

Track Changes

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27 March 2020.

CURFEW IN HUNGARY

Developments related to COVID-19 are occurring rapidly. Wolf Theiss will continue to distribute regular Client Alerts via email and publish up-to-date analysis on our website. A list of daily updated resources can be found here:

https://www.wolftheiss.com/covid_19/

On 27 March the Hungarian Government introduced **curfew** in Hungary effective between 28 March and 11 April. Restrictions that are most relevant for businesses are as follows:

1. people are only allowed to leave their homes for work or for a selection of reasons related to essential errands (e.g., visit doctor or medical service providers, authorities, banks, cleaning or repair shops, church etc.);
2. food stores/groceries and drugstores/pharmacies are allowed to continue their operations undisrupted. However, between 09:00am and noon on any given day they can only allow persons over the age of 65 to enter. The shop owner is liable and not the individual, for adhering to these age restrictions;
3. all restaurants and bars must remain closed to public, unless they receive guests for takeaway; and
4. other commercial premises (i.e., other shops as well as warehouses, both in retail and at wholesale) cannot be open to public between 15:00 and 06:00 on any given day.

Unlike in some other EU countries, people in Hungary are not required to carry any certification or other official documentation verifying their reasons for leaving their private premises. The main aim of the curfew is to reduce person-to-person contact by dissuading people from gathering and separating the most vulnerable elderly population from younger people, all in the interest of slowing the spread of the new corona virus.

Although these measures do not directly target the operation of most businesses in Hungary (other than the few specific industries, such as hospitality, retail except for food/drugstores, and cultural and sporting venues), indirectly almost all of them are affected in some way. Therefore any issues with performing private contracts between businesses in Hungary should be investigated in the context of the general provisions and

principles of the Hungarian civil code (e.g., foreseeability of event which make performance impossible, or breach of contract being permissible due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the breaching party and lack of any reasonable cause of action to prevent or mitigate such damage).

Does your business need support in implementing a work from home policy? We are pleased to offer our online collaboration platform WT Space to support you during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

WT Space is a fully customizable, secure collaboration platform that requires no additional hardware or software. Whether you need to collaborate on documents, manage project tasks or communicate more efficiently, WT Space can help bring your team together. Please let us know if you have questions or wish to discuss pricing. space@wolftheiss.com

About WOLF THEISS

Wolf Theiss is one of the leading law firms in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe (CEE/SEE). We have built our reputation on a combination of unrivalled local knowledge and strong international capability. We opened our first office in Vienna over 60 years ago. Our team now brings together over 340 lawyers from a diverse range of backgrounds, working in offices in 13 countries throughout the CEE/SEE region.

For more information about our services, please contact:



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If you would like to know more about the topics covered in this memorandum or our services in general, please get in touch with your usual WOLF THEISS contact or with:

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