

OVERVIEW SUPPORTING MEASURES COVID-19

In this document you can find an overview of all Fiscal Measures, Economic unemployment, Bank Plan and the restrictions on Traveling abroad

1. FISCAL MEASURES

Companies that experience difficulties caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis can request a payment plan at the Federal Public Service (FPS) Finance.

In addition, measures were taken in the form of postponement of the submission of certain taxes and postponement of payment of certain debts.

1.1. **Payment plan for fiscal debts**

Companies (natural and legal persons), regardless of the industry they are active in, that can demonstrate they are affected as a consequence of the coronavirus can apply for these support measures. The support measures will not be applied to companies that have had structural payment issues irrespective of the corona virus crisis.

A payment plan can be requested for the following fiscal debts:

- Withholding tax
- VAT
- Personal Income Tax (including Carat Tax)
- Corporate Income Tax (including Carat Tax)
- Legal entities Tax

For these debts there is also

- A guaranteed exemption of late-payment interests
- Waiver of penalties due to non-payment

PROCEDURE TO REQUEST Payment plan

You need to submit a request per debt at the moment of receiving your tax assessment notice or payment order.

This request needs to be submitted by e-mail or letter to the "[Regionaal Invorderingscentrum](#)", your regional tax office, mandated to your municipality.

For more info: financien.belgium.be/nl/ondernemingen/steunmaatregelen-betreffende-het-coronavirus-covid-19

1.2. Postponement for submitting tax returns

This measure aims at providing companies and entrepreneurs but also families more financial breathing room. This way, the government hopes to soften the financial impact of the corona crisis.

- **Postponement for filing tax returns of the corporate income tax (including the Carat Tax), the legal entities tax and the [BNI-ven](#) (tax on non-resident companies) with limit date of March 16 through April 30 2020**

You receive extra time through Thursday April 30 at midnight to file tax returns for the corporate income tax, legal entities tax and tax for non-resident companies.

This additional term only applies for the tax returns with ultimate submission date of March 16 through April 30 2020.

- **Postponement for submitting VAT tax returns**

Periodic tax returns

Tax returns	Term prolonged to
February 2020	6 April 2020
March 2020	7 May 2020
1 st Quarter 2020	7 May 2020

Intra-community tax returns

Tax returns	Term prolonged to
February 2020	6 April 2020
March 2020	7 May 2020
1 st Quarter 2020	7 May 2020

Annual client listing

Postponement until 30 April 2020

More info: <https://financien.belgium.be/nl/Actueel/18-03-2020-coronavirus-bijkomende-steunmaatregelen>

1.3. Postponement of payment

This measure aims at providing companies and entrepreneurs but also families more financial breathing room. This way, the government hopes to soften the financial impact of the corona crisis.

- **Payment of VAT and Withholding tax**

You will receive an automatic postponement of payment of two months for VAT and withholding tax without penalties or interests

This postponement applies to

VAT

Payment

Monthly returns February 2020
Monthly returns March 2020
Quarterly returns 1st Quarter 2020

Term prolonged to

20 May 2020
20 June 2020
20 June 2020

Payroll tax

Payment

Monthly returns February 2020
Monthly returns March 2020
Quarterly returns 1st Quarter 2020

Term prolonged to

13 May 2020
15 June 2020
15 June 2020

- **Payment of VAT and Personal income tax (Carat Tax included) and Corporate income tax (Carat Tax included)**

For the payment of the personal income tax, the corporate income tax, the tax for non-resident companies (BNI) and legal entities tax: two extra months, in addition to the regular payment term, will be added without penalties or interest. This measure applies to the statement of these taxes, tax year 2019, established starting at 12 March 2020.

These measures also apply to the payment of debts regarding the personal income tax or corporate income tax, established before 12 March 2020, as well as additional payment terms, exemption from late-payment interests and/or waiver of late-payment penalties, upon request.

For information, check: <https://financien.belgium.be/nl/Actueel/18-03-2020-coronavirus-bijkomende-steunmaatregelen>

- **Withholding tax**

The Flemish Tax Authority will only send out tax returns for the withholding tax, tax year 2020 starting September 2020 (instead of starting May 2020)

- **Traffic taxes: extended payment term**

Companies get an additional four months of postponed payment for traffic taxes:

- On **tax returns that are sent starting March 26**, a payment term of six months will be mentioned (instead of the regular two months)
- On **tax returns that were sent out recently**, which state a payment term of two months, the receiver may add four extra months. That way they will get an additional four months to pay. For this period, no new late-payment interest will be charged.

This measure applies to companies that are legal entities. Sole proprietors can easily request a payment plan or a waiver for late-payment interests.

- **Extension of terms to fulfill fiscal duties regarding inheritance and registration tax**

Due to safety measures in place in Belgium currently, notaries and citizens might not always be able to fulfill all fiscal formalities on time.

The Flemish Tax Authority has granted, as a general rule, a **tolerance period with an extended term of two months** after the conclusion of the period in which the corona-related restrictions are in effect.

The period of corona restrictions is considered a situation of force majeure. During this tolerance period, **no additional taxes** will be applied if the initial terms are exceeded.

2. ECONOMIC UNEMPLOYMENT

In the framework of the Corona crisis you can place your employees (laborers and employees) on temporary unemployment. This means you do not have to pay wages for the days your employees cannot work. Your employees will receive social benefits from the RVA. By using this system, you can avoid having to dismiss staff.

On 20 March 2020, the government issued new guidance making this system more accessible for employers.

You can find all the information on the RVA website (www.rva.be) where you can find a FAQ on the options of this system. This FAQ is updated frequently, to provide the most recent information.

We also advise you to get in touch with your bookkeeper or social secretariat. They can advise you on all options and help you fill out all necessary formalities.

- **Compensation for water and energy bills for all who are economically unemployed**

Anyone who is put on temporary unemployment will receive a compensation from the Flemish government of one month's payment of water- and energy bills.

The amount of money is based on the average expense per month for water and energy (electricity/gas/fuel/other).

3. BANKS

On Sunday March 22nd, the Federal Government, the National Bank and the banks reached an agreement to:

- Grant postponement of payment to individuals for existing credit lines until Sept 30th 2020, for example home loans
- This postponement should be applied for at your bank
- If the postponement is approved, you are temporarily exempted from the payment of interest and capital. These measures will go into effect on Friday March 27

UPDATE: 'banking plan' of Minister of Finance Alexander De Croo

Government decided that it will be possible to receive, up until September 30 2020, new **additional credit and credit lines**, with a maximum duration of 12 months (refinancing credits are excluded), which will fall under the government guarantee system.

The interest on these new credits and credit lines can't exceed 1,25% per annum nominally.

The government also announced that all financial institutions operating in Belgium, as well as branches of credit institutions **under foreign law**, are covered by this plan. This means it **also applies to foreign banks active in Belgium**. The government is currently negotiating the details with the banking sector about this measure, if you want more information about these possibilities, please contact your bank.

More information:

- <https://financien.belgium.be/nl/coronavirus>
- <https://febelfin.be/nl>

4. TRAVELING ABROAD

As a rule, people should work from home, all non-essential movements are to be avoided, unless there is no other option. You may go to work, but you need to respect a minimum of 1.5 meters distance from other people, the so-called 'social distancing',

including in elevators, within your own office space or when you are in another office or building.

Traveling abroad

- Non-essential travel is prohibited by the government until April 5. It has not been defined what is or is not essential travel, so each person decides individually what (non-) essential means. Holidays for example are not essential.
- Those who have to **travel for work** are recommended to check the website of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs to see which measures are in effect to stem the spread of the virus:

https://diplomatie.belgium.be/nl/Diensten/Op_reis_in_het_buitenland/reisadviezen

- **Traveling to France**

If you want to travel to France, we recommend that you download and complete this form:

https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/contenu/piece-jointe/2020/03/attestation_de_deplacement_derogatoire.pdf

- https://diplomatie.belgium.be/nl/Diensten/Op_reis_in_het_buitenland/reisadviezen/frankrijk

In orde to keep you updated on all information, we ask you to, if this wasn't the case already, register to our mailing list. You can do so by sending us a mail with subject "subscribe" to marcom@awdc.eu