



Strike and dismissal suspended

The renewal of the state of emergency has led to new measures in the labor field, in particular relating to the right of workers to strike and the reinforcement of control over the legality of dismissals.

On April 2nd, the declaration of a state of emergency was renewed by [Decree of the President of the Republic, no. 17-A/2020, of April 2](#) (Portuguese only).

With regard to employees' rights, the law establishes the **suspension of the exercise of the right to strike** to the extent that it may compromise the functioning of critical infrastructure, health care units and essential public services, as well as in economic sectors vital to the production, supply and distribution of goods and services essential to the population.

This measure was already provided for in the previous decree of the President of the Republic that declared a state of emergency, now extending the suspension to essential public services.

The same decree also defines the suspension of the right of trade union associations to participate in the drafting of labor legislation to the extent that the exercise of such right may represent a delay in the entry into force of urgent legislative measures for the purposes foreseen in the decree.

Following the continuity of the state of emergency, the Government approved a set of additional provisions in order to reduce the possibility of contamination and propagation of illness, through [Decree no. 2-B/2020 of 2 April](#) (Portuguese only).

In addition, other employment actions were taken, namely the reinforcement of the competencies of the Authority for Working Conditions (ACT), through the requisition of inspectors.

The ACT inspectors will now have the **power to suspend any dismissal** when they see evidence of illegality, without the need for recourse to the courts.

With this measure, the Government intends to prevent Employers, during the current state of emergency, from making abusive dismissals.

The suspension of the right to strike and the possibility for the ACT to preventively suspend dismissals should disappear after the end of the state of emergency.

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