

LATEST COVID-19 MEASURES TAKEN IN TURKEY

This note aims to provide a brief overall view on the latest official measures taken in Turkey due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please note that the information herein is not exhaustive. There are other regulations addressing specific needs published by governmental authorities. Therefore, we advise that, before taking any action based on the Covid-19 measures that have been implemented so far in Turkey, specific legal advice should be sought.

The President of the Turkish Republic, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, during his address to the nation on March 27, 2020 announced the following measures against the Covid-19 pandemic:

1. Intercity travels will be subject to the permission of the governors’.
2. Flexible working system with minimum personnel will be implemented in the private sector as it has been implemented in the public sector.
3. Rare seating arrangements will be applied in public transportation vehicles.
4. Areas such as picnic areas, forests, and archaeological sites will be closed on weekends, and no gatherings will take place on weekdays in any way.
5. Soldiers will be summoned and demobilized in a controlled manner in accordance with the 14 day quarantine rule.
6. International flights are completely terminated.
7. In all of the provinces, a pandemic board will be established under the chairmanship of the governors, and the measures taken will be followed, and additional measures for a specific city will be decided by the relevant pandemic board if necessary.

The President declared that the above mentioned measures have started to be implemented by 30 provinces on March 27, 2020 and the relevant governors shall implement the measures through the relevant pandemic boards. We will follow the decisions of the relevant pandemic boards closely for any new measures.

Before the announcement of the above measures on March 27, 2020, various government offices and the Turkish Parliament have also taken necessary actions against the Covid-19 pandemic including but not limited to the following:

1. The Ministry of Interior published a circular on 23.03.2020 introducing a curfew for the residents who are older than 65 years and who have chronic diseases.
2. The resolution of the T.R. Presidency regarding the “Decision on Stopping Execution and Bankruptcy Proceedings” was published in the Official Gazette dated 22.03.2020 and numbered 31076 (1st Duplicate).

Accordingly;

“Within the scope of measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 epidemic disease in our country, until 30/04/2020, except for execution proceedings related to child support receivables, all execution and bankruptcy proceedings carried out in the country have been stopped and within this scope no party or follow up transactions are to be made and no new execution and bankruptcy procedures are to be accepted and no provisional attachment decisions are to be implemented and enforced.”

3. Law on Amendment of Certain Laws, Numbered 7226 (“Law No. 7226”) was published in the Official Gazette dated 26.03.2020 and numbered 31080 (1st Duplicate).

According to the Provisional Article 1/1 of the Law No. 7226:

“Since Covid-19 epidemic disease has been seen in our country, in order to prevent loss of rights in the judiciary;

- a. *All periods regarding the origination, execution or termination of a right, including filing a lawsuit, initiating enforcement proceedings, application, complaint, appeal, notice, notification, submission, statute of limitation period, period of prescription and mandatory administrative application periods; the periods determined for the parties and the periods determined by the judge within the scope of the Administrative Procedural Law No. 2577, the Criminal Procedural Law No. 5271, and the Civil Procedural Law No. 6100, and the periods determined in other laws which contain procedural provisions, and periods applicable in mediation and reconciliation shall, from March 13, 2020 (including this date),*
- b. *The periods specified in the Execution and Bankruptcy Law No. 2004 and the periods specified in other laws related to the execution and bankruptcy proceedings, and the periods determined by the judge or enforcement and bankruptcy offices within the scope of these laws; except for the execution proceedings related to child support receivables, all enforcement and bankruptcy proceedings, party transactions and proceedings, receiving new claims for enforcement and bankruptcy proceedings, transactions regarding the enforcement and execution of provisional attachments shall, from March 22, 2020 (including this date),*

stop until 30/4/2020 (including this date). If the epidemic continues, the President may extend the duration of the stay for a maximum of six months or narrow its scope.”

4. The Ministry of Finance issued the Tax Circular No.518 in the Official Gazette dated March 24, 2020 and numbered 31078 (1st Duplicate) and acknowledged that certain tax

payers can benefit from force majeure provisions of the Tax Procedural Law No.213 due to Covid-19.

Sezin Dünder

Partner, Corporate Department

Cerrahoglu Law Firm