

# Weekly Update COVID-19

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28th April – 4th May

# WHAT'S NEW?

## Announcement of Deconfinement Plan (30.04.2020)

- The PM declared that the end of the state of emergency does not mean the end of the health emergency: it simply gives more freedom to resume some economic activities.
- Epidemiological situation:
  - 95% of Covid-19 patients receive home treatment; 5% hospital treatment; intensive care occupancy rate 50-55%;
  - Important number: NHS stress point is at 4000 hospitalizations. Currently we are below 1000.
- Conditions to be respected for the progressive lifting of containment measures:
  - Masks and alcohol gel in abundance in supermarkets;
  - Cleaning of spaces;
  - 2m social distance;
  - Each sector with DGS approved rules;
  - Maximum capacity with reduced levels (5persons /100m<sup>2</sup>);
  - Mandatory use of masks in some public spaces (public transport, shops, schools).
- 3 important duties of the State of Calamity:
  - Civic duty of social confinement (for everyone);
  - Mandatory confinement of sick people or under surveillance;
  - Ban on events with more than 10 people.
- The Plan for lifting the containment measures has 3 phases (4 May, 18 May, 1 June).
- An evaluation will be done at the end of each phase with the possibility of going back on the adopted measures.



# WHAT'S NEW?

## PM interview on deconfinement measures (30.04.2020)

- After announcing the deconfinement plan on Thursday (30.04), the PM gave an interview detailing the measures:
  - The Gov established a timeline of what is possible to accomplish, reevaluating the situation in 15 days. It is possible to reach mid-May and retrieve previous restrictions.
  - Telework remains mandatory for all activities in which it is possible to do so.
  - Movement restrictions are still allowed by the Basis Law on Civil Protection regarding epidemic situations.
  - To answer social needs, the State can't exhaust all its resources in one go.
  - Tracing apps should be developed without any state intervention, with decentralized and voluntary adoption. The EU has interest in an European app to track movements within the single market.
  - The Bank of Portugal has launched a weekly inquiry to monitor several economic scenarios. In June, a supplementary budget will be put forward to the Parliament, based on a national scenario of economic evolution.

## Report on the application of the state of emergency (3-17.04.2020)

- The Government submitted to the Parliament the report on the application of the second declaration of the state of emergency (from April 3rd to April 17th). The report provides an evaluation on the following issues:
  - Epidemiologic evolution;
  - Economic situation and measures applied to the different sectors:
    - Execution and monitoring of the State of Emergency;
    - Sectoral Reports (security forces, migration and civil protection).

# WHAT'S NEW?

## Minister of Foreign Affairs on the EU response to the crisis and PT Presidency of the EU (28.04.2020)

At a [hearing](#) to the Committee of European Affairs, the Minister of Foreign Affairs commented on the EU response to the crisis and its priorities.

- On the PT Presidency of the Council of the EU:
  - The trio is reviewing the 18 month programme to be announced in June;
  - Besides the 4 priorities already defined (digital, green deal, social pillar and foreign relations) PT will add economic recovery and European geoeconomic and geopolitical resilience to its Presidency priorities.
- There are 6 lessons to be learned from this crisis:
  - European economic sovereignty: EU must achieve a better control of the supply chains to guarantee access to essential goods in all fields;
  - Supply chains of essential goods must be closer to EU citizens, in terms of geography, as well as less dependent on the interference of third countries' decisions. PT has a role to play, since some production chains which are now located in other geographies where firstly located in PT and must return;
  - Speed up reindustrialization. PT industrial regions are key;
  - Control financing expenses for states and companies;
  - Strengthening the single market;
  - Forgotten issues of the EU agenda: deepening the EMU and the Banking Union, and achieving fiscal harmonization.
  - The EU must fight fiscal dumping and create a level playing field that should be rooted in healthy tax competition, not in a race to the bottom.

# WHAT'S NEW?

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## PR and Secretary of State for Media statements on media (03.04.2020)

On the International Day for Freedom of Press, the PR shared a [message](#) on the importance of social communication:

- The pandemic has highlighted the importance of trustworthy news sources, as fake news surrounding COVID-19 skyrocketed.
- However, media outlets are being subject to an economic crisis, and several are already on the brink of disappearing. Hence, the PR appeals for increased State support for media sustainability, in a transparent and non-discriminatory way.
- Without free, plural and transparent media, there is no Democracy.

The Secretary of State for Media also issued a [statement](#) to signal the day:

- There are new challenges emerging for freedom of press due to new technologies and Internet - currently, misinformation is considered an “*infodemic*” by WHO, as the number of fake news on COVID-19 increases.
- The best tool to fight misinformation is Mediatic Literacy, which will be key in public policies for Education, Culture, Social Communication, Information Society and Citizenship.



# WHAT'S NEW?

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## Joint Declaration of European Ministers of Tourism (27.04.2020)

The Ministers of Tourism from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Spain, Greece, Italy, Malta and Portugal aim to launch a [joint declaration](#) to support Tourism:

- A European financial package dedicated to tourism;
- Stimulation of intraeuropean mobility, supporting air companies and common sanitary and safety procedures;
- Special support for regions more afflicted by the pandemic.

## Regulation on air transport (02.05.2020)

A [regulation](#) was published establishing a maximum number of passengers for air transport, as well as exceptions to this limit and legal requirements to guarantee a safe distance between passengers.

## Regulation on taxi and transportation on electronic platforms (04.05.2020)

A [regulation](#) was published establishing a maximum capacity for taxi and transportation via electronic platforms, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



## WHAT'S NEW?

### Netflix and ICA launch a contest to support creative writing of TV series and documentaries in Portugal

- Netflix and ICA (the Audiovisual and Cinema Institut) launched on 29.04 an [initiative to boost Portuguese audiovisual production](#), creating a contest for screenwriters. Netflix, in conjunction with ICA, will reward the top ten projects.
- The Secretary of State for Cinema, Audiovisual and Media qualified this initiative as especially relevant, “an important step towards the consolidation of audiovisual fiction and documentary in Portugal”.

### Portugal joins international initiative “Global Response to COVID-19”

- Portugal has joined the initiative “[Global Response to COVID-19 - Donors’ Conference](#)”, organized by the European Commission. The initiative aims to collect 7,5 billion EUR from public and private entities to accelerate efforts in fighting the pandemic.



# WHAT'S TO COME?

## Hearings in the Parliament

- **Hearing of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs (05/05, 2pm)**
- **Hearing of MEP Marisa Matias (Left Block) and João Ferreira (Communist Party) in the Parliamentary Committee for European Affairs. (08.05, 10am)**
- **Hearing of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Parliamentary Committee for Economics, Innovation, Public Construction and Housing (06/05, 10am)**
- **Hearing of the Minister of the Sea in the Parliamentary Committee for Agriculture and Sea on the impact of COVID19 in the sector (05/05, 10am)**

## Plenary Session

- **Plenary Session (May 6th, 3pm), with discussion of:**
  - Domestic Violence and protection of victims;
  - Financial aid for Businesses' Managing Partners;
  - Prohibition of the distribution of profit dividends in the banking sector and multinational companies;
  - Creation of an "emergency check" for SMEs that had to suspend their activities due to COVID;
  - A large-scale communication campaign to raise awareness on the right handling of household waste and the correct use of protective material against the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Bi-weekly debate with the PM (May 7th, 3pm) and voting of extraordinary measures in response to COVID-19.**





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