

## Overview COVID-19 measures - RECOVERY

Country	Government measures	Recommendations from EuroCommerce members	Green investments	Digital investments	Single market
AT	<p>15 bn EUR package announced on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extension of existing support measures</li> <li>- Reduction of sales tax for gastronomy and culture: Reduced VAT rate of 5 % on food and beverages in the gastronomy sector and on sales in the art, culture and journalism sectors.</li> <li>- Credit moratorium: For particularly affected sectors such as gastronomy, tourism and tour operators, relief is provided by means of a credit moratorium. The state temporarily takes over loan repayments until the instalments can be paid at a later date.</li> <li>- Investment Premium: An investment premium of 7 % is available for assets purchased between 1.9.2020 - 28.2.2021, with the exception of climate-damaging investments. For goods related to digitisation, greening, health/life science, the premium rate of 14 % applies.</li> </ul>	<p><b>WKO</b> is suggesting the following measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existing support measures need to be adapted in the following respects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibility of extending short-time working for all trading companies even after mid/end of June - i.e. at a time when all companies are expected to be allowed to open again.</li> <li>• Legal clarification regarding business rents for the period of the shutdown</li> <li>• Improvement of the Corona relief fund in several dimensions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Extension of the COVID period</li> <li>○ Simplification of access requirements</li> <li>○ Complete consideration of fixed costs</li> <li>○ Consideration (100 %) of the loss in value of goods</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Yes	Yes	No

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Depressive depreciation: From 1.7.2020, investments can already be written off in the first year at a rate of 30 %.</li> <li>- Strengthening equity: A concept for increasing the equity ratio for SMEs has been announced for the coming weeks.</li> <li>- Master Plan Digitalization and Education</li> <li>- Renovation offensive</li> <li>- Expansion of renewable energy/"One million roofs" programme</li> <li>- "Federal Buildings Investment Programme"</li> <li>- Investments in climate-friendly innovations &amp; industries</li> <li>- Incentive for repair services</li> <li>- Broadband expansion</li> <li>- New company form "Austrian Limited": With unbureaucratic foundation, low founding capital.</li> <li>- Strengthening of growth financing: Loss offsetting possibility and tax deductibility of growth financing.</li> <li>- Deregulation measures: Employee participation, once-only and implementation of the grace period.</li> <li>- Reduction of the first pay scale level for wage and income tax: Retroactively as of 1.1.2020 with reimbursement for already taxed salaries in September at the latest.</li> <li>- Increase in Social Insurance refund (negative tax): Retroactively with 1.1.2020, increase up to 100 Euro.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o faster payment (payment on account in autumn 2020)</li> <li>o Postponement of the relevant periods for small businesses in sectors depending on commissions which are paid with a time lag</li> </ul> <p>- In order to improve the willingness to buy, precise information is required from consumers and entrepreneurs in the short term. This should be ensured by a recovery package including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear communication in the reopening phase – what is allowed and what is not allowed</li> <li>• Clear communication on uniform shop opening hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Increase the possible opening hours to 80h/week</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sustainable protection of the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Credit insurance system</li> <li>o Cost-effective access to debt capital (with commercial banks)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Implementation of certain legal regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Rapid reduction of competitive advantages for international online dealers/platforms (fast implementation of the abolishment of the EUR 30 VAT threshold, ensure fair taxation and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
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	<p>- Unemployment benefit and child bonus: One-time additional 450 euros to unemployment benefit. A bonus of 360 euros per child for whom family allowance is received.</p> <p>The subsidy schemes have been extended until March 2021.</p> <p>In September the investment premium on 1 bn EUR for green investments was increased to 2 bn EUR.</p> <p>Turnover loss compensation scheme of 20,30 or 40% of lost turnover depending on sector. Expected to be approve in November.</p> <p><u>Update in January</u> -New support measure: "loss bono", if there is a loss if turnover of at least 40% there is a compensation to up to 60,000 EUR -&gt; relevant for small companies</p>	<p>implementation of the conciliation body with Amazon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic stimulus measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scrappage/environmental bonus</li> <li>○ Extended pension scheme for entrepreneurs above 57 who lost their business due to COVID-19</li> <li>○ Support package to the tourism sector</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<b>BE</b>	<p>Sales and promotions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sales season postponed to 1st of august, presale season moved to July</li> <li>- The period during which companies can sell below cost will be extended</li> </ul> <p>Financial support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agreement with the financial sector to allow 6 months deferral of payments without charges</li> <li>- Government will guarantee all new loans taken out for 12 months between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> of September</li> </ul>	<p>In the end of May <b>COMEOS</b> published their "Hermes plan" which contains a 3-step approach to recovery. Below COMEOS three main priorities for each step:</p> <p>Phase 1: Liquidity (as of March 18, 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preventing contamination of companies higher up in the value chain</li> <li>- Protecting healthy businesses from bankruptcy due to liquidity problems</li> </ul> <p>3 priorities for phase 1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deferral of payment for tax and social security invoices</li> <li>2. Extending and expanding the moratorium on bankruptcies</li> </ol>	No	Yes	No

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Temporary unemployment scheme (chomage) extended to end of the year</li> <li>- Extension of opening hours and allowed working hours</li> <li>- Flexibilities in paying tax debts, social security and insurances until the end of the year</li> <li>- Some local administrations are distributing consumption checks for local shops and have set aside promotional budgets for local initiatives</li> <li>- Consumer check on the table, but details need to be clarified</li> <li>- VAT reduction for restaurants from 21% to 6% for non-alcoholic beverages and foods</li> <li>- Postponement of payment of VAT debt until the end of the year.</li> </ul> <p>6th of November the Belgian Government announced 38 new initiatives to support businesses, employees and socially deprived through the second wave:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extension of existing measures</li> <li>- Implementation of the agreement of the social partners whereby the government partly intervenes in the financing of the holiday allowance for the temporarily unemployed.</li> <li>- Extension of the scope of the exemption for the social security employer contribution for the third quarter of 2020 to other sectors (than the hotel and catering industry and the events sector) that had to close.</li> </ul> <p><u>Update in January</u></p>	<p>3. Extension of system of temporary unemployment due to corona force majeure</p> <p>Phase 2: Solvency (from 1 July 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting businesses in the transition to a lower cost structure</li> <li>- Safeguarding as many jobs as possible</li> <li>- Supporting B2C consumption</li> </ul> <p>3 priorities for phase 2:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appointing a mediator for commercial rent</li> <li>2. Partial exemption from social security contributions for the 3rd quarter of 2020</li> <li>3. Annulation of working time as standard</li> </ol> <p>Phase 3: Profitability and solvency (from 1 September 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Making the sector structurally healthier and able to recoup losses incurred</li> <li>- Supporting businesses in the transition to a lower cost structure</li> </ul> <p>3 priorities for phase 3:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Targeted reduction of charges for low wage earners</li> <li>2. Adapting the work organisation</li> <li>3. Correct taxation of digital activities</li> </ol>			
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	<p>-Support measures will be taken for restaurants &amp; extra measures for shops that have been closed for months</p> <p>-Sales not going well, running until 15 Feb.</p>				
<b>BG</b>	<p>On top of the support measures the government has proposed the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up to 200 million levs will be used for non-interest consumer loans up to 4500 levs for employees on unpaid leave with a maximum repayment term of 5 years.</li> <li>- The Operational Programme “Innovation and Competitiveness” launch from the end of the April procedure to provide liquidity to micro and small enterprises, worth 173 million levs. The grants are limited between 3000 and 10000 levs to viable enterprises with a decrease of at least 20% in their turnover for the month, preceding the date of application submission.</li> <li>- The Fund of Funds mobilises 400 million levs in response to the economic consequences of the crisis, which includes designing of a new guarantee product for SMEs, support for self-employed individuals and small start-ups, increased flexibility of the facility in the field of venture equity investments in start-ups and innovative businesses.</li> </ul>				
<b>CH</b>					
<b>CY</b>	<p>Apart from the direct support measures the government took the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Temporary reduction of VAT from 19% to 17% for a period of two months and from 9% to 7% for a period of three and a half months.</li> </ul>				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Temporary suspension for two months of the VAT due for companies with turnover less than €1 m. and businesses whose turnover decreased by more than 25%. - special arrangements for persons who are included in the scheme of paying overdue tax debts.</li> <li>- Extension of the period for tax submission for two months. suspension of the requirement to hold guarantees under public and private contracts for the supply of services or products that will be delayed due to crisis.</li> <li>- Financial support for the recovery of the tourism sector between June-September 2020 in cooperation with airlines and tour operators as well as actions to enhance the attraction of tourists during the period October 2020 - March 2021.</li> <li>- Setting price ceiling for personal hygiene products (masks, antiseptics, antibacterial liquids, soaps, etc.).</li> </ul>				
<b>CZ</b>	<p>The government has taken the following measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restrictions on the Czech National Bank has been eased allowing it to trade with other institutions than banks and in instruments with maturity &gt; 1 y</li> <li>- Extension of the deadline for filing tax returns</li> <li>- Road tax advances postponed to October</li> <li>- Company support program “Antivirus” covering wages</li> <li>- All self-employed, who have income only from their business, will be given a six-month holiday in the payment of health and social</li> </ul>	<p><b>SOCR CR</b> has recommended a support program for the tourism sectors including the following points of interest to the retail sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support in the form of state vouchers for domestic stays without the contribution of employers and a reduction of VAT on all services in the field of tourism to a rate of 10%</li> <li>- Extension of the “Antivirus” program</li> </ul>	Yes	Yes	No

	<p>insurance and are eligible for a “compensation bonus” of 25,000 CZK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amendment to the State Budget Act 2020 allowing for a deficit 160 billion CZK higher than planned.</li> <li>- 3.3 billion CZK for Rural Development Program</li> <li>- Public procurement of infrastructure projects increased by 6.5 billion CZK</li> <li>- Moratorium on repayment of debt and mortgages allowing debtors to suspend their repayments for 3 to 6 months</li> <li>- Creation of a financial reserve of 4% of GDP in 2021 to support business recovery</li> <li>- Separate support packages to the tourism sector and the cultural sector</li> <li>- State budget increased to 500 billion CZK</li> </ul> <p>Czech Republic will be able to obtain up to CZK 182 billion from the EU recovery fund, and is developing a recovery plan with 6 pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Digital transformation (including digital agenda and e-government)</li> <li>- Infrastructure and green transition</li> <li>- Education and labour market</li> <li>- Institutions, regulation and business support in response to Covid</li> <li>- Research, development and innovation</li> <li>- Health and resilience of the population</li> </ul>				
<b>DE</b>	The government presented a comprehensive EUR 130 billion recovery package on the 4 <sup>th</sup> of June including:	<b>HDE</b> published a 10-point action plan:	Yes	No	Yes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Temporary VAT cuts from July to December by 3%</li> <li>- Per-child family financial allowances of EUR 300</li> <li>- Support to local authorities</li> <li>- Subsidies for electric cars</li> <li>- Investment in national transport infrastructure</li> <li>- EUR 2.5 billion investment in e-charging infrastructure and battery technology</li> <li>- Cross-sector fund for companies struggling for survival, incl. retail</li> </ul> <p>Temporary unemployment measures have been extended until the end of 2021. 20 days extra paid leave for parents to care for sick children. Financial support for SMEs extended until 31 December 2020.</p> <p>Relaxation of insolvency law extended until the end of the year.</p> <p>In September the criteria to get subsidies has been lowered to make it easier for retailers to access.</p> <p>On the 28<sup>th</sup> of October the government announced new restrictive measures and a new support scheme of €10 bn: - Companies with up to 50 employees affected by the new restrictions will receive aid up to 75 percent of their sales revenue for the same month in the previous year. - Larger companies will be able to draw on the equivalent of up to 70 percent of their takings in November 2019.</p> <p>On 1 December the Commission approved a the new German umbrella scheme the support will take the form</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The reopening measures should be harmonised and non-discriminatory</li> <li>- Clear and consistent communication</li> <li>- Reviving consumption and restoring consumer confidence</li> <li>- Financial support for the sector</li> <li>- Emergency aid fund for mid-sized companies</li> <li>- More flexible labour law and reduction of personnel costs</li> <li>- Temporary lifting of restrictions on opening hours</li> <li>- Maintaining delivery capacity and flexibility</li> <li>- Support town centres with grants</li> <li>- Guarantee the integrity of the Single Market</li> </ul> <p>Statement by <b>HDE</b> president on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May underlining 3 key asks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fixed costs should continue to be covered for retailers</li> <li>- Every citizen should receive a “Corona check” of 500 EUR to boost consumption</li> <li>- Social partners should improve cooperation</li> </ul> <p>Further proposals for recovery measures presented by <b>HDE</b> in mid-May:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On top of the short term measures already in place (support for workers on</li> </ul>			
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<p>of (i) subordinated loans, and (ii) recapitalisation instruments, in particular equity instruments (i.e. acquisition of newly issued ordinary and preferred shares, or other forms of shareholding) and hybrid capital instruments (namely convertible bonds and silent participations). Individual measures will be limited to €250 million per beneficiary and according to German authorities the total provisional budget of the scheme is around €3.5 billion.</p> <p>At the same time the German Budget Committee approved a €25 million fund for revitalisation of city centres.</p> <p>For companies and self-employed persons affected by the closures in December, "Bridging Aid III" is available. This allows grants to cover fixed costs with improved conditions, in particular a higher monthly grant of up to EUR 500,000. Only companies with an annual turnover under 500 million EUR a year are eligible for this aid. These companies have access to the general loans offered by the government.</p> <p>Negotiation ongoing regarding compensation for retailers closed down in December. Unlikely that they will get the same level as bars and restaurants (70%).</p> <p><u>20 January 2021</u>  -HDE succeeded with improving the Bridging Assistance III: compensation of fixed costs, definition may be.  For the retail sector write-offs on unsaleable seasonal merchandise under commercial law will be taken into account in the fixed costs. The federal government will also simplify the access requirements overall and significantly increase the maximum monthly subsidy amounts for companies and the self-employed. Given the duration of the pandemic, many companies are coming</p>	<p>short time, state bank credit the establishment of sector specific, moratorium on social security and tax payments) HDE is seeking longer-term relief for companies, including partial write off of state bank loans. Also in discussion with government for establishing liquidity support funds ("Härtefallfonds") to companies directly impacted by the closure and the safety measures is needed. Seeking these funds to be available at the latest in June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On the longer term HDE arguing for need for an economic stimulus programme to boost consumption. This includes the above mentioned "Corona cheque" of 500 EUR which could increase demand by 40 billion EUR.</li> <li>- Moratorium on tax increases and no introduction of new taxes to pay for support measures while economy still in recession.</li> <li>- Extension of the deadline for implementation of the new anti- fraud "cash register law" to September</li> <li>- Talking to government and landlords about measures to clarify legal position on rents.</li> <li>- Reduction of the EEG (renewable energy levy) surcharge: joint approach with consumers organization.</li> </ul>			
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	<p>up against the current ceilings under state aid law, and the German government is therefore lobbying the European Commission to increase the maximum rates under state aid law.</p> <p>In this context, HDE is calling for companies with an annual turnover of more than 500 million euros to also be able to apply for aid, and for the maximum monthly amount of 500,000 euros in bridging aid to be dropped. HDE is also asking for a systematic and transparent planning process for a fair and methodical re-opening strategy</p>	<p>On the 26<sup>th</sup> of May <b>HDE, FCD and Federdistribuzione</b> sent a <a href="#">join letter</a> to Commission president Von der Leyen highlighting the crisis in the retail sector and the need for support to restore demand, as well as the retail sectors social importance in city centres.</p> <p>In July HDE called for the establishment of a fund for strengthening city centres.</p>			
<b>DK</b>	<p>The Government has not announced a recovery-plan but has extended and adjusted the support measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compensation for all fixed expenses extended until 8th of June and expanded in terms of cap.</li> <li>- The support program to self-employed extended until 8th of June and extended to companies with up to 25 employees.</li> <li>- Extension of the flexibilities on VAT and tax payments</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, an investment package to support exports was announced and a national platform for crowdfunding was established including an increase in the funds to the Innovation Fund.</p> <p>On 15 June, the Danish Parliament agreed on a new package to restore the Danish economy and phase out aid packages.</p>	<p><b>Dansk Erhverv</b> proposed a "Consumption package" with 7 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Immediate payment of "vacation money"</li> <li>- Extension of a special tax deduction system to services, tourism and experience expenses, and double the limit to 40.000 DKK.</li> <li>- Introduce free driving on Storebaeltsbroen during the summers 2020 and 2021 and make all ferry crossings to small islands free.</li> <li>- Full refund of VAT on restaurant expenses for companies</li> <li>- Increase public procurement of health care services</li> <li>- Reduce duties on specific goods</li> <li>- Increase public procurement</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, <b>Dansk Erhverv</b> made a sperate statement underlining the importance of the</p>	Yes	Yes	Yes

<p>With regards to restoring the Danish economy, measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A partial payment of the frozen holiday allowance (corresponding to three weeks). It has not yet clear how this will be managed, but employees will receive the amount in October 2020.</li> <li>- A tax-free contribution of DKK 1,000 to citizens who are retired and those who have taken early retirement.</li> <li>- Tax deduction of 130% for research and development spending</li> </ul> <p>With regards to the phase out of the Danish aid packages, the new agreement includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extension of the application deadline for the state-guaranteed loan scheme for both large, small and mid-cap companies to December 2020. Furthermore, the coverage of the state-guaranteed loan scheme will be raised to 80%.</li> <li>- A temporary aid package for the fixed costs of companies which are subject to COVID-19 related restrictions. The aid package will apply from 9 July 2020 to 31 August 2020.</li> <li>- An extension of the suspension of the seniority calculation of the Danish unemployment benefit until 31 August 2020. As such, 1 March to 31 August 2020 will not be included in the seniority calculation of the period, where the unemployed are entitled to unemployment benefit.</li> </ul>	<p>Single market for the recovery and calling for the borders to be reopened as soon as possible.</p> <p>On the 24<sup>th</sup> of April <b>Dansk Erhverv</b> furthermore proposed an investment and de-bureaucratisation package with 12 initiatives, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No new taxes in 2020 and 2021</li> <li>- Tax deduction of 130 % for research for research and development spending</li> <li>- Moving forward depreciation of IT-equipment</li> <li>- Less bureaucracy in connection with (re)employment</li> <li>- Re-introduction of export VAT deduction</li> <li>- More employees at the Danish embassies</li> </ul> <p>On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June <b>Dansk Erhverv</b> released recommendations for a <a href="#">green investment package</a> amounting to DKK 36 billion containing 18 asks, grouped in four main sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investments in green Danish companies – incl. higher tax deductions for such investments and further establishments of public private partnerships</li> <li>- Green public and private consumption – incl. a proposal to establish an “Import Council”, that could help especially SMEs import sustainably, as well as a thorough revision of the Waste Shipment Regulation.</li> </ul>			
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<p>- Easier payment deadlines for A-tax, AM contributions and VAT.</p> <p>The three-party agreement regarding a salary compensation scheme agreed between the Danish Government and the Danish labour market's parties on 15 March 2020 was reopened in December. The salary compensation scheme is now available for companies subject to the ban on staying open (i.e. companies covered by the additional restrictions in the closed areas), which have sent home a minimum of 30% of the total staff or more than 50 employees.</p> <p>It is possible to apply for salary compensation from 9 December and until the restrictions are ceased (currently 3 January 2021).</p> <p>The agreement provides salary compensation on certain conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The agreement covers both monthly paid and hourly paid employees and employees who are covered by a collective bargaining agreement and employees who are not.</li> <li>• The Danish state provides salary compensation of 75% to 90% of the monthly salary for employees who are sent home due to extraordinary economic downturn due to Covid-19.</li> <li>• It is a requirement that the company does not terminate any employees while receiving salary compensation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Green digital recovery – incl. further and faster investments in Smart Cities, investments in update of and infrastructure for 5G, AI and IoT</li> <li>- Investments in green infrastructure particularly within logistics</li> </ul>			
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a requirement that the employees do not work during the period and receive full salary during the period (cf. below).</li> <li>• The individual employee for whom the company applies for salary compensation must take up to five days off without salary in connection with the compensation period.</li> <li>• The salary compensation scheme can be combined with an (agreed) salary reduction, if this is agreed with either a majority of the affected employees or the employee representative before the employer applies under the compensation scheme. In this situation, the employees will not be deducted the (up to) five days without salary mentioned above.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, it continues to be possible to apply for compensation of lost turnover in the period September to January for self-employed, and for fixed costs for all companies impacted by the restrictions for the period July to October. The support for fixed costs in the period 19 August to 31 October is limited to DKK 50.000 per month.</p> <p><u>Update in January</u></p> <p>-Compensation packages reopened for the parts that already functioned, but still issues with the limitations in legislation, i.e. big business cannot get their losses covered in any sense their losses. Still fighting for this</p>				
EE		<p>The chairman of the Management Board of <b>Tallinna Kaubamaja Group</b> suggests three points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reopen shopping malls</li> </ul>	No	No	No

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a clear re-opening strategy for the economy</li> <li>- Implement strong stimulus measures</li> </ul>			
<b>EL</b>	<p>4<sup>th</sup> of May the government announced a new package of support and recovery measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TEPIX II program providing working capital of up to half a million EUR for companies committed to maintain jobs</li> <li>- Guaranteed capital up to 25% of turnover or two times the payroll</li> <li>- Two new rounds of development support amounting to EUR 350 million. Interests will not have to be paid.</li> <li>- State will cover mortgage payments on the first residence for persons impacted by the crisis</li> </ul> <p>21<sup>st</sup> of May the government proposed another 15 support measures with a total cost of 24 billion EUR, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VAT reduction on certain catering products, transport, tourism packages and cinemas</li> <li>- Reduction of tax advances and suspension of certain tax payments</li> <li>- 25% discount on debt payments in May</li> <li>- Extension of susities for work suspension for June and July incertain sectors</li> <li>- Extension of wage subsidy scheme to end of September</li> <li>- Increase of TEPIX II program to 2 billion EUR</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Piraeus Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Attica Region Chambers</b> proposed an 11 Steps Exit Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Harmonized exit rules but with time intervals</li> <li>- Continuation of communication for public health and behavioral measures</li> <li>- Restoration of confidence and rejuvenation of consumption</li> <li>- Financial support for the affected sectors of the economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generous liquidity, direct grants and loan guarantees.</li> <li>• Simplified tax treatment of losses.</li> <li>• Clarification on the distribution of risk between landlords and tenants.</li> <li>• Solve the problem of Bank checks after 75 days.</li> <li>• Definition of protection against infectious diseases as a basis for compensation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Emergency funding to small and medium-sized enterprises</li> <li>- Maintaining labour legislation and reducing non-wage costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of contributions from 2020</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Yes	No	Yes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Business loans with state guarantee up to 80% in June for working capital of 7 billion euros from EAT with the bank lending.</li> <li>- Funds for 2,000 large investment projects are being expanded by € 2.7 billion and € 700 million is being approved for new strategic investments.</li> <li>- Activation of financial instruments from Community resources at the end of the year for a circular economy and transfers of 5 billion euros.</li> </ul> <p>The Commission on 28/9 <a href="#">approved</a> a €1.5 billion Greek scheme to support small and micro enterprises in 12 regions affected by the coronavirus outbreak, through direct grants for working capital, with a threshold at 50 percent of any company's running expenses.</p> <p>In end of October a new package was approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extending the furlough scheme and unemployment benefit schemes by two months</li> <li>- Ban on layoffs</li> <li>- Suspension of VAT, tax and insurance debts in November</li> <li>- Continuation on the suspension on repayments of certain bank loans</li> <li>- A Refundable Advance Payment 4 and a Refundable Advance Payment 5 are granted to employers and self-employed</li> </ul> <p>In November the government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prolonged the unemployment benefit scheme by 2 months</li> <li>- Adopted a new support measure for long-term unemployed giving them €400.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension of overtime according to the current rules</li> <li>• Employers are allowed to specify when employees will receive regular leave in order to optimize staff composition.</li> <li>• Simplification to delay social security and expansion contributions during the summer months, without surcharges.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local communities should define the operation of each market</li> <li>- Expanding the possibilities of 24/7 delivery of goods</li> <li>- Support for Cities and Regions</li> <li>- Dealing with and avoiding bankruptcies and unemployment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A quick V-shape recovery is only possible if the shutdown ends in early May</li> <li>• Completing the lockdown does not mean a quick return to normalcy, as some restrictions may continue for some time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Ensure the functioning of the Single Market and a coordinated reopening</li> </ul>			
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gave persons who's contracts has been suspended due to the new restrictions compensation of €800 and a "Christmas gift" of €534.</li> <li>- Prolonged the SYN-ERGASIA support scheme for all companies</li> <li>- Postponement of payments to regulated insurance and tax debts for November</li> <li>- Employees who are suspended from employment throughout the country are entitled to a mandatory 40% reduction in rent for their main residence but also for the student residence of their children.</li> <li>- Companies whose operation is suspended have the possibility to suspend the payment of VAT, payable in November, until April 30, 2021.</li> <li>- Companies that close with a state order, are entitled to participate in the 4th cycle of the Refundable Advance, regardless of their turnover, while they receive a minimum of 2,000 euro, with half the amount not being refunded. 700 million euro will be given through the 5th cycle of the repayable advance.</li> </ul>				
ES	<p>Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on 14th of June presented a €3.7 billion package to support the country's automotive industry. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- €350 million in incentives to boost car sales during the remainder of 2020, of which €100 million is reserved for e-cars.</li> <li>- The remaining €250 million will be used to boost the purchase of any new vehicles if people scrap a car that is at least 10 years</li> <li>- €300 million for charging stations and e-transport</li> <li>- €450 million for sustainable mobility research and development</li> </ul>	<p><b>ASEDAS</b> made the following three steps recommendations for recovery: <u>Short term</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equate food wholesalers and retailers in tourist areas with sectors hard hit by the crisis for the purpose of access to recovery aid</li> <li>- Guarantee free movement of workers and goods</li> <li>- Exempt food distribution companies from social security costs in extra contracts made to guarantee supply</li> <li>- More flexibility and adaptation of working hours and overtime. Allow</li> </ul>	Yes	Yes	Yes



	<p>On July 3 the Government adopted a new economic decree including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- €40 billion credit line for state-backed loans</li> <li>- €10 billion solvency fund for strategic industries. The focus will be on sustainability and digitalisation.</li> <li>- Strategic Business Solvency Support Fund</li> </ul> <p>The temporary lay-off schemes have been extended to 31 January 2021.</p> <p>On October 7 the Government announced a €140 bn recovery plan from 2021-2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 37% will be spend on green transition</li> <li>- 33% on digital transition</li> <li>- 12% on infrastructure</li> <li>- 18% on education and training</li> <li>- 17% on modernisation of industry</li> <li>- 17% on science and innovation</li> </ul> <p>20 October the Government launched their Recovery, Transformation and Resilience plan in more detail outlining how they intend to spend the money from the EU Recovery funds. The fund will allow Spain to obtain financing for up to € 140 bn of which around €72 bn will be disbursed in the form of transfers and the rest through loans. The plan has 10 priorities:</p> <p>(i) urban and rural agenda and fight against depopulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- one of the project included here: <b>Transformation and digitization of the logistics chain of the agri-food and fishing system</b>, with the aim of promoting quality, sustainability and the circular economy, organic production and seasonal and local consumption, reducing food waste, generating value and jobs in and around the</li> </ul>	<p>weekly schedule of max 90h in all of Spain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Defer Corporate Tax payments</li> <li>- Make food donations tax deductible</li> <li>- Increase flexibility of delivery hours and loads on trucks</li> <li>- Develop clear communications plan</li> <li>- Enable credit lines and guarantees for the agricultural sector</li> </ul> <p><u>Medium term</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote card payments</li> <li>- Do not introduce new taxes</li> <li>- Transpose the Unfair Trading Practices Directive agreed with the entire sector to guarantee that it does not have an impact on the productivity of the different links in the food chain. Promote the increase in size of farms destined for cultivation in order to gain productivity and efficiency</li> <li>- Research on the lessons learned with regards to food packaging and hygiene during the crisis</li> <li>- Implementation of measures to reduce the cost of regulation borne by companies, by limiting regulatory activity as much as possible and by strictly applying Community principles of necessity, proportionality and justification</li> </ul>			
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	<p>agri-food and fishing system from the primary sector to commercial distribution with special attention to rural areas, promoting their economy and curbing depopulation.</p> <p>(ii) resilient infrastructure and ecosystems;</p> <p>(iii) fair and inclusive energy transition;</p> <p>(iv) Administration for the XXI century;</p> <p>(v) <b>modernization and digitization of the industrial and SME fabric</b>, recovery tourism and the promotion of an Entrepreneurial Nation Spain;</p> <p>(vi) pact for science and innovation; strengthening the capacity of the National Health System;</p> <p>(vii) education and knowledge, continuing training and capacity building;</p> <p>(viii) new economy of care and employment policies;</p> <p>(ix) promotion of the culture and sports industry;</p> <p>(x) modernization of the tax system for sustainable and inclusive growth</p>				
<b>FI</b>	<p>On 5 June, the Government submitted to Parliament its fourth supplementary budget proposal for 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government prepared a new business cost support programme to support companies' liquidity and thereby reduce the number of companies going bankrupt because of the pandemic.</li> <li>- The Government enables the provision of additional financing of EUR 10 billion to businesses through Finnvera by increasing its maximum domestic financing.</li> <li>- The state will increase its coverage of Finnvera's credit and guarantee losses from 50% to 80%.</li> <li>- The Finnish Industry Investment Ltd Tesi will launch a funding programme to ensure that</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Confederation of Finnish Trade Unions and Service Sector Employers</b> are proposing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restart wage subsidies for companies most affected (lost at least 50% of employee expenditure) by the crisis to restart operations and shorten lay-off periods.</li> <li>- The payment would be a lump sum payment to the company.</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations from <b>Finnish Commerce Federation</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rent subsidies</li> <li>- Restart wage subsidies for companies</li> <li>- Suspension of social security contributions</li> </ul>	No	No	No

	<p>medium-sized enterprises that have run into temporary difficulties due to the coronavirus epidemic will be able to stay in business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Entrepreneurs are temporarily entitled to labour market support to deal with the sudden and unforeseen decline in demand due to the coronavirus epidemic.</li> <li>- Temporary unemployment schemes extended until end of the year.</li> <li>- Extension of the period for tax submission</li> <li>- Investments for national infrastructure and support to local governments</li> </ul> <p>In November a second aid package was approved extending the support schemes.</p> <p>The second application round for business cost support has started and will end on February 26, 2021. The objective of the support is to help coronavirus-hit businesses with their difficult economic situation. The support is compensation for the company's inflexible costs and payroll costs, but it does not compensate for a fall in turnover. The support is targeted at companies whose turnover has decreased by at least 30% due to the coronavirus.</p> <p>In spring, temporary changes to employment legislation were introduced in order to enable companies to react quickly to the COVID-19 crisis. The changes expire on 31 December 2020 and will not be prolonged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Temporary reduction of VAT</li> <li>- No new taxes should be introduced in coming years</li> <li>- Implementation of measures to reduce the cost of regulation borne by companies</li> <li>- Boost digitalization</li> </ul>			
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<p><b>FR</b></p>	<p>The government has provided initiatives to support the recovery, but nothing particular for the retail sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solidarity fund for HORECA sector and event, particularly impacted by the decrease in tourism</li> <li>- EUR 18 billion reserved for a “tourism revival plan”</li> <li>- Extension of deadline for tax and VAT payments</li> <li>- The existing support programmes have been extended</li> <li>- EUR 1.2 billion support program for start-ups</li> <li>- EUR 5 billion loan guarantee to Renault</li> </ul> <p>Pushing at EU level together with Germany for a EUR 500 billion recovery fund based on the MFF, combining loans and grant to the hardest hit countries.</p> <p>This will be supplemented in September by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- €3 billion loans guarantee for long-term loans, which will last at least 7 years and allow SMEs to raise €10 billion to €15 billion</li> <li>- Banks will agree to extend their loans beyond the first of the year, with interest rates between 1 and 3 percent</li> </ul> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> of September the government announced a €100 bn recovery plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Greening the economy (€30 bn), incl. investment in recycling facilities, green farming and energy efficiency renovations.</li> </ul>	<p>On the 26th of May HDE, FCD and Federdistribuzione sent a join letter to Commission president Von der Leyen highlighting the crisis in the retail sector and the need for support to restore demand, as well as the retail sectors social importance in city centres.</p> <p>Conseil du commerce de France in august recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extension of the government support measures for as long as necessary for companies of all sizes.</li> <li>- Introduce tax exemptions or fast depreciation of investments in digitalisation, logistics and greening.</li> <li>- Suspend TASCOM fro 3 years to fee up money for digital investments</li> <li>- Reduce taxes particularly on rented retail property</li> <li>- Set up a digital transformation fund.</li> <li>- Give companies better means to educate and develop their employees</li> <li>- Exempt heures used for upskilling as well as supplementary hours from social charges.</li> <li>- Develop digital diagnostics for businesses and training for merchants by increasing the funds for OPCOs</li> <li>- Continue the development of work-study training in commerce by extending the hiring assistance provided for in apprenticeship contracts to professional contracts.</li> </ul>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting economic sovereignty and relocating businesses to France (€34 bn), incl. €20 bn of tax breaks for businesses, €3 bn support to SMEs and a €247 million plan to boost exports.</li> <li>- Funding “solidarity and skills” through social expenses (€36 bn).</li> <li>- The plan is mainly industry focussed but retailers could benefit from lower production taxes, youth employment support and support for SME digitalisation</li> </ul> <p>The furlough scheme has been extended until summer 2021. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of October the government announced another support package of €20 bn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small companies forced to close in the second wave can receive up to €10.000 a month through the solidarity fund (€6 bn)</li> <li>- New partial un-employment scheme allowing companies to reduce working hours and salaries partially covered by the state (€7 bn)</li> <li>- Support of lenders (€1 bn)</li> <li>- Exemptions in social contributions (€ 1 bn)</li> <li>- Encouraging SMEs to go digital</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage the hiring of the first employee, regardless of their age, by providing for a hiring bonus and / or by exempting the salary from all social charges for three years</li> <li>- Liberalise opening hours</li> <li>- Introduce ecocheques</li> <li>- Launch a communication campaign celebrating commerce</li> <li>- Ensure the same fiscal/taxation pressure on a euro earned online and a euro earned offline.</li> <li>- Create incentives to invest in commerce premises particularly in town-centers</li> </ul>			
<b>HR</b>	<p>Government package from 1st of April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government will raise the financial support for workers from HRK 3,250 to a net sum of HRK 4,000 and at the same time, the state will take over from employers the burden of mandatory taxes and contributions, meaning that the effective support will be HRK 5,460 per worker</li> </ul>				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government will spare companies that face business difficulties due to the crisis from paying tax obligations (income and profit tax) and contributions (health and pension) for April, May and June.</li> <li>- postponed payment of VAT (value added tax) until invoices are paid in full, not upon their issue</li> <li>- All public tenderers (particularly in health, army and police sectors) will be asked to give preference to domestic agriculture producers and procure up to 60 percent of domestic products. The State will intervene and buy milk surplus from Croatian milk producers. - The Government proposed the set of measures for tourism sector, will discuss with the social partners (unions) the possibility to correct salaries or temporarily suspend the agreed raise of public sector salaries.</li> </ul>				
<b>HU</b>	No recovery package announced, but support measures extended.				
<b>IE</b>	<p>On <b>May 2nd</b> the Government announced the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A €10,000 restart grant for micro and small businesses based on a rates rebate from 2019</li> <li>- A three month commercial rates waiver for impacted businesses</li> <li>- A €2 billion Pandemic Stabilisation and Recovery Fund within the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF), which will make</li> </ul>	<p>Retail Ireland is calling for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extend the Wage Subsidy Scheme and repurpose it as a short-term working scheme to support employers</li> <li>- Extend the commercial rates exemption to one year for retailers under pressure</li> <li>- Introduce a state-backed arbitration and burden sharing scheme on commercial leases</li> </ul>	No	Yes	No

	<p>capital available to medium and large enterprises on commercial terms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A €2 billion COVID-19 Credit Guarantee Scheme to support lending to SMEs for terms ranging from three months to six years, which will be below market interest rates</li> <li>- The ‘warehousing’ of tax liabilities for a period of twelve months after recommencement of trading during which time there will be no debt enforcement action taken by Revenue and no interest charge accruing in respect of the warehoused debt</li> </ul> <p>On May 18 the Government adopted a Restart Grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- €250 million for micro and small businesses to help them with the costs associated with reopening and reemploying workers following Covid-19 closures</li> <li>- The grant will be available to businesses with a turnover of less than €5 million and employing 50 people or less, which were closed or impacted by at least a 25% reduction in turnover out to 30 June 2020</li> <li>- minimum payment of €2,000 and a maximum payment of €10,000</li> </ul> <p>In September the temporary unemployment scheme was transformed into an employment support scheme and tax exemptions were prolonged for 6 months. A scheme to support the development of the online presence of SMEs were initiated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduce a €2000 tax-free voucher that employers can offer employees to be spend in the domestic economy</li> <li>- Significantly increase the Restart Grant for SMEs</li> <li>- Introduce a new ‘bounce back’ credit guarantee scheme</li> <li>- Create a fund to write down tax debts where they threaten business viability</li> </ul>			
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	<p>New code of conduct agreed between tenants and landlords.</p> <p>In October the Pandemic Unemployment Payment was restored.</p>				
<b>IS</b>	<p>Support measures extended and the following longer term measures announced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Postponement of taxes until next year, hotel taxes abolished until end of 2021</li> <li>- Reductions in bank taxes and state guarantees on loans to eligible companies</li> <li>- Initiation of a special project still this year to increase investment in transport, public construction and technology infrastructure</li> </ul>				
<b>IT</b>	<p>8<sup>th</sup> of June the government announced an export pact to undertake a “re-branding” campaign for sectors most hardly hit by the crisis including innovative sectors and integrated supply chains. The government has set aside EUR 1.4 billion for the plan.</p> <p>A full recovery plan is expected in September, but to sustain demand the government has introduced VAT cuts and tax credits for certain non-food items.</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> of August the government announced a new €25 bn recovery package:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- extending the wage subsidies for 18 weeks in combination with a continued ban on layoffs for companies benefitting from those subsidies.</li> <li>- Four months fiscal break for companies restarting their activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Federdistribuzione</b> has the following demands for non-food:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Immediate suspension of all tax and social security contributions due from the month in March and at least until September, as well as the suspension of mortgages, loans and leasing etc. The measures already envisaged for SMEs should also be extended to our sector.</li> <li>- Activation of extraordinary measures and specific credit lines for the liquidity of companies, as well as forms of financing, direct and indirect, to facilitate them in import and export.</li> </ul>	No	No	No



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- €400 one-off payments to low income families</li> <li>- Business tax cuts in southern Italy</li> <li>- Funding to local and regional governments</li> <li>- Extended the moratorium for repayment of SME loans until January 2021.</li> </ul> <p>On the 9<sup>th</sup> of September this was supplemented by a recovery and investment plan outlining how Italy will spend the €209 bn they expect from the Next Generation EU budget. Priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- digitalization</li> <li>- greening the economy</li> <li>- increasing competitiveness</li> <li>- physical and digital infrastructure</li> <li>- health</li> <li>- equality</li> <li>- education</li> <li>- reducing the tax burden on workers</li> <li>- shortening the length of judicial procedures</li> <li>- simplifying civil service bureaucracy</li> </ul> <p>The furlough scheme was extended until the end of the year, and an exemption for payment of pension contributions was agreed on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, together with a €4.5 billion support package to the HORECA sector.</p> <p>A Restore Decree is expected in November foreseeing support in the form of grants, tax credits etc to activities (base on the NACE codes, retail is included) forced to shut down. Federdistribuzione is working with the Ministry of Finance to have those measures approved at least within the 3 million euro limit of the Temporary Framework on state aid.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adoption of specific measures for reduction of tax impacts.</li> <li>- Six-month moratorium (March - September 2020) for all payment obligations on entrepreneurs belonging to the most penalized product categories.</li> <li>- Act promptly.</li> <li>- 20% tax deduction on non-food purchases made from July to December 2020 in physical stores and paid for with electronic money.</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, they have issued on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May the following 10 recommendations to boost consumer confidence during the reopening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure the most wide opening hours possible – for stores, during weekdays and holidays, to dilute the queues and crowds</li> <li>- Activate the possibility to move from one municipality to another – for grocery shopping, to enable a better flow distribution</li> <li>- Lift any limitation on the marketability of the products – for products already present in the stores; to increase walkable surface</li> <li>- Exclude any possible differentiation based on size, format or physical location of stores – simple rules, predictable and clear, same rules for</li> </ul>			
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	<p>In December the upcoming recovery plan was leaked. The government is expected to use all the grants under the EU agreement €65.5 billion and €40 billion in loans. The money will be divided in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 40 % on green</li> <li>- 23 % on digital</li> <li>- 14 % on infrastructure</li> <li>- 10 % on research and education</li> <li>- 9 % on gender and social equality</li> <li>- 4 % on health</li> </ul> <p><u>February</u> Commission approved higher limits to state aid; national gov. working on next steps</p>	<p>everyone, with respect to the health and safety measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide for the possibility of making the distribution network of cash and carry temporarily available for retail sale – to diminish pressure on other points of sale</li> <li>- Put in place a single rule, applicable at national level, regarding social distancing – eg. 10.5 square meters per person</li> <li>- Put in place single operational protocols, in what concerns the sanitization of environments – at national level, applicable, consistent with the type of commercial operation.</li> <li>- Provision, from the institutions the population, of protection for nose and mouth – retail sector is ready to facilitate the distribution of masks</li> <li>- Contact tracing – retail sector can offer its own stores to promote and inform consumers on the importance of the solution identified by the state</li> <li>- Encourage smart-working – to reduce queues and crowds in public transport or offices</li> </ul> <p>And another 10 retail specific recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Guaranteed loans up to 25.000 euro</li> </ul>			
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<b>LT</b>	<p>The government has announced the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial support for the affected sectors of the economy.</li> <li>- Loan compensation during the pandemic, focused on small and medium business.</li> <li>- Support for preserving a workplaces.</li> <li>- Mitigating the quarantine conditions</li> </ul>		No	No	No

	- A 1 billion euros stimulus package for the economy will encompass 500 million euros additional investments and 500 million euros additional guarantees.				
<b>LU</b>	<p>In mid/May the Government announced the following measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The structural partial unemployment scheme will be simplified for sectors particularly hard hit by the crisis. It will stop in by the end of June</li> <li>- A relaunch and solidarity fund will be created to support the hardest hit sectors. Employees at work will be subsidized with 1.250 euros per month and those on partial unemployment with 250 euros per month. To benefit from the aid, companies must decide to resume their activities and must have suffered a loss of at least 25% of turnover.</li> <li>- In order to support retail (excluding food) as well as the personal care sector, a new flat-rate aid will be granted over a period of three months up to 1,000 euros per employee in June, 750 euros in July and 500 euros in August, up to a ceiling of 50,000 euros per month. Limited to SMEs.</li> <li>- The aid scheme for companies in temporary financial difficulty will be extended for a period of 4 months</li> </ul>	<b>CLC</b> called for an extension for the partial unemployment scheme.	No	No	No
<b>LV</b>					
<b>MT</b>	The government has adopted a series of support measures incl:		No	No	No

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wage support of 800 EUR to each employee in hard hit sectors</li> <li>- Deferral of tax and VAT payments</li> <li>- Grants for teleworking</li> <li>- Guarantee schemes</li> </ul>				
<b>NL</b>	<p>The Government is pushing for a green and digital recovery at EU level</p> <p>Green measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integration of the Green Deal ambitions in the economic recovery plans that will be shaped in response to COVID-19 is imperative to achieve a climate neutral and resource efficient economy and increase sustainable employment opportunities.</li> <li>- No expenditure should harm the EU climate and environmental objectives</li> <li>- Maintaining climate ambition within the MFF: At least 25% of the next MFF (2021-2027) should consist of climate expenditures and the entire MFF shall be in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement, both regarding mitigation and adaptation.</li> <li>- State aid rules to investments should allow for aid – where necessary and proportional - to companies that are willing to adopt low-carbon and circular and sustainable investments.</li> <li>- Accelerate and prioritize investments for infrastructural projects in the pipeline</li> <li>- Accelerate the renovation wave</li> </ul>		Yes	Yes	Yes

<p>- Start and scale up projects to increase human capital for green sectors</p> <p>Digital measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stick to the original timeframe proposed in the digital strategy</li> <li>- Ensure the functioning of the internal market</li> <li>- Invest in digital innovations and key technologies such as AI and quantum</li> <li>- Stimulate private investments by offering a good investment climate</li> <li>- Ensure privacy and cybersecurity</li> </ul> <p>At national level the Government has extended and expanded existing support measures to the 1st of September and adopted the following new measures 20th of May:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scheme to support SMEs fixed costs – up to 20.000 pr. company for the next three months</li> <li>- Free (online) retraining and development advice for everyone affected by the crisis</li> <li>- 70 million EUR for investments in construction</li> <li>- Education support package</li> <li>- The SME loan guarantee will be increased to 1.5 billion EUR</li> <li>- 100 million EUR to innovative regional development companies</li> <li>- 600 million for floriculture and horticulture</li> <li>- 50 million for potato growers</li> </ul> <p>As of the 1st of October a 9 month extension of the following existing measures will be applicable:</p>				
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support measures for businesses with a revenue loss of 20% or more</li> <li>- Support for self-employed faced with reduced income and liquidity problems</li> <li>- Support for SMEs in covering their fixed material costs (tax free, max. 50% of fixed costs covered)</li> <li>- Up until 1/10/20 entrepreneurs can still apply for deferment of tax payments; an arrangement also exists for the tax debt that has built up due to deferred payments – this does not need to be paid back at once, but can be spread over 24 months</li> <li>- Tax recovery interest has been reduced to 0,01% up until 31/12/21</li> <li>- Employees can deduct travel costs from their taxes, as if they had traveled the same way as pre-Covid (e.g. if they had a public transport subscription, this can be deducted as normal)</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, in September the following new measures for recovery were proposed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- € 1.4 billion available for a social package: to support employers and employees, to invest in career support for job seekers and to invest in skills development and reskilling, support for groups that are more vulnerable in economic crisis, finally, support for people with high poverty risk and problematic debt</li> <li>- € 2 billion for accelerating public spending on infrastructure</li> </ul>				
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- € 150 million for a national scale-up facility</li> <li>- € 300 million for participation in a private fund to recapitalize mid to large sized companies</li> <li>- €150 million for a regional development fund (ROMs), to support SMEs via financing</li> <li>- € 255 million for co-financing of EU programme's for regional development, innovation, sustainability and digitalisation.</li> </ul> <p>On 9 October 2020, the Dutch government adopted an extension of the NOW Scheme (“<b>NOW 3.0</b>”). NOW 3.0 will again provide compensation for employers’ wage costs, this time over the period from 1 October 2020 up to and including 30 June 2021, thus covering nine months. NOW 3.0 consists of three (3) tranches / time periods, i.e. October up to and including December 2020 (“<b>Tranche 1</b>”), January up to and including March 2021 (“<b>Tranche 2</b>”) and April up to and including June 2021 (“<b>Tranche 3</b>”). The terms and conditions vary from one tranche to the other and eligible companies should apply separately for each tranche. In short, under NOW 3.0, the level of NOW Compensation will become less generous over time, however, companies will be given more flexibility to adapt to the current and anticipated economic situation. As such, retaining jobs is no longer the only objective.</p> <p><u>Update in January:</u>  <i>New recovery measures being discussed:</i>  -Existing support measures will be extended to Q2 2021; in total, an additional € 7.6 billion will be made available</p>				
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The existing scheme on Support for Fixed Costs (in Dutch: TVL) will be extended – reference year for revenue calculations will remain 2019. It initially applied to small businesses only but will start applying to medium sized businesses as well</li> <li>- Reimbursement levels will be raised, incl. a raise of the minimum subsidies for small business, i.e. reimbursement level for fixed costs will be 85%, for entrepreneurs with a revenue loss of 30% or more</li> <li>- Reimbursement levels for the Temporary Support Measure for Employment also raised - entrepreneurs with a total revenue loss receive support to cover their employment costs up to 85%</li> <li>- Support will be created for starting businesses (which did not receive any support so far) and for the events sector – done via Qcredits, a credit facility which allows for lending against good tariffs (1.75% interest for 4-6 years, for a maximum amount of € 35,000);</li> <li>- Maximum support per company is € 330,000 per quarter (where it was previously € 90,000) – for businesses with more than 250 employees it is € 400,000;</li> <li>- Retailers can get additional support for their stocks. They will be able to apply for an additional 21% support via the TVL scheme – with a maximum amount of € 200,000 per quarter;</li> <li>- Small entrepreneurs (e.g. hairdressers, physiotherapists etc.) will get an additional € 1,500 subsidie per quarter;</li> <li>- A 'bridge loan' can be provided for entrepreneurs, under favourable conditions (max. 5 years against 2% in the first year, and 5.75% interest for the years after that), for a maximum of € 25,000. The government will</li> </ul>				
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	<p>first need to verify with the Commission if this passes the state aid tests;</p> <p>-The existing tax payment scheme will be prolonged – 3 months postponement is standards, longer is possible when certain conditions verified. First re-payments of the delayed taxes will need to start as of 1/10/21</p> <p>A full overview of the support measures available in the Netherlands can be found here:  <a href="https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-financiele-regelingen/overzicht-financiele-regelingen">https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-financiele-regelingen/overzicht-financiele-regelingen</a></p>				
<b>NO</b>	<p>The national budget was presented on 12<sup>th</sup> of May and included measures to increase demand, most importantly by reducing payroll tax in May and June and boosting investments in green business models, innovation and research.</p> <p>The support measures have been extended.</p> <p>Government will pay part of the salary if companies take workers back during July and August.</p> <p>As part of the “Green Recovery Package” Virke will get a government funding to start a green skills program in retail this autumn. It will focus on procurements, informing consumers and developing sustainable business models. The funding will be EUR 1m this year.</p> <p>On 21<sup>st</sup> of September the compensation measures were prolonged until the end of the year particularly for the travel industry and retailers in tourist areas.</p> <p>On 16 November Parliament decided on a new general compensation arrangement. All businesses with a fall in</p>	<p><b>VIRKE</b> is recommending 3 measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Measures to support skills and competence development in the retail and service sectors</li> <li>- Half income tax in May, reduction of duties and tax deduction for construction and cleaning services</li> <li>- Increase public construction work, extend the electricity infrastructure for e-mobility, upgrade the public sector digitally and invest in R&amp;D in the retail and service sectors</li> </ul> <p><b>VIRKE</b> welcomed the measures in the national budget but see a need for further demand stimulation, particularly also reduced payroll tax in July and August.</p>	Yes	Yes	No

	<p>turnover of more than 30 % can apply for compensation to cover rent and other fixed costs. They will get 85 % compensation in November and December, and 80 % in January and February 2021. The government scheme on temporary leave lasts 52 weeks and ends in March 2021.</p> <p><u>Update in January</u> -Compensation arrangement entering into force on 18 Jan. (parliament will agree that it will last until 1 July) = 8% compensation of fix costs for those who have fall in the turnover by 13% (good) -Good arrangements for temporary lay offs</p> <p><u>Update in February</u> -Support schemes prolonged until June -New package discussed in parliament</p>				
<b>PL</b>	<p>In mid-November a €264 million Polish tax deferral scheme to support businesses hurt by the pandemic which saw their turnover drop by a quarter was approved by the Commission.</p> <p>On the 27th of November the government announced a 10 points plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Co-financing of fixed costs for SMEs in the industries most affected by the restrictions.</b> Subsidies under the PFR Financial Shield of up to 70% of fixed costs not covered with revenues, provided that revenues decreased by 30% compared to the same period of 2019. For whom: industries subject to sanitary restrictions.</li> <li>- <b>Redemption of subsidies from the PFR Financial Shield.</b> Cancellation of financial subsidies from PFR [the PFR Financial Shield]</li> </ul>	<p><b>POHID</b> recommends the following approach to reopen the Polish retail sector: <u>Actions to be taken during the reversal of the trend of increasing deaths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing the number of people in the store. In stores with an area of up to 100 m2 - 6 people per cash desk, in stores over 100 m - 1 person per 10 m2 of usable floor space of the building.</li> <li>- Limitation of "senior hours" to one hour after opening the store and target resignation from senior hours.</li> <li>- Maintenance of rules and current safety and disinfection standards until the pandemic ceases.</li> </ul>	No	No	No

	<p>for SMEs for sectors subject to sanitary restrictions, subject to a cumulative decline in revenues from March 2020 to March 2021 by at least 30%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Extension of the PFR Financial Shield for Large Companies</b> until 31 March 2021 (applications) and 30 June 2021 (payments). Change in the rules for calculating damage due to COVID-19 in preferential loans (from the current period March - August 2020 to March 2020 - March 2021), in accordance with the original shape of the program. For whom: large companies, large SMEs, all sectors.</li> <li>- <b>Long-term loans with a guarantee:</b> Continuation of de minimis guarantees for SMEs and liquidity guarantees for large companies. The Government is discussing with the European Commission the possibility of subsidies to cover instalments for loans for a period of 6 years for industries affected by the restrictions with the European Commission.</li> <li>- <b>Employment subsidy:</b> Continuation of subsidies for jobs in the form of standstill and reduced working time. For whom: all industries.</li> <li>- <b>Extension of the standstill payment for industries subject to restrictions.</b></li> <li>- <b>Exemption from social security (ZUS) contributions:</b> extension of the exemption for industries affected by the restrictions.</li> <li>- <b>Co-financing of a change in the scope of activities under Grants for business:</b></li> </ul>				
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	<p>Increasing the amount of the subsidy from 6 to 8 x the average salary, and extending it by co-financing not only new activities, but also changes in the scope of current activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Second Chance Policy:</b> Co-financing of costs related to the restructuring of enterprises. For whom: enterprises undergoing restructuring.</li> <li>- <b>Co-financing of leasing costs for the transport industry.</b></li> <li>-</li> </ul>				
<b>PT</b>	<p>The Government has implemented several measures to support demand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Simplified lay-off scheme introduced where the government covers the equivalent of 70% of the employee's salary up to 1.905 EUR for 1 month, renewable to maximum 3 months</li> <li>- Extraordinary incentive corresponding to a maximum of EUR 635, per employee, to support the payment of wages in the normalization phase</li> <li>- Temporary exemption from payment of social security contributions</li> <li>- Additional social security allowances to be paid to employees or self-employed directly impacted by COVID-19</li> <li>- EUR 2.5 billion has been set aside to incentivize companies to re-hire workers on furlough</li> <li>- The recovery fund dedicated to businesses will increase from EUR 6 billion to EUR 13 billion.</li> </ul>	<p><b>APED</b> proposed a plan to reopen the non-food retail stores including the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear communication on public health measures</li> <li>- Adoption of harmonized and non-discriminatory rules;</li> <li>- Revitalization of consumption and consumer; Financial support to the retail sector;</li> <li>- Flexibility of labor legislation</li> <li>- Support for the revitalization of cities and urban centres;</li> <li>- Ensuring the integrity of the single market.</li> </ul>	No	No	Yes

	- EUR 2 billion for export-credit insurance				
<b>RO</b>	The Commission on 28/9 <a href="#">cleared</a> the transfer of €550 million of Cohesion policy funds to the support of small and medium-size enterprises in Romania. The redirected funds will be channeled to over 120,000 SMEs and to initiatives on digitalization and e-education.			Yes	
<b>SE</b>	<p>Support and reorientation program announced 30<sup>th</sup> of April. To enter into force 1<sup>st</sup> of July:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEK 39 billion for companies that lost at least 30% of turnover</li> <li>- Cover 22,5-75% of the company's fixed costs excluding wages between March and April 2020</li> <li>- Cap of SEK 150 million per company</li> </ul> <p>Recovery program of 100 bn SEK announced in August.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Green funding – charging stations</li> <li>- Reduced payroll tax for young people</li> <li>- Extend support programmes and adapt to make it easier for companies to get access</li> </ul> <p>In November the government proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extending the short term employment scheme to the first half of 2021.</li> <li>- Prolonging the turnover based support program to cover August to October.</li> <li>- Extending the temporary tax payment respite scheme to March 2022</li> </ul> <p>In <u>January</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New law adopted giving gov. new temporary powers -&gt; they have increased binding restrictions. Parliament promised to compensate companies affected by this law</li> </ul>	<p>Recommendations from <b>Svensk Näringsliv</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Boost green growth and digitalisation</li> <li>- Restore the single market and boost the single market for services</li> <li>- Facilitate border crossing for transport in the Single Market and at external borders. Freight trains should be given priority</li> <li>- Ensure the free movement of essential workers through a standardized EU certificate</li> <li>- Avoid export restrictions</li> <li>- Suspend duties on protective and medical equipment</li> <li>- Suspend duties on input goods in shortage</li> <li>- Suspend requirements for certificates of origin for certain goods</li> <li>- Continue to push for new free trade agreements</li> </ul> <p><b>Svensk Handel</b> is recommending:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restart the economy by ensuring that customers feel safe; improving access to antibody tests</li> </ul>	Yes	Yes	Yes

	<p>-Extension of short-term unemployment scheme          -The turnover based scheme has been renewed until end Feb.,          -Renewal of rental schemes which covers costs for rentals up to 100% (50% by landlord, 50% by govt.). Improvement from the old scheme          -For fixed costs, costs are covered up to 90% for SMEs, 70% for bigger companies          -*More support systems to be announced soon          -Swedish economy benefitted from people remaining in the country during holidays</p> <p><u>January 2021</u></p> <p>1. There will be an extension of the <a href="#">turnover based compensation scheme</a>. The government has now proposed that companies that have lost at least 30% of turnover during Nov-Feb can be covered by the system. The compensation level is increased to 90% of fixed costs for companies up to 50 employees/or annual turnover below €10 million. For larger companies it remains at 70%. The exact details are still not public. The Commission needs to green light this.</p> <p>2. An extension of the <a href="#">short term employment scheme</a>. This scheme will be prolonged until end of March and will grant a reduction of 80% of working time. There is also a proposal that the system will be further extended to June, but with lower levels of compensation. To minimize abuse of the system companies will need a written opinion from an auditor to access funding, and they will have limitations on the possibility to pay dividends. Also this needs to be accepted by the Commission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sweden should clearly challenge restriction to the free movement of people in the internal market</li> <li>- Stimulate demand</li> <li>- Reduce the employers social contribution and tax on work</li> <li>- Liability on online platforms to ensure a level playing field</li> <li>- Scrap the tax on shoes and clothing and review national environmental taxes</li> <li>- Investments in green infrastructure and renewable energy</li> <li>- Support circular economy and electric mobility through simplification of rules</li> <li>- Stop gold-plating the UTP implementation</li> </ul>			
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	<p>3. A further <a href="#">postponement of tax payments</a>. This has been proposed and now we are trying to get the rules to enter into force earlier.</p> <p>4. A new <a href="#">close-down compensation scheme</a> is introduced. In case a companies is forced by law to close, they can apply for up to 100% compensation for fixed costs, with a maximum ceiling of €7,5 million/company/month. We are still waiting for a green light for this scheme from the Commission.</p> <p>5. The government has announced an extension of the <a href="#">rent compensation scheme</a> for companies which are particularly negatively affected by the pandemic. During the new period which will cover Jan-March 2021, landlords which lower the rent will get 50% of the reduction reimbursed from the state. The exact details are still not available.</p> <p>Gov. has started to produce a recovery programme to get access to the funds of the EU recovery plan</p>				
<b>SI</b>					
<b>SK</b>	Support measures extended for August and September. In late December the support measures were again extended until the 31 <sup>st</sup> of January 2021. Read more <a href="#">here</a>				
<b>UK</b>	<p>On the 8<sup>th</sup> of June the UK government announced a its “Plan for Jobs” to boost the economy and recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Job Retention Bonus will be introduced to help firms retain furloughed workers. Employers will receive a one-off bonus of £1,000 for each furloughed employee who is still employed as of 31 January 2021.</li> <li>- A new Kickstart Scheme will be launched to create new, fully subsidised jobs for young</li> </ul>	<p><b>BRC</b> has requested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reopening should be phased and well communicated in advance to allow retailers to prepare their supply chains</li> <li>- Financial support measures should continue to (partially) cover costs throughout the reopening phase</li> <li>- Ensure coordinated reopening across the full supply chain</li> </ul>	Yes	No	No



	<p>people aged 16-24. Funding will be available for each six-month job placement and will cover 100% of the National Minimum Wage (for up to 25 hours a week).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Businesses will be granted a one-off subsidy of £2,000 for each new apprentice they hire under the age of 25.</li> <li>- The rate of VAT applied on most tourism and hospitality-related activities will be cut from 20% to 5% until 12 January 2021.</li> <li>- A new Eat Out to Help Out scheme will provide a 50% reduction for sit-down meals in cafes, restaurants and pubs on Mondays to Wednesdays during August 2020.</li> <li>- Bringing forward work on £8.8 billion of new infrastructure, decarbonisation and maintenance projects. This includes a £3 billion green investment package.</li> <li>- A £2 billion Green Homes Grant scheme to pay for green improvements such as loft, wall and floor insulation</li> <li>- A £1 billion programme will make public buildings, including schools and hospitals, greener, helping the country meet its ambitions of achieving Net Zero by 2050</li> <li>- £5.8 billion will be spent on shovel-ready construction projects to get Britain building.</li> </ul> <p>On the 24<sup>th</sup> of September the support measures (Job support scheme and SEISS) were extended until end of April 2021.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear messaging from government on what is allowed to reopen and why it is safe</li> <li>- Retailers are ready to introduce more flexible opening hours</li> <li>- Careful consideration is needed with regards to high footfall areas</li> </ul>			
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<p>On the 31<sup>st</sup> of October the furlough scheme was extended until end-November, with the state covering 80% of wages.</p> <p>The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended until 31 March 2021, with the state covering up to 90% of wages of employees in companies forced to close.</p> <p>In December it was announced that the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) will be extended until April 2021, with the government continuing to contribute 80% towards furloughed employees' wages.</p> <p>The terms of the scheme and eligibility criteria will remain the same. Please <a href="#">click here</a> for more details.</p>				
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