

BULGARIA COVID-19 TRACKER (last updated at 18:00 on 14 July 2021)

Key legal measures affecting business in relation to COVID-19 in Bulgaria

For particular inquiries please contact our C-19 Task Force at C19taskforce@boyanov.com

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| SECTOR | SUBJECT | LEGAL BASIS |
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| TODAY'S UPDATES | | |
| | There are no new measures or changes adopted as of today, 14 July 2021. | |

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
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| GENERAL MEASURES | | | |
| 1. | General social distancing measures¹ | <p>The state of emergency in Bulgaria ended on 13 May 2020. On 14 May 2020, the Council of Ministers declared an emergency epidemic situation² for one month until 14 June 2020, which is further extended from time to time and is currently effective until 31 July 2021. Based on the emergency epidemic situation declared, the Minister of Health renewed and modified the following general restrictions³ for the period from 01 June 2021 until 31 July 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-person classes for students from 1st to 12th grade are allowed as of 31 May 2021. All extracurricular educational activities (including study halls, educational gatherings, etc.) are allowed as of 31 May 2021. In-person educational activities at the universities are allowed as of 19 May 2021. In-person activities in educational and language centers and study halls organized by legal entities and natural persons are allowed observing at least 1.5 physical distance, wearing protective masks and other anti-epidemic measures. All activities in day care centers and party halls for kids are allowed using no more than 50% of the capacity of the premises and having the staff wear | <p>Order No. ПД-01-375 dated 27 May 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 01 June 2021 until 31 July 2021)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-373 dated 27 May 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 1 June 2021 until 31 July 2021)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-355 dated 18 May 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 19 May 2021)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-496 dated 15 June 2021 issued by the Minister</p> |

¹ Anti-epidemic measures can be introduced by the regional health authorities for individual regions of the country. Mayors of municipalities can also adopt further social distancing measures.

² “Emergency epidemic situation” is present in case of a disaster caused by a contagious disease, which leads to an epidemic with immediate danger to the life and health of people, the prevention and overcoming of which requires more than the usual activities related to protecting and preserving the life and health of people.

³ Every Regional Crisis Management Headquarter could introduce additional measures. Other regional measures in the country also apply.

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
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| | | <p>protective masks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All indoor and outdoor team sports events having competitive nature are allowed using no more than 50% of the seats, observing physical distance of at least 1.5m and wearing protective masks. • Activities in fitness centers, swimming pools, spa centers and sports halls are allowed using no more than 50% of the capacity of the premises and observing physical distance of at least 1.5 m. • All cultural and entertainment events are allowed using no more than 50% of the capacity of the premises, observing physical distance of at least 1.5 m, wearing protective masks and using only the respective seating places. • Conference events, symposiums, exhibitions, contests, including events in the exhibition industry, and other public events are allowed using no more than 50% of the capacity of the premises, observing physical distance of at least 1.5 m and wearing protective masks. • Visits to hospitals by external persons are not allowed. Certain exceptions apply. • Wearing protective masks is mandatory in closed public places, including public transport, pharmacies, healthcare establishments, optician’s, national health centers, administrative institutions, other places where services are provided to the public or which the public has access to, railway and bus stations, airports, subway stations, commercial sites, churches, monasteries, temples, museums, etc.⁴ Specific rules apply to students, teachers and other personnel in schools. • Wearing protective masks is mandatory in open public places when keeping 1.5 distance between individuals is not possible. • Exception from the mandatory wearing of protective masks or face coverings | <p>of Health <i>(Effective 16 June 2021 until 31 July 2021)</i> Order No. ПД-01-555 dated 06 July 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 7 July 2021)</i></p> |

⁴ Public places are freely accessible places or places intended for public use.

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| | | <p>applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - customers of food premises, restaurants, bars, pubs, cafés, etc.; - individuals practicing indoor or outdoor sports – during the sports activity; - participants in TV shows; - participants in conference events, briefings, press conferences, seminars for the duration of their speeches; - kids under the age of 6; - employees vaccinated against COVID-19 at the discretion of the employer or natural persons and legal entities who own or manage public facilities, commercial premises and other places where services to individuals are provided. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All persons, when in open public places, such as bus stations, parks, streets, etc., must keep a distance of not less than 1.5 meters from other persons. Exception applies to members of the same family. • Persons in contact with those infected with COVID-19 are placed under mandatory quarantine for 10 days as of the last contact with the infected person and are not allowed to leave their homes unless they are tested negative. | |
| 2. | Entry restrictions for arriving | According to an assessment of the spread of COVID-19, the countries are divided into three color zones – green ⁵ , orange ⁶ and red ⁷ . The assessment of the spread of | Order No. ПД-01-547 dated 30 June 2021 issued by the Minister |

⁵ Austria, Germany, Estonia, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Finland, Croatia, Greece, Denmark, Italy, Slovenia, France, Norway, Republic of San Marino, Principality of Andorra, Principality of Monaco, Vatican City State.

⁶ All countries outside of the green and the red zone.

⁷ India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, the Republic of South Africa, the Republic of Botswana, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Seychelles, the Republic of Namibia, the Republic of Zambia, the Republic of Tunisia, Oman, Malaysia, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkmenistan, The Kirghiz Autonomous Socialist Soviet Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Chile, the Oriental

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| | passengers | <p>COVID-19 comprises, among other things, a 14-days' sick rate, weekly positive laboratory tests, etc. The color zones are determined based on the criteria included in the assessment of the spread of COVID-19. For the period until 31 July 2021, persons can enter Bulgaria according to the assessment of the spread of COVID-19 in the respective country.</p> <p>Anti-epidemic measures for persons arriving from EU and EEA Member States and the Swiss Confederation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green zone: the entry into the country is permitted upon presentation of a valid EU digital COVID-19 certificate for vaccination, for recovery from COVID-19 or for negative testing, or a similar document containing the same data as the EU digital COVID certificate.⁸ - Orange zone: please see the requirements for the Green zone. - Red zone: entry into the country is not permitted. <p>Anti-epidemic measures for persons arriving from non-EU and EEA Member States and the Swiss Confederation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All persons arriving from non-EU and EEA countries and the Swiss Confederation and not arriving from a red zone country shall be considered to arrive from orange zones and are permitted to enter the country only upon presentation of a valid EU digital COVID certificate for vaccination, for recovery from COVID-19 or for a negative testing, or a similar document | <p>of Health (Effective 1 July 2021)</p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-553 dated 5 July 2021 issued by the Minister of Health (Effective 8 July 2021)</p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-553 dated 05 July 2021 issued by the Minister of Health (Effective 8 July 2021)</p> |

Republic of Uruguay, the Republic of Argentina, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Peru, the Republic of Panama, the Republic of Suriname, the Republic of Costa Rica, the Republic of Guatemala, Belize, the Republic of El Salvador, the Republic of Cuba, and the Dominican Republic.

⁸ In the absence of a valid EU digital COVID certificate or a similar document containing the same data as the EU digital COVID certificate, the person shall be quarantined for 10 days at home or with other accommodation. The Director of the respective Regional Health Inspectorate may revoke the order for quarantine issued upon submission by e-mail of a document showing a negative result from a PCR test conducted within 24 hours of entering the country or by a rapid antigen test.

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
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| | | <p>containing the same data as the EU digital COVID certificate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Red zone: entry into the country is not permitted. <p><u>Bulgarian nationals, foreign nationals with permanent, temporary, or long-term residence in Bulgaria, and members of their families</u> that do not provide any of the documents, set out above, to the border authorities, are to be placed under 10-day mandatory quarantine.⁹ In such case, the arriving passengers must inform the border or the regional health authorities about the address where they will be quarantined. The mandatory quarantine may be repealed if a negative test made within 24 hours as of the entry in the country is subsequently provided to the authorities.</p> <p>Further to the states in the different color zones for entering the country (please see item 2 and 3 below), passengers arriving from Russia, Spain and Cyprus need to present a COVID-19 certificate for a negative PCR test, or a similar document. The states in the color zones for entering the country will be updated soon.</p> | |
| 3. | Exceptions to the entry restrictions for arriving passengers | <p>Exceptions apply to the categories of persons, set out below, arriving from the red zone countries that are permitted to enter on the territory of the country upon presentation of a valid EU digital COVID certificate for vaccination or for recovery of COVID-19 or a similar document, as well as a negative result of a PCR test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medical staff, medical investigators, and geriatric care specialists, in performance of their duties; - Transport personnel engaged in the transportation of passengers and goods¹⁰, aircraft crew members engaged in air transport and other transport personnel, as necessary, including crew members of ships; - Diplomatic staff, foreign officials (Heads of States, members of governments) | <p>Order No. ПД-01-547 dated 30 June 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 1 July 2021)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-553 dated 5 July 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 8 July 2021)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-389 dated 31 May 2021</p> |

⁹ Art. 355, Para. 2 of the Criminal Code provides for imprisonment of up to five years and a fine of BGN 10,000 to BGN 50,000 for failure to observe quarantine.

¹⁰ If the transit through the border is banned by a neighboring country, the Bulgarian authorities will determine a parking place where the driver and the truck must remain until the ban is lifted.

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| | | <p>and members of their delegations, staff of international organizations, military and humanitarian personnel, in performance of their duties;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persons travelling for humanitarian reasons; - Persons directly engaged in the construction, maintenance and safety of strategic and critical infrastructure of Bulgaria, performance of projects under the Investment Promotion Act, and other investment activities related to the local economy, priorly certified by letter of the Minister of Economy or another Minister; - Agricultural workers and workers in the field of tourism; - Persons travelling for education purposes, as well as those participating in examination boards, in case the examinations cannot be held electronically; - Workers engaged in the delivery of medicinal products, medical devices and personal protective equipment; - Organizers and participants in international sports competitions, athletes from abroad coming to the country for a trial period; sports professionals and coaches from abroad arriving in the country to participate in training camps, including members of their families, if priorly certified by the Minister of Youth and Sports; - Organizers and participants in international culture events, if priorly certified by the Minister of Culture; - Foreign nationals for receiving documents related to acquisition of Bulgarian nationality if priorly certified by the Minister of Justice; - Certain persons with the prior approval by the Minister of Health due to important reasons. <p>The following persons are exempt from the above rules and can enter the country</p> | <p><i>(Effective 1 June)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-417 dated 04 June 2021</p> <p><i>(Effective 5 June)</i></p> |

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
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| | | <p>freely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bus drivers and other crew members (if any), conducting international transport of passengers. - Truck drivers, conducting international transport of goods. - Members of ships' crews. - Border workers. - Aircraft crew members and personnel engaged in the technical servicing of the aircraft. - Students living in Greece, Turkey, Serbia, North Macedonia and Romania and travel every day or at least once a week to Bulgaria for education purposes, as well as students living in Bulgaria and travelling to the aforementioned countries every day or at least once a week. - Children up to 12 years old. - Transit travellers; - Persons arriving from countries with which the Republic of Bulgaria has achieved arrangement for free passage on a reciprocal basis (currently – Romania and the Czech Republic). | |
| 4. | Legislative moratorium on payments | <p>From 13 March to 13 July 2020, the effects of default on payments based on financial agreements, e.g., loans, leases, etc. of private persons and entities were suspended.¹¹ The payments affected by the suspension can be owed to financial institutions (banks, lease companies, etc.) or to third parties, in case of assignment of the receivable. Suspension of the effects of default on payments includes the accrual of interest and</p> | <p>State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020)</i></p> |

¹¹ For the period from 13 March 2020 until 8 April 2020, the general suspension of the effects of default on payments applies to all delayed payments of private persons and entities regardless of the type of the obligations, i.e., it is not necessary for them to be based on financial agreements for this period.

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| | | penalties for delay, acceleration, and the right to rescind a contract. | <p><i>Amendment effective 9 April 2020</i></p> <p><i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020)</i></p> |
| 5. | <p>Non-legislative (voluntary) moratorium on payment of financial loans</p> | <p>In compliance with the Guidelines on legislative and non-legislative moratoria on loan repayments applied in the light of the COVID-19 crisis of the European Banking Authority (“EBA”), the BNB approved local directions on terms and procedures of moratorium on payment of financial loans provided by banks and their subsidiaries as proposed by the Association of Banks in Bulgaria. The directions include various mechanisms of reliefs for the borrowers, e.g., temporarily postponement of capital and/or interest payments on the loan without further amending the terms and conditions. Eligibility criteria in respect of the borrowers apply.</p> <p>The term for applications expired on 23 March 2021 and was not further extended.</p> | <p>Decision dated 10 April 2020 adopted by the Bulgarian National Bank (“BNB”), as amended <i>(Effective from 10 April 2020 until the end of 2020)</i></p> <p>Decision dated 09 July 2020 adopted by the BNB <i>(Effective 09 July 2020)</i></p> <p>Decision dated 02 December 2020 adopted by the BNB <i>(Effective 02 December 2020)</i></p> <p>Decision dated 11 December 2020 adopted by the BNB <i>(Effective 11 December 2020 until the end of 2021)</i></p> |

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
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| RETAIL, SERVICES, TRAVEL, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY | | | |
| 6. | Closing of public access to non-essential retail outlets and services | <p>Visits to discos, piano bars, night clubs, etc. are allowed using no more than 50% of the capacity of the premises and having the staff wear protective masks.</p> <p>Visits to casinos are allowed using no more than 50% of the capacity of the premises and having the staff wear protective masks.</p> <p>Visits to restaurants, fast food outlets, bars and pubs, cafés and other food and entertainment sites under Article 124 of the Tourism Act are allowed using no more than 50% of their capacity and having the staff wear protective masks. Home deliveries are allowed without restrictions.</p> <p>Takeaway services are not affected.</p> <p>Online retail is not affected.</p> <p>Visits to spa and wellness centers that are independent or belong to accommodation places are allowed using only 50% of their capacity.</p> <p>All markets – indoors or outdoors – shall ensure one-way traffic of the visitors, 1.5 social distance between individuals and all employees and visitors shall wear a protective mask.</p> | <p>Order No. ПД-01-375 dated 27 May 2021 issued by the Minister of Health</p> <p><i>(Effective 01 June 2021 until 31 July 2021)</i></p> |
| 7. | Sanitary requirements for retail outlets which remain in operation | <p>Wearing a face mask is mandatory in case of immediate customer service with a distance of less than 1.5 meters and if there is no plastic or glass barrier subject to disinfection.</p> <p>Any natural persons and legal entities, who own or manage public facilities, commercial premises and other places where services to individuals are provided, and who organize mass public events must also introduce the following anti-epidemic</p> | <p>Order No. ПД-01-375 dated 27 May 2021 issued by the Minister of Health</p> <p><i>(Effective 01 June 2021 until 31 July 2021)</i></p> |

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
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| | | <p>measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 1.5 meters distance between the individuals to whom they provide services; - No more than 1 person per 8 sq.m.; - Availability of a disinfectant at the entry of the site; - Access regime in order to avoid crowding; - Wearing protective masks within the premises; - Placing of information notices on the need to keep social distance and personal hygiene, and to wear personal protective equipment, etc. <p>In addition, the Ministry of Tourism, in co-ordination with the Ministry of Health, adopted Instructions on the Operation of Places for Accommodation and Food and Entertainment Premises in the Conditions of COVID-19. The Instructions specify the sanitary requirements set out above, considering the nature of the hotel and restaurant business in view of the last summer season. They refer to safety of the employees, safety of the customers and to the requirements and actions in case of doubt that certain employees/customers are infected with COVID-19.¹²</p> <p>[See also general social distancing measures in item 1 above.]</p> | |
| 8. | VAT reduction due for various services | <p>VAT is reduced to 9% from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2021 for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Print or E-books; – Restaurant or catering services, including for food delivery; | <p>Act to Amend the VAT Act (<i>Effective 1 July 2020</i>)</p> <p>Act to Amend and Supplement the VAT Act</p> |

¹² The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency also adopted requirements on the work in outdoor areas of the restaurants, fast food outlets, bars and pubs, and coffee-houses observing anti-epidemic measures. The requirements specify the anti-epidemic measures ordered by the Minister of Health, e.g., placing information tables for keeping distance between the visitors, measures on preventing crowds in the common areas, granting access only for customers, etc.

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Food and hygiene materials for babies and toddlers; – Tour operators, tourism agents, transport related to tourism services; – Sports activities, including providers of fitness services. <p>Vat due for COVID-19 vaccines and the services related to it and for other diagnostic medical devices is reduced to 0%.</p> | <p><i>(Effective 1 January 2021)</i></p> |
| 9. | <p>Refund offered by the companies providing tourism services for cancelled travel</p> | <p>Companies providing tourism services (tour operators) can offer a voucher instead of refunding the amount paid for travel, which is cancelled until 31 December 2020. If the traveler does not accept the voucher, the tour operator must refund the amount within 12 months as of the date of cancelation of the travel.</p> | <p>State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 9 April 2020)</i> <i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020,</i> <i>Amendment effective 11 August 2020)</i></p> |
| 10. | <p>Exemption from rental payments to public authorities</p> | <p>The respective authority, in its capacity as a lessor, is entitled to reduce the rental price or to exempt from the entire rental price, or part of it, the lessees, whose work was suspended or restricted due to the state of emergency or the emergency epidemic situation. The suspension or the restriction of the work due to the state of emergency needs to be evidenced by financial or other relevant documents and the application shall be submitted within 2 months after the end of the state of emergency, respectively the emergency epidemic situation.</p> | <p>State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 9 April 2020,</i> <i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020,</i> <i>Amendment effective 22 December 2020,</i> <i>Amendment effective 17 February 2021)</i></p> |

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| 11. | State aid for air carriers | For a period of two years after the end of the state of emergency, i.e. until 13 May 2022, tour operators using air carriers having a Bulgarian operating license ¹³ to carry out charter flights to Bulgaria for tourism, will receive a state grant amounting to 35 EUR per seat of the maximum capacity of the aircraft. The state aid is granted only in respect of flights having at least 100 seats. | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 14 May 2020)</i> |

¹³ Tour operators using air carriers having operating licenses issued by foreign states can receive the state aid if they prove absence of interest by air carriers in obtaining a Bulgarian license to perform the flight.

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| TRANSPORT¹⁴ | | | |
| 12. | Measures for aircraft crew members | If a passenger on an aircraft landing in the territory Bulgaria shows symptoms of COVID-19, the cabin crew who took part in the particular flight must not plan their next flight and must be put under mandatory 10-day quarantine, as per the instructions of the state health authorities. | Order No. ПД-01-547 dated 30 June 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 1 July 2021)</i> Order No. ПД-01-553 dated 5 July 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 8 July 2021)</i> |
| 13. | Sanitary requirements for air travel | Airport and ground handling operators, companies providing aircraft technical services and all air carriers transporting passengers, cargo and mail from and to the airports within the country must take strict sanitary measures according to COVID-19 Aviation Health Safety Protocol dated 30 June 2020 issued by The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). | Order No. 45-01-281 dated 01 July 2020 issued by the Director General of DG CAA, as amended <i>(Effective 01 July 2020)</i> |

¹⁴ On 1 April 2020, the Council of Ministers defined the border points on Bulgarian territory through which unobstructed transit of goods will be ensured, i.e., so-called “green corridors”.

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
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| EMPLOYMENT | | | |
| 14. | Remote work. Sanitary measures at the workplace | All employers must ensure the introduction of increased anti-epidemic measures in the working areas, including disinfection, ventilation, instructions to staff on personal hygiene, provision of personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, etc.) for the employees considering the type of work and the risk assessment at the workplace (including when the workplace is outdoors), social distancing of at least 1.5 meters between the employees (if not possible – wearing of protective mask), they must not allow access for employees or visitors having symptoms of acute contagious diseases and are instructed to transfer their employees and management bodies to remote work wherever possible or to introduce flexible working hours or work in shifts. Not more of 50% of the employees may work in person in the working place. The employers can also apply other preventive measures and working methods, depending on the specific work activity, including limiting non-essential contacts at the workplace. All anti-epidemic measures must conform to the instructions adopted by the Minister of Health. | Order No. ПД-01-373 dated 27 May 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 1 June 2021 until 31 July 2021)</i> Order No. ПД-01-375 dated 27 May 2021 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Effective 01 June 2021 until 31 July 2021)</i> |
| 15. | Remote and home-based work | For the period of the state of emergency and the emergency epidemic situation, employers are allowed (depending on the nature of the work and possibility for remote work or work from home) to assign to employees, without their consent , remote work or work from home. Any employee who is in close contact with a person having a laboratory-confirmed Covid-19, shall switch to remote work or work from home, if possible, by declaring such circumstances to the employer. | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020,</i> <i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020,</i> <i>Amendment effective 21 November 2020)</i> Labor Code, as amended |

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| 16. | Unilateral right of employer to grant the use of the annual paid leave | <p>For the period of the state of emergency the emergency epidemic situation the employer may unilaterally order its employees (including employees having less than 8 months of employment), without their consent, to use their annual paid leave, if the work of (i) the enterprise, (ii) part of the enterprise or (iii) certain employees has been suspended based on an order of the employer or an order of the authorities.</p> <p>Also, for the period of the state of emergency or the emergency epidemic situation, employers are obliged to grant the annual paid or unpaid leave to certain categories of employees, e.g., pregnant employees, employees in advanced stage of in vitro treatment, etc. All categories of employees are listed in Article 173a of the Labor Code.</p> | Labor Code, as amended |
| 17. | State aid for partially covering salaries of employees | <p>According to Decrees of the Council of Ministers, there is a state support for partial co-payment of salaries for the period until 31 July 2021.</p> <p>Employers may be eligible to receive funding in order to maintain employment after the period of the state of emergency and epidemic emergency for employees whose work was suspended, who had to switch to a part-time work, who took paid leave or whose employment was kept after a notice for mass dismissals during the period from 13 March to 31 December 2020 due to a decision of a government authority, as well as for the employees, who are socially insured in certain economic sectors. The financial support for each employee amounts to 50% of the monthly insurance income for April 2021 and the social insurance contributions, if the employer has declared decrease in sales revenue of not less than 30% for the same month of 2019 and to 60% of the monthly insurance income for April 2021 and the social insurance contributions, if the employer has declared a decrease in sales revenue of not less than 40% for the same month in 2019. For entities incorporated after 1 June 2019, the declared decrease in sales revenue shall be compared to the average monthly revenue for 2020.</p> | <p>Decree of the Council of Ministers on the conditions and procedure for paying compensations to employers for maintaining employment of employees for the state of emergency declared by the National Assembly on 13 March 2020</p> <p><i>(Effective 1 April 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020)</i></p> <p>Decree No. 151 of the Council of Ministers for amendment of the Decree on the conditions and procedure for paying compensations to employers for maintaining employment of employees after the period of state</p> |

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| | | | <p>of emergency declared by the National Assembly on 13 March 2020</p> <p><i>(Effective 01 July 2020)</i></p> <p>Decree No. 416 of the Council of Ministers for amendment of the Decree on the conditions and procedure for paying compensations to employers for maintaining employment of employees after the period of state of emergency declared by the National Assembly on 13 March 2020</p> <p><i>(Effective 01 January 2021)</i></p> <p>Decree dated 17 March 2021 of the Council of Ministers for amendment of the Decree on the conditions and procedure for paying compensations to employers for maintaining employment of employees after the period of state of emergency declared by the National Assembly on 13 March 2020</p> <p><i>(Effective 01 April 2021)</i></p> <p>Decree No. 213 dated 1 July 2021 of the Council of Ministers for</p> |

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| | | | amendment of the Decree on the conditions and procedure for paying compensations to employers for maintaining employment of employees after the period of state of emergency declared by the National Assembly on 13 March 2020 |
| 18. | Compensations for employees whose work was suspended | <p>According to the Decree of the Council of Ministers, employees insured in economic activities, where temporary restrictions are imposed and whose work was suspended on the basis of a government authority decision in relation to the state of emergency or the emergency epidemic situation are allowed to claim financial support for no more than 60 days of the used unpaid leave in 2020 and no more than 90 days in 2021.</p> <p>The employers are obliged to keep those people in employment for a period equal to the period of the financial support received.</p> <p>The financial support will be available through the REACT-EU financial mechanism in the total amount of EUR 50 million. The affected economic sectors are determined by an order of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy.</p> <p>The financial support amounts to 75% of the insurable earnings for October 2020. The financial support for the part-time employees is determined on the basis of the working hours agreed in the employment contract. The insurable earnings are further calculated based on the criteria set out in the Decree.</p> <p>The amounts for paid compensations are allowed until 30 June 2021.</p> | <p>Decree No. 325 of the Council of Ministers on the conditions and procedure for paying compensations to employees insured in economic activities, where temporary restrictions are imposed by a government authority in relation the state of emergency or the emergency epidemic situation</p> <p>Order ПД-06-43/30.11.2020 of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy</p> <p>Order dated 23 December 2020 of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy</p> <p>Decree No. 418 of the Council of Ministers for amendment of Decree No. 325 of the Council of Ministers on the conditions and</p> |

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| | | | <p>procedure for paying compensations to employees insured in economic activities, where temporary restrictions are imposed by a government authority in relation the state of emergency or the emergency epidemic situation</p> <p><i>(Effective 01 January 2021)</i></p> <p>Decree dated 17 March of the Council of Ministers for amendment of Decree No. 325 of the Council of Ministers on the conditions and procedure for paying compensations to employees insured in economic activities, where temporary restrictions are imposed by a government authority in relation the state of emergency or the emergency epidemic situation</p> <p><i>(Effective 01 April 2021)</i></p> <p>Order dated 22 March 2021 of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy</p> |
| 19. | Obligation for the employers to pay PCR tests of the | According to Decision of the Council of Ministers dated 3 February 2021, the Ordinance on Business Trips and Specializations Abroad has been amended and employers will be obliged to pay for PCR tests of their employees, if the entry into the | Decision of the Council of Ministers dated 3 February 2021 to Amend and Supplement the |

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
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| | employees by business trips abroad | respective country requires such test. | Ordinance on Business Trips and Specializations Abroad (<i>Effective 12 February 2021</i>) |
| 20. | Social-security and work length of service in 2021 | <p>According to the latest amendments in the State of Emergency Act, any unpaid leave of up to 90 days (instead of 60 days) under Art. 160, Para. 1 of the Labor Code will be deemed social-security and work length of service in 2021.</p> <p>Also, within two months after the end of the emergency epidemic situation, precautionary measures should not be imposed, and enforcement actions should not be carried out on compensations paid to employees based on an act of the Council of Ministers in relation to overcoming the COVID-19 crisis. Other enforcement actions are also restricted within two months after the end of the emergency epidemic situation. This supporting measure for the employees is laid down in the newly adopted Art. 5, para. 5 of the State of Emergency Act.</p> | <p>State of Emergency Act, as amended</p> <p>(<i>Effective 17 February 2021</i>)</p> |

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| PHARMACEUTICALS | | | |
| 21. | Possible ban for exports of medicinal products | The Minister of Health may prohibit exports of medicinal products until the end of the state of emergency or the emergency epidemic situation and 3 months thereafter. | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020)</i> <i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020)</i> Amendments to the Medicinal Products in Human Medicine Act <i>(Effective 11 December 2020)</i> |
| 22. | Extension of validity of prescription protocols | The validity of prescription protocols for high value treatment medicines, which expire during the period of the emergency epidemic situation, is extended until 30 June 2021. A benign regime also applies to prescription and dispensing of medicinal products, medical devices and dietary foods for special medical purposes paid by the National Health Insurance Fund until the end of June 2021. | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020)</i> Instructions of the Health Insurance Fund |
| 23. | Extension of validity of TELK and NELK decisions | The validity of the decisions of TELK (Expert Labor Medical Commission) and NELK (National Expert Medical Commission) for determining long-term disability and its level is extended for the period of the state of emergency and the emergency epidemic situation and additional three months after that. | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March</i> |

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
|-----|--|--|---|
| | | | 2020, <i>Amendment effective 18 July 2020)</i> |
| 24. | Issuance of electronic referrals and prescriptions | <p>Based on the latest amendments to the Ordinance for the Right of Access to Medical Treatment, the issuance of electronic referrals and prescriptions is made possible through a specific medical software.</p> <p>The latest amendments to Ordinance No. 4 dated 4 March 2009 on the Conditions and Procedure for Prescription and Dispensing of Medicinal Products also provide that medicinal products, including those paid by the NHIF, should be prescribed by means of an electronic prescription as from 4 June 2021. Certain exceptions apply.</p> | <p>Decree No. 374 dated 17 December 2020 of the Council of Ministers to amend the Ordinance for the Right of Access to Medical Treatment <i>(Effective 18 December 2020)</i></p> <p>Ordinance to Amend and Supplement Ordinance No. 4 dated 4 March 2009 on the Conditions and Procedure for Prescription and Dispensing of Medicinal Products <i>(Effective 4 June 2021)</i></p> |
| 25. | Ban for export of medicinal products based on quinine | <p>The export of medicinal products having <i>quinine</i> as raw material is prohibited.</p> <p>The ban does not apply to the medicinal product ANALGIN-CHININ (Metamizole sodium 200 mg Chinin hydrochlorid 50 mg). <i>(Effective 24 April 2020).</i></p> | <p>Order No. ПД-01-141 dated 20 March 2020 issued by the Minister of Health, as amended <i>(Effective 20 March 2020)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-237 dated 24 April 2020 issued by the Minister of Health <i>(Amendment effective 24 April 2020)</i></p> |

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
|-----|--|---|---|
| 26. | Ban for export of vaccines against SARS-related coronavirus | All export of vaccines against SARS-related coronavirus is prohibited without prior authorization under Regulation (EU) 2021/111 of 29 January 2021 issued by the Minister of Health or an authorized person. | Regulation (EU) 2021/111 of 29 January 2021 <i>(Effective 31 January 2021)</i> |
| 27. | Exceptions from the mechanism under Art. 45, para. 31 of the Health Insurance Act | In 2021 and during the state of emergency or emergency epidemic situation, the mechanism under Art. 45, para. 31 of the Health Insurance Act for ensuring the predictability and sustainability of the NHIF budget, adopted each year with a decision of the NHIF Supervisory Board, shall not apply to medicinal products derived from human blood or plasma included in the Positive Drug List referred to in Article 262(6), items 1 and 2 of the Medicinal Products in Human Medicine Act and paid by the NHIF in the conditions of home care and hospital medical care outside the value of the medical services provided. | Amendments to the Health Insurance Act <i>(Effective 12 March 2021)</i> |
| 28. | Relief from import duties and VAT exemption on importation granted for goods needed to combat the effects of COVID-19 | Based on Commission Decision (EU) 2020/1101 of 23 July , the Council of Ministers adopted national rules on relief from import duties and VAT exemption on importation granted for goods needed to combat the effects of COVID-19. An Annex to the Decree specifies the medical products, medical protective equipment and other medical devices exempted from import duties and VAT. The relief from import duties and VAT exemption applies solely to public authorities and refers to goods imported within the period from 30 January 2020 until 31 August 2021 (previously 31 October 2020). | Decree No. 75 dated 6 April 2007 by the Council of Ministers, as amended <i>(Effective 28 April 2020)</i> Decree No. 80 of the Council of Ministers for amendment of Decree No. 75 dated 6 April 2007 |
| 29. | Exemptions for pharmacies | Until 30 June 2021, pharmacies are allowed to dispense prescription medicines without requiring a prescription, based on the latest entries in the patient's prescription book, subject to rules and limits to be set by the National Health Insurance Fund. [See also item 26 above] | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020)</i> Instructions of the Health |

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
|-----|---|--|--|
| | | | Insurance Fund |
| 30. | Payments to healthcare providers within the state of emergency | <p>During the state of emergency, respectively the emergency epidemic situation, and three months after its end, the National Health Insurance Fund and the Bulgarian Medical and Dental Associations can conclude an Annex to the respective National Framework Agreements, in order to determine terms and conditions for payments to the medical healthcare providers.¹⁵</p> <p>During the state of emergency, respectively the emergency epidemic situation, the Ministry of Health can provide additional payments to the workers in the healthcare field following the procedure specified in an order to be adopted by the Minister of Health.</p> | <p>State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 9 April 2020)</i></p> <p><i>(Amendment effective 14 May 2020,</i></p> <p><i>Amendment effective 01 January 2021)</i></p> |

¹⁵ According to Agreement No. ПД-НС-01-4-3 dated 28 April 2020 to Amend and Supplement the National Framework Agreement between the National Health Insurance Fund (“NHIF”) and the Bulgarian Medical Associations, healthcare establishments providing specific COVID-19 testing can apply for conclusion of an additional agreement with the NHIF, in order to stipulate the payments related to this COVID-19 testing. Subsequent agreements have also been concluded.

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
|---|--|---|---|
| JUDICIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS | | | |
| 31. | General suspension of procedural time limits and deadlines | Procedural time limits within pending litigation, arbitration and enforcement procedures, which were suspended during the period of the state of emergency and were not exempted from the suspension, continued to run again from 21 May 2020. | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020)</i> <i>Amendment effective 9 April 2020</i> <i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020)</i> |
| 32. | General suspension of limitation periods | All limitation periods, whose expiry extinguishes or creates rights for private persons and entities, which were suspended during the period of the state of emergency, continued to run again from 21 May 2020. | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020.</i> <i>Amendment effective 9 April 2020</i> <i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020))</i> |
| 33. | Extension of time periods, established by law, for private persons and entities | All other time periods, established by law, which have expired during the period of the state of emergency, <u>which were not suspended</u> as per the above, and are related to the exercise of rights or the fulfillment of obligations by private persons and entities, were <u>extended until one month after the end of the state of emergency, i.e., until 13 June 2020.</u> Time limits for certain procedures, e.g., under the Public Procurement Act, the | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020.</i> <i>Amendment effective 17 April</i> |

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
|-----|---|---|---|
| | | Concessions Act, the Spatial Development Act, the Protection of Competition Act, etc., and under the related secondary legislation, did not fall within the scope of this general suspension. | 2020) |
| 34. | Extension of the validity of expiring acts of the administration | The validity of all acts of the administration, which are time-limited, and expiring during the state of emergency, <u>was extended until one month after the end of the state of emergency, i.e., until 13 June 2020.</u> | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020.)</i> |
| 35. | Court hearings and other procedural actions | <p>During the emergency epidemic situation, the Chief Administrative Officials of the courts may postpone scheduled court hearings. The Chief Administrative Officials may also suspend the public court hearings for a certain period of time once, but for a period no longer than 14 days, and postpone the scheduled court hearings during such period. Exceptions apply for some court hearings.</p> <p>During the emergency epidemic situation, the court may postpone the court hearing if a party to the proceeding or its representative is ill, quarantined, etc. Respective evidence shall be provided before the court within 7 days after the reasons for the postponement no longer apply.</p> <p>Court hearings can be held by video conference. <i>(Based on the latest Amendments and Supplements to the Civil Procedure Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Administrative Procedure Code published in the State Gazette on 17 November 2020, court hearings and various procedural actions can be held by video conference. Specific rules apply for them).</i></p> <p>Court papers can be served and submitted electronically <i>(Based on the latest Amendments and Supplements to the Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code published in the State Gazette on 29 December 2020).</i></p> | <p>State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, Amendment effective 14 May 2020, Amendment effective 21 November 2020)</i></p> <p>Decision dated 12 May 2020 adopted by the Supreme Judicial Council</p> <p>Rules and Measures on the Work of Courts in the Conditions of Pandemic</p> |

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
|-----|--|--|--|
| 36. | Suspension of certain enforcement actions and notarial proceedings | <p>Public enforcement sales and repossessions against natural persons were suspended until 13 July 2020. After that the relevant procedures were initiated anew.</p> <p>This general suspension of some enforcement actions applied until 13 July 2020.</p> <p>Notary certifications can be made without limitation, subject to the general measures in item 1 above.</p> | <p>State of Emergency Act, as amended</p> <p><i>(Effective 24 March 2020)</i></p> <p><i>Amendment effective 14 May 2020)</i></p> |
| 37. | Holding of meetings via remote access or suspension of the meetings of some authorities | <p>The State of Emergency Act permits public authorities, state agencies, commissions, etc. (which are not legal entities), to hold their meetings digitally via remote access and to adopt their decisions <i>in absentia</i> during the state of emergency, respectively the emergency epidemic situation, and two months after its end.</p> <p>The State of Emergency Act also permits public meetings, including the meetings of the Commission for Protection of Competition and the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, to be held digitally via remote access during the state of emergency, respectively the emergency epidemic situation, and two months after its end.</p> <p>Based on an Order of the Minister of Health, persons providing administrative and other type of services to the citizens shall use information and communication technology tools and, whenever possible, provide the services via electronic means.</p> | <p>State of Emergency Act, as amended</p> <p><i>(Effective 9 April 2020, Amendment effective 14 May 2020, Amendment effective 21 November 2020)</i></p> <p>Order No. ПД-01-373 dated 27 May 2021 issued by the Minister of Health</p> <p><i>(Effective 1 June 2021 until 31 July 2021)</i></p> |

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| PUBLIC PROCUREMENTS¹⁶ AND STATE GRANTS | | | |
| 38. | Public procurement exemption | Purchasing of medical products and personal protection equipment necessary to support health measures in case of a state of emergency or emergency epidemic situation and three months after its end is permitted without following a public procurement procedure. | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020, Amendment effective 14 May 2020, Amendment effective 18 July 2020)</i> |
| 39. | Public procurement exemption | The following acquisitions are exempted from public procurement rules: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchasing of sanitary materials, disinfectants, medical devices and personal protection equipment, needed for anti-epidemic measures; 2. Purchasing of medical devices, medical and laboratory equipment, needed for the diagnostics and treatment of infected patients, the consumables for them, as well as associated implementation activities; 3. Utilization of pesticides and hospital waste under Ordinance No. 1 on the requirements for collection and treatment of waste on the territory of the healthcare establishments (<i>SG, Issue 13 of 2015, as amended</i>). 4. Transport services related to medical devices, medical materials, etc. needed for anti-epidemic measures and for diagnostics and treatment of infected | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020, Amendment effective 14 May 2020, Amendment effective 18 July 2020)</i> |

¹⁶ See also [Joint Procurement Agreement to Procure Medical Countermeasures](#).

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
|-----|---|--|--|
| | | patients. <i>(Effective 14 May 2020)</i> | |
| 40. | Exemption from the rules concerning procurement of medical devices | Certain rules, applicable to the procurement of medical devices by the Ministry of Health, and healthcare establishments of state and municipal ownership, do not apply to purchases of medical devices needed for anti-epidemic measures, for treatment and diagnostics of infected patients during the state of emergency, the emergency epidemic situation and three months after its end | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020, Amendment effective 18 July 2020)</i> |
| 41. | Direct award of grants by the state | Grants can be awarded by the state, without prior invitation for collecting offers, under reduced time periods, with a simplified process for approval, until the end of the state of emergency, respectively the end of the emergency epidemic situation, and 9 months afterwards. However, procedures for state aid granted by the European structural and investment funds may be suspended upon decision of the governing authority due to the state of emergency. <i>(Effective 21 April 2020)</i> | State of Emergency Act, as amended Council of Ministers Decree No. 67 dated 13 April 2020 <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020)</i> |
| 42. | Financial support for the business through the Bulgarian Development Bank¹⁷ and the Fund of Funds | The Council of Ministers decided to increase the state's share capital in the Bulgarian Development Bank by BGN 700,000,000. The funds of the capital increase were part of the government measures to support the business in relation to the COVID-19 circumstances. The funds granted are to be used for issuance of portfolio guarantees in favor of commercial banks ¹⁸ . Other financial instruments supporting business and freelancers (e.g., unsecured and interest-free loans) also apply. The Fund Manager of Financial Instruments in Bulgaria ("Fund of Funds"), wholly owned by the state, also | Decision dated 25 March 2020 adopted by the Council of Ministers <i>(Effective 25 March 2020)</i> |

¹⁷ In addition, the Bulgarian National Bank announced a set of measures amounting to 9.3 billion BGN in relation to COVID-19 crisis for supporting the sustainability and flexibility of the bank system.

¹⁸ The measure was approved by the European Commission under EU state aid rules on 8 April 2020 (see the Decision [here](#)).

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
|-----|---|--|---|
| | | announced similar measures supporting business on 14 April 2020. | |
| 43. | State aid for micro- and small enterprises through the Operational Programme Innovation and Competitiveness | <p>Micro- and small enterprises could apply for state aid from BGN 3,000 up to BGN 10,000 based on set criteria. The entire amount of this state aid measure granted by the European Regional Development Fund is BGN 173,000,000.</p> <p>The state aid can be used, among others, for payment of salaries and social-security contributions of the employees, expenses to external vendors, expenses for purchasing of raw materials.</p> <p>The state aid is at the payout phase.</p> | <p>Decree No. 91 dated 11 May 2020 adopted by the Council of Ministers</p> <p>Management of Resources from the European Structural and Investment Funds Act</p> |
| 44. | State aid for medium-sized enterprises | <p>Medium-sized enterprises could apply for state aid from BGN 30,000 up to BGN 150,000. In addition, the amount of the grant might not exceed 3% of the 2019 turnover of the companies. The state aid aims at mitigating the economic impact of COVID-19 on the medium-sized enterprises. Aid will be granted under the mechanism of national operational programme “Innovation and Competitiveness” 2014-2020.</p> <p>The state aid scheme was approved by the European Commission on 29 June 2020.</p> <p>The state aid is at the payout phase.</p> | Decision adopted by the Council of Ministers |
| 45. | State aid for companies in the most affected sectors through the Operational Programme “Human resources development” | <p>Until 31 May 2021, companies in transport, tourism, hotel and restaurant sector that were affected by the COVID-19 crisis could receive compensation amounting to BGN 290 for maintaining the employment of each employee.</p> <p>The state aid is at the payout phase.</p> | <p>Decision dated 26 June 2020 of the Council of Ministers</p> <p>Decision dated 17 March 2021 of the Council of Ministers</p> |
| 46. | State aid for tour operators and travel | Tour operators and travel agents could apply for financial support in the amount of 4% of their declared turnover without VAT for 2019 based on the conditions set out in an | State of Emergency Act, as |

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
|-----|--|---|---|
| | agents | <p>Ordinance of the Minister of Tourism¹⁹. The total amount of the financial support is BGN 51 million. The state aid was already paid out.</p> <p>According to the Emergency Act, tour operators can apply for state aid amounting up to 15% of their annual turnover for 2019 without VAT. The state aid should be used for refund to clients. The specific procedure and application of the state aid is laid down in Decree of the Council of Ministers dated 10 June 2021. The state aid is subject to approval by the European Commission.</p> | <p>amended (Effective 07 December 2020) (Effective 06 April 2021) Decision dated 16 December 2020 of the Council of Ministers Decree dated 10 June 2021 of the Council of Ministers</p> |
| 47. | State aid for micro, small and medium-sized companies affected by the partial lockdown declared on 27 November 2020 | <p>From 21 December, companies from the sectors affected by the partial lockdown declared by the Minister of Health and that have suspended their activity as of 1 November 2020 could apply for financial support through the National Revenue Agency. Further criteria apply based on a procedure adopted by the Council of Ministers. The state aid is laid down in Article 26b of the State of Emergency Act.</p> <p>The total amount of the financial support is BGN 156 million and will be granted through the Operational Programme “Human resources development”.</p> <p>Companies can apply for the state aid until 22 June 2021.</p> | <p>State of Emergency Act, as amended (Effective 07 December 2020) Decision dated 16 December 2020 of the Council of Ministers</p> |
| 48. | State aid for small enterprises through the Operational Programme Innovation and Competitiveness | <p>Small enterprises can apply for state aid based on set criteria. The entire amount of this state aid measure granted by the European Regional Development Fund is BGN 78,233,200.</p> <p>The term for filing applications expired on 15 March 2021.</p> | <p>Decree dated 17 February 2021, adopted by the Council of Ministers</p> |
| 49. | Guarantee scheme | <p>Based on official announcements by Bulgarian Ministers dated 4 June 2021, a new business supporting measure will be introduced. It will constitute a guarantee scheme,</p> | <p><i>Expected</i></p> |

¹⁹ Ordinance No. T-PД-04-1 dated 22 January 2021 issued by the Minister of Tourism, effective as of 29 January 2021.

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
|-----|---------|---|-------------|
| | | where the state will cover 50% of the risk of the commercial banks in granting credits. Small and medium-sized companies can apply for 70% of their annual turnover in 2019 or 2020. No securities (e.g., mortgages, pledges, etc.) will be required. | |

| No. | SUBJECT | DESCRIPTION | LEGAL BASIS |
|----------------------|---|--|---|
| MISCELLANEOUS | | | |
| 50. | Extension of validity and time limits | The time limits for validity of personal documents that expire between 13 March 2020 and 31 January 2021 (e.g., IDs, driving licenses, documents for residence of foreigners) are to be extended by 6 months. Other administrative reliefs for Bulgarian nationals and resident foreigners are also available. | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020, retroactively from 13 March 2020, Amendment effective 31 October 2020)</i> |
| 51. | Access to telecoms data for the purposes of enforcing anti-epidemic measures | Access to data kept by electronic communications operators for a period of 6 months under Art. 2516 of the Electronic Communications Act is granted to enforcement authorities also for the purposes of enforcing of the anti-epidemic measures, without the requirement for a court warrant. | State of Emergency Act, as amended <i>(Effective 24 March 2020)</i> |
| 52. | National plan for vaccination against COVID-19 vaccines | On 04 December 2020 the Council of Ministers adopted a National plan for vaccination against COVID-19 which generally sets out the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The target population; • Vaccination delivery strategy; • Vaccine safety monitoring; • Immunization monitoring systems, etc. The National plan for vaccination was subsequently amended by the authorities. | Decision dated 04 December 2020 adopted by the Council of Ministers |