
A&Z LAW FIRM & CEE ATTORNEYS

CEE Attorneys and A&Z Law Firm work closely together, to provide companies with a full range of top-quality legal services for their clients in Europe and in China.

Present and active in 10 European jurisdictions, CEE Attorneys have been recognized as a top-tier legal practice by The Legal 500 EMEA. The areas of CEE Attorneys' expertise that have received international acknowledgments are: commercial, corporate and M&A, real estate and construction, dispute resolution and TMT.

In the light of recent developments related to Covid-19, companies operating in Europe must remain informed about the latest measures and restrictions currently in place. In this dossier, CEE Attorneys offer an up-to-date and comprehensive insight into 6 jurisdictions and their present status.



**SUMMARY OF EXISTING
MEASURES AND
RESTRICTIONS
IN RELATION TO COVID-19**

**Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary,
Lithuania, Romania,
Slovakia**

Valid measures following covid19 pandemic emergency period

BULGARIA

After the lifting of the state of emergency in the Republic of Bulgaria on May 13, 2020 an emergency epidemic situation was declared. With a subsequent decision of 12.06.2020 it was extended until mid-July. The most significant of the measures in force are:

- **Obligation to wear a protective mask**

It is mandatory to wear a protective mask in all enclosed public spaces, except for food and beverages.

- **Borders and quarantine**

There is a temporary ban on entry into the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria of persons who are not citizens of Bulgaria/United Kingdom/Northern Ireland/European citizens and are not medical persons, transport staff, officials and travelers for humanitarian reasons are excluded from the scope. Transit is also prohibited for third-country nationals. Arriving from third countries are quarantined at home or in another place they have specified for 14 days, with a prescription. Compliance with the quarantine is monitored by the Ministry of Interior

- **Obligations for site owners**

All natural and legal persons who own or manage public facilities, commercial or other sites that provide services to citizens, in addition to the introduction and provision of protective equipment for their employees, should organize the activity in a way that ensures the observance of a distance of at least 1.5 m between the persons, provide hand sanitizer at the entrance of the site, create an organization for control of the entrance of the site for the number of entering persons; place information boards in a visible place/inform in another way the users of services for observance of physical distance, hand hygiene and wearing of protective masks on the face when visiting the respective site.

- **Events**

Congress - conference events, seminars, exhibitions and cultural and entertainment events - theaters, cinemas, concerts, weddings, nightclubs are organized/held at a capacity of 50%. Indoor and indoor sports events are held in front of an audience at 50% capacity, in at least 1 seat, and at football matches - up to 1000 people per sector

*information updated till 1 July

Current covid-19 measures and restrictions

CZECHIA

Measures valid in the Czech Republic from 1 July* until further notice:

- **The obligation to wear a mask**

From 1 July, the obligation to wear a mask is only limited to specific situations and locations, also with regards to local outbreaks. The masks remain obligatory at health and social services facilities within the whole country and in Prague in the underground and interior events with more than 100 attendants. In Moravian-Silesian region the obligation to wear a mask also applies to events with more than 100 attendants.

- **Facilities**

All facilities are opened, but they are still obliged to ensure compliance with the specified hygiene measures (2 meter distance, hand disinfection etc.) for customers and employees. From 1 July, all facilities can be opened between 11 pm and 6 am.

- **Additional obligations of operators of selected establishments**

Specific hygiene measures which their operators are obliged to observe continue to apply to certain types of establishments.

- **Mass events**

A ban on organizing mass events of a cultural, social or other nature with more than 1.000 people, while the obligation to observe hygienic measures continues to apply. Exceptions are applied on 1) meetings, sessions and similar events of constitutional bodies, public authorities, courts or other public persons, which take place on the basis of law; 2) for assemblies held in accordance with Act No. 84/1990 Coll., on the right of assembly, as amended; 3) mass events held in construction-divided areas (up to 5.000 people). If the event takes place indoors, participants must wear nose and mouth protection for the duration of the event and disinfectants must be provided. If the event takes place outdoors, participants must maintain a distance of at least 1.5 meters between each other.

- **Coming from a “health safe country“**

Arrivals from countries with low risk of infection are not subject to mandatory quarantine and mandatory testing.

- **Coming from a “ health unsafe country “**

If the person has visited a country with medium and high risk of infection and submits negative results from the RT-PCR test for COVID-19 not older than 4 days when arriving in the Czech Republic, is not obliged to undergo mandatory quarantine (if person does not submit the above mentioned results, this person is obliged to undergo to mandatory quarantine).

- **Cross-border workers**

Workers who meet the specified conditions (especially residence, distance, work) and who have the required certificate of work performance do not have to undergo mandatory quarantine

** information current up to 1 July 2020*

Temporary legal rules following covid19 emergency period

HUNGARY

On **18 June, 2020**, the extraordinary legal order due to Covid19 **ended in Hungary**. Here we summarize main transitional provisions of a commercial law nature.

- **Contracts**

Bank loans. There is payment moratorium of loans, credits and leasing fees till *31 December 2020* upon discretion of debtor.

Tax payment and - returns, other main payment reliefs. Relating to corporate tax returns and tax payments due between 22 April, 2020 and 30 September 2020, taxpayers are entitled to fulfil such obligations till *30 September 2020*.

Deadlines for submission of relevant annual reports for 2019, which is usually due till 31 May, are not applicable and deadline is extended until *30 September 2020*.

Upon the corporate tax payer's request filed *in 30 days from expiry of the emergency period*, the tax authority can grant, up to HUF 5 million tax obligation, one time deferred payment of tax up to a 6 month period or in certain cases up to 12 months.

- **Labor law**

Employers may differ from rules of the Hungarian Labor Code till *1 July 2020*, especially regarding modification of work schedules, ordering home office and measures to check employee's health.

- **Civil law court proceedings**

Law suits, court proceedings are to be continued, if they were paused in whatever form due to the pandemic situation.

- **Administrative matters**

Building permits. Validity period of building permit, which expired during the emergency period, shall be *extended by a further one (1) year* from the date of termination of the emergency.

Authorization of company acquisitions. Till 31 December 2020 a ministerial approval shall be required for the acquisition of direct or indirect ownership in strategic companies registered in Hungary by a third-country foreign investor (other than EU, EEA countries and Switzerland) regarding a limited liability company or a closed hare company, if future shareholding reaches a minimum of 10% and HUF 350 m and (b) for the majority acquisition of shares in those companies by such third country investor. Ministerial permission is also required for the acquisition of a majority shareholding by EU, EEA and Swiss investors.

PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT THE ABOVE SUMMARY IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE, FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE.

Budapest, 26 June 2020

Current covid-19 measures and restrictions

LITHUANIA

- **The obligation to wear a mask**

Wearing a mask in the public places is recommended still not obligatory for all persons both indoors and outdoors.

- **Facilities**

The public services and facilities may be renewed if the necessary hygiene measures are ensured: disinfection, hands washing, ban to work for people having symptoms or to be insulated, personal protective equipment is used, controlled visitors flow, and other.

- **Additional obligations of operators of selected establishments**

The specific hygiene measures to be observed continue to apply for certain types of establishments: disinfection, hands washing, ban to work for people having symptoms or to be insulated, personal protective equipment is used, controlled visitors flow, social distance observed.

- **Mass events**

The number of spectators and visitors is being limited, gradually increasing:

from 17th June to 30th June: the event organized in open spaces may accept up to 700 visitors and in closed spaces – up to 150 visitors.

from 1st July to 16 July: the event organized in open spaces may accept up to 1000 visitors and in closed spaces – up to 200 visitors.

The necessary hygiene measures are to be observed.

- **Coming from a “health safe” country**

Arrivals from the countries that are considered "health safe" are not subject to compulsory quarantine. Travelling to most EU countries is now possible and no self-isolation requirements are applicable upon return to Lithuania. Traveller controls are not carried out at the internal EU borders (Latvia, Poland).

- **Coming from a “health unsafe” country**

From 2020 June 17 until 2020 July 16 temporary internal border control has been extended and restrictions on the arrival of regular flights and ferries to Lithuania from affected countries have been applied (affected countries with a total morbidity rate of 14 days higher than 25 cases per 100,000 population). Returnees or arrivals from the countries on this list of affected countries and those with a permit are considered to have been in contact and are required to be isolated for 14 days. Foreigners from these countries may enter Lithuania only in exceptional cases.

Inspections are carried out at airports, Klaipeda Seaport and at the external EU border crossing points with Belarus and Russia (5 points).

- **Cross-border workers**

Workers who meet the specified conditions (especially residence, distance, work) and who have the required certificate of work performance do not have to undergo mandatory/domestic quarantine. Nationals and residents of most non-EU countries, including Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine are still prohibited to enter Lithuania excluding a list of special cases (e.g. they possess a national employment related visa, they are family members of Lithuanian nationals, and other). The Lithuanian government may issue a special purpose permit to travel to Lithuania if there are justified business needs.

Valid measures following covid19 pandemic emergency period

ROMANIA

Starting with June 17, 2020 the State of Alert was extended at the national level in Romania, for a period of 30 days. The most important measures taken during the State of Alert to prevent and combat the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are:

- **Obligation to wear a mask**

Citizens are required to wear a protective mask, in order to limit the spread of the new coronavirus infection among the population, in closed public spaces, commercial spaces, means of public transport and at work.

- **Obligations for public institutions and public authorities, as well as economic operators and professionals**

All such entities are obliged to organize their activity in such a manner to ensure, at the entry into the headquarters, mandatory epidemiological triage and mandatory disinfection of hands, both for own staff and visitors, according to the conditions established by the competent authorities under applicable legal provisions.

- **Quarantine measures**

The quarantine / isolation measure at home /location declared by the person concerned, together with the co-tenants, including family / dependants, as appropriate, is established for all persons coming to Romania from countries that are not subject to the quarantine / isolation exception, established by the National Institute of Public Health and approved by the National Committee for Emergency Situations.

The list of states for which the elimination of quarantine / isolation measures is applied, is updated weekly by the National Institute of Public Health, every Monday before 16:00, in order to introduce new countries in the list.

The quarantine / isolation measure at the home /location declared by the person concerned, together with the co-tenants, including family / dependants, as appropriate, is established for persons who come to Romania from countries that are subject to the quarantine / isolation exception, but who, before leaving the respective country, did not stay in its territory for at least 14 days.

- **Measures regarding the activity of some economic operators**

Several restrictions on the activity of economic operators that are carried out in closed spaces in fields are maintained such as activities in swimming pools, playgrounds, cinemas and games rooms, but also in indoor restaurants, cafes or other such public catering units.

Certain activities such as rallies, demonstrations, concerts or other types of gatherings in open spaces, as well cultural, scientific, artistic, sports or entertainment gatherings shall continue to comply with specific sanitary measures.

- **Measures regarding the activity of products' serving and consumption**

Consumption of food and alcoholic / non-alcoholic beverages in the common dining areas of restaurants, hotels, motels, boarding houses, cafes or other public places shall be suspended, inside of these spaces, except for the food preparation and marketing and alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages not consumed in those premises.

- **Measures regarding the movement of people**

The participation in private events indoors is forbidden, except for those that take place with the participation of up to 20 people (in compliance with the rules of social distance).

The participation in private events outdoors is forbidden, except for those that take place with the participation of up to 50 people (in compliance with the rules of social distance).

**information current up to 02 July 2020*

Note: Based on the Decision no. 458/2020, the Constitutional Court ruled that the provisions related to establishment of the quarantine / isolation measure are unconstitutional because such legal rules do not meet the requirements of clarity and foreseeability of the legal rule imposed by the Romanian Constitution and infringe the fundamental rights and freedoms, without complying with the constitutional requirements concerning the restriction on the exercise of certain fundamental rights and freedoms. As a result of the Decision, the quarantine / isolation measure is temporarily suspended in Romania as of July 2nd, 2020, for a period during which the Parliament and the Government must harmonize the aforesaid provisions with the Constitution's legal rules.

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Current covid-19 measures and restrictions

SLOVAKIA

- **The obligation to wear a mask**

In the exterior, wearing a mask is for all persons on a voluntary basis, but the condition of at least a 2 meter distance between persons still applies (if they do not live together in the same household); in the interior outside home, wearing a mask is, with some exceptions, still mandatory (e.g. in public buildings, in public transport)

- **Facilities**

Operators of retail establishments and establishments providing services are still obliged to ensure compliance with the specified hygiene measures for customers and employees

- **Additional obligations of operators of selected establishments**

Specific hygiene measures which their operators are obliged to observe continue to apply to certain types of establishments

- **Mass events**

A ban on organizing mass events of a sporting, cultural, social or other nature at the same time with more than 1000 people, while the obligation to observe hygienic measures continues to apply (under special conditions, exceptions are provided, for example, for mass events with an exclusively sitting audience).

- **Coming from a "health safe country"**

Arrivals from one of the 32 countries designated as "health safe" are not subject to compulsory insulation in the home environment according to special conditions.

- **Coming from a "health unsafe country"**

If the person has visited a country that is not a "health safe country" during the previous 14 days (and at the same time is not one of the exceptions), when arriving in the Slovak Republic such person is obliged to undergo insulation in the home environment until receiving a negative result of the RT-PCR test for COVID-19 disease, which is this person obliged to undergo at the earliest on the fifth day of insulation in the home environment.

- **Cross-border workers**

Workers who meet the specified conditions (especially residence, distance, work) and who have the required certificate of work performance do not have to undergo insulation in the home environment.

- **Border residents**

A citizen of the Slovak Republic with permanent/temporary residence in border areas of the neighbouring state up to 30 km from an open border crossing and persons living with him in the same household do not have to undergo insulation in the home environment.

** information current up to 06 July 2020*