



Weekly Update COVID-19

May 5th – May 11th

WHAT'S NEW?

- [Minister of State and Foreign Affairs hearing in the Committee for Economy and Innovation \(06.05\)](#)

The Minister of State and Foreign Affairs, Augusto Santos Silva, and the Secretary of State for Internationalisation, Eurico Brilhante Dias, were heard in the Committee for Economy and Innovation.

→ **Minister of State and Foreign Affairs:**

- The policy for internationalisation is deeply connected with the national and european external policy.
- The main priority is the attraction of private investment and promotion of portuguese exports. Exports decreased 14% , but international investment has been kept.
- AICEP has been providing ongoing support to portuguese enterprises, namely those from the agri-food, pharmaceutical and chemistry sectors. It has also been responding to growing needs from enterprises to speed digital transition and enter external markets.
- Future economic crisis doesn't put on hold the current internationalisation strategy. This is going to be a conjunctural crisis, and recovery of GDP and revenue is expected next year.
- At the european level, we need smaller chains of production on essential goods and increased economic sovereignty, as well as investment in reindustrialization. Globalization is good; hyperglobalization is a mistake.
- For economic recovery, digital skills and the innovation ecosystem are vital.

WHAT'S NEW?

- Minister of State and Foreign Affairs hearing in the Committee for Economy and Innovation (06.05) - continuation
 - Portuguese strategy is directed by two axes - the Single Market and external market, namely Africa and Latin America.
 - This is the moment to accelerate digital match-making - AICEP has been promoting a “tinder” for enterprises, helping them connect and develop digital skills.
 - Portugal will need more financial resources and spend more in investments; but those mustn't be obtained through austerity or market extortion. Government needs to guarantee controlled debt growth and approach the markets with the strength of the EU.
 - The crisis has highlighted the need of a Social State - the “uberization” of the economy and extreme emphasis on new forms of entrepreneurship don't guarantee citizens' rights.
- ➔ **Secretary of State for Internationalisation:**
 - To prepare for the reopening of the economy, AICEP has developed a weekly barometer for exports enterprises, focusing on the pharmaceutical and agri-food sectors.
 - AICEP has created a Task Force to help enterprises redirect their supply through digital channels - digital tools have been increasingly important to keep enterprises afloat.



WHAT'S NEW?

Council of Ministers approves new measures within COVID-19 framework (07.05.2020)

The Council of Ministers has approved several measures within COVID-19 framework, namely:

- Sanitary measures to resume school classes on May 18th;
- Norms to follow and monitor children and young people in risk situations;
- Purchase of digital school books to public school students. This resolution was announced as the achievement of a goal set on the Government's Programme, namely the "increase of school connectivity and resources that promote the integration of technology in several curricular subjects, usage of digital educational resources and code and robotic teaching.

Government support for fisheries

The Secretary of State for Fisheries announced a Government-backed 7 million euros support scheme to provide financial aid to fishermen and companies that decide to voluntarily stop for periods of 15 days until December 31, justifying the measure as a way to adapt the available fish supply to the decrease in demand.



WHAT'S NEW?

- **Current targets for Circular Economy Strategy are to be kept**

The Minister of Environment and Climate Action, João Pedro Matos Fernandes, after being inquired by news agency Lusa on the increase of disposable materials, stated that [current targets for the Circular Economy Strategy are to be kept](#):

- Prohibition of SUP and anticipation of the European Directive on the matter;
- New tax on food packages.

- **Milk producers demand voluntary reduction of production**

Portuguese milk producers asked the Government to support the proposal for voluntary reduction of milk production. The proposal was presented at the European Council by the European Milk Board, due to the drop in consumption of milk products during the pandemic.

According to the producers, keeping current production volumes will lead to significant decrease in prices, which, combined with challenges in flow of products, may lead to the bankruptcy of several small and medium producers.



WHAT'S NEW?

- [PWC launches CoronaManager, a contact tracing app with Bluetooth and GPS technology](#)

The consultancy firm PWC announced that it is working on a contact tracing app that uses Bluetooth for the communication between mobile phones and GPS, for alerts and recommendations of relevant points, such as hospitals, pharmacies and health centers. It also adds that the app has a decentralized model with data being kept locally on the smartphone.

- [AHRESP proposes to reduce VAT on food and beverage services](#)

The Portuguese Hotel, Restaurant and Similar Association (AHRESP) proposed the temporary application of the reduced VAT rate (6%) to food and beverage services, following what other european countries are doing.

- [DECO survey shows that Portuguese citizens accept contact tracing apps but require data protection](#)

The survey results on contact tracing apps (1000 answers validated and carried out during April 24th to 27th). Citizens recognize the benefits of a public application for tracking covid-19 infected and are willing to use it (70%). Public authorities must ensure privacy of citizens' personal data, shared data must be anonymized.



WHAT'S NEW?

- [“ePrivacy - Privacy Explained to Kids” initiative](#)

APDSI launches “ePrivacy - Privacy Explained to Kids” initiative of the Project “MiudosSegurosNa.Net”. The initiative aims to raise awareness among children, pre-teens, teenagers and young adults about trust and safety online. The initiative includes four components - an annual event to mark Data Protection Day; the provision of tutorials and other resources on privacy and security online; an annual competition for students; share students’ works on online privacy and security.

- [Digital Platform #Open4business supported by the Minister of Economy](#)

The “Digital Response Cabinet for COVID-19”, led by the Minister of State, Economy and Digital Transition, Pedro Siza Vieira, has supported the digital platform #Open4Business. The platform, created by VOST Portugal (Association of Digital Volunteers in Emergency Situations), is a tool that informs citizens about businesses and enterprises which are open near their location and their schedules.



WHAT'S TO COME?

Hearings in the Parliament

- **Hearing of the Minister of Environment and Climate Action in the Parliamentary Committees for Economy, Innovation, Public Works, Housing and Agriculture and Sea** on the works of the Lisbon metro and the political developments for the agriculture and sea sector (12/05 - 10.30am/ 3pm);
- **Hearing of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Parliamentary Committee for European Affairs** on the imminent human tragedy at the greek-turkish border (12.05 - 4pm)

Hearings in the Parliament

- **Hearing of the Minister of the Presidency in the Parliamentary Committee for Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Liberties and Guarantees** on political developments (13.05 - 9am);
- **Hearing of the Minister of Finance in the Parliamentary Committee for Budget and Finance** on political developments, Stability Program 2020, and National Program for Reforms (13.05 - 9.30 am).

Hearings in the Parliament

- **Hearing of the Minister of Culture in the Parliamentary Committee for Culture and Communication** on political developments (13.05 - 10 am);
- **Hearing of the Secretary of State of Internal Administration in the Parliamentary Committee for Agriculture and Sea** on the special instrument to fight rural fires (13.05 - 11 am).



WHAT'S TO COME?

Hearings in the Parliament

- **Hearing of the Chief of Army of the Air Force in the Parliamentary Committee for National Defense (12.05 - 3pm)**
- **Hearing of the Portuguese Confederation of SMEs in the Parliamentary Committee for Economy, Innovation, Public Works, Housing (13.05 - 10.30 am);**
- **Hearing of MEPs Nuno Melo and Francisco Guerreiro in the Parliamentary Committee for European Affairs (15.05 - 10 am)**

Plenary Session

- The Parliament is holding a Plenary Session on Thursday (13.05 at 3pm) to debate several proposals, and on Friday (14.05 at 2.30 pm) do debate the Stability Program 2020 and National Reform Program 2020.





**For more information, please send us an
email to:
teresa@political-intelligence.com**