



URGENT MEASURES COVID-19

Barcelona, 12 March 2020

SUMMARY

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 virus to be a pandemic. As a result of the public health emergency at both the national and international level resulting from the rapid spread of the virus, both the central and regional governments are adopting, among others, various measures to guarantee the social protection of workers and to regulate the socio-economic impact of the virus.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

^ Royal Decree Law 6/2020 of 10 March adopting certain urgent measures in the economic area and for the protection of public health

Article 5 of the Royal Decree-Law declares that **periods of isolation or contagion of** workers as a result of the **COVID-19** virus are to receive the same consideration, on an exceptional basis, as **occupational accidents** for the purposes of economic benefits for temporary disability under the Social Security system.

It is stipulated that the duration will be determined by the medical reports ordering isolation and the subsequent return to work.

The right to this benefit will be extended to both salaried and self-employed workers that are **registered under any of the Social Security schemes** at the **time of contagion or isolation**.

The measure enters force today, 12 March 2020.

CATALONIA

The Catalan regional authorities have **adopted various measures and recommendations** to combat the pandemic:



URGENT MEASURES COVID-19

- ▲ In the employment area, on 9 March the Department of Labour, Social Affairs and Families, CCOO, UGT, FOMENT and PIMEC published, by consensus, a ***Guide with recommendations for companies and workers on actions related to situations that may arise due to CORONAVIRUS SARS - COV 2***, which can be consulted at the following [link](#).
- ▲ Earlier today, **the Catalan Regional Government** announced various measures which are pending approval and publication. These include a **€1,000 million line of loans to increase companies' liquidity**, arranged by financial institutions and backed by the Institut Català de Finances and Avalis. **The Catalan Regional Government will assume 75% of the credit risk.**
- ▲ In addition, a package of measures has been announced to encourage **teleworking** and **internal flexibility** to allow **changes in working hours** whenever possible, and a reinforcement of the Technical Office of Barriers to Internationalisation of the Catalan Government's Enterprise and Knowledge Department has been planned.

It is expected that in the **coming days, new measures will be adopted in both the employment and socio-economic areas in order to address the pandemic caused by COVID-19. We will keep you informed of the measures taken.**

The professionals that regularly work with your company are at your disposal for any clarification or additional information you may require in relation to the content of this Circular Letter. Please contact us by telephone at **934 677 414**.

Yours sincerely,

AUDICONSULTORES

The sole aim of this Circular Letter is to provide its recipients with a selection of general information items about novelties or issues of a labour, tax or legal nature, without this constituting professional advice of any kind or being sufficient for the making of personal or business decisions. © 2020 "Audiconsultores Advocats i Economistes, S.L.P.". All rights reserved.