APPENDIX II
SUMMARY OF COVID-19 INITIATIVES

MEETING OUR COMMITMENTS

Accountability report of the Government of Spain

December 2020
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1. SUPPORT MEASURES FOR HEALTHCARE RESPONSE

GENERAL MEASURES

- Declaration of a state of emergency and approval of its extensions.
- Approval of the Transition Plan towards the New Normal.
- Regulation of the co-governance process, bolstered by the Interterritorial Council of Spain’s National Health System.
- Approval, together with the Autonomous Communities, of the Early Response Plan in a Covid-19 pandemic control scenario.
- Development of the National Second-Wave Strategy.
- ENECovid19 seroprevalence study, conducted by the Ministry of Health and the Carlos III Health Institute, together with the Autonomous Communities, to estimate the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 infection among the Spanish population.

RESOURCES

- Distribution of medical supplies and devices to support the Autonomous Communities' purchases. Since 10 March, more than 220 million units of medical supplies have been distributed.
- Strengthening of the National Health System, making more than 81,000 healthcare professionals available to the Autonomous Communities.
- Creation of a strategic reserve and allocation of the Framework Agreement on supply of materials (e.g., facemasks, tests, goggles, gloves, gowns, coveralls, shoe covers, hydroalcoholic solutions, ventilators).
- Strengthening of the National Health System with privately owned centres and resources, as well as industrial accident mutual insurance societies.
- Launch of Operation BALMIS and Operation BALUARTE for cleaning, disinfecting, and ensuring the safety of streets, nursing homes, and health centres, and making members of the Armed Forces available to the Autonomous Communities for duties involving tracking.
- Promotion of the incorporation of healthcare professionals, streamlining the recognition of university degrees and renewing the contracts of medical residents in their last year of residency.
- Creation of a psychological assistance hotline to support people with difficulties deriving from Covid-19.
• Extraordinary acquisition of nearly 5 million flu vaccines, distributed among the Autonomous Communities to supplement their own purchases.

• Establishment of special measures for the use of bioethanol in the manufacturing of hydroalcoholic solutions and gels for hand disinfection.

• Establishment of special measures to award operating licences for installations, and for the launch of certain medical devices, without CE marking.

MOBILITY

• Temporary closing of borders and intensification of internal and sea border controls.

• Regulation of the authorization of a pilot programme to open safe tourism corridors.

• Establishment of quarantine conditions for people coming from other countries upon arriving in Spain.

PROTECTION AND INFORMATION

• Establishment of a ceiling on the price of masks, and gels and hydroalcoholic solutions.

• Reduction of VAT on facemasks to 4%.

• Design and publication of three UNE standards to facilitate the manufacturing of medical facemasks.

• Regulation of the conditions for the mandatory use of facemasks.

• Production of public information materials and technical documents for professionals. Moreover, many information and awareness-raising campaigns have been carried out.

OTHER HEALTHCARE NEEDS

• Establishment of measures to ensure access to pharmaceutical benefits in the National Health System for people under the Social Security’s Special Schemes.

HEALTH SUPPLIES

• Establishment of obligations regarding information, supply, manufacture, and delivery of essential Covid-19 medicines.

• Issuance of instructions regarding waste management.

• Establishment of a 0% VAT rate on intra-EU deliveries, imports, and acquisitions of essential medical supplies to combat Covid-19.
SUPPLY DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY

- Adoption of measures related to water supply for human consumption and to wastewater treatment, as well as other essential goods and services.
- Establishment of the necessary measures to ensure the provision of essential services.

RESEARCH

- Validation of PCR kits made by four Spanish companies, to increase Spain’s diagnostic capacity. Approval of the Urgent Plan for science and innovation.
- Financing of numerous R&D&i projects through the Covid-19 Fund, modification of the Cervera Programme Fund aimed at R&D&i projects, and inclusion of the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI) among the bodies that can streamline assistance to the business sector.
- Participation of Spain in the research projects of the US pharmaceutical company Moderna and of the University of Oxford’s Jenner Institute.
- Monitoring of Covid-19 projects, including the Carlos III Health Institute’s scientific projects and CDTI innovation projects.
- Extension of the temporary contracts of research staff during the state of emergency.

2. ECONOMIC IMPACT REDUCTION

- Approval of a line of ICO (Official Credit Institute) guarantees for financing granted to companies and the self-employed.
- Approval of a line of financing to assist companies and the self-employed in the tourism sector and related activities affected by Covid-19 (e.g. expansion of the Thomas Cook line).
- Launch of an extraordinary line of insurance coverage for export companies through the Spanish Export Credit Agency (ECA).
- Launch of a Covid-19 line of guarantees by the Spanish reinsurace company CERSA.
- Approval of financial measures for agricultural holdings.
- Deferral of the repayment of loans, and flexibilization of assistance by the Secretariat-General for Industry and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.
- Flexibilization of payments of loan programmes of the General State Administration, the Autonomous Communities, and local entities.
• Reimbursement of assistance for cancellation of activities to promote international trade and other international events.

• Approval of measures to make payment flexible and provide exemptions, reductions, and rebates with regard to taxes and Social Security contributions, to prevent liquidity problems.

• Reduction in contributions for certain agricultural workers during periods of inactivity in 2020.

• Reorientation of Spain’s industry towards manufacturing medical devices and establishment of a 0% VAT rate for national manufacturers of medical supplies aimed at public entities, non-profit-making entities, and hospitals.

• Authorization to defer rent payment on commercial premises for the self-employed and SMEs.

• Flexibilization of electricity and natural gas supply contracts for the self-employed and for companies.

• Recognition of self-employed persons’ entitlement to a discount rate [known as the bono social].

• Launch of the Plan to Promote the Tourism Industry.

• Approval of a plan to promote the automotive industry value chain.

• Approval of measures to promote the digitalization of SMEs.

• Streamlining of customs formalities.

• Extension and suspension of tax-related, administrative and procedural deadlines.

• Regulation of the suspension of public contracts for services and supplies whose execution has been affected by Covid-19.

• Approval of specific measures for the cultural sector, the financial sector, and the energy sector.

• Approval of assistance for the mandatory coverage of nationwide digital terrestrial television services.

• Flexibilization of use of the fund for promoting and training cooperatives.

• Suspension of the liberalization scheme for foreign direct investments made in certain strategic sectors in Spain.

• Authorization granted to the Insurance Compensation Consortium to act as a reinsurer of credit insurance risks.
• Approval of measures in the realm of bankruptcy and corporate law.

• Approval of the Covid-19 De-escalation Plan for the Justice Administration.

• Adoption of organizational and procedural measures to enable the reactivation of the justice system after the lifting of the suspension of procedural deadlines set forth in additional provision two of Royal Decree 463/2020 of 14 March.

• Regulation of a new special abbreviated procedure to resolve family law cases deriving directly from the health crisis.

• Provision that persons participating in judicial proceedings must preferably do so online, and access by the public to all hearings has been limited. Provision of a hotline and an email address for service to the public, thus limiting in-person service.

• Provision that those procedural periods suspended due to the declaration of the state of emergency restart from zero. Extension of periods for filing appeals, by a period equal to that stipulated by law, and abolishing of the suspension of procedural periods on 4 June 2020, lifting the suspension on that date.

• Creation of 33 new judicial units to streamline and reactivate the ordinary judicial activity which was disrupted by the pandemic.

• Approval of an Urgent Plan to address post-Covid-19 litigation.

3. THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET, MEASURES TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND, AND CITIZEN SUPPORT MEASURES

• Approval of the Minimum Income Scheme.

• Adoption of measures to foster the use of short-time work schemes (ERTEs) instead of other external flexibilization measures and to increase the protection of those affected. Moreover, dismissals for reasons relating to Covid-19 are not justified.

• Implementation of recoverable paid leave from 30 March to 9 April for workers in non-essential sectors.

• Launch of the Mecuida Plan to facilitate work-life balance.

• Approval of a special unemployment allowance for individuals whose entitlement to a benefit expired between 14 March and 30 June 2020, and who do not have access to other assistance or possibilities of entering the job market.
• Approval of measures to extend the coverage of benefits for cessation of activity to the self-employed.

• Recognition of periods of confinement or infection resulting from Covid-19 as situations assimilated to that of an industrial accident for the purposes of the Social Security system’s financial benefits for temporary incapacity.

• Definition of situations that justify absence from work, establishing alternative entitlements such as adapted working hours, leading to fewer adverse effects for workers and companies than absence from work for a whole day.

• Regulation and encouragement of telework, both in the General State Administration and in the private sector.

• Flexibilization of processes to extend entitlement to unemployment allowances in cases of six-month extensions, and to file tax returns for those receiving the allowance for persons over 52.

• Establishment of unemployment benefits for people working under part-time contracts and permanent seasonal contracts, recovering benefits received during the period of inactivity resulting from Covid-19.

• Automatic extension of unemployment benefits and allowances, without the need to go to a public office in person.

• Creation of an extraordinary temporary allowance for domestic workers and an allowance for exceptional circumstances applicable to temporary workers.

• Production of information materials about best practices and occupational health and safety, as well as about legislation approved.

• Provision of the possibility to draw from pension plans in the event of unemployment or cessation of activity resulting from Covid-19.

• Adoption of specific assistance for workers in the cultural sector.

• Adoption of measures regarding agricultural employment to foster the temporary hiring of workers.

• Hiring of more than 1,500 persons in essential areas of the General State Administration, to address work overload, mainly in the areas of employment and health.

• Enabling banks to offer financing to vulnerable individuals to help them pay their rent.

• Establishment of a moratorium on the payment of mortgage fees for vulnerable individuals, and suspension of eviction procedures. In this regard, the suspension of evictions of vulnerable debtors has been extended by 4 additional years.

• Extension of the deadline for vulnerable tenants to apply for and formalize loans for rent payment as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and extension of the period for granting rent support due to vulnerability caused by Covid-19.
- Extended coverage for vulnerable groups as regards the supply of essential public services—in particular, water, natural gas, and electricity—and a freeze on the price of liquefied petroleum gas.

- **Ban**, during the state of emergency, on cutting off domestic consumers’ supply in their habitual residence for reasons other than the safety of the supply, of persons, or of installations.

- Approval of the **Early Response Plan**, in a scenario of Covid-19 pandemic control, for non-residential social services and residential social centres.

- Declaration as essential services of assistance and comprehensive protection for victims of gender violence.

- Establishment of measures to guarantee the proper functioning of protection services for victims of gender violence: round-the-clock legal advisory services, shelter services for victims of gender violence, monitoring systems for precautionary measures and sentences.

- Extension of the **Contingency Plan against gender violence** given the Covid-19 crisis, with additional measures for victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, and women in situations of prostitution.

- Guaranteed continuous implementation and provision of assistance and protection services for victims of gender violence during the 5-year period of the State Pact.

- **Ban**, during the state of emergency, on increasing prices for services, and approval of the interruption of periods for returning products.

- Extension of consumers’ and users’ right to terminate certain sales contracts or service contracts without penalties, extending it to contracts that may be impossible to perform after the state of emergency is over.

- Establishment of voluntary acceptance of vouchers by travellers, as an alternative to reimbursement for cancelled package holidays and transport services (e.g. honeymoons), and an automatic 14-day period for reimbursement of the value of vouchers at the end of their validity, if they were not redeemed.

- Suspension of telephone and internet portability, fostering a procedure for operators to collect defaults.

- Approval of measures to restrict the advertising and promoting of online gambling.

- Suspension of limitation and prescription periods for actions and rights during the state of emergency.

- Procurement of air transport services for the repatriation of Spaniards, and implementation of a non-profit peer-to-peer accommodation system for Spaniards abroad (ALOJA).
• Drafting of a **Spanish Cooperation Joint Response Strategy** for Covid-19.
• Continuous provision of consular assistance for Covid-19, implementing consular support measures.

4. **MEASURES TO RESTORE ACADEMIC ACTIVITY**

• **Modification of the school calendar** to achieve a flexible organization of the academic year.
• Drafting, in agreement with the Autonomous Communities, of a **Declaration on coordinated public health actions** for schools as regards Covid-19.
• Significant **investment in digitalization** and in **restoring and strengthening the functioning of schools**.
• Drafting of **Guidelines for cases of Covid-19 in schools**.
• Approval of Covid-19-related **prevention, hygiene, and health promotion measures** for schools in the 2020-2021 academic year.
• Approval of **recommendations by the Ministry of Universities** for the university community, to adapt universities’ 2020-2021 academic year to adapted face-to-face teaching, and guidelines for universities in the event of suspected or positive cases of Covid-19.
• Approval of a **Modernization Plan for Vocational Training**.
• Establishment of the **extension of contracts for teaching assistants, assistant professors with PhDs, associate professors, and visiting professors** formalized pursuant to the Organic Law on Universities, for a length of time equivalent to the duration of the state of alarm and, as the case may be, its extensions.
• Provision of facilities for students’ payment of **University Income Loans** (*Préstamos Renta-Universidad*).

5. **FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES**

• Creation and distribution of a 16-billion-euro **Covid Fund** for the Autonomous Communities.
• Enlargement of the **Contingency Fund** to meet expenses incurred due to healthcare needs.
• Provision of the possibility for Autonomous Communities to allocate **ERDF 2014-2020** funds to health expenditure.
• Creation of the **Social Reconstruction Fund**.
• Provision of assistance to guarantee the basic right to food for vulnerable children affected by the closure of schools, through Spain’s Children’s Food Fund.

• Suspension of fiscal rules in 2020 and 2021.
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