



Dear SBC colleagues,
Dear colleagues on our film & TV-series floor,

First, we hope that you and all your loved ones are in a healthy and warm habitat right now.

These are challenging times, and we need to stand together, at a safe distance, but in solidarity.

The most important thing at the moment is to stop the virus from continuing to spread at great speed.

But, film shoots have been interrupted and a lot of production has been halted, premieres are re-scheduled, cinemas are closed, festivals cancelled or postponed. The film business is one of the sectors of the society particularly affected by the Coronavirus & many film professionals don't have long-term contracts and a steady income.

As far as we can help, through [SBC](#), we made a round up regarding the situation in Belgium and hope that everyone can individually recognize his/her personal situation and put the necessary things in order. This is the current situation today and given the further developments of this crisis updates will undoubtedly follow. Any comments or complement of information are of course welcome.

Situation in Federal Belgium due to Coronavirus

The difference between economical or emergency situation:

- Economic: impossibility to maintain the normal level of amount of work and employment. But work is still possible

- Emergency: because of an external event, totally uncontrolled by employer or employee, work becomes impossible, even on part-time.

- Companies that have already applied for economical unemployment can move without notice to emergency procedure until April 3rd. It is called the Corona

Procedure. This period could be valid from 13/03 until 30/06 depending on Gov't decision.

For freelancers:

- if your revenue is going down, if you have been in contact with a person contaminated and forced to stay home, if you had to stop your activity because this activity is part of the classified categories that had to stop activity (all cultural activities, including cinema production), then you can benefit of:

- o *VAT Payments, Withholding Tax (précompte), Income Tax (companies and private) : request by an application form must be sent (one request/topic) before June 30th 2020 for deferred payment, penalties for late payment, penalties for non-payment.*

- o *deferred payment of social contribution for T1-2/20 but also for the eventual regularization of 2019.*

- o *If you had to stop activity for at least 7 consecutive days in March (also valid in April) then you are entitled to a replacement revenue of 1291,69€ if you are alone and 1614,10€ if you have charge of family. There is a simple application on line to send.*

- o *If you are facing difficulties to pay your social contribution, you are entitled to ask for a deferred payment (for T1 and T2: this deferred payment could be of one year if due to Covid 19) or even an exemption but you need to wait for the end of T2. This request should be sent before June 15th. It is the federal office of Social Contribution (INASTI- RSVZ) who will decide if your application will be accepted.*

- o *Your estimated revenue will be inferior to your normal revenue on which your social contributions are based: you are entitled to ask for lower payment, but you have to prove that this inferior revenue is due to the crisis.*

You are ill or contaminated, your health insurance fund will pay an allowance for the duration of your illness. The only condition is to be ill for a period of 8 days minimum starting with the doctor's certificate. The health insurance is not valid if you are only in quarantine and not declared ill by your doctor. If you are hospitalized (as a prevention or because you are declared ill), then you are recognized as fully unable to work and are entitled to receive the legal illness indemnities.

If you have a doctor's certificate that you are potentially contaminated and forced to stay home, then you are recognized as ill person and all rules for ill persons are valid.

For Employees and Employers:

The law considers 2 different reasons for stopping the activities: case of force majeure (emergency) or economic reasons forcing to technical unemployment

The film industry is concerned as a cultural activity forced to stop by the authorities. So temporary unemployment is applicable during this period for employees active in the film production during their part-time activity.

The company should send a request to the Employment Ministry and communicate the length of the period and explain this is the result of a loss of activity or financial difficulties.

As a temporary unemployed person you are entitled to receive immediate indemnities if the situation is declared as force majeure as per 70% of your average income (until June 30th, after 65%- with a level of income tax of 26,75%). An indemnity of 150€/month will be added as a Corona indemnity.

The government decided an immediate payment of 1450€/month for each employee concerned by the emergency situation. The employment contract must have been established before the declaration of start of the period of economic or emergency unemployment.

The difference between economical or emergency situation:

- *Economic: impossibility to maintain the normal level of amount of work and employment. But work is still possible*
- *Emergency: because of an external event, totally uncontrolled by employer or employee, work becomes impossible, even on part-time.*
- *Companies that have already applied for economical unemployment can move without notice to emergency procedure until April 3rd.*

As we are a Federal State, there are also Regional rules applicable:

<https://www.vlaio.be/nl/begeleiding-advies/moeilijkhedencoronavirus/specifieke-maatregelen-mbt-het-coronavirus/coronavirus>

<https://1819.brussels/blog/le-coronavirus-quel-impact-sur-les-entreprises-quelles-mesures-daide>

<https://www.1890.be/article/page-dinformation-generale-sur-le-coronavirus-et-les-entreprises-wallonnes>

<https://www.info-coronavirus.be/fr/faqs/>

<https://www.info-coronavirus.be/nl/>

Following link is also been added where we ask you to provide an overview of your current work situation today.

Feel free to fill them in yourself: <https://forms.gle/osKzdiMCjQKBX1sq5>

We try to collect this information before Tuesday 24/03 @ 2PM, so that it can be included by the [VAF](#) and [Screen Flanders](#) in their figures.

They will submit it to the appropriate authorities.

check also additional info at:

<https://www.cultuurloket.be/inspiratie/gevolgen-coronacrisis>

<https://app.livestorm.co/cultuurloket/coronacrisis-tijdelijke-werkloosheid>

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeuVt_yaQDtSOLy6mWcJe895bq4XsDiCEBysrQAZXluCH4e-g/viewform

https://mailchi.mp/vaf/covid-19-crisis-vlaamse-sector?fbclid=IwAR3Jd6m_1sHR9LLAnbzDV8hQzt9eQYv-e9w1Q6umiWrAEwwf9f59GKVJLhc

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe1bt9HIsHxIxnHCmcDLhhJk97oWSQPn_jtx0qx63HbEkYwJXA/viewform

Please be very welcome to share any additional information regarding this crucial topic.

To everybody : **l'union fait la force!**

Lou & Louis-Philippe



Lou Berghmans & Louis-Philippe Capelle

co-presidents of The Belgian Society of Cinematographers (SBC)

www.sbcine.be - www.facebook.com/sbcine - vimeo.com/sbcine

Ter info, onze brief is in het Engels opgesteld daar we een nationale vereniging zijn en het vertalingswerk in 3 landstalen teveel waardevolle tijd in beslag zou nemen.:)