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Factsheet for case **BE-2020-16/421**

## Support measures for self-employed workers facing difficulties

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|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Country      | Belgium, applies nationwide  |
| Time period  | Open ended, started on 18 April 2020   |
| Type         | Legislation or other statutory regulation                                    |
| Category     | Supporting businesses to stay afloat<br>– Direct subsidies (full or partial) |
| Case created | 09 April 2020 (updated 29 April 2020)  |

### Background information

Measures have been put in place to support self-employed that face difficulties because of the COVID-19 virus or measures related to it. The purpose is to alleviate the economic pressure and reduce costs related to social contributions for self-employed (and their assisting partners) facing serious financial problems. More specifically these measures allow for delays in payments of social insurances and/or reductions or exemptions from social contributions if necessary to stay afloat.

### Content of measure

Self-employed who face difficulties due to COVID-19, may apply for the following three types of measures with regard to the payment of social contributions:

- Deferred payment and waiving the increments : the self-employed and assisting partner may submit a form to their social insurance fund to request a one-year delay of the provisional social contributions payment. This measure already applies to the provisional contributions related to the first and second quarter of 2020.
- Reduction of the provisional social contributions: The self-employed may apply for a reduction of their provisional social contributions for the year 2020 if their professional income is lower than one of the legal thresholds.
- Exemption of social contributions: self-employed may ask for such an exemption if deemed necessary.

## Use of measure

It is unclear how many self-employed will make use of the measure as it is upon request by the self-employed themselves. It can be expected that a large number will make use of the measures as social contributions can be a significant cost.

## Actors, target groups and funding

| Actors              | Target groups | Funding        |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| National government | Self-employed | National funds |

## Social partners

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Role of social partners | Informed |
| Form of involvement     | Unknown  |

It is to be expected that the social partners were at least informed of the measures. The extent of their involvement is not known to us.

## Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

## Sources

- 09 April 2020: Acerta: Steunmaatregelen voor zelfstandigen ([www.acerta.be](http://www.acerta.be))