

Belgium: latest information received from CSC-ACV

The federal government upheld some central trade union demands:

- The allowance for the temporarily unemployed is increased from 65 to 70% of the capped gross salary. This increase applies until June 30, retroactive to February 1. This increase of 65 to 70% is now temporarily extended to the minimum wages. In other words, the daily amount minimum will be increased from 51.62 to 55.59 euros (i.e. 1,445.36 euros on a monthly basis for the full-time workers).
- In addition to the 70%, the government has decided to introduce a supplement of approximately 5.63 euros per day for workers temporarily unemployed due to force majeure as from the 13th of March. This supplement will not be paid by the employer but paid by the ONEM (The National Employment Office).
- Temporary unemployment in cases of force majeure is temporarily assimilated for annual leave, both for the holiday allowance and for the duration of the holidays. So far, this measure is only foreseen for unemployment due to lack of work (economic unemployment).
- The eligibility condition for economic unemployment, introduced on 1 October 2016, will be abolished. As a result, as in the case of force majeure, workers who do not count enough working days will also be entitled to an allowance.
- Parents who do not have the possibility to work from home and do not have a childcare solution will be entitled to temporary unemployment benefits for force majeure. This is the case, for example, if the school or daycare centre is closed due to an infection or a lack of personnel.
- Trade unions have managed to simplify the application for temporary unemployment. Members are not required to visit the trade union service centres, they can make their request via smartphone.

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