

## **Coronavirus: stay of proceedings**

<https://www.admin.ch/gov/fr/accueil/documentation/communiques.msg-id-78482.html>

From 19 March to 4 April 2020 inclusive, prosecution will be suspended throughout Switzerland. The Federal Council took this decision at its meeting on 18 March 2020. This measure is intended to ease the situation for Swiss companies.

In view of the extraordinary situation, the Federal Council has used its authority to order the suspension of proceedings. During this period, it will not be possible to notify debtors of any acts of debt enforcement.

This measure will ensure the uniform implementation of debt enforcement law. The stay of proceedings will take effect from 19 March 2020 at 7 a.m. until 4 April at midnight. The series of prosecutions, which will last until 19 April 2020, will begin immediately thereafter. During this period, debtors may not be sued.

### Corporate liquidity problems require further measures

With this decision, the Federal Council intends to address the financial difficulties caused to many companies by the extraordinary measures, in particular the closure of restaurants and shops. The suspension of proceedings will provide them with a certain respite, but is not an appropriate instrument for remedying these difficulties in the long term.

The Federal Council has therefore set a limit on the duration of the suspension of proceedings. It will soon decide what measures are to be taken to best protect the interests at stake. On 13 March 2020, the Federal Council already decided to provide up to CHF 10 billion in immediate relief from the economic difficulties and to examine further measures in favour of companies.

### Federal Council analyses the consequences of the coronavirus crisis for the justice system

The current pandemic and ordered measures have other consequences for the judiciary: court hearings must be postponed in part and it is more difficult to meet deadlines. The Federal Council is aware of the challenges and has instructed the FDJP to examine what measures could be taken. The relevant circles, including the courts, prosecutors and lawyers, will be involved in this work.