

**Urgent summary of Royal Decree 463/2020, 14 March, declaring the state of alarm to tackle the situation of sanitary crisis caused by COVID-19 (RD 463/2020).**

- Subject-matter of RD 463/2020 is the state of alarm for fifteen natural days with effect throughout the entire territory (Parliamentary approval being required after fifteen days).
- All armed forces, including regional police forces are subject to the direct authority of the Government through the Homeland Secretary.
- *Lock-down*: freedom of circulation of persons is limited to acquisition of food and pharmaceuticals, seeking medical assistance, going to work and back home or force majeure.
- Competent authorities may requisition any goods required for the purposes of the RD 463/2020, such as security and essential services and the ordering of personal services from anyone for the same purpose. Relevant industries may be intervened if required. Measures to ensure food supply are also included such as escorting vehicles or intervening transportation centers and corridors, etc.
- Educational activities are suspended.
- Retail activities are suspended with the exception of pharmaceutical, food and akin products, gasoline and IT, amongst others (such as, interestingly, hairdressers and dry cleaners, although the latest reports are that this is going to be corrected).
- Compulsory reduction of the number of authorized passengers in public transportation.
- The deadlines in court proceedings are interrupted without prejudice of the *habeas corpus* and protection of other fundamental rights. Judges may also decide on those matters that require urgency.
- Deadlines of administrative proceedings are interrupted. This means that, in competition proceedings, for instance, the maximum duration of 18 months for antitrust proceedings is arguably interrupted.
- Time limits for statute of limitations purposes are also interrupted. This has an impact, for instance, on antitrust damages claims.