



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 as at 20/04: 14,713 cases and 470 deaths
- Gradual deconfinement, since 14/04
- Since 14/04, shops with less than 400m² can reopen if they comply with the following conditions: 20m² per customer, controls at the entrance of the shop, compulsory wearing of masks for employees and customers, regular disinfection. Do-it-yourself stores and garden centres are not concerned by the 400m² criterion.
- Wearing a mask is compulsory on public transport.
- A distance of one meter between people must be respected.
- Restaurants may offer take-away services.
- Teaching in schools and colleges is still suspended, as is childcare in nurseries (except for parents who cannot keep their children at home) or universities.
- Since 19/04, top athletes and their coaches have had access to private sports facilities.
- Entry into Austria is still subject to a medical certificate.
- Some parts of Tirol remain under absolute quarantine (ban on entering and leaving these municipalities).
- Restrictions on public events and hospital visits are maintained.
- The gradual deconfinement should continue in May with the reopening of hairdressing salons (01/05), potentially including cafés and museums (mid-May). An assessment of the situation will take place at the end of April.

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

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 several 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 21/04 : 40.956 cases and 5.998 deaths
- Extension of the containment measures by two weeks, i.e. until 3 May (included):
 - *Confinement of citizens at home with certain exceptions*
 - *Mandatory remote work*
 - *No more classes in schools and universities, day care for children. Only nurseries remain open*
 - *Recreational activities cancelled, regardless of size or character. Mass events (e.g. festivals) cancelled until 31 August included*
 - *Closure of non-essential stores and businesses, except food stores, pharmacies, pet food stores, DIY stores and garden centres*
 - *Limitation of travel to essential journeys. Public transport is still running but reduced*
 - *Non-essential travel outside Belgium prohibited*
- Objective to start deconfinement as of beginning of May

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

Institutional arrangements

- 06/04: establishment of the Expert Group in charge of the Exit Strategy (GEES)
- The "Wilmès II" government, which officially took office on 19/03, was granted special powers on 26/03 for a period of 3 to 6 months (maximum). These will enable the Government to draft "ordinances" without going through Parliament, in the interests of speed
- 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 21/04: 966 cases and 45 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, for the period from 12 to 26 April included
- Reopening of open-air markets after Orthodox Easter
- 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 no longer allowed to enter Bulgarian territory: China, Iran, India, Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom.
- Establishment of medical checks at borders

Economic measures

- Establishment of a partial moratorium on the payment of bank loans
- Aid plan of 500 million leva (€250 million) in the form of guarantees for commercial banks to enable them to be more flexible in dealing with their customers
- Support to particularly affected companies (restaurants, bars) for a period of 3 months for the payment of their employees' salaries (60% provided by the State, 40% by companies). The State will also pay the social contributions paid by employers
- Postponement of deadlines for closing companies' financial years to June
- 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 PLENKOVIC
Croatian Democratic Union, centre-right

Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 20/04: 1871 cases and 47 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
- Suspension of public transports
- The deconfinement strategy is in preparation and may include:
 - 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 20/04: 767cases and 12 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
- Two-stage deconfinement strategy (subject to the epidemiological situation):
 - Early May: reopening of vital sectors of the economy
 - Between September and December: Widespread deconfinement and reopening of all economic sectors

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 20/04: 6838 cases and 194 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

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)
- Gradual easing of measures from 07/04 onwards
- Public authorities open on 20/04 upon respect of special measures (physical meetings allowed through barriers or with 2 metres distance, etc.)
- Ban on retail trade in outdoor marketplaces progressively relaxed starting with 20/04

Denmark



Population : 5,6 M hb

Prime Minister: Mrs Mette FREDERIKSEN
Socialist Party

Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 20/04: 7515 cases and 364 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 20/04: 1535 cases and 40 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

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
- Publication of a European Roadmap to lifting coronavirus containment measures
- New guidelines on testing
- Guidance and EU toolbox for the use of mobile applications for contact tracing and warning
- Creation of a reserve of medical equipment (rescEU)
- 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 Eurogroup has proposed a €540 billion aid package which will activate three instruments: 1) a credit line from the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), 2) a guarantee fund managed by the EIB and 3) the SURE instrument to support national short-time working schemes
- Amendment of the EU budget for 2020 allowing for increased commitments and payments
- Second proposal to extend the temporary State aid framework to allow Member States to recapitalise companies in need of aid
- Launch of the ESCALAR initiative to mobilise up to €1.2 billion to help high-potential companies grow and develop
- 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
- Activation of the general derogation clause, allowing Member States not to respect the rules of budgetary discipline.
- 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
- Exemption from customs duties and VAT on imports of medical equipment from third countries
- The European Commission and the European Investment Fund (part of the EIB Group) release EUR 8 billion to finance 100 000 small and medium-sized enterprises

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 20/04: 3868 cases and 98 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

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 21.04.2020 : 114,657 cases and 20,265 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)
- Suspension of weekend outings
- Implementation of controls by the police (lump sum fine: €135)
- 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
- Edouard PHILIPPE announced the extension of the quarantine until May 11th at least

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).

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 as at 20/04: 141,672 cases and 4,404 deaths
- Gradual deconfinement from 20/04, the Federal State and the Länder have agreed on the following measures:
- Reopening of shops under 800m², possible reopening of hairdressers from 04/05.
- Distance of 1.5 metres, maximum of 2 persons from a different household in external travel
- Prohibition of 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€).
- Schools will be able to reopen from 4 May, and by the end of April the Länder must agree on the hygiene measures to be introduced in the establishments which will reopen.
- Wearing of masks is encouraged.
- It should be noted that the Länder can reinforce these measures, as several Länder, such as Saxony, have already made the wearing of masks compulsory in transport and shops.

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
- Several stakeholders are calling for sectoral support measures, none of which have yet been decided at the federal level.

Institutional arrangements

- While both parliamentary chambers deal primarily with issues related to the COVID19 crisis, the political and institutional agenda is maintained with a view to the German Council Presidency in the second half of 2020.

Greece



Population : 10,74 M hb

Prime Minister: Kyriakos MITSOTAKIS
Centre Party

Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 20/04: 2.235 cases and 113 deaths
- Closure of all non-essential businesses and industries in the country
- Quarantine measures have been extended until April 27
- Greece's Health Minister Vassilis KIKILIAS announced last April 15 that the government will decide by the end of April how it will proceed with lifting the lockdown
- Widespread use of remote work for public and private companies
- Strict traffic restrictions except for:
 - *Travel to the workplace when remote work is not possible*
 - *Shopping for basic necessities in authorized convenience stores*
 - *Obtaining food, pharmaceuticals and basic necessities*
 - *Getting to the medical centres*
 - *Force Majeure or situations of necessity*
- Suspension of visits to care facilities
- 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 20/04: 1984 cases and 199 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 except for food shops and pharmacies.
- Closure of cultural and leisure facilities, schools and universities.
- Ban on the entry of aliens into Hungary from 17 March.
- Establishment of Schengen border controls.
- Containment measures since March 28.

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 20/04: 15,251 cases and 610 deaths
- Closure of bars, clubs, theatres and sport centers extended until May 5th
- 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 (except for 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 20/04: 178,972 cases (active, recovered and deceased) and 23,660 deaths
- Closure of all non-strategic businesses and industries in the country (a detailed list of exemptions has been drafted)
- Widespread use of remote work for companies
- Strict traffic restrictions except for (with self-certification form) :
 - *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 help vulnerable relatives*
- Suspension of visits to retirement homes and prisons
- Suspension of weekend outings
- 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
- Preparation of a deconfinement plan which could include:
 - A reopening of the industrial and building sectors on May 4
 - A reopening of all stores on May 18, pending the application of social distancing measures
 - A derogation for certain less affected regions which could restart parts of their economies before 4 May, subject to compliance with health standards to be established.

Economic measures

- 750 billion aid plan under the "Cura Italia" and « Liquidità » decrees. A new help plan for families should be presented on 25 April.
 - *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 20/04: 739 cases and 5 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

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 20/04: 1326 cases and 37 deaths
- General Quarantine
- Prohibition of events with more than 100 people
- Closing borders to non-citizens
- Reopening of certain non-essential stores and services such as small repair shops as of April 20th

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 20/04 : 3.558 cases and 75 deaths
- 15/04: publication of a deconfinement scenario in 3 phases:
 - Phase 1: resumption of construction sites and reopening of certain sites from 20 April
 - 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
- Handicraft companies will receive 5 masks per employee as part of the deconfinement strategy
- From 16/03: Limited traffic on public roads ; More commercial or artisanal activities ; Remote work recommended
- Certain core activities are maintained from 16/03 (inter alia, energy production and distribution, health sector, public transport and waste). Certain commercial or craft activities will also be maintained, including, inter alia, garages, which are authorised to carry out after-sales services, repair services, but sales are prohibited; technical inspection for vehicles and car leasing
- Establishment of a hotline offering multilingual psychological support 7 days a week
- Call to respect a "social distancing" of 2m in shops

Economic measures

- Setting up an emergency fund for 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)
- 03/04: 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
- Launch of a call for proposals aimed at start-ups with innovative solutions in the fight against Covid-19. Up to 20 projects will be selected, each of which will receive financial support of up to €150,000. The call for proposals is open between 20 and 30 April
- Summary [table](#) of measures part of the economic stabilisation programme (as of 10 April)

Institutional arrangements

- Suspension of time-limits in the following 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: 427cases and 3 deaths
- Closure of primary, secondary and higher education institutions until the end of the academic year
- Fortnight obligatory for all those returning to Malta.
- Suspension of group sports, religious and political activities
- Prohibition of all organized gatherings
- Closure of all non-essential commercial activities intended to receive members of the public
- Travel prohibited in Italy, Germany, Spain, France and Switzerland.
- Closing the borders to all migrants trying to come by sea
- Deconfinement strategy under development, with the start of restrictions' lifting in a few weeks' time.

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 20/04: 9453 cases and 362 deaths
- Introduction of border controls on 16/03
- Entry bans on foreign travellers until at least 03/05
- 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)

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: 20.206 cases and 714 deaths
- Closure of all non-essential businesses and industries in the country
- Quarantine extended to May 2
- Prime Minister Antonio COSTA recently said he hopes to relax restrictions on schools, stores, restaurants and cultural spaces from May onwards (detailed plan to be announced on April 30)
- Widespread use of remote work for public and private companies
- Strict traffic restrictions except for:
 - *Going to the workplace when remote work is not possible*
 - *Shopping for basic necessities in authorized convenience stores*
 - *Getting to the medical centres*
 - *Return to place of habitual residence*
 - *Care for the elderly, minors or the handicapped*
 - *Major cause or situation of necessity*
- Suspension of visits to care facilities
- Closed land borders with Spain (except for freight carriers, nationals and border workers)
- Implementation of controls by law enforcement agencies
- Containment is stricter for people over 65 years of age.
- 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.*
 - *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 20/04: 8936 cases and 460 deaths
- State of emergency from 16/03 until 15/05
- Closing of schools, universities, restaurants, hotels
- National lockdown introduced on 24/03

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 15/05. Measures to relax the containment measures are not yet foreseen.

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 20/04: 1173 cases and 13 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

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
- Gradual easing of measures from 20/04 onwards

Slovenia



Population : 2,1 M hb

Government President: Mr Borut PAHOR
Socialist Party

Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 20/04: 1330 cases and 74 deaths
- Slovenia will the April 20 ease restrictions that have been imposed since the middle of March:
 - *Most shops, including those selling furniture, cars, bicycles and construction material as well as car service centers will be opened from April 20*
 - *hairdressers, beauty parlors and pet grooming centers will open on May 4*
 - *schools, kindergartens, universities, libraries and cultural institutions remain closed,*
 - *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)
- 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 recently 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

- No specific institutional measures identified to date

Spain



Population : 46,7 M hb

Government President: Pedro SANCHEZ

Coalition: Podemos and Socialist Party

Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 20/04: 200.210 cases and 20.857 deaths
- Closure of all non-essential businesses and industries in the country
- Extension of the state of emergency until May 10
- The government is now working on a deconfinement plan that would be phased in starting in May
- From April 27th, children can go out in the street accompanied by a member of their family
- Widespread use of remote work for companies
- Strict traffic restrictions except for:
 - *Travel to the workplace when remote work is not possible*
 - *Shopping for basic necessities in authorized convenience stores*
 - *Going to a health care professional*
 - *Getting to the medical centres*
 - *Return to place of habitual residence*
 - *Care for the elderly, minors or the handicapped*
 - *Major cause or situation of necessity*
- Suspension of visits to care facilities
- 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 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*
 - *Specific support for the self-employed and SMEs*
 - *The government will guarantee bank credits committed by SMEs.*
 - *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.*

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 20/04: 14777 cases and 1580 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 20/04 : 33.405 cases and 3.751 deaths
- Restriction on entry into the Netherlands until 15 May
- Measures taken by the Netherlands to combat the Coronavirus are extended until 28 April (teleworking; closure of schools, nurseries and day-care centres; closure of cafés, bars, restaurants, sports halls, saunas; social distancing measures, etc.)
- Events and gatherings are still prohibited until June 1st

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
- Celebrations of the Dutch national holiday (Koningsdag, King Willem-Alexander's birthday), scheduled for 27 April, have been cancelled at Dutch embassies and representations around the world and in Maastricht, the city that was to host the royal family this year

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 20/04: 36670 cases and 1680 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

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 recess until April 20th
- 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 20/04: 10,751 cases and 171 deaths
- Mandatory 14-day isolation for anyone entering Japan from 38 countries, including the EU, 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 6 May (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 :
 - *Compulsory containment of the population, 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 20/04: 83,817 cases and 4,636 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 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*

Russia



Population : 146,78 M hb

President: Mr Vladimir POUTINE
United Russia

Sanitary measures

- Figures as of 20/04 : 47.121 cases; 405 deaths
- Announcement of a paid non-working period in Russia until the 30th April
- Cancellation of sporting and cultural events across the country
- Closing of clubs and cinemas across the country
- 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
- As of 26th March, Moscow residents over 65 years of age will have to stay at home.
- 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 18 March and 1 May (with the exception of diplomats and aviation personnel)
- 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 rubles (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
- 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: 27,944 cases and 1,142 deaths
- The situation is still classified as "extraordinary" within the meaning of the Epidemics Act.
- Gradual easing: from 27 April 2020, hospitals will be able to carry out all interventions. Medical surgeries, hairdressing salons, massage parlours, beauty salons, flower shops, DIY stores, garden centres will be able to reopen.
- During this relaxation, companies, employees and customers must continue to follow the rules of hygiene
- Vulnerable people must be able to continue working from their homes.
- Ban of gatherings of more than 5 people is maintained.
- Ban on entry into Switzerland for persons coming from risk regions for 6 months (exception for i.e. cross-border workers) is maintained.

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 4 to 8 May.
- In the meantime, however, the committees may continue to meet in accordance with certain hygiene standards.
- 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 20/04: 86,306 cases; 2,017 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
- Weekend curfew in these 31 provinces, except essential sanitary needs
- Closure of borders for German, Spanish, French, Austrian, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Belgian and Dutch nationals
- Cancellation of all domestic and international flights

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 20/04: 120,067 cases and 16,060 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

- 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 20/04: 777,854 cases and 41,397 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 following states:
 - California
 - New York
 - Illinois
 - Ohio
 - Washington
 - Oregon
 - Hawaii
 - Michigan
- General lockdown in a majority of states, except for the Dakotas, Arkansas, Nebraska, and Iowa
- Deferment of loosening of lockdown rules to state Governors

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

Institutional arrangements

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