



Measures adopted in Croatia (21.03.2020),

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Croatian Parliament accepted on 19 March 2020 measures for aid of economy and employees. They include a three-month deferral of tax payments worth HRK 12 billion (€ 1.62 billion), HRK 5 billion (€ 0.67 billion) to employers who do not lay off workers for the payment of net salaries, the deferral of loan payments to banks and the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development totals HRK 17 billion (€ 2.29), and sector measures total HRK 1 billion (€ 0.13 billion). It is important that these measures have an impact as soon as possible and additional ones will certainly be needed. The government is aware of the high pace of the crisis and all the implications for the economy.

1. Reprogram existing loans (with the introduction of a grace period in repayment of the loan principal) and introduce a moratorium on the credit obligations of HBOR clients and commercial banks on existing placements;
2. Approval of new liquidity loans to economic operators for financing salaries, overheads, and other basic operating expenses, in cooperation with commercial banks;
3. Approval of guarantees (insurance policy) to export commercial banks and HBOR within the framework of the guarantee fund for export insurance;
4. Increase the scope of the guarantee fund for export insurance by including the tourism sector, the indirect exporting entities or the suppliers of direct exporters in the eligible beneficiaries;
5. Provide for the possibility of introducing, through the Amendments to the Investment Promotion Act, the extension of deadlines for the implementation of investment projects and the introduction of an additional grace period of three years to preserve jobs;
6. Intervention in the purchase of surpluses in livestock and crop production, fruit and vegetables, and other products from potentially endangered industrial and agricultural producers;
7. Increasing the rate of the HAMAG-BICRO guarantee from 65% to 80% of the loan principal with a shortened processing procedure and an additional allocation of EUR 15 million for Micro working capital loans (up to EUR 25,000), with a maximum interest rate of 1%;
8. Moratorium on all instalments of ESIF Micro and Small Loans by 31/12/2020;
9. Increasing the de minimis grant limit from EUR 200,000 to EUR 500,000;
10. The possibility to mobilize part of the budget as a contribution to sectoral intervention grants to entrepreneurs (national grant).

Commercial Trade Union of Croatia (<https://www.sth.hr/opsirno.php?id=184>) on 17 March demanded from employer to strengthen the protection of retail workers, particularly cashiers, shop assistant and other employees at greater risk of infection. Many retailers have provided workers with protection in terms of secured disinfectants, protective gloves, masks, marked a line of privacy and separation in stores, etc. Unfortunately, not all of them have provided these measures and equipment to their workers, so TU demand that protective equipment and disinfectants be provided to all workers.

Croatia Employers' Association supports the government measures and hopes that they will be implemented as soon as possible. Employees are demanding the cancellation of obligations to the state, not to delay payment. <https://www.hup.hr/deranja-poslodavci-traze-otpis-davanja-drzavi-a-ne-odgodu.aspx>