

 **DOWER LINK**

Storm Kristin: Exceptional support measures

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DOWER

The Government approved a set of exceptional and temporary measures in response to the effects of Storm Kristin, which affected several municipalities across the national territory. The measures aim to protect communities, support affected families and businesses, and ensure immediate social and economic responses.

Within the range of extraordinary social support measures, the following are included, namely:

■ Support for families and citizens

Direct support for families

The granting of occasional or exceptional allowances, in cash or in kind, to families experiencing financial hardship or loss of income due to the storm.

The amount of the allowance is determined on a case-by-case basis by Social Security services, with a limit of €1,074.26 per household member, paid in up to 12 monthly instalments.

Support for primary and permanent housing

Support for the repair, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of primary and permanent housing, up to €10,000.

Temporary rehousing expenses are considered eligible when duly justified by the impossibility of using the affected home.

Additionally, IFRRU provides credit lines for costs not covered by public grants for necessary works and interventions.

Exemptions

Full or partial exemption from the payment of Social Security contributions for a period of up to 6 months – extendable for an additional equal period in the case of full exemption – or up to 1 year in the case of a partial exemption of 50% of the employer's contribution rate.

Support for social institutions

Financial support for Private Social Solidarity Institutions (IPSS) and equivalent entities that provide essential services (children, elderly people, young people, persons with disabilities, victims of violence, homeless people) in the affected areas.

■ Support for employment and economic activity

Adoption of labour and economic measures, including:

- i. A simplified Lay-off scheme (reduction or suspension of activity) for companies in a proven situation of business crisis, with exemption from the procedural obligations established by law.
- ii. IEFP support in the areas of employment and vocational training for employees and self-employed workers:
 - Extraordinary financial incentive to maintain jobs, intended to support the payment of salary obligations by employers affected by damage caused by the storm;
 - Extraordinary financial incentive for self-employed workers;
 - Priority access to active employment measures;
 - An extraordinary Qualification and Vocational Training Plan aimed at supporting workers covered by these support measures.

■ Moratoriums

Tax moratoriums

Applicable to taxpayers headquartered in the affected municipalities, as well as to Accountants headquartered in those municipalities. Extension of deadlines for fulfilling tax obligations between 28 January and 31 March. These may be fulfilled until 30 April.

Bank loan moratoriums

Applicable to bank loans related to primary and permanent housing, as well as to companies and other legal entities in areas covered by the state of calamity.

The moratoriums apply for a period of 90 days, starting on 28 January 2026.

A selective 12-month moratorium scheme will be developed in coordination with the Bank of Portugal and the Portuguese Banking Association (APB) for cases involving more severe damage.

■ Credit lines

Within the scope of the Portuguese Development Bank, the following will be established:

- i. Treasury credit line, aimed at supporting immediate liquidity and cash flow needs;
- ii. Recovery and reconstruction investment credit line, aimed at supporting reconstruction efforts resulting from damage caused by storms and climatic events.

