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Factsheet for case GR-2020-14/698

State pays part of the Easter bonus for employees with suspended employment contracts.

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Country	Greece, applies nationwide
Time period	Temporary, 30 March 2020 - 30 June 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Employment protection and retention – Income support for people in employment (e.g. short-time work)
Case created	16 April 2020 (updated 23 April 2020)

Background information

The government, in the context of the “measures to address the COVID 19 pandemic and other emergency provisions”, introduced changes in the payment of the Easter bonus for businesses affected by COVID 19 and foresees the payment by the State part of the Easter bonus to the employees with a job contract under suspension. According to this law, the Easter bonus for 2020 can be paid by June 30, 2020 for those workers who are under suspension of work and will be paid by the employer and the state.

Content of measure

The government, in the context of the “measures to address the COVID 19 pandemic and other emergency provisions”, legislated changes for businesses affected by COVID 19 on their obligation to pay the Easter bonus. The regulation foresees the payment by the state part of the Easter bonus for those employees whose their job contract is under suspension. More specifically, the amount of the Easter bonus to be paid by the employer to the employees of the aforementioned category is reduced and calculated on the basis of the actual work period before the suspension of the job contract. The remaining amount of the Easter bonus is paid by the state. The state also pays for the corresponding social security contributions. It is noted that the Easter bonus applies for the work period from January 1 to April 30 of the current year and amounts approximately to ½ of the monthly salary.

Use of measure

The number of employees affected by the measure is not known. The measure is expected to include all those who receive the extraordinary financial aid as “special purpose indemnification” to employees, amounting to €800

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government Company / Companies	Employees	National funds

Social partners

Role of social partners	Not applicable
Form of involvement	Not applicable

The government has designed unilaterally this measure.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 11 March 2020: Legislative Act “Emergency contingency measures to tackle the adverse effects of the outbreak of COVID 19 and to address the need to limit the spread of the virus”, Official Government Gazette A55, March 11, 2020. (www.et.gr)