



HERBERT  
SMITH  
FREEHILLS

# THE INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE: AN OVERVIEW

A SPECIAL EDITION  
OF THE EUROPEAN  
ENERGY HANDBOOK

LEGAL GUIDE  
MAY 2020







### Legal advice

Please note that the content of this publication does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied on as such. Specific advice should be sought about your specific circumstances. The deadline for submissions was 6 April 2020.

# Foreword

## A Special, Global, Edition of the European Energy Handbook

The European Energy Handbook usually reports on regulatory, legal and market developments in the European energy sector. However, these are not usual times as the COVID-19 pandemic is creating significant health, social and economic challenges worldwide, forcing governments and businesses to critically assess the impact on their people, operations and governance.

In many jurisdictions, governments have made available support schemes for businesses in an effort to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic on their businesses.

This edition serves two purposes:

1. First, it provides an overview of governmental support initiatives across the world by setting out the details of the financial and practical support schemes available, the sectors and businesses covered, as well as the eligibility criteria for the relevant support schemes.
2. Second, it sketches out the impact the pandemic has had on the energy and infrastructure sectors. Although it is too early to tell the full impact on these sectors, some early issues and trends are emerging. In this special edition, we examine the early impact on the upstream oil and gas sector, as well as the power and infrastructure sectors across the globe.

As always, I am grateful to our colleagues across Europe who for this special edition are joined by colleagues from Asia, Australia, South Africa and the United States.

In addition to contributions for the European Union, Australia, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan,

Malaysia, Russia, Singapore, Spain, South Africa, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States, from our own offices, this special edition features contributions from Schoenherr (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia), Stibbe (Belgium), Kromann Reumert (Denmark), Roschier (Finland and Sweden), Kyriakides Georgopoulos (Greece), BBA//Fjeldco (Iceland), Hiswara Bunjamin & Tandjung (Indonesia), Meitar Liquornik Geva Leshem Tal Law Offices (Israel), Kinstellar (Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan), Cobalt (Latvia and Lithuania), Arendt & Medernach (Luxembourg), Zammit Pace Advocates (Malta), Houthoff (the Netherlands), Karanovic & Partners (North Macedonia), Arntzen de Besche Advokatfirma AS (Norway), WKB Wierciński, Kwieciński, Baehr (Poland), Campos Ferreira, Sá Carneiro & Associados (Portugal), Schellenberg Wittmer Ltd (Switzerland), Kolcuoğlu Demirkan Koçaklı (Turkey), and Avellum (Ukraine).

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this publication, for your time and efforts, and for your generosity of spirit. Special thanks are due to Barbara McNulty, who was instrumental in compiling this special edition.

We hope that the publication provides an interesting overview of the measures taken and that it will be a useful resource. Stay safe.

Best wishes,

**Silke Goldberg**

**Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills LLP  
May 2020**



*Silke Goldberg*



# Contents

01	Foreword	71	Malaysia
03	European Union	74	Malta
07	Australia	77	Moldova
10	Austria	80	Montenegro
13	Belgium	82	Netherlands
15	Bosnia and Herzegovina	85	North Macedonia
17	Bulgaria	87	Norway
19	China	90	Poland
22	Croatian	92	Portugal
26	Czech Republic	95	Romania
28	Denmark	97	Russia
30	Finland	100	Serbia
33	France	103	Singapore
35	Germany	105	Slovak Republic
38	Greece	107	Slovenia
41	Hong Kong	109	South Africa
44	Hungary	111	South Korea
46	Iceland	114	Spain
48	Indonesia	116	Sweden
50	Ireland	119	Switzerland
53	Israel	121	Turkey
55	Italy	123	Ukraine
58	Japan	125	United Arab Emirates
61	Kazakhstan	128	United Kingdom
64	Latvia	134	United States
66	Lithuania	137	Uzbekistan
68	Luxembourg		

# COVID-19 response initiatives of the European Union

## An overview of the COVID-19 response initiative of the European Union

Silke Goldberg, partner, and Barbara McNulty, paralegal, Herbert Smith Freehills, London

### A. COVID-19 response investment and support initiative

#### Overview

As COVID-19 spread across Europe, the European Commission (Commission) set out an immediate common European response and announced it would use all instruments at its disposal to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic on all European Union (EU) member states.

The response outlined by the Commission on 13 March 2020, centred on a European coordinated measure that would ensure the necessary supplies for health systems and the necessary support for people so that lives and livelihoods were not disproportionately affected by the effects of the pandemic. The Commission also committed to measures that would bring immediate relief to hard-hit small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), and support for businesses to ensure liquidity and sustain the economy.

To ensure the flexibility required for the EU to take all necessary measures to support and protect the member states' health systems, people and economies during the pandemic, the general escape clause of the EU's fiscal framework under the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP), which facilitates and maintains the EU's economic and monetary stability, would need to be activated.

On 20 March 2020, the Commission concluded that the conditions for use of the SGP's general escape clause were fulfilled, ie there existed in the euro area or the EU as a whole a severe economic downturn. On 23 March 2020, finance ministers of the member states concurred.

The Commission subsequently introduced a series of measures to make the state aid mechanisms and cohesion funds more flexible as, under the escape clause, the Commission and the European Council could now depart from the budgetary requirements that normally apply under the SGP, and undertake policy coordination measures to combat the economic effects of the pandemic.

On 26 March 2020, in furtherance of these measures, the European Parliament supported two financial support packages for member states affected by the pandemic. The financial support packages in the form of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII), mobilised existing EU budget funds to promote investments in sectors affected by the pandemic. The CRII redirects €37 billion of unused resources from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and up to €800 million from the EU Solidarity Fund towards supporting SMEs. The CRII is also intended to assist with accelerating investments under the European Regional Development Fund,

the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

On 2 April 2020, the Commission announced a second package of measures (CRII+), which includes the redirecting of all cohesion policy funds towards the efforts to fight the pandemic. This package of measures also includes the setting up of a solidarity fund of €100 billion in loans to help member states towards short-time works schemes and similar, further amendments to the EMFF to allow for more flexible reallocation of finances, and the implementation of an emergency support instrument, under which all of the remaining funds of the current EU budget are directed towards the needs of European health systems.

To free up funds from the EU budget, on 6 April 2020, the Commission and the European Investment Fund (EIF) unlocked €1 billion from the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) under the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) Loan Guarantee Facility and the InnovFin SME Guarantee under Horizon 2020. The EIF specialises in support for SMEs and is part of the European Investment Bank Group (EIBG), and this unlocking allowed the EIF to provide guarantees worth €2.2 billion to financial intermediaries, freeing up €8 billion in available financing. Under this measure, the EIF can therefore provide special guarantees to banks and other lenders to provide liquidity to 100,000 SMEs and small mid-cap companies, thereby fulfilling the Commission's commitment to bringing immediate relief to hard-hit SMEs.

The response efforts of the EU however faced criticism. Europe had, at the time, become the epicentre of the pandemic, and a lack of a coordinated European action in response to the health crisis had become apparent.

The coordinated decisive manner initially outlined by the Commission was not being achieved across the board as, among other things, member states failed to agree a budget robust enough to help the EU through the economic turmoil created by the pandemic. Following several unsuccessful European Council meetings to come to some agreement on measures, on 23 April 2020, the EU endorsed a €540 billion COVID-19 rescue deal, to be operational by 1 June 2020, and agreed to work towards a €1 trillion COVID-19 recovery fund. Divisions among the group persisted however as some issues remained unresolved, including that some of the member states hardest hit by the pandemic sought funding in the form of grants rather than loans.

On 8 May 2020, it was announced that the first part of a €540 billion rescue deal had been approved, with other aspects of the deal yet to be agreed. The approved part of the deal sees the

sign-off for low interest, ten-year maturity loans which will be made available by the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) in the coming weeks, pending procedural approvals, and up to the end of 2022, for member states to cover extraordinary health costs due to the pandemic. Further details on the remaining two aspects of the rescue deal worth about €300 billion in total, in the form of a temporary employment support scheme and a guarantee fund that would provide liquidity to companies affected by the pandemic, are expected by the end of May 2020.

Finding consensus on the €1 trillion recovery fund, however, appears to continue to prove difficult with member states not finding agreement on whether grants should also be issued in addition to loans. The EU Economic Affairs Commissioner has, reflecting on the urgency of the situation, called for the recovery fund, which may need to be increased up to €1.5 trillion, to be established in autumn 2020, and not in December 2020 as originally proposed.

## Support for businesses

### European funds

In an effort to redirect funds to where they are most urgently needed, the redirection of all uncommitted funds from the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund will see transfers between funds as well as between categories of regions and between policy objectives. To aid the efforts, the co-financing requirements normally applied under the funds are no longer being implemented and the administration of the funds is to be simplified.

### Solidarity fund - SURE programme

In early April 2020, the Commission announced the establishment of the Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) programme, which is a temporary measure offering partial unemployment insurance in all member states designed to protect jobs and workers affected by the pandemic.

The SURE programme is a voluntary scheme under which loans will be granted on favourable terms to member states to put in place measures to help cover costs directly related to the creation or extension of national short-time work schemes. The Commission will borrow up to a total of €100 billion for the programme. Member states will voluntarily contribute towards a €25 billion guarantee necessary to achieve the €100 billion leverage effect required for the Commission to borrow the funds.

The SURE programme is especially designed to respond to the immediate challenges presented by the pandemic. The programme is an emergency temporary action of the European Unemployment Reinsurance Scheme and its implementation does not preclude the establishment of any future permanent unemployment reinsurance scheme.

### Fishing and aquaculture

Under the EMFF, which has been made more flexible due to the use of the escape clause of the SGP, support will be provided for fishermen to temporarily cease fishing activities. The fund will also provide support to aquaculture farmers to temporarily suspend or reduce production, and will provide support to

producer organisations for the temporary storage of fishery and aquaculture products.

### Emergency support instrument

Under the CRII+ package of measures, the Commission announced that, of the €3 billion to be put into the emergency support instrument, €300 million will be allocated to the RescEU common stockpile of equipment initiative. Under this measure, the Commission can also procure directly on behalf of member states. Priority will be given to managing the public health crisis along with securing vital equipment and supplies, including ventilators, personal protective equipment and medical assistance, for the most vulnerable, with testing efforts to be scaled up.

The RescEU reserve was originally created in March 2019 when the EU extended the competences of its Civil Protection Mechanism. RescEU, although initially focusing mainly on fighting the threats posed by forest fires, includes the fight against other threats such as medical emergencies.

On 13 March 2020, the Commission announced it was creating a RescEU stockpile of much needed medical equipment to include ventilators, protective masks, vaccines and laboratory supplies.

On 19 March 2020, an act was enacted to enable the RescEU stockpiling of medical equipment, with the Commission financing 90% of the costs of stockpiling and managing the distribution of equipment. On 27 March 2020, the Commission proposed a total budget of €80 million for the RescEU stockpile.

### European Investment Bank

On 16 March 2020, the EIBG proposed to mobilise up to €40 billion in financing aimed at SMEs and mid-cap companies in the form of bridging loans, credit holidays and other measures. This measure was in furtherance of the effort to ease liquidity and working capital constraints, with the proposed financing being backed up by guarantees from the EIBG and the EU budget. In addition to this support measure, on 16 April 2020, the EIBG announced a further €25 billion pan-European guarantee to mobilise funds of up to €200 billion to further support SMEs, mid-caps and corporates.

### European Central Bank

The European Central Bank (ECB) has announced a number of measures including the provision of temporary capital and operation relief, which includes allowing banks to fully use capital and liquidity buffers. The establishment of the Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme (PEPP) is another measure announced, under which a €750 billion fund is available for asset purchases of private and public sector securities. Other initiatives include further flexibility in prudential treatment of loans and capital relief measures, allowing lower capital market requirements for market risk by permitting banks to adjust the supervisory component of those requirements.

The ECB has also adopted temporary collateral easing measures to mitigate the effect on collateral availability on possible rating downgrades. These include grandfathering the eligibility of marketable assets and issuers in the event of a deterioration in credit ratings. The ECB has also recommended to banks that they do not pay dividends or buy back shares during the course of the pandemic, and has supported (by issuing a non-objection

decision) the action taken by euro area macro prudential authorities to free up more than €20 billion of bank capital to absorb losses and support lending.

In an effort to make it easier for banks to borrow, the ECB has increased the accessible loan amounts and has eased its standards for collateral on such borrowings. It has also temporarily expanded the list of assets banks can use as collateral and is less strict on the measures it applies when determining the value of these assets. Through increasing the amount of money banks can borrow from the ECB, and by making it easier for banks to borrow, SMEs and individuals should in turn have easier access to loans from banks.

On 30 April 2020, the ECB announced a new series of seven additional longer-term refinancing measures, known as pandemic emergency longer-term refinancing operations (PELTROs). PELTROs will be conducted as fixed rate tender procedures with full allotment and offered at interest rates 25 basis points below the average rate applied in the Eurosystem's main refinancing operations (currently 0%) over the life of the respective PELTRO. Counterparties participating in PELTROs will be able to benefit from the collateral easing measures that were announced by the ECB and which remain in place until the end of September 2021.

### Competition and state aid

The Commission adopted a temporary framework on 19 March 2020 to enable member states to avail of full flexibility under state aid rules to support the economy in light of the pandemic (Temporary Framework). The Temporary Framework provides for five types of aid:

- direct grants, selective tax advantages and advance payments;
- state guarantees for loans taken by companies from banks;
- subsidised public loans to companies;
- safeguards for banks that channel state aid to the real economy; and
- short-term export credit insurance.

When first announced, the Commission acknowledged that, given the limited size of the EU budget, the main response under the Temporary Framework would come from member states' national budgets.

The Temporary Framework was amended and extended by the Commission on 3 April 2020 to enable member states to accelerate research, testing and production of COVID-19 relevant products, protect jobs, and further support the economy. The extension included five additional types of aid: (i) support for COVID-19 related research and development; (ii) support for the construction and upscaling of testing facilities; (iii) support for the production of products relevant to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak; (iv) targeted support in the form of deferral of tax payments and/or suspensions of social security contributions; and (v) targeted support in the form of wage subsidies for employees.

The amended Temporary Framework also expands on the existing types of support that member states can give to companies in need, which can be combined with de minimis aid,

to bring the aid per company to up to €1 million, and can be combined with other types of aid.

### Sector specific support

#### Healthcare

In addition to the measures announced for the RescEU stockpile initiative (see Support for businesses, Emergency support instrument), the EIB announced it was making €5 billion available for the healthcare sector. This funding is aimed at supporting emergency infrastructure and the development of cures and vaccines, as well as the financing of urgent infrastructure improvements and equipment needs in the health sector.

The Commission has also waived customs duties and VAT on the import of medical devices and protective equipment from third countries, following a request for such measure by member states.

#### Aviation

The European Parliament and the European Council have suspended the airport slot requirements that oblige airlines to use at least 80% of their take-off and landing slots in one year in order to keep those slots the following year. This measure was designed to help air carriers cope with the drastic drop in air traffic caused by the pandemic.

#### Agriculture and food supply

On 22 April 2020, the Commission announced a package of support measures related to agriculture and food supply; a further package of such support measures was announced on 4 May 2020. These support measures include the increasing of advances for direct payments and rural development payments, and the offering of additional flexibility for on-the-spot checks in an effort to minimise the need for physical contact and reduce administrative tasks. The measures also include the granting of private storage aid for dairy and meat products, and the introduction of a degree of flexibility in the implementation of market support programmes for, among others, wine, fruits and vegetables, and olive oil. In an effort to stabilise their own sectors and the internal market, the Commission has adopted a temporary six-month derogation from EU competition rules for the milk, flowers and potatoes sectors, allowing operators to self-organise and implement market measures at their own level. For instance, the milk sector can collectively plan milk production, and the flower and potatoes sector can withdraw products from the market.

#### Foreign investment screening

With the aim of preserving EU companies and critical assets without undermining the EU's general openness to foreign investment, the Commission issued guidance to ensure a strong EU-wide approach to foreign investment screening. In an effort to prevent potential capital flows from non-EU member states that could, at EU and national level, lead to a loss of critical assets and technology and undermine Europe's security or public order, the Commission has requested that member states exercise a higher degree of vigilance with screening proceedings for foreign investment during the course of the pandemic.

## Outlook

Although the European Council announced in late April 2020 that an agreement had been reached to the tune of €1 trillion for an EU COVID-19 recovery fund, the details of this deal have yet to be announced, and the effects of such a deal when concluded remain to be seen. As things currently stand, projections show that the EU economy is set to contract by 7½% in 2020 and grow by around 6% in 2021.

The pandemic continues to persist globally and it is likely that its effects will impact the EU economy for some time to come. As the EU policy and support response to this impact continues to evolve, it is also likely that this will bring about further changes to the developments outlined in this article.

## Useful links

Details of the Commission's response to the pandemic are available at [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response_en)

Details of the EIB's response are available at [www.eib.org/en/about/initiatives/covid-19-response/index.htm](http://www.eib.org/en/about/initiatives/covid-19-response/index.htm)

Details of the ECB's collateral easing measure are available at [www.ecb.europa.eu/press/blog/date/2020/html/ecb.blog200422-244d933f86.en.html](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/blog/date/2020/html/ecb.blog200422-244d933f86.en.html)

More on state aid rules and the coronavirus are available at [https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state\\_aid/what\\_is\\_new/covid\\_19.html](https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/what_is_new/covid_19.html)



# COVID-19 response initiatives in Malta

An overview of the COVID-19 response initiative and impact on the Maltese energy and infrastructure sectors

Dr Roderick Zammit Pace, managing partner, and Dr Sharon Pace Gouder, managing associate, both of Zammit Pace Advocates

## A. COVID-19 response investment and support initiative

### Overview

The Government of Malta (Government), on advice from the Superintendent for Public Health (Superintendent), has implemented a number of measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has inevitably reached the Maltese shores. Such measures include the closure of Malta International Airport and a general travel ban with a few exceptions, mandatory quarantine for persons who arrive from all countries, including those living in the same household, closure of all schools and childcare centres, the suspension of religious services, the closure of restaurants, bars, gymnasiums, clubs and all non-essential retail outlets and services, the closure of the courts of justice, the postponement of non-essential medical services, the suspension of organised events, the self-isolation of diagnosed persons, and the order for vulnerable people to stay at home. The Government has imposed hefty penalties for breaches of such measures, which are being actively enforced.

Due to these measures, organisations and individuals are facing significant operational, financial and liquidity challenges. In order to combat these challenges, the Government has announced several initiatives to help reduce the negative impact on the economy.

### Types of businesses covered

Businesses such as those related to accommodation, travel agencies, service to buildings, transport, rental and leasing of motor vehicles, certain wholesale activities and others that are considered to have been critically affected by the pandemic are entitled to receive Governmental aid.

### Types of support available

#### Business related initiatives

The Government has introduced a number of financial initiatives targeting those business sectors directly and significantly affected by the COVID-19 measures and the amount of support granted is dependent on the extent to which that business has been affected. The Government will be financing up to €800 per month of each employee's monthly salary in these sectors. Moreover, in the case of employees' whose monthly salary exceeds €800, such aid is subject to the employer topping up the employees' monthly salary by €400 per month to bring the monthly salary to €1,200. Should the employer not be in a position to make the additional top-up, a concession may be made with the involvement of the relevant employees and the Department for Industrial and Employment Relations.

Other businesses such as manufacturing and warehousing are considered to be less critically affected and therefore in such cases the Government has agreed to finance only the equivalent of one day's salary per week per employee, based on a monthly salary of €800 per employee. These measures are also applicable to self-employed persons and to part-time employees in the affected sectors on a pro-rata basis.

#### Bank guarantees initiative

The Government will also be assisting the economy by introducing a bank guarantee scheme to assist companies affected by the pandemic in relation to working capital loans. For this purpose, the Government notified the European Commission that the proposed scheme has an estimated budget of €350 million. The support scheme has been approved in accordance with Article 107(3)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union as 'necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State'.

#### Employment support

Various initiatives have been introduced to protect both part-time and full-time employees who work in the private sector. See Eligibility.

#### Teleworking initiative

The teleworking initiative applies to all employers, irrespective of size and industry sector, who invest in the necessary technology for their employees to work from home. Through this initiative, undertakings are entitled to a refund on teleworking capital expenditure capped at €500 per employee and €4,000 per undertaking.

#### Third country nationals initiative

In relation to Third Country Nationals (TCNs) working in Malta, the Government has ordered the cessation of approvals of TCNs applications, except for highly-qualified applicants. TCNs who have had their employment terminated as a direct result of the current economic situation will be aided in finding alternative employment and will be assisted in order to acquire work permits.

### Eligibility

#### Employment support

Due to the closure of schools, the Government has introduced a benefit for parents employed in the private sector who have children under the age of 16, are unable to work remotely, and who after 8 March 2020 have been unable to work due to having to take care of their children (Parent Benefit). Full-time employees and part-time employees entitled to this benefit will receive a weekly payment of €166.15 and €103.85 respectively.

Employees who are made redundant after 8 March 2020 are entitled to apply for an Additional Unemployment Benefit, which applies to all employees who would ordinarily qualify for the Contributory Unemployment Benefit that was already in place pre-COVID-19; the Additional Unemployment Benefit is paid in addition to the Contributory Unemployment Benefit. Redundant full-time employees and part-time employees entitled to the Additional Unemployment Benefit will receive a weekly payment of €166.15 and €103.85 respectively; social security contributions will also be paid and any future contributory pension rights are safeguarded.

Persons who are registered with the Government employment agency Jobsplus as persons with a disability who have received medical advice after 8 March 2020 not to attend work and are unable to work remotely, can apply for the Person with Disability Benefit. Full-time employees and part-time employees entitled to this benefit will receive a weekly payment of €166.15 and €103.85 respectively; social security contributions will also be paid and any future contributory pension rights are safeguarded.

Furthermore, persons who after 27 March 2020 are unable to work remotely pursuant to an order issued by the Superintendent not to leave their home and who are not paid by their employer during their absence from work may be eligible for Medical Benefit. Full-time employees and part-time employees entitled to this benefit will receive a weekly payment of €166.15 and €103.85 respectively; social security contributions will also be paid and any future contributory pension rights are safeguarded.

With respect to each of the Parent Benefit, the Additional Unemployment Benefit and the Medical Benefit, the beneficiary's children's allowance entitlement would be adjusted taking into consideration the beneficiary's new income earned; such income may increase up to the maximum rate of €24.08 per week per child.

#### Quarantine leave

Any employee who is obliged to abide by a quarantine order is entitled to quarantine leave under the Period of Quarantine Order introduced by Subsidiary Legislation 465.13, the Period of Quarantine (Extension of Countries) Order introduced by Subsidiary Legislation 465.18 and the Period of Quarantine (Contact with other Persons) Order introduced by Subsidiary Legislation 465.23. The Government will compensate employers whose employees are on mandatory quarantine leave with a payment of €350 per full-time employee on quarantine leave. This grant is also available in relation to employees who are ordered to self-quarantine due to possible contact with individuals who were directly at risk of infection.

#### Teleworking initiative

Undertakings that invested in teleworking equipment between the 15 February 2020 and 8 May 2020 can benefit from the teleworking initiative.

### Tax support and impact

Through the tax support initiative enterprises, including self-employed persons, who have suffered a significant downturn in their turnover have been granted a two-month moratorium on certain taxes including but not limited to provisional tax, employee tax and VAT. This covers taxes falling due in March 2020 and April 2020. All eligible taxes, excluding

VAT, must be settled in four equal instalments between the months of May 2020 and August 2020. VAT is to be settled in two equal instalments due on the submission of the two quarterly returns for the periods which follow immediately the quarter for which the relevant dues have been deferred.

#### Useful links

The application for payment in respect of mandatory quarantine leave is available at <https://covid19.maltaenterprise.com/quarantine-leave>

The online application for and guidelines for the deferral of payment of taxes are available at <https://covid19.maltaenterprise.com/deferral-of-payment-of-taxes>

Applications for the teleworking initiative are to be filed with Malta Enterprise by the 8 May 2020, the online application form and guidelines are available at <https://covid19.maltaenterprise.com/teleworking>

## B. Impact on the energy and infrastructure sectors

### Energy sector

The COVID-19 pandemic is also affecting the energy sector in Malta although the increased numbers of individuals working from home will inevitably result in an increase in the consumption of water and electricity for households. The slowed economic activity resulting in the drop in oil and gas prices worldwide has led both Liquigas Malta Ltd and Easygas Malta Ltd, suppliers and distributors of Gas, LPG and autoliquigas in Malta, to decrease their prices. Liquigas Malta Ltd has announced that its 12kg gas cylinders will now cost €15 instead of €16 while 25kg cylinders have been reduced by €2.05. Easygas Malta Ltd have similarly reduced their prices for 12kg cylinders and have announced that their 15kg cylinders will be reduced from €20 to €18.75. These new rates have been agreed by the Government and the Regulator for Energy and Water Services. For carbon emissions however, as the use of private vehicles has reduced drastically this has, in turn, reduced Malta's carbon emissions by an average of 70% in just one month. The reduction in flights due to the closure of Malta International Airport and with no cruise liners docking in Grand Harbour, has also significantly contributed to the reduction in carbon emissions in Malta.

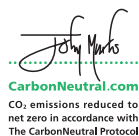
### Infrastructure sector

The infrastructure sector in Malta has also been adversely affected by the pandemic but the overall effect is yet to be assessed.

**Other regulatory and policy issues**

Malta International Airport is closed and cruise liners are no longer currently docking in the Grand Harbour. The outbreak of the pandemic has also burdened further Malta's waste management efforts. The situation was already under stress prior to the pandemic as 50% of domestic waste (excluding recyclable items and organic waste) was being dumped because of insufficient treatment capacity. The Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning had already been considering plans to change course from reliance on landfilling to upcycling waste into a resource; however, in view of COVID-19, Wasteserv Malta Ltd, the national waste management operator, has announced that it has been constrained to take certain precautionary measures to protect its workers handling mixed waste and to avoid workers being in close contact with each other. This has temporarily hampered the separation of waste recyclable and organic waste.





This product is made of material from well-managed, FSC®-certified forests and other controlled sources.

The papers used are either elemental or totally chlorine free and the manufacturing mills are certified to the ISO 14001 standard for environmental management.

All inks used are vegetable oil based. This publication is fully recyclable.

If you do not wish to keep this book, please pass it on to someone else or dispose of it in your recycled paper waste. Thank you.

The use of the FSC® logo identifies products which contain wood from well-managed forests certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council®.

For further information on any matters in this publication, please contact:

**Australia**

Nick Baker  
+61 3 9288 1297  
nick.baker@hsf.com

**Austria**

Bernd Rajal  
+43 1 534 37 50203  
b.rajal@schoenherr.eu

**Belgium**

Cedric Degreef  
+32 2 533 5314  
cedric.degreef@stibbe.com

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Milos Lakovic  
+381 11 32 02 600  
m.lakovic@schoenherr.rs

Vladimir Markus  
+ 381 11 32 02 600  
v.markus@schoenherr.rs

**Bulgaria**

Radoslav Chemshirov  
+359 2 933 0742  
r.chemshirov@schoenherr.eu

**China**

Nanda Lau  
+86 21 2322 2117  
nanda.lau@hsf.com

Monica Sun  
+86 10 6535 5122  
monica.sun@hsf.com

Calvin Ho  
+86 10 6535 5132  
calvin.ho@hsf.com

**Croatia**

Petra Santic  
+385 1 4576 494  
p.santic@schoenherr.eu

Bernd Rajal  
+43 1 534 37 50203  
b.rajal@schoenherr.eu

**Czech Republic**

Stanislav Bednár  
+420 225 996 500  
s.bednar@schoenherr.eu

Bernd Rajal  
+43 1 534 37 50203  
b.rajal@schoenherr.eu

**Denmark**

Anders Stubbe Arndal  
+45 38 77 43 05  
asa@kromannreumert.com

**Finland**

Toni Siimes  
+358 20 506 6578  
toni.siimes@roschier.com

**France**

Mathias Dantin  
+33 1 53 57 6548  
Mathias.Dantin@hsf.com

**Germany**

Silke Goldberg  
+49 211 97 559 016  
silke.goldberg@hsf.com

Marius Boewe  
+49 211 97 559 066  
marius.boewe@hsf.com

**Greece**

Gus J. Papamichalopoulos  
+30 210 817 1500  
g.papamichalopoulos@kglawfirm.gr

**Hong Kong**

Matt Emsley  
+852 2101 4101  
matt.emsley@hsf.com

Hilary Lau  
+852 2101 4164  
hilary.lau@hsf.com

**Hungary**

Dániel Varga  
+36 1 8700 700  
d.varga@schoenherr.eu

**Iceland**

Baldvin Bjorn Haraldsson  
+354 550 0500  
baldvin@bbafjeldco.is

**Indonesia**

Debby Sulaiman  
+62 21 3973 8000  
debby.sulaiman@hbtlaw.com

**Ireland**

Silke Goldberg  
+44 20 7466 2612  
silke.goldberg@hsf.com

**Israel**

Renelle Joffe  
+972 3 610 3928  
renj@meitar.com

**Italy**

Lorenzo Parola  
+39 33 57 12 6242  
lorenzo.parola@hsf.com

Francesca Morra  
+39 02 00 68 1371  
francesca.morra@hsf.com

**Japan**

David Gilmore  
+81 3 5412 5415  
david.gilmore@hsf.com

Andrew Blacoe  
+81 3 5412 5455  
andrew.blacoe@hsf.com

**Kazakhstan**

Joel Benjamin  
+7 727 355 05 27  
joel.benjamin@kinstellar.com

Almas Zhaiylgan  
+7 727 355 05 67  
almas.zhaiylgan@kinstellar.com

Lena Makarenko  
+7 727 355 05 49  
lena.makarenko@kinstellar.com

Dina Berkaliyeva  
+7 727 355 05 17  
dina.berkaliyeva@kinstellar.com

**Latvia**

Girts Lejins  
+371 6720 1800  
girts.lejins@cobalt.legal

Martins Tarlaps  
+371 6720 1800  
martins.tarlaps@cobalt.legal

**Lithuania**

Simona Oliškevičiūtė-Cicėnienė  
+370 5250 0800  
simona.oliskeviciute@cobalt.legal

Ignas Jurkynas  
+370 5250 0800  
ignas.jurkynas@cobalt.legal

**Luxembourg**

Marianne Rau  
+352 40 78 78 206  
marianne.rau@arendt.com

Thomas Evans  
+352 40 78 78 868  
thomas.evans@arendt.com

**Malaysia**

Peter Godwin  
+60 3 2777 5104  
peter.godwin@hsf.com

Glynn Cooper  
+60 3 2777 5102  
glynn.cooper@hsf.com

**Malta**

Roderick Zammit Pace  
+356 21 22 6268  
rzpace@zammitpace.com.mt

Sharon Pace Gouder  
+356 21 22 6268  
spgouder@zammitpace.com.mt

**Moldova**

Andrian Guzun  
+373 78 88 7677  
a.guzun@schoenherr.eu

**Montenegro**

Slaven Moravcevic  
+382 20 228 137  
s.moravcevic@schoenherr.me

Milos Lakovic  
+382 20 228 137  
m.lakovic@schoenherr.me

**Netherlands**

Marc van Beuge  
+31 20 605 65 82  
m.van.beuge@houthoff.com

Kirsten Berger  
+31 20 605 61 73  
k.berger@houthoff.com

**North Macedonia**

Veton Qoku  
+389 2 3223 870  
veton.qoku@karanovicpartners.com

#### Norway

Karl Erik Navestad  
+47 9 829 4566  
ken@adeb.no

Aleksander Dypvik Myklebust  
+47 952 67 484  
adm@adeb.no

#### Poland

Jerzy Baehr  
+48 22 201 00 00  
jerzy.baehr@wkb.pl

#### Portugal

Duarte Brito de Goes  
+351 211 926 832  
duarte.britogoes@csassociados.pt

Maria de Athayde Tavares  
+351 211 926 836  
maria.athaydetavares@csassociados.pt

#### Romania

Monica Cojocar  
+40 21 319 67 90  
m.cojocar@schoenherr.eu

#### Russia

Evgeny Yuriev  
+7 495 78 36698  
evgeny.yuriev@hsf.com

Olga Revzina  
+7 495 78 37370  
olga.revzina@hsfab.ru

Alexei Roudiak  
+7 495 36 36534  
alexei.roudiak@hsf.com

#### Serbia

Slaven Moravcevic  
+382 20 228 137  
s.moravcevic@schoenherr.me

Milos Lakovic  
+382 20 228 137  
m.lakovic@schoenherr.me

#### Singapore

Glynn Cooper  
+60 3 2777 5102  
glynn.cooper@hsf.com

David Clinch  
+65 6 868 8032  
david.clinch@hsf.com

#### Slovak Republic

Michal Lucivjansky  
+421 2 571 007 01  
m.lucivjansky@schoenherr.eu

Soňa Hekelová  
+421 2 571 007 01  
s.hekelova@schoenherr.eu

#### Slovenia

Marko Frantar  
+386 1 200 09 80  
m.frantar@schoenherr.eu

Bernd Rajal  
+43 1 534 37 50203  
b.rajal@schoenherr.eu

#### South Africa

Brigitte Baillie  
+27 10 500 2632  
brigitte.baillie@hsf.com

#### South Korea

Ken Nam  
+82 2 6321 5714  
ken.nam@hsf.com

Katerina Jovanovska  
+82 2 6321 5620  
katerina.jovanovska@hsf.com

#### Spain

Miguel Riano  
+34 91 423 4000  
miguel.riano@hsf.com

Iria Calviño  
+34 91 423 4000  
iria.calvino@hsf.com

#### Sweden

Markus Olsson  
+46 8 553 191 14  
markus.olsson@roschier.com

Linda Ekborg  
+46 72 556 08 66  
linda.ekborg@roschier.com

#### Switzerland

Josef Caleff  
+41 44 215 9383  
josef.caleff@swlegal.ch

#### Turkey

Okan Demirkan  
+90 212 355 9900  
odemirkan@kolcuoglu.av.tr

Melis Öget Koç  
+90 212 355 9900  
mokoc@kolcuoglu.av.tr

#### Ukraine

Glib Bondar  
+380 44 591 3355  
gbondar@avellum.com

Dmytro Symbiryov  
+380 44 591 3355  
dsymbiryov@avellum.com

Orest Franchuk  
+380 44 591 3355  
ofranchuk@avellum.com

#### United Arab Emirates

Anthony Ellis  
+971 4 428 6365  
anthony.ellis@hsf.com

#### United Kingdom

Silke Goldberg  
+44 20 7466 2612  
silke.goldberg@hsf.com

#### United States of America

Christian Leathley  
+1 917 542 7812  
christian.leathley@hsf.com

#### Uzbekistan

Joel Benjamin  
+7 727 355 05 27  
joel.benjamin@kinstellar.com

Muborak Kambarova  
+998 78 150 6221  
muborak.kambarova@kinstellar.com

#### European Union

Silke Goldberg  
+49 211 97 559 016  
silke.goldberg@hsf.com