to occur once a week with reduced participation, and twice weekly through videoconference

# Japan



Population : 126.16 M hb

Prime Minister: Mr. Shinzō Abe  
Liberal Democratic Party (Conservatives)

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 05/05: 15,078 cases and 536 deaths
- Mandatory 14-day isolation for anyone entering Japan from 38 countries, including the EU member states, and drastic limitations on the number of visas granted to citizens of these countries.
- Remote work is strongly encouraged and sick leave granted
- Recommendation to encourage the postponement or cancellation of large-scale events in confined spaces
- Closure of schools, with the exception of universities
- Possibility of quarantine for those exposed or who have developed symptoms

## Economic measures

- On April 6th, Prime Minister Shinzō Abe announced a rescue plan of 108,000 billion yen (€915 billion), equivalent to 20% of Japan's GDP, to counter the consequences of the Covid-19 crisis :
  - *The 1st part of this plan (32,000 billion yen / 270 billion euros) will aim to support households hit by the crisis and offer businesses deferrals on tax and social services costs*
  - *The 2nd part will try to support an economic recovery after the virus is contained*
- Previously, the Government had already put in place a package of measures to support the economy:
  - *The Bank of Japan is conducting asset buybacks to stabilize financial markets and ensure that they do not run out of liquidity*
  - *1600 billion yen (€13.4 billion) aid package for businesses through very low-interest loans (interest-free for SMEs)*
  - *431 billion yen (€3.6 billion) are being mobilized to provide financial support to employees who have to stop working and to help day-care centres and retirement homes to protect themselves against Covid-19*

## Institutional arrangements

- The government declared a state of emergency in seven prefectures (Tokyo, Kanagawa, Chiba, Saitama, Osaka, Hyogo and Fukuoka) on April 7th, before deciding to extend it to the whole of Japan on April 16th. It is scheduled to last until May 31st (renewable).
- Indeed, a law that came into force on March 13th allowed the authorities to declare a state of emergency for a maximum of two years. Prefectural governors may adopt the measures they deem necessary to curb the spread of Covid-19, including potential :
  - *Containment of the population (without coercive measures), closure of universities and cancellation of events*
  - *Requisition of basic necessity products*
  - *Seizure of private land or buildings for medical purposes*

# People's Republic of China



Population : 1,386 M hb

President : M. Xi Jinping  
Communist Party of China

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 05/05 : 83,966 cases and 4,637 deaths
- Due to the low number of new cases of Covid-19, China is gradually lifting the extremely strict containment measures imposed in some of its provinces since January 2020
- However, a number of measures are still in place:
  - *Use of BigData and mobile phone data to identify people who have been in contact with carriers of the virus: each individual must present a "green health code", assigned by the authorities, with his or her phone in order to access public places, travel by public transport or take a taxi ride*
  - *Establishment of citizen temperature check points (especially in companies, rail stations and subways)*
  - *Requirement to wear a mask in all public places*
  - *Closing of bars, restaurants and game rooms*
  - *Mandatory quarantine for anyone entering the country*

## Economic measures

- The Chinese economy contracted by 6.8% in the 1st quarter: activity gradually picked up again in March / April but is still hampered by the paralysis that is now hitting the EU and the United States, the main export markets for Chinese companies
- On April 17th, the authorities announced new "powerful measures" to support the economy: interest rate cuts, issuance of special government bonds and encouragement to buy export products on the domestic market. These measures have not yet been officially quantified
- These measures are adding to those adopted since February, including :
  - *The People's Bank of China (PBC) plans to ease the reserve requirements for banks in the country in order to free up to 550 billion yuan (about €70 billion) to support the economy, especially SMEs.*
  - *The PBC has also reduced its lending rates to lower the cost of financing businesses*
  - *The Ministry of Finance has authorized local governments to borrow 290 billion yuan (€37.9 billion) to finance infrastructure projects and thus help stimulate growth.*
  - *Beneficial tax measures (including tax reduction) for businesses affected by the economic downturn*

## Institutional arrangements

- The authorities have presented the epidemic as an unprecedented threat to China, which can only be resolved through extraordinary measures, including:
  - *The total containment of certain cities (with effective control by the army);*
  - *The use of digital / BigData technologies to monitor the movements of infected people*
- Solidarity with Europe: Beijing is seeking to defend its damaged image on the international stage by offering its aid to the most affected European countries. In particular, China has:
  - *Made its experts at the disposal of Spain and Italy*
  - *Sent several millions of surgical masks and gloves to the EU*
- However, some political leaders, including in France and in the United Kingdom, have expressed doubts about China's handling of the crisis

# Russia

Population : 146.78 M hb



President: Mr Vladimir POUTINE  
United Russia

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 134.687 cases 1280 deaths
- Russian government decided to extend the national “non-working” month through May 11
- Therefore Russia is to begin, **from 12 May, the gradual lifting of containment measures**
- Cancellation of sporting and cultural events across the country
- Closing of clubs and cinemas across the country
- Moscow has introduced an electronic system that issues permits to people who need to leave their homes
- Closing of resorts, sanatoriums and children’s camps until the 1st June
- Punishments for non-respect of quarantine rules (up to 7 years in prison)
- Recommendation to employers to opt for remote work
- Recommendation to Moscow residents to avoid using public transport
- Russians are advised not to leave the country. Those who return home must be isolated for 14 days
- Prohibition of entry for all foreign citizens between (with the exception of diplomats and aviation personnel) has been extended
- Closure of the borders with Belarus as well as with Poland and Norway

## Economic measures

- Setting up an anti-crisis fund worth 300 billion roubles (€3.7 billion) to support the economy (including the self-employed) through credits and tax exemptions, but also quarantined citizens
- The city of Moscow will pay city hospitals 200,000 roubles (around 2,300 euros) for each coronavirus patient
- On the 26th March, Sberbank and VTB, with support from the Russian Central Bank, announced the launch of a pilot business loan program that offers six-month 0% interest loans to businesses
- Interest-free loans and tax breaks
- Proposal to provide a specific budget for the payment of unemployment benefits following the pandemic
- Proposal to postpone by 3 months the payment of taxes due by SMEs affected by the crisis

## Institutional arrangements

- Postponement of the vote on 22 April on amendments to the Russian Constitution to allow Vladimir Putin to stand for re-election in the presidential election
- Federal government employees work remotely since the 27th March
- Delegation of decision making powers on coronavirus to regional authorities because of the existence of big regional differences in infection rates

## Switzerland



Population : 8.5 M hb

President of the Federal Council: Mrs Simonetta SOMMARUGA  
Swiss Socialist Party

### Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 20/04: 29,981 cases and 1,477 deaths
- The situation is still classified as "extraordinary" under the Epidemics Act.
- Gradual deconfinement: since 27th of April 2020, hospitals have been carrying out all interventions. Medical surgeries, hairdressing salons, massage and beauty salons, flower shops, DIY stores, garden centres can reopen.
- On 11th of May, the pace of trains will be stepped up, restaurants can accommodate groups of 4 people, shops and markets can reopen, as well as compulsory schools (primary and secondary I), exams can be taken in training centres.
- By 8th of June, depending on a Federal Council decision by the 27th of May: reopening of secondary and tertiary schools, cinemas, theatres, zoos, public swimming pools, religious services, permission for gatherings of more than five people.
- During this gradual deconfinement, companies, employees and customers must continue to follow the rules of hygiene and conduct.
- Vulnerable people must be able to continue working from home.

### Economic measures

- The Federal Council's CHF 40 billion aid package announced on 13 and 20 March :
  - *Direct liquidity*
  - *Deferral of social insurance contributions*
  - *Liquidity reserve in the tax area and for federal suppliers*
  - *Suspension of proceedings and bankruptcies under the Federal Debt Enforcement and Bankruptcy Act*
  - *Extension of short-time working and simplification of procedures*
- Measures aimed for job-seekers (e.g. relaxation of conditions of access and time limits linked to unemployment insurance)
- Since 16 April, the self-employed who are only indirectly affected by the official measures to combat the pandemic also receive an allowance if they are allowed to work, but their activity has decreased.
- The right to allowance for parents of disabled children who have to keep them at home is extended to children up to the age of 20.
- Sectoral measures :
  - *Culture: FRF 280 million released for immediate aid and cancellation compensation in the sector*
  - *Sport: CHF 100 million for sports organisations (equally divided between professional and amateur sport)*
  - *Tourism: the Confederation waives the repayment of the remaining balance of the additional loan granted to the Swiss Hotel Credit Corporation (5.5 million), flexibility of the cantons with regard to payment deferrals*

### Institutional arrangements

- The Federal Assembly concentrates solely on overcoming the health crisis and suspends the rest of its work.
- An extraordinary session of Parliament will be held from 4th to 7th of May.
- Postponement of the popular votes to an undetermined date (the next one was scheduled for May 17)
- The Government expressly recommends that the cantons and communes only authorise communal assemblies when they are absolutely necessary.

## Turkey



Population : 83.154 M hb

President: Mr Recep Tayyip ERDOGAN  
Justice and Development Party (AKP)

### Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 126,045 cases; 3,397 deaths
- Closure of clubs, bars, cafés, tea rooms and cinemas as well as places of worship. Fines are provided for establishments that refuse to close.
- In supermarkets, consumers must keep a distance of at least 10 square metres from each other
- Since 4th April, obligation to wear face masks in crowded places including stores
- Passengers without masks are not accepted any more in public transport vehicles in Ankara and Istanbul
- The State encourages the introduction of flexible and reduced hours for employees
- People aged more than 65 and/or suffering from chronic diseases are restricted to leave their homes
- Since the 4th April and for a period of 15 days, entry and exit are banned for 31 major Turkish provinces including Istanbul except for delivery of food, medicines and cleaning products
- Closure of borders for German, Spanish, French, Austrian, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Belgian and Dutch nationals
- Cancellation of all domestic and international flights until the end of May
- A deconfinement strategy is in preparation and suggests a re-opening of the economy at the end of May, after the holy month of Ramadan

### Economic measures

- President ERDOGAN announced a 14.3 billion euro tax package to support the country's economy. The package contains tax deferrals for companies operating in the following sectors: logistics and transport, food and beverages, the automotive industry, textiles, theatres and cinemas and the hotel industry.
- The Central Bank of Turkey has announced loans at lower rates to local banks to help them cope with the crisis.
- Increase in minimum pensions from 141 euros to 212 euros
- 1.5 billion Turkish lira (EUR 214 million) in the form of aid to farmers producing, in particular, vegetables and wheat.
- Financial support schemes will also be offered to export-oriented companies.
- Restriction of exports of chemical substances necessary for the manufacture of hygienic products
- Another package of measures has just been ratified by the Turkish Parliament. It provides in particular for
  - Empowering municipalities to defer payment of water bills for businesses and individuals for three months and to offer financial support to those most in need.
  - The deferral of payment of student loans and seniors' income taxes;
  - Allowances for the most affected employees, as well as 60% of their salary in case of temporary unemployment.

### Institutional arrangements

- Creation of a Coronavirus Scientific Committee inside the Health Ministry
- The Ministry of Finance and Treasury announced the recruitment of 2,000 young experts in the legal, financial and tax sectors to work on the issue of coronavirus impacts on the Turkish economy
- Launch of a national solidarity campaign to collect donations for the poorest people in the country: 138 million euros have been donated since 31st March

# United Kingdom



Population : 65.76 M hb

Prime Minister: Mr Boris JOHNSON  
Conservative Party

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 05/05: 190,584 cases and 28,809 deaths
- From 20 March, bars, clubs, cafés, restaurants, theatres, cinemas and sports halls are closed : the measure will be reviewed on a monthly basis
- Since 24 March, British people have been allowed to go out only for work (when absolutely necessary), to do essential shopping, physical exercise once a day or for medical reasons: the police and local authorities have the power to disperse any gathering of more than 2 people across the country (the use of fines is also allowed).
- Remote work is recommended
- From 20 March, schools in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are closed
- Recommendation to British citizens not to leave the country for non-essential trips

## Economic measures

- On 6 April, the European Commission approved a €57 billion UK "umbrella" scheme to support SMEs and large companies affected by the Covid-19 epidemic: direct grants, capital injections, selective tax benefits, support for R&D in the medical field, support for the production of products useful to fight the Covid-19, etc.
- Bank of England to provide £330 billion lending programme for businesses affected by the crisis
- Small businesses will be able to access interest-free credit (up to £5 million) for the first 6 months after taking out the loans.
- On 20 March, Finance Minister Rishi SUNAK announced that the state would pay 80% of the salaries of employees who are unable to work due to the crisis (up to 2,500 pounds per month).
- Exemption from corporate tax for bars for one year
- Grants of up to £25,000 for businesses in the leisure, hospitality and retail sectors with a taxable value of between £15,000 and £51,000
- The Hospital Workers' Union has requested specific financial support from the government, in particular for staff directly involved in the management of the coronavirus.

## Institutional arrangements

- Adopted on 25 March, the "Coronavirus Act" grants emergency powers to the government, including the possibility to :
  - Increase funding for the NHS: in particular to enable retired and discharged doctors and nurses to return to work
  - Close ports, train stations and airports to slow the spread of Covid-19
  - Authorize local authorities to put into quarantine a person suspected of being infected with Covid-19 and to criminalize failure to comply with this mandatory quarantine.

# United States



Population : 327.5 M hb

President: Mr Donald TRUMP  
Republican Party

## Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 04/05: 1,202,911 cases and 69,168 deaths
- Recommendation to avoid events of more than 10 people
- Closure of borders to all non-essential traffic
- Mandatory quarantine and closure of non-essential stores in the majority of states
- General lockdown in a majority of states, except for the Dakotas, Arkansas, Nebraska, and Iowa
- Deferment of loosening of lockdown rules to state Governors
- Loosening of lockdown rules as of April 25th in Georgia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alaska

## Economic measures

- Senate-approved economic package of \$2 trillion:
  - 500 billion in loans for businesses
  - Increase in unemployment compensation to \$600/month
  - 150 billion in funding for hospitals
  - 250 billion in direct payments to citizens
- 42 billion state and county funding package
- Deferral of tax payments, estimated to be worth \$300 billion, including corporate taxes up to \$10 million.
- Negotiations underway with Congress for a trillion dollar economic package
- Negotiations to grant 2 weeks paid sick leave, free coronavirus testing, and increased funding for free medical systems.
- Federal Reserve repurchase of \$700 billion in financial securities
- Deferral of mortgage costs for 12 months for people who have lost their jobs
- Request from governors for additional \$500 billion to support states' economies

## Institutional arrangements

- Ongoing negotiations to extend the CARES Act to a fourth phase to increase medical and healthcare funding
- Congressional recess until April 20th