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

Replacement income for self-employed persons (bridging right)

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Country	Belgium, applies nationwide
Time period	Open ended, started on 18 April 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Income protection beyond short-time work – Extensions of income support to workers not covered by any kind of protection scheme
Case created	10 April 2020 (updated 28 April 2020)

Background information

In certain situations self-employed can qualify for the temporary Corona bridging right:

- If the federal government has obliged the self-employed to interrupt the activity in whole or in part they are immediately eligible for the bridging right. There is no minimum duration of interruption required. This concerns, for example, self-employed 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 the self-employed to interrupt their activity partially or completely, but the self-employed is forced to interrupt their activity for a period of at least 7 consecutive calendar days as a result of the Corona crisis, for example for self-isolation, a lack of raw materials or for various reasons of economic or organisational nature (linked to COVID-19), then they are also eligible for the bridging right.

This includes self-employed exercising a care profession such as physiotherapists, dentists and medical specialists.

Content of measure

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

self-employed as secondary profession with provisional social security 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 pay social security contributions in Belgium;

The person must not receive a replacement income.

The Corona bridging right amounts to (for March and April) :

€1 291,69 without family responsibilities;

€1 614.10 with family responsibilities.

If granted, the bridging right 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 and will make use of 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)