

## **COVID-19: SUMMARY OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES AIMED AT HEALTH PROTECTION AND SUPPORT FOR THE ECONOMY**

### **Measures for the improvement of the National Sanitary Service and for the economical support to families, workers and enterprises linked to the epidemiological emergency of COVID-19 (decree-law)**

#### **Support for workers and companies, aiming that nobody loses his job because of the emergency**

- The exceptional redundancy fund (cassa integrazione in deroga) is extended to the entire national territory, to all the employees, of all of the productive sectors. Employers, including companies with less than 5 employees, who suspend or reduce the activity as a consequence of the epidemiological emergency, can resort to the exceptional redundancy fund (cassa integrazione guadagni in deroga) with the new motivation "COVID-19" for a maximum of 9 weeks. This chance is also extended to enterprises already benefitting from the extraordinary redundancy fund (cassa integrazione straordinaria);
- The possibility to access the ordinary allowance motivated with "COVID-19 emergency" is also extended to workers whose employers are registered in the Wages Integration fund (Fondo di integrazione salariale -FIS) and occupy more than 5 employees on average;
- A non-taxable compensation of 600 euro is awarded on a monthly basis to self-employed workers and partite IVA. The compensation is destined to nearly 5 millions of people: professionals not registered in any Order, co.co.co. in a separate management, artisans, traders, direct cultivators, settlers and sharecroppers, seasonals in tourism and thermal establishments, workers in performing arts, agricultural workers;
- A fund for a last resort income has been fixed, with a provision of 300 million euro as a residual fund in order to ensure anyone who has been excluded from the 600 euro compensation, including professionals registered in Orders;
- It is scheduled to consider as a sick leave the period spent in quarantine or fiduciary home-permanence with active monitoring for Covid-19, for private sectors (for the public sector the equation had already been inserted in the DL- 9 March 2020);
- In order to provide support to working parents, as a consequence of the suspension of the scholar service, parents of children aged 12 years or less or with a certified severe disability, are given the possibility to benefit from a paternal leave of 15 days added to the 50% of the wage. As an alternative, there is a bonus for the purchase of baby-sitting services within 600 euro, extended to 1.000 euro for the personnel of the sanitary national service and law enforcement;
- In case of a severe handicap, the days of monthly paid leave covered by figurative contribution as in article 33, comma 3, of the law of 5 february 1992, n.104 are increased with an addition of twelve more days;

#### **Liquidity support for families and enterprises**

In order to avoid a lack of liquidity for enterprises and families, numerous measures have been put in place, also in collaboration with the banking system. Here are the main ones

- A moratorium of funding for micro, small and medium enterprises (which regards loans, leasing, credit facilities and short-term fundings);
- The central guarantee fund for small and medium enterprises is enforced;

- the fund destined to loans for the purchase of the first house is extended to self-employed workers and its procedure is simplified;
- measures for the increase of the allowance for sports cooperators;
- norms on the refund of contracts of stay and on the rescission of contracts for the purchase of tickets for exhibitions, museums and other cultural places, with the expectation to refund unused services with vouchers worth the same amount of money as the ticket, to be used within an year from the emission;
- the institution of an emergency fund for performances, cinema and audiovision and further urgent measures aimed at supporting the sector of culture.

#### **Fiscal measures so that obligations and requirements don't aggravate liquidity problems**

- Withholding taxes, social security contributions and premiums for compulsory insurance related to March and April, together with the payment of the IVA of March are all suspended for the most affected sectors, without any limit of turnover. The sectors concerned are: tourism-hotel management, thermal, passengers transport, foodservice and bars, culture (cinemas and theatres), sports, education, amusement parks, events (fares and conventions), games rooms and betting centres;
- Suspension of deadlines related to fiscal and contribution payments for contributors with a turnover amounting up to 2 million euro (IVA payments, withholdings and March contribution taxes);
- Extension of deadlines - for economical operators for whom suspension is not suitable, the term for paying the dues owed to public administration, included the ones related to social security, welfare contribution and premiums for compulsory insurance, is postponed from 16 March to 20 March;
- Disapplication of the withholding tax in March and April for professionals with no employees, who have had an income or remuneration non superior to 400.000 euro in the previous tax period;
- Suspension until 31 May 2020 of the terms related to activities of liquidity, monitoring, assesment, recollection and litigation done by the offices of the Agenzia delle entrate;
- Suspension of the terms for the recollection of tax demands, for balance and clearance and for scrapping-ter, suspension of the submission of new charts and suspension of executive acts;
- Premiums to workers: workers with an annual gross income up to a maximum of 40.000 who in March are working in their workplace (not in smart working) are recognised a non-taxable premium of 100 euro (proportional to the days of work);
- Incentives and contributions for the sanification and the security in workplaces: enterprises are provided with incentives for sanification interventions and enhancement of security in workplaces, by means of a tax credit, together with the establishment of an INAIL fund; similar contributions are also envisaged to be destined to local authorities through a specific fund;
- **COVID-19 donations** – the deductibility of donations given by enterprises pursuant to article 27 L. 133/99 is extended; moreover a deduction is established for donations made by physical persons up to a maximum benefit of 30.000 euro;
- Commercial rents- shops and boutiques are recognised a tax credit in the amount of the 60% of the rental related to March;
- Provision on street transport and public transport of people, in order to counter the effects of the diffusion of Covid-19 on operators of regional and local public transport service and on managers of school transport;

- Sustainment measures for public non-scheduled vehicle services, with a contribution in favour of users who have provided vehicles with partitioning bulkheads aimed at dividing the driver's seat from the seats reserved to clients;

Moreover, the decree introduces further measures, among which:

- New measures aimed at containing the effects of the emergency in what concerns civil, penal, administrative, tributary, accounting and military justice; one of the measures postpones after 15th April 2020 the court hearings scheduled between 9 March and 15 April 2020 for civil and penal procedures pending in every judicial office and suspends for the same period of time the deadlines related to the application of any act of civil, penal and administrative procedures, with specific exceptions.
- Measures to restore the functioning of penitentiary institutions and to prevent the diffusion of COVID-19 in prisons;
- Extraordinary measures related to smart working, exemption from the service and competition proceedings, with the provision that, until the date of termination of the state of epidemiological emergency, agile working is to be the ordinary way for job performance in public administrations;
- Measures to ensure the recovery of food surpluses and to favour their free distribution to people in need;
- Identity documents that have expired or that are going to expire after the decree entries into force are extended in their validity to 31 August 2020;
- Contributions for platforms dedicated to distance education;
- Measures to favour occupational continuity for short-term or occasional teachers;