# Measures to manage the disruptions due to the COVID-19 outbreak

## Extensions or interruptions of periods

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>BULGARIA</th>
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<td>Date of information</td>
<td>24/04/20</td>
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**National procedure**

- Extensions or interruptions of periods in view of the disruptions to public life caused by the COVID-19 outbreak: yes

- Until when are the periods extended or interrupted: one month after revocation of the state of emergency

  Prescription time limits are interrupted and will be activated with revocation of the state of emergency.

**Which periods are extended:**

- Periods set by law: yes
- Periods set by the office: yes
- Periods for payments of fees, in particular renewal fees: yes

**Validation of European Patents**

- Periods covered by the extension/interruption of periods:
  - Period for the filing of translations after grant pursuant to Article 65 EPC (if required): yes
  - Period for the payment of the validation/publication fee (if applicable): yes
  - Period for the payment of national renewal fees for European patents: yes

**Legal basis and publications:**

The legal basis for the extension/interruptions of periods in proceedings before the Patent Office of Republic of Bulgaria is the following:

The Act on Measures and Actions during a State of Emergency (“the Act”) (promulgated SG 28 of 24/03/20, effective 13/03/20)

On 09/04/20, amendments in the Act were published in an extra edition of State Gazette.

*Information transmitted under the responsibility of the relevant National Office*
Initially, the Act was adopted in order to introduce emergency measures to mitigate the negative consequences for citizens and legal entities to which the COVID-19 crisis has led. The amendments of the Act are aimed not only at additional measures in this regards, but also a change in certain provisions.

Information for users concerning the extension/interruption of time limits in proceedings before the Patent Office of Republic of Bulgaria can be found under the following link:

http://www.bpo.bg/ - text under Chapter Important English version, in accordance with the initially adopted Act

http://www.bpo.bg/index.php?lang=bg – according to the amendments, only in Bulgarian language.