



O G B L news



COVID-19: The OGBL requests a national Tripartite and additional crisis measures

Faced with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 epidemic, the OGBL, as the country's largest union, has called for a meeting of the tripartite coordinating committee. So that employee representatives, employers' representatives and government representatives can take the most appropriate decisions in order to support this crisis and avoid job losses. The unprecedented situation requires immediate action by all the major players in the country.

In the immediate term, the OGBL demands the continuation of the extraordinary leave for family reasons until the end of the emergency measures. The OGBL welcomes the fact that child-care structures for the children of health professionals are set up, but calls to extend this measure to the children of employees of essential public services and of employees working in primary necessity services (food trade, pharmacies, deliverers, etc.).

The OGBL demands a ban on companies benefiting now or in future from special measures linked to the epidemic to dismiss employees, at least for the duration of the crisis. As a reminder, companies using short-time working are not allowed to dismiss.

In order to help companies facing cash flow difficulties, the OGBL approves the temporary suspension of tax payments, as well as social security contributions. At the same time, the reimbursement deadlines for short-time unemployment benefits and salary continuation in the event of illness must be accelerated.

Financial aid must be made available to companies, self-employed and liberal professions in order to guarantee their survival. Exceptional measures must be devised for employees in precarious situations such as temporary workers or employees who do not meet the conditions for granting unemployment benefits and social protection by eliminating the minimum period for affiliation.

The OGBL supports the Luxembourg government in its efforts to suspend the limits on the fiscal and the social security level with neighboring countries, which would have a negative impact on people and companies using telework.

The OGBL demands the suspension of all administrative deadlines provided for by the Labor and the Social Security Code, especially those that may have negative effects on everyone's situation. This includes the deadlines for submitting sickness

certificates, the 78-week limit which marks the end of the employment contract or any other period linked to dismissals.

With regard to short-time working, the OGBL requests that the reimbursement of wages normally received by employees be for now increased from 80% to 100% in order to avoid loss of wages and their negative effects on the daily life of everyone.

The suspension of obligations related to certain administrative procedures, such as the delivery of tax declarations, must also be put in place. Immediate suspension of payment of tax advances is necessary. The OGBL also requests the possibility of freezing repayments of bank loans, especially for people deprived of income during this crisis.

For the support of patients, the OGBL claims the establishment of teleconsultations and the possibility of extending sickness certificates by simple telephone call with a doctor to ease congestion in the emergency services. An derogation must be made regarding the 3-day period for the delivery of the sickness certificate in order to avoid unnecessary travel.

In the current climate, ongoing negotiations of collective bargaining agreements must be suspended in order to allow the social partners to focus on the crisis. The statutory deadlines provided for by the various procedures must also be suspended.

Finally, the Luxembourg government should commit on the European level to give more flexibility to the Maastricht criteria in order to have the funds necessary to deal with these crises.

In this situation, mutual assistance and the participation of everyone in the efforts deployed are absolutely necessary. The OGBL is appealing for national solidarity.