

# Weekly Update COVID-19

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14th April – 20th April

# WHAT'S NEW?

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## Extension of the state of emergency until May (16.04.2020)

The state of emergency was [extended](#) until May 2nd. The Presidential decree adds changes to the previous ones, such as lifting limitations to workers rights and allowing for a gradual reopening of economic activities - dependent on a controlled level of the spread of the virus and the NHS response, together with testing capacity and monitoring.

The Parliament [discussed and voted](#) the decree. It was approved by PS, PSD, BE, PAN and CDS-PP. PCP, IL and MP Joacine Katar Moreira voted against. PEV and CH abstained.

## Government prepares exit strategy (16.04.2020)

According to [PM declarations](#), the exit strategy will be gradual and progressive - containment measures cannot be entirely lifted while infection risk hasn't been reduced to a controlled level.

Main elements of the exit strategy:

- Mass production of masks and alcohol gel, for the general use of masks;
- Reorganization of working hours, to avoid overload of public transport, together with encouragement of telework;
- Guarantee NHS capacity;
- Presencial classes might be resumed for the 11th and 12th grades and nurseries could reopen;
- Resume presencial public services;
- Small retail should be the first to reopen;
- Promotion of touristic activities in Portugal, as tourism represents a great driving force for the economy.

# WHAT'S NEW?

## Weekly experts meeting results (15.04.2020)

Main results of the weekly experts meeting:

- $R_0$  (the infection rate) continues to fall. Currently it is around 0,88/0,89. The  $R_0$  must decrease to 0,7, a number considered safe to start deconfinement.
- Containment measures might be lifted first in the least infected regions.
- The use of contact tracing apps could be efficient scientifically speaking, as the measures are gradually eased.

## Economic response: PM, Minister of Finance and Minister of Economy declarations

Last week the [PM](#), the [Minister of Finance](#) and the [Minister of Economy](#) outlined the Government's perspective on the Portuguese economic outlook.

- Portuguese economy will only get back to where it was in 2019 in 2 to 3 years.
- The reopening of the economy will depend on both the capacity to control the spread of the infection and on the coordination of countries to resume productivity and consumption;
- Measures that asphyxiate economic operators will not be adopted;
- State spending today means tax increase tomorrow;
- Need to guarantee the cyclical nature of the crisis and avoid structural damage to the economy;
- TAP is a strategic company. Nationalization is a possibility to be considered if necessary;
- Large public investments should continue such as the new Lisbon airport (in Montijo).

The Government also held [meetings](#) with institutions and economists to reflect on solutions for the exit strategy and economic recovery. Economists pointed out that the way Portugal is managing the crisis projects a positive external image, which will be an advantage in the future repositioning of the PT economy.

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## IMF world economic outlook - economic outlook for Portugal (15.04.2020)

According the [IMF world economic outlook](#), the economic perspectives for Portugal will be the following:

- GDP [2,2% (2019)] = -8% (2020); 5%(2021)
- Unemployment [6,5% (2019)] = 13,9% (2020); 8,7% (2021)

## Government support measures to the media (17.04.2020)

The Government [announced](#) the purchase of advertising space in media of up to 15 million EUR. The ads will be focused on DGS information related to COVID-19, as well as to social issues, such as domestic violence and media literacy. The ads will also include information on the gradual deconfinement.

## Report on the application of Emergency State (16.04.2020)

The Government submitted a [Report](#) to the Parliament on the application of the state of emergency (from March 19th to April 2nd). The Report was discussed in Plenary.



# WHAT'S NEW?

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## Portugal-Spain border closed until 15 May

The Governments of Portugal and Spain decided to extend the closure of the border between Portugal and Spain (land and air) until May 14th.

## Production of medical devices, tests and individual protection equipment (17.04.2020)

The Government has [opened new calls](#) for the production of medical devices, tests and individual protection equipment to fight COVID-19. The calls will be approved within 10 business days and cover 80% to 100% of the costs. Submission of applications will be open from April 20<sup>th</sup> to May 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Government signed as well an order imposing a maximum limit of 15% on the percentage of profit on the sale of medical devices and protective equipment, as well as ethyl alcohol and alcohol-based skin disinfectant gel.

## PNPAS Platform for COVID-19 (14.04.2020)

The National Plan for the Promotion of Healthy Nutrition (PNPAS), has created a platform compiling all [guidelines related to nutrition](#) and [news](#) related to the pandemic.



## WHAT'S NEW?

### Startup Lisboa launches site to help SMEs

- Startup Lisboa has launched the platform "[Trabalhar de Casa](#)" ("Work from Home"), which compiles tools for telework (cloud, communication, design, connectivity), new legislation and news articles that are useful for SMEs.

### National Commission for Data Protection (CNPD) publishes guidelines for e-learning & telework

- CNPD published guidelines highlighting the main risks and establishing several recommendations for [e-learning](#) and [telework](#).

### ANI - mapping technological portuguese infrastructure

- ANI is conducting a [survey](#) in order to map existing portuguese technological infrastructure and incubators, and update the one done in 2016. The aim is to have an idea of their physical characterization, human resources and activities developed or to be developed.



# WHAT'S TO COME?

## Plenary Session

- The plenary session will take place on Wednesday (22.04, 3:00 pm). The PM will be at the plenary debate to discuss the upcoming European Council (23.04).

## Hearings in the Parliament

- Hearing of Minister of State, Economy and Digital Transition in the Parliamentary Committee for Economy. (21.04, 9.30 am)
- The chairmen of the main banks in PT will be heard in the Parliamentary Committee for Budget and Finance. (21.04, 2:00pm, 22.04, 9:00 am).

## European Council

- EU leaders will meet by videoconference on April 23rd, to follow up on a coordinated exit strategy, as well as on an economic recovery plan.





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