



/ Regional Updates: Selected Corporate Matters

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Governments across CEE have introduced or are discussing various measures to mitigate potential adverse consequences of the corona virus situation. This short overview summarises measures taken in the region with respect to corporate housekeeping matters. Due to the dynamic developments, we will update this overview regularly and as required.

Czech Republic

Tax Returns and Payments: most important measures announced on 23 March and expected to be implemented in April include: (i) corporate income tax: fines for late tax filing and late tax payments will not be imposed if payment is received by 1 July 2020, (ii) remission of the June tax advance on personal and corporate income tax: the June tax advance (i.e. the second advance for quarterly payers and the first advance for half-yearly payers) doesn't have to be paid, (iii) VAT: the Ministry of Finance will waive fines for failure to submit VAT control reports if the obligation to pay VAT arose in the period from 1 March 2020 to 31 July 2020, (iv) Tax loss carryback: tax refunds for the years 2018 and 2019 can be applied for by retroactively applying tax losses from previous years that had been carried forward based on the recently approved so called loss carryback.

Shareholder meetings: under Czech law, voting at shareholder/general meetings can be held *per rollam* unless explicitly excluded in the articles of association; however, the use of electronic means is only possible if expressly admitted by the articles of association. In order to meet the deadline of 30 June 2020 for the approval of the 2019 financial statement (so far this deadline remains unchanged), most companies will be able to hold their shareholder meeting *per rollam* which however requires the exchange of hardcopies. Companies with articles of association that do not provide for the possibility to use electronic means should consider to amend their articles to ensure their ability to act in case the functioning of postal services, notaries and other logistics will further deteriorate. Such amendment of the articles of association requires a Czech notarial deed but can be implemented based on a power of attorney.

UBO registration: No changes introduced or discussed so far (i.e. deadline for existing corporations elapsed on 1 January 2019 and deadline for trusts remains 1 January 2021).

Hungary

Tax Returns and Payments: No extensions introduced or discussed so far. Nevertheless, the Hungarian Government already announced a set of measures to alleviate the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic and in this context suspended the enforcement of tax-related debts with immediate effect. In addition, employers operating in the tourism, catering, entertainment, gaming, film, performing arts, events and sports services sectors will be exempt from the payment of contributions on wages for the months of March, April, May and June 2020.

Shareholder meetings: If the shareholders' meeting cannot be held compliant to the stay-at-home order, the shareholders' meeting may not be held, even if the meeting has already been convened. The resolutions of the shareholders shall be made with the participation of the shareholders by electronic means (e.g. Skype, Zoom, Webex etc.) or via written consent procedure. Please see our newsletter regarding this matter [here](#). There is no extension of the deadline of 31 May for approving the annual financial statements.

UBO registration: Not applicable as despite the implementation of the respective EU Directive, no decision has been made on the launch of the UBO registry yet, i.e. no deadline for registration applies.

Poland

Financial Statements: No changes introduced so far. However the Polish Financial Supervision Authority and the government are considering implementing an extension (by means of ordinance of the Minister of Finance) of the period for holding ordinary shareholders' meeting approving annual financial statements.

Public procurement: Polish government is considering implementing: (i) changes of deadlines of manner of the contract's performance if such modification will not increase the price of the service or delivery by more than 50% compared to the initial value and (ii) exemptions from contractual penalties under contracts regarding public procurement projects.

Transportation: Polish government is considering financing or partial financing of leasing agreements concluded by companies active in transportation.

Tax Returns and Payments: Polish government is considering postponement of: (i) deadlines for payment of monthly personal income tax advanced payments for March and April until 1 June 2020, (ii) deferred payment of social security contributions, payment of the latter without interests and possibility of payment of the contributions in instalments; (iii) exemption from tax on civil transactions (stamp duty) due on loan agreement concluded until 31 August 2020 where to loan is disbursed to an entrepreneur with liquidity problems due to COVID-19.

Corporate meetings: Polish government is considering allowing management boards', shareholders' and supervisory boards' meetings with the use of means of distance communication. No additional regulations in the company's articles of association shall be required in this respect.

UBO registration: Polish government is considering the postponement of the original deadline (13 April 2020) for UBO registration until 13 July 2020.

Romania

Tax Returns and Payments: No significant changes approved by the government. The only extension introduced regards the annual local taxes (i.e. for land, building, cars), for which the payment deadline was postponed from 31 March to 30 June 2020. Moreover, penalties for delay shall not apply in case of any fiscal obligations which become due starting with the beginning of the state of emergency and not paid until end of such period.

UBO registration: Original deadline (i.e. within 15 days from the approval of the annual accounts, but no later than 21.07.2020) was prolonged by 3 months after the end of the state of emergency, whereas during this period the submission of such affidavit is suspended.

Slovakia

Postponement of legal deadlines: Slovak government is considering the extension of deadlines for duties connected with the filing of corporate documents with the commercial register and duties conditional upon the general meeting of joint stock company (in Slovak: *akciová spoločnosť*), both by 90 days.

Financial Statements: Financial statements have to be filed together with the annual income tax return; therefore the considered extension described under Tax Returns and Payments would also apply to financial statements.

Tax Returns and Payments: Slovak government is considering the extension of the original filing deadline for annual income tax returns from of 31 March 2020 until 30 June 2020 and the extension of the original deadline, 31 March 2020, for payment of the balance of tax due until 30 September 2020.

UBO registration: No specific deadline change for UBO registration with the commercial register. Original deadline for UBO verification with the specialized register already lapsed as of 28 February 2020. Notification within 60 days from change of the registered data applies unchanged.

We hope you find this helpful and feel free to contact any of our advisors listed below.

/ Your Contact Partners



Barbara Kusak
Partner/Head of CEE M&A
Prague
+42 02 33112111
barbara.kusak@noerr.com



Rusandra Sandu
Partner
Bucharest
+40 21 3125888
rusandra.sandu@noerr.com



Ludomir Biedecki
Associated Partner
Warsaw
+48 22 3957664
ludomir.biedecki@noerr.com



Ákos Mátés-Lányi
Counsel
Budapest
+36 12 240900
akos.mates-lanyi@noerr.com



Martin Ťupek
Senior Associate
Bratislava
+42 12 59101010
martin.tupek@noerr.com



Dr. Ákos Bajorfi, LL.M. corp. restruc.
Counsel
Budapest
+36 1 2240900
akos.bajorfi@noerr.com