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

Support measures for self-employed workers who face 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 – Direct or indirect financial support
Case created	09 April 2020 (updated 14 April 2020)

Background Information

Some measures are in place for self-employed that face difficulties because of the COVID-19 virus or the measures related to it. Their purpose is to alleviate pressure and reduce costs related to social contributions for self-employed (and their assisting partners) that are 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 call in three types of measures, concerning 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 businesses will make use of the measure as it is upon request by the business owner themselves. It can be expected that a large amount of both small and larger businesses 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	All companies	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)