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Progress with collective bargaining in the public sector has been affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Around 2.1 million workers are covered by the agreement for Federal and Municipal government which was last negotiated in 2018 and runs until 31 August this year. The trade union ver.di convened its collective bargaining committee earlier this month where it postponed the decision to formally give notice on the end of the agreement which would start negotiations. There will be an opening discussion with the VKA employers' organisation on 16 June and the collective bargaining committee will reconvene on 18 June to consider the options. Meanwhile, in specific negotiations covering workers in social and childcare only one of three planned negotiating meetings with the VKA have taken place and further meetings not yet confirmed. Negotiations on a collective agreement on digitalisation were due to start in April but have been postponed to August.

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