

Spain: government stops all non-essential activities¹ and bans redundancies resulting from consequences of the pandemic

On 29 March, the Spanish government adopted a decree allowing only essential activities to continue, in order to reduce the mobility of people and stop the spread of the Covid-19. Another decree, published the day before, provides that as long as the health crisis lasts, dismissals for force majeure or objective reasons of an economic, technical, organisational or production nature resulting from the impact of the coronavirus will not be justified.

The two largest Spanish trade union Confederations, CCOO and UGT, welcomed the announcement by the President of the Government that all workers in non-essential activities will have to stay at home from 30 March to 9 April on paid leave. Both organisations insisted that people working in essential activities must have all the necessary protection measures to ensure their safety and health.

Both organisations welcomed the government decision to approve paid leave for this period and reiterated that they make themselves available to negotiate the recovery of those hours, under the condition that it is essential to save jobs and save companies. They will also continue to work to resolve all doubts and conflicts that may arise in compliance with this decree.

List of essential activities maintained: the health sector, the army and other security forces, the postal service, telecommunications, the energy sector, energy-intensive sectors, banks, the production and distribution of food and basic necessities, the chemical industry, pharmaceuticals and the production of health equipment.

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¹ The list of non-essential activities is listed below