

Dear Colleagues,

First of all, we want to reassure you that all the essential measures have been put in place in Turkey to prevent, the best way possible, the mobility of people and the spread of Covid-19.

In this context, Provisional Clause 1 of the Code No. 7226 was recently adopted in order to ensure proper functioning of judicial bodies. Among others, judicial deadlines have been suspended through April 30, and this suspension was later extended until June 15.

In this framework, the deadlines for lodging individual applications to the Constitutional Court of Turkey were also suspended until that date. The Court continues to receive individual applications during this time. In particular, applications requesting interim measures are being carefully examined and concluded. Other individual applications are examined rather in slow pace. The Court has not delivered any judgement on the measures relating to the pandemic.

In the Court, members and rapporteur judges have been switched to remote/home work. The regular plenary and sections have suspended; however, online meetings have been held for plenary when necessary. As regard to personnel, a minimum number of staff (1 employee per unit) is working by rotation in each department, and others are encouraged to work remotely.

As in the rest of the world, nation-wide measures are taken in line with the rapid change of the acute condition in our country. Most critical measures are as follows:

-Primary, secondary, high schools and universities were suspended starting from 16 March 2020. In this context, as of 23 March 2020, necessary infrastructure preparations have been completed in order to continue education through internet and television channels via remote education.

-As of 17 March 2020, theater, cinema, show center, concert hall, engagement / wedding hall, restaurant / café with music, coffee shop, cafeteria, country garden, internet cafe, all kinds of game rooms, all kinds of indoor children's playgrounds (including shopping malls and restaurants), tea garden, association lounges, amusement park, swimming pool, Turkish bath, sauna, hot spring, SPA and sports centers activities were temporarily shut down.

-With the circular issued by the Ministry of Interior, it was decided that all restaurants with or without drinks and pastry shops and similar establishments shall

provide their services only in takeaway and/or carry out manner, without allowing customers to enjoy services at the facilities; it was also decided to temporarily cease the activities of barbers, hairdressers and beauty centers as of 21 March 2020.

-With the announcement made by the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure as well as in the statement made subsequently by Turkish Airlines; it was declared that all international flights except Hong Kong, Moscow, Addis Ababa, New York and Washington were to be terminated from 27 March 2020. Later on, all international and domestic commercial flights were suspended without any exception.

-Mass prayers are suspended, and gatherings at mosques are banned.

-Turkish citizens and students abroad are being brought home by the coordination of the state, and all arriving persons have been put under preventive quarantine for fourteen days.

-Citizens aged 65 and over and those with chronic illness are subject to the curfew imposed by the Circular issued by the Ministry of Interior. As of 3 April 2020, Turkey has also imposed a curfew for young people under 20 years of age,

-All individuals were ordered to wear mask in public places. The state delivered free masks to individuals between the age of 20-65.

-Intercity travels are banned for thirty-one metro cities, except transportation of food, medical and sanitary supplies.

-Partial lock downs were imposed in 31 metro cities for the weekends and for the extended periods.

-Finally, the Ministry of Interior has recently issued a circular on measures that will be taken against the Covid-19 during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. According to the circular, events as well as tents where people gather for iftar, or breaking their fast, which may attract large groups of people will not be allowed.

Hoping that the situation we are facing improves as soon as possible, please receive our sincere greetings.