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Bankruptcy, Insolvency & Rehabilitation Proceedings in Romania

ILN RESTRUCTURING & INSOLVENCY GROUP



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KEY FACTS OF BANKRUPTCY, INSOLVENCY & REHABILITATION PROCEEDINGS UNDER ROMANIAN LAW

1. A brief presentation of the bankruptcy/insolvency/rehabilitation proceedings of the country and their main differences.

Romanian legislation provides two main categories of such procedures:

I. Insolvency prevention procedures

I.1. **Ad-hoc mandate**

If the debtor faces financial difficulties, it can request the court to open ad-hoc mandate procedures. The purpose of such procedures is for the debtor and its creditor(s) to reach an agreement, by reducing the debt or rescheduling due debts. Also, other measures may be decided, such as terminating certain agreements, reducing personnel, etc.

I.2. **Preventive agreement**

If the debtor faces financial difficulties, it can request the court to open preventive agreement procedures. The court appoints an administrator, who drafts the preventive agreement project, which shall include a reorganization plan for the debtor. If the creditors approve the project, the debtor's activity shall be carried on in accordance with such project, for a period of 24 months, with the possibility of extending it for another 12 months.

II. Insolvency procedure

Insolvency procedures may be requested either by the debtor or by any creditor, if debts in the amount of a minimum of

RON 40,000 (approximately EUR 8,500) are due for more than 60 days.

If the court approves the request, depending on the debtor's situation, the procedure may be started in one of the following forms:

II.1. **General procedure**

In such case, the debtor enters an observation period, in which the official receiver analyses if there are any chances for the company to be reorganized. Following this first step, the debtor may enter one of the following procedures:

- (i) Reorganization, in which the debtor's activity is reorganized in accordance with a reorganization plan, approved by the creditors. The plan may provide various measures, such as reducing the debt or rescheduling one or more due debts. The execution on the plan is limited to a period of 3 years, with the possibility of extending it by an additional year. If the plan is successful, the debtor shall be reintegrated in the commercial circuit, and all debt reductions shall remain final. If the plan fails, the debtor enters the bankruptcy procedure (presented in point (ii) below), in which case the reduction of the debts is no longer valid, the creditors being entitled to recover their entire debt.

- (ii) Bankruptcy, in which the debtor's assets are sold and all money obtained is distributed to creditors, in accordance with their priority rank, as indicated in the creditors' list (e.g., secured creditors shall recover before unsecured ones).

II.2. Simplified procedure

If the conditions are met, the court approves the request and initiates the simplified procedure, in which case the debtor enters the bankruptcy procedure directly, without going through the observation period, as presented in point II.1 above.

2. (Depending on the type of the proceedings) The protection granted to the debtor against its creditors.

i) What kind of protection is granted? (e.g., the creditors may not enforce any court decision against the debtor's assets, etc.)

Ad-hoc mandate

The law does not provide any protection for the debtor, except for the measures negotiated with the creditors and expressly provided in the agreement.

ii) What is the extent of the protection? (e.g., it includes all of the debtor's assets; is it limited to several assets for which the debtor may ask for protection? Is it at the court's discretion to include any asset? Etc.)

Preventive agreement

If the preventive agreement procedure is initiated, all the enforcement procedures against the debtor are suspended. Thus, all the enforcement procedures started before the

preventive agreement shall be suspended. However, creditors who obtain an enforceable title may start new enforcement procedures against the debtor.

Such suspension is granted *de iure* and is only mentioned in the decision. The protection is applicable from the acknowledgement of the court decision confirming the preventive agreement until the procedure is finalized. Nevertheless, the debtor may request temporary protection when filing the request for the preventive agreement procedure. If the request for temporary suspension is admitted, it shall be in effect until the court admits or rejects the main request for the preventive agreement procedure.

The suspension includes all the debtor's assets that are being enforced at the date of the preventive agreement. However, such protection is only granted to the debtor and shall not be extended to third parties, such as guarantors.

Contrary to the insolvency procedure, starting the preventive agreement procedure does not suspend the penalties, interest and other expenses related to the debt.

Also, for the entire duration of such procedure, the insolvency procedure cannot be started against the debtor.

iii) By whom it is granted? (e.g., by a court decision or by injunctions or directly by the law, etc.)

If the insolvency procedure (regardless of the form) is initiated, all the judicial and/or extrajudicial claims, as well as all enforcement procedures against the debtor are suspended. Moreover, creditors cannot start any new such claims or procedures.



Such suspension is granted *de iure* and it is not necessary to be mentioned in any court decision. The protection is applicable from the moment the insolvency procedure is started, until such procedure is finalized.

The suspension includes all the debtor's assets that are being enforced and all the judicial/extrajudicial claims filed against the debtor. However, such protection is only granted to the debtor and shall not be extended to third parties, such as guarantors.

Another protection granted to the debtor refers to the suspension of the penalties, interest and other expenses related to the debt. Thus, from the moment the insolvency procedure is started and until it is finalized, no penalties, interest or other related expenses are incurred by the debtor. Such suspension is granted *de iure* and it is not necessary to be mentioned in any court decision.