

## **The Greek measures to support Coastal Shipping**

**April 2020**

Based on the fact that **the coronavirus pandemic has also affected the Greek Coastal Shipping**, currently facing a major turnover reduction by 90% and the estimation that such reduction will continue during the summer season reaching a 50% in passengers and 40% in cargo transports, on March 26, 2020 and March 30, 2020 the Greek Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy implemented a series of temporary support measures:

- Businesses conducting maritime and coastal transports are included in the list of businesses deemed to be affected by the Covid-19 crisis. Therefore, businesses and employees of the sector can benefit from the relevant socio-economic governmental measures. For more details, please see our [COVID-19 pandemic checklist of measures currently adopted in Greece to support affected businesses](#).
- Coastal Shipping businesses, ship-owners and charterers affected by the Covid-19 crisis, who are interrupting ship routes within March and April 2020, are entitled to suspend the employment contracts of their staff that is not essential as security staff or is engaged in professional fishing ships/vessels or tourist

vessels (of up to 24m length), for a maximum period of 1 month. Pursuant to certain simple formalities, suspended employees will be granted the special state financial support introduced for Greek employees under suspension and relevant social contributions.

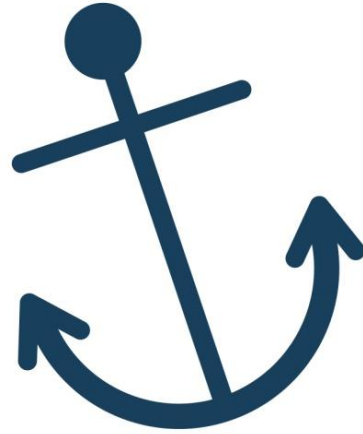
- The unemployment allowance for the unemployed is extended until May 31, 2020.
- Expiring social security insurance provided to beneficiaries by the House of the Seamen is extended until May 31, 2020.
- The validity of the ships' certificates is extended until June 30, 2020.
- In the period until April 30, 2020 (subject to extension), in order to assure a minimum transportation connection of the islands, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy is entitled to assign public service contracts for the performance of specific routes, by derogation from the existing legislation.

### **The Greek government is also working in the direction of:**

- a. an immediate reduction of port charges by 20%; and

- b. the introduction of a special scheme of financial support of the affected businesses in the sector (in compliance with art. 107 case 2b of TFEU).

***Your Legal Partners** are actively advising clients in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak. Please do not hesitate to [get in touch with us](#) if your business has been affected*



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