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Factsheet for case **BE-2020-16/458**

Replacement income for self-employed persons (bridging right)

Factsheet generated on 23 April 2020, 12:50

Country	Belgium, applies nationwide
Time period	Open ended, started on 18 April 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Income support to workers and those laid off – Extensions of support to workers not covered by any kind of protection scheme
Case created	10 April 2020 (updated 15 April 2020)

Background Information

In certain situations one can qualify as a self-employed person for the temporary Corona bridging right:

- If the government has obliged you to interrupt your activity in whole or in part you are immediately eligible for the granting of the bridging right. There is therefore no minimum duration of interruption required. This concerns, for example, self-employed persons who are obliged to close their business (such as restaurants, cafés and non-food businesses). Restaurants providing or delivering takeaway meals are also covered.
- If the government has not obliged you to interrupt your activity partially or completely, but you are forced to interrupt your activity for a period of at least 7 consecutive calendar days as a result of the Corona crisis. This concerns, for example, self-employed persons who interrupt their activity due to quarantine, a lack of raw materials or for various reasons of an economic or organizational nature (linked to COVID-19). Self-employed persons exercising a care profession such as physiotherapists, dentists and specialists are also included.

Content of measure

Certain conditions apply in order to be able to benefit from the bridging right. The person has to self-employed person as his main profession (including helpers, assisting spouses in the maxi-status and (primo)starters); or a self-employed person in a secondary profession who is liable to provisional

contributions that are at least equal to the minimum contributions for self-employed persons in their main profession.

The person has to be self-employed and owe social security contributions in Belgium;

He/she does not receive a replacement income.

The Corona bridging right provides for payment of the full monthly amount for March and April, i.e. :

€1 291,69 if you do not have a family;

€1 614.10 if you do have family responsibilities.

If granted, the bridging fee for March will be paid at the beginning of April and for April, at the beginning of May.

Use of measure

It is unclear how many people are eligible for the support.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government	solo-self-employed One person or microenterprises	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 about the measure.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 25 March 2020: 1819 Brussels (1819.brussels)