

Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK) proposes a 10 points list of (temporary) emergency actions to be taken to support businesses during the coronavirus crisis

1. Finnvera's guarantees increase with 10 billion euros (a specialised financing company owned by the State of Finland and the official Export Credit Agency (ECA) of Finland)

With Finnvera's guarantees banks and pension-insurance companies and other financing institutions may continue to finance a company in this emergency situation. We need to 1) increase the guarantees with 10 billion euros immediately and 2) increase Finnvera's risk-taking capacity so that it can finance a company (that has not been in serious economic situation 31.12.2019) up to 100%.

2. Taxes maturing to be paid in three months' time should get 12 months additional term of payment

Taxes maturing to be paid such as VAT, payroll tax, employer's taxes and excise duty should immediately get 12 months additional term of payment. Should come to effect asap, latest on 1.4.2020.

3. Finnvera's 2 billion financial capital support to employers' liquidity crisis

An urgent decision to be made for 2 billion loan programme. Conditions:

- Capital, hybrid- or other type of loans which can be forgiven partly or fully in case the company can't pay it back.
- The state will back the loan and carry the risk, Finnvera will execute.
- Directed to companies that employing people and affected by coronavirus.
- Valid until 30.9.2020.
- This capital support can be included in the equity of the company and strengthens the creditworthiness of the company, but does not result in ownership rights.
- Maximum risk for the state 2 billion euros but parts of the loans will be paid back.

4. Temporary crisis salary payment support to avoid dismissals and layoffs

- Salary payment support to

- Companies who commit to avoid dismissals and layoffs.
- Are operating in sectors such as travel- and restaurant/catering business that are especially hard hit.
- Have estimated the layoff-need to be minimum 25% of the employees.

- The support level to be 70% of the employee's previous 3 months' net salary.

- Case-by-case support.

- Decision to be made in 2 days after receiving the request by TE.

5. The layoff time daily allowances to be paid by the state temporarily

6. Employers' unemployment insurances and sick payment insurances temporarily to be paid by the state (change of the legislation by 1.6.2020 until 31.12.2020)

7. EU's coronavirus financial aid to be utilised efficiently at the national level

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment should take the lead in coordinating and informing about the different sources (such as the EU's cohesion or investment funds).

8. Late payment interest temporarily 0%

From 16.3.2020 late payment interest for taxes automatically 0% until 31.12.2020.

9. The handling of VAT returns to be faster

10. Other actions

- The removal of the late payments for the tax declarations concerning the taxes from 1.3-30.7.2020.
- We should change the community legislation so that it would recognise the critical situations such as the coronavirus crisis and would ease the organisation of shareholders' meetings and allowing the dividend payments.
- Put on hold all legislation review projects that would create financial or administrative burden for companies.
- Bankruptcy law is amended for the duration of the crisis so that a company cannot be declared bankrupt due to non-payment of taxes or public charges to the extent that the default or default is caused by the coronavirus crisis.