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Factsheet for case GR-2020-11/689

Workers belonging to the COVID-19 risk group may abstain from work

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Country	Greece, applies nationwide
Time period	Open ended, started on 12 March 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Protection of workers at the workplace – Occupational health and safety
Case created	16 April 2020 (updated 04 May 2020)

Background information

The Ministries of Labor and Interior, in the context of the extraordinary measures (Circular Ministry of Labour no 123339/404/12.03.2020 and the Circulars of Ministry of Interior no 108/7874/2020 and no 109/οικ.8000) taken in the labour market to address and limit the spread of COVID-19, provided measures to facilitate workers from vulnerable groups, of the public and private sector, in order not to endanger their health. The duration of the measure shall be extended for the entire period to be applied the measures to deal with the COVID-19.

(Circular Ministry of Labour no 123339/404/12.03.2020, art.25 Legislative Act 64, 14.03.2020, circulars of Ministry of Interior no 108/7874/2020 and no 109/οικ.8000).

Content of measure

In the private sector, workers belonging to vulnerable groups and their health status may be at risk due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are entitled to abstain from work and the employer is obliged to accept their abstention as soon as they are informed. In any case, the leave of 'special purpose' and remote work can be applied. During the stay of the employee at his/her home, the employer is obliged to pay the entire employee's salary, unless the company has suspended its activity due to a public order or is severely affected by COVID-19 and is implementing the measure of suspension of employment contracts. In the public sector, for the period of validity of the emergency measures, public servants and employees in local government, who are considered vulnerable groups, may be justifiably absent on special leave, unless they are already on leave.

Use of measure

The number of employees affected by the measure is not known

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government	The COVID-19 risk group Disabled	National funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	Not applicable
Form of involvement	Not applicable

The government has designed the measure. There were no reactions to that.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 14 March 2020: Circular Ministry of Labour no 123339/404/12.03.2020 (www.taxheaven.gr)
- 19 March 2020: Circulars of Ministry of Interior no 108/7874/2020 (www.taxheaven.gr)
- 20 March 2020: Circulars of Ministry of Interior no 109/οικ.8000 (www.taxheaven.gr)