

GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR PUBLIC FINANCES

Covid-19 measures

I. DGFIP measures to support economy

The French Government has taken several measures to face the COVID-19 crisis.

Firstly, our President called to the national solidarity and announced that "The Government will mobilize all the financial means necessary for our health system whatever the cost" even if it were to cost more than €10bn. Hence we are ready to increase public debt to sustain the economy in coordination with G7/G20 and the Eurozone.

At the economic level he announced:

1. the establishment of an exceptional partial unemployment mechanism for businesses in order to preserve jobs and skills. This implies major state compensation.
2. Facilitation of working from home – with issues for those who will have to take care of their children while schools close starting from next Monday. For those who can't work from home a compensation will be set up and financed by national solidarity.
3. In addition to the usual steps in terms of deferred payments, easing and lightening tax burden put in place to deal with crises, the President announced that companies will be able to ask for an automatic report of formalities, penalties and payments of all social duties and taxes due in March.

Penalties can be waived against a payment commitment within a reasonable time - condition appreciated with kindness here.

Payment deadlines resulting from a debt payments plan in progress can be postponed.

Tax audits are now suspended.

France has moved into stage 3 of the epidemic which will have a deeper impact on our economy. That's the reason why, the Minister of Finance indicated that a solidarity fund would be set up to support businesses shut down due to containment measures.

It currently affects 800,000 businesses and 2 million employees.

100% of partial unemployment will be paid by the Government, and 90% of net wages will be paid to people unable to work because they have to keep their children at home. Seasonal and intermittent workers will also benefit from support measures (rescheduling unemployment insurance rules).

The state will also stand surety for 90% of cash loans from SMEs.

A solidarity fund has been set up by the State with the regions to support small businesses most affected by the economic consequences of the Covid-19 crisis.

This fund is dedicated to merchants, artisans, liberal professions and other economic agents, regardless of their status (company, individual entrepreneur, association, etc.) and their tax and social security system (including micro-entrepreneurs).

SMEs of 10 employees or less are eligible, with an annual turnover of less than 1 million euros and a taxable annual profit of less than 60,000 euros for the last financial year ended.

Originally planned for companies that have been subject to a ban on the public or have lost more than 70% of their turnover in March 2020 compared to March 2019, as of Friday, the government has decided to grant aid, including for companies whose turnover fell by more than 50%. Subject to the release of the corresponding decree in the coming days and from Friday, companies in this situation may also declare themselves under the same conditions as others on the site.

This aid, which can go up to € 3,500 per company, has two components:

- with a simple online statement the on-line tax account, companies will be able to benefit from aid of an amount equal to the declared loss of turnover in March 2020 compared to March 2019, within the limit of € 1,500;
- the companies that are most in difficulty may - from April 15 - request additional assistance of €2,000 from the services of the region where they operate. Regional platforms will be opened for this purpose.

This direct aid comes in addition to all the other support measures implemented for businesses (deferral of tax and social charges, guaranteed loans, partial unemployment, deferral of rents and invoices, etc.)

II. DGFIP Business Contunity Plan

A business continuity plan has been implemented since Monday the 16th of March.

The key ideal is to ensure continuity of service in relation to our priority missions and to reduce the organizational differences that exist on the territory.

There is a possibility for local managers to reassign agents usually working on non-priority missions to primary missions: they can be easily redeployed.

The local directors have the responsibility to ensure both the good continuity of the priority activity, the respect of health instructions and the permanence of our missions over time.

Rotations between teams or an adaptation of the physical presence according to the needs can be organized.

The identified crucial missions are the following:

1. Tax management:

- Processing of requests for reimbursement of tax credits (CIT and VAT)
- Processing of requests for tax credits, and in particular those presenting high financial stakes (Research Tax Credit)
- Processing of requests for delays and postponements, stay of proceedings, benevolent measures; for companies affected by the COVID-19 crisis
- Processing of reimbursement requests Processing of accreditation and rescript requests from companies affected by the COVID-19 crisis

2. Economic missions

Payment of local and hospital public sector expenses prioritized according to the beneficiary of the payment and the issues; awareness-raising of authorizing officers on the subject Support for the hospital sector Monitoring of companies in difficulty - crisis unit Processing of requests for delays and postponements, stay of proceedings, benevolent measures

3. Pay State expenses: prioritized according to the beneficiary of the payment and the issues; awareness of authorizing officers on the subject

4. Pay State Pensions

5. Land missions and registration

With regard to land registrations, only the operations which make it possible to carry out the accounting and recording decrees are essential.

Regarding land missions, the continuation of updating the local tax land bases does not constitute a priority mission within the meaning of the BCP.

Organizational issues

1. Remote working

Work from home must therefore be set up whenever possible to fight the epidemic, as part of continuity plans as well as for normal professional activities.

If agents are assigned to a priority mission, it must be carried out.

The DGFIP already has provided and keeps on equipping - for those not equipped to date - the personnel assigned to a priority mission with laptops and remote access (VPN) so that they work from home.

According to the continuity plan, the DGFIP enables agents that have to look after their children of less than 16 years and for which no alternative solution of care is possible to benefit from a specific arrangement. They can work from home when it's possible or they will be entitled to special leave of absence without any loss of salary.

Regarding people in fragile situations, they are invited to stay at home as much as possible without loss of salary.

2. When physical presence on-site is needed

Regarding the opening to the public, the choice has been made to maintain a reception by appointment for users, companies and elected officials who request it.

When physical presence is required (mainly to operate IT applications that cannot be operated remotely), it is accompanied by regularly reminded prevention measures and must now be the subject of:

- a displacement certificate: an employer certificate signed and issued by the hierarchical authority
- Physically embodied safety distances in order to be sure a great distance between teams and users is respected. It is also necessary to circumscribe as much as possible the "public" space, which should be cleaned between each visit, that should not last more than 15 or 20 minutes, if possible in a ventilated room
- Cleaning teams operate several times a day.

About 30% of the staff has to work on site to assure prioritized missions.

A special attention has been called to hospital treasuries which must remain open to the public, to help the hospital running in the best possible conditions.