

## **Gradual relaxation of restrictive measures and restart of the economy**

According to the announcements, the gradual relaxing of the restrictive measures and the restart of the economy will be in four (4) phases, 2 of which were announced extensively by the President of the Republic of Cyprus in his speech on 29 April 2020 as well as by Ministers in charge, Minister of Health, Minister of Finance and Minister of Labor on their conference on 30 April 2020. It was also clarified that the relaxing of the restrictive measures is subject to amendments in accordance with the instructions of the epidemiological team to the Government for the treatment of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The first two phases of relaxation measures fall into the following time periods:

- i. 4 May 2020 - 21 May 2020 → First Phase
- ii. 21 May 2020 - 8 June 2020 → Second Phase

### **First Phase:**

1. All the activities of the construction sector and the companies that support it are reopening.
2. All retail businesses reopen with relevant restrictions, except for shopping malls and large department stores.
3. Tourist and travel agencies are reopening.
4. It is allowed to moor cruise ships for refuelling.
5. Full operation of the Public Sector, including the Courts, based on the decisions taken by the Supreme Court. Excluded are employees who fall into

vulnerable groups and those responsible for the care of children under 15 years of age.

Regarding the reopening of the Courts, during the meeting of the Supreme Court on Thursday, 30 of April 2020, the following were decided:

- All Registration Departments reopen. In this regard, the Registrars, always adopting the relevant instructions of the epidemiological team and the Ministry of Health, will proceed with arrangements to avoid mass gatherings and overcrowding, taking into account the building facilities.
- The First Instance Courts of each jurisdiction shall proceed with the planning of the cases before them, in such a way as to make their further promotion possible.
- Relevant instructions will be issued by the competent Courts for the first appearances, for their appointment on a new date and a relevant notice will be given by the competent Registrars to the parties involved.
- Regarding the Supreme Court, the trial of the cases before it will be regulated by the Presidents of the compositions.
- Judicial leave will be limited to the month of August, in order to be able to carry out the delays caused by the coronavirus and the suspension of the trial of cases.

### **Second Phase:**

1. Dining businesses (restaurants, cafes, pubs) reopen only for outdoor use.
2. All restrictions on the movement of citizens are granted without exception. This means that from 21 May 2020, travel between cities and social visits are allowed.
3. From 1<sup>st</sup> of June, the ports will reopen, with the exception of the disembarkation of passengers.

It is important to clarify that the Work Suspension Plans and Special Allowances, as determined by the Ministry of Labor, Welfare and Social Insurance, remain in force and will last until 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2020. For companies that continue to have a reduce on their turnover beyond 12<sup>th</sup> of June, will be granted up to 4 months a governmental support.

Regarding the reopening of the companies and the use of a protective mask, it was decided that the following will apply from 4<sup>th</sup> of May:

- i. 8 sq.m. for each employee and 2 meters distance between them.
- ii. Mandatory placement of antiseptic at the entrance of each company.
- iii. Posting outside of the building the number of physical presence of persons within the building to inform the public and Labor Inspectors.
- iv. Daily and meticulous cleaning and disinfection of frequently used surfaces.
- v. Mandatory use of a protective mask for businesses that have direct contact with the public.
- vi. Good and frequent ventilation of the workplace.

The economic measures decided to suspend the payment of VAT, overdue social contributions and GESY also remain in force, as they were implemented by the relevant amending decrees of the Ministry of Finance in the Value Added Tax Law of 2000 ( L.95 (I)/2000), in the Regulation of Overdue Social Contributions Law of 2016 (L.76 (I)/2016) and in the Law on the General Health System of 2001 (L.89 (I)/2001).

A relevant analysis of both the Work Suspension Plans and Special Benefits and the Suspension of VAT Payment, overdue Social Contributions and GESY, as well as other information leaflets is available on our website: <https://americanoslaw.com/covid-19/>.

**Stelios Americanos & Co LLC**  
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