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COVID-19 Emergency ALERT ASSARMATORI Nos. 83, 84, 85, 86, 87

April 15th 2020



Executive Summary

Alert No. 83: Extension of the certificates of competence by the Italian Ministry of the Environment.

In view of the continuing epidemiological emergency situation from COVID-19, the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea ("Ministry of the Environment"), by means of a special Circular dated 6th April 2020 Prot. No. 24573 ([attached](#)), extended the validity of certificates for three months, without the need to visit on board, certificates which expire after 15th April 2020 (and in any case until further notice by the Ministry) in relation to MARPOL certifications issued in application of Annexes I, II, IV and VI, Ballast Water Management and Antifouling system.

Alert No. 84: Liquidity Decree, 200 Billion euros available for export and internationalization.

The so-called, "[Liquidity Law Decree](#)" published in the Official Gazette on 8th April 2020 (see also our previous [Alert No. 79](#) dated 04.10.2020 on this matter) aims to immediately implement appropriate measures to adequately support access to credit by all companies. These resources, among others, are to serve to keep companies afloat, protect Italian exports and promote investments.

There will be a total of EUR 400 Billion made available through the system of guarantees provided by the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Central Guarantee Fund and SACE warranty, with EUR 200 Billion focused on internationalization.

In particular, the intervention developed provides for a co-insurance system under which 90% of the commitments arising from SACE's insurance business are assumed by the State and the remaining 10% by SACE.

Finally, the Commission recommends that personal protective equipment should be made available and used in line with existing recommendations and that seafarers should have access to appropriate medical assistance when needed.

Alert No. 85: The European Union makes available EUR 500 Billion to boost the economy with ESM, EIB and SURE.

In relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Eurogroup has laid the foundations for the establishment of a new fund that will provide funding to boost the economy through the EU budget 2021-27. The fund will contain an aid package worth around EUR 500 billion, which will be based on three pillars: the ESM for States, the EIB for businesses, and the SURE for workers.

In detail, the use of the ESM will be voluntary and upon explicit request. Each State will be provided with a credit line of up to 2% of the value of its Gross Domestic Product ("GDP") at the end of 2019 to be used to finance direct and indirect healthcare and the costs of treatment and prevention due to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 epidemiological emergency.

The creation within the European Investment Bank (EIB) of a EUR 25 billion pan-European guarantee fund will be capable of supporting EUR 200 Billion of funding for enterprises throughout the Union, with a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises ("SMEs"), has also been confirmed¹. This support, in addition to what has already been indicated in our [Alert No. 72](#) dated 04.08.2020, can also be provided through national promotional banks. For further information, please refer to the [EIB's institutional website](#).

The last piece concerns the use of [SURE](#) (as already mentioned in our [Alert No. 58](#) dated 04.04.2020), a European solidarity instrument of EUR 100 Billion in the form of loans to States, to support workers' income and help businesses. SURE will support working time reduction schemes and similar measures to help states protect employment, employees and the self-employed from the risk of redundancy and loss of income.

[Alert No. 86: #EUnitedvsVirus, a hackathon to deal with the COVID-19 crisis.](#)

Registration is now open for [#EUnitedvsVirus](#), the first pan-European hackathon to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. The event will consist of a competition among civil society, innovators, partners and purchasers to develop innovative solutions in response to the epidemiological emergency caused by the coronavirus (such as, but not limited to, those related to the rapid production of equipment, the enhancement of production capacity, the transfer of knowledge and solutions from one country to another), to be rapidly developed and distributed throughout the EU internal market.

The invitation to participate is open to innovators in all sectors. Access to the [#EUnitedvsVirus](#) will be available as:

- **problem solvers:** participants, individuals or groups, whether they are developers, designers, creatives with experience in various fields including healthcare, sociology and education;
- **mentor and/or "ninja":** experts in areas such as digitization, healthcare and education who can support teams with their skills; ninjas are also sought, who are involved in the organization and coordination of teams during the hackathon;
- **partner:** third parties who intend to support the challenge, such as companies, public and private organisations, universities, SMEs, start-ups and business accelerators.

#EUnitedvsVirus is divided into a first phase (*pre-hackathon*) in which all teams that meet the call requirements can participate. **The deadline for submitting applications is 19th April 2020.**

During this preliminary phase, **from 20th to 23rd April**, the final teams that will participate in the competition will be formed.

¹ See the SMEs' definition as contained in the Recommendation of 6th May 2003 of the European Commission, available at the following link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32003H0361&from=IT>

In the second phase (**hackathon**), from **24th to 26th April**, participants will try to give concrete answers to the fight against coronavirus, which have a significant social and economic impact.

Finally, the third phase (**post-hackathon**) will see the closure of the event, on **April 27th**, and the **final ceremony** on **May 1st** during which the winners will be nominated.

The European Commission, in close cooperation with all EU Member States and countries involved in the European Horizon 2020 programme, will follow up the best projects from the #EUvsVirus *hackathon* through the new **European Innovation Council ("EIC") COVID-19 platform**.

Alert No. 87: Appointment of the implementing entity for emergency activities related to the assistance and health surveillance of migrants rescued at sea.

By Decree of the Head of the Italian Civil Protection Department No. 1287 of 12th April 2020, the appointment of the **implementing subject** for emergency activities related to the assistance and health surveillance of migrants rescued at sea was determined.

This implementing entity will provide housing assistance and health surveillance of persons rescued at sea and those who arrived on the national territory independently and **for which it is not possible to indicate the "Place of Safety"** pursuant to the interministerial decree of last 7th April 2020.

In respect to such individuals, **the implementing party may use ships to carry out the period of health surveillance** identified through special structures of the Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport ("MIT"), also providing for the possibility of using *in-house* MIT's companies.

With regard to migrants who arrive on the national territory autonomously, the implementing entity identifies, after consulting the competent Regions and local health authorities, through the competent prefectures, other areas or structures to be used as accommodation for the period of health surveillance provided for by the provisions in force. **If it is not possible to identify the aforesaid structures in the territory, the implementing party shall arrange for the accommodation of the migrants for the purposes of fiduciary isolation and quarantine also on the aforesaid ships.**

In addition, in consideration of the needs for personnel, equipment and personal protective equipment, the implementing party makes use, in addition to the Italian Red Cross and its own organization, of the support, where necessary, of the Civil Protection volunteers activated by the Head of the Civil Protection Department, as well as of the **Maritime, Air and Border Health Offices**².

The complete collection of our Alert is available in the [AREA RISERVATA](#) at www.assarmatori.eu

² See for a better understanding of this issue, the institutional website of the Italian Civil Protection Department available at the following link: <http://www.protezionecivile.gov.it/amministrazione-trasparente/provvedimenti/-/content-view/view/1250434>

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