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Romania's Child Protection Dept To Have Special Adoption, Post-Adoption Service

The Romanian Government approved a decision on the setting up of a special service within the country's General Department of Social Assistance and Child Protection, in a move to ease up and improve child adoption procedures.

Government spokesperson Ioana Muntean said the future service will be directly subordinated either to the general manager or the executive manager the general department. The new service will also represent the general department in court in all files targeting requests that fall under Law 273/2004 regulating the legal status of child adoptions.

Romanian Taxpayers Might Fill Out Single Tax Form For All Fiscal Dues – Draft

Romanian taxpayers will be able to pay all taxes to the state budget, except the value added tax, by filling out a single tax form, in a move meant to stimulate the payment of fiscal dues, according to a draft act drawn up by the country's tax authority ANAF.

The authority said in a press release that the measure targets to eliminate the current system based on separate tax declarations and implement a new one based on a single tax form. Taxpayers will only fill out tax form 100 "Declaration regarding fiscal dues to the state budget," which will not include the VAT.

Romanian Fuels To Contain 5% Biofuels Come Jan 1, 2011

The gasoline and diesel fuel sold in Romania will contain 5% biofuel next year, up one percentage point on the current level, in compliance with EU-state commitments.

The biofuel level boost is part of the commitments made by EU member states to reduce pollution by 2020. The goal for 2020 is to reach a level of 10% biofuels in all types of gasoline and diesel fuel used in transportation, according to the Romanian Ministry of Economy.

Thus, by January 1, 2013, gasoline and diesel fuel need to contain at least 7% biofuel. This percentage is set to grow to 9% in 2017 and 10% in 2018. Biofuels can be put on the market only if they are made from raw materials supplied from EU agricultural zones. These fuels bring a reduction of at least 35% in greenhouse gas emissions, compared to conventional fuels. Violation of these EU commitments can incur fines worth between 10,000 and 50,000 lei, according to a draft government ordinance developed by the ministry. Through the Kyoto Protocol, Romania committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, between 2008 and 2012, by 8% compared to the levels registered in 1989.

Romanian Government Tightens Conditions For Employees Who Want Medical Leave

The Romanian Government has decided to tighten conditions for employees who can request medical leave and will introduce of a verification system and a higher penalty for people demanding leave without solid ground.

Prime Minister Emil Boc called on the Health Ministry to speed up a bill regulating medical leave and introduce fines for people taking leaves without being ill. In February, Boc said that over 100 AVAS employees demanded and received a medical leave, thus trying to avoid the country's new unitary wage law which stated a cut in their wages from 17,000 lei to RON 2,500. Following the prime minister's statements, the Health Ministry put forth a bill allowing authorities to check whether employees on the medical leave are indeed ill at home or in the hospital.

Under the bill, employees taking medical leave without being ill would lose their social security benefits for the leave period and fines would double for doctors issuing groundless medical leaves.

Romanian Insurers, Brokers Must Solve Complaints In Maximum 30 Days

Romanian insurers and brokers will be forced to resolve all claims and complaints within 30 days, whether the solution is favorable or not, according to a norm passed by the insurance regulator CSA and published in the Official Journal.

The norm states that insurance companies have 30 days after the norm takes effect to draft procedures for the receipt and resolution of complaints, which they will forward to the regulator. The norm, which was published in Romania's Official Journal of April 7, sets that insurers and brokers are to create a registry that will record all notifications and complaints received. They must also create an online system for people to send notifications and claims.

The new rule states the insurance regulator may order a reanalysis of a claim if the solution proposed does not protect the interest of the insured/plaintiff. Insurers and brokers may get written warnings, fines or even have their license withdrawn for breaches of the norm. Romania's insurance market is operated by over 40 insurance companies and nearly 500 brokers.

Last year, the insurance regulator received about 6,700 complaints, of which more than half involved mandatory car insurance policies.

Romanian Lawmakers Approve Setting Up Of Constitution Revision Committee

Romanian lawmakers adopted with four abstentions the draft decision on the setting up of a common committee to revise the country's Constitution.

The future committee will have 25 members, namely, eight democrat liberals, eight social democrats, two independent lawmakers, four liberals, two members from the Hungarian minority party UDMR and a representative of national minorities.

Social democrat lawmaker Adrian Nastase said the decisions of the committee for the revision of Constitution must be made with the votes of two thirds of its members. He added the meetings of

the committee must also be attended by representatives of Romania's president, the ombudsman and the High Council of Magistrates CSM. Mircea Toader, head of the democrat liberal group in the Chamber of Deputies, said Nastase's propositions would be included in the regulation on the running of the committee for the revision of Constitution and stressed decisions in the committee would be made with the votes of two thirds of its members.

Romania To Amend Public Procurement Legislation To Speed Up Procedures, Hinder Abusive Challenges

Romania has amended its public procurement legislation banning bidders from challenging auctions until the procedure is finished and shortening settlement terms to ten days from the previous 20.

The amendments have been sent to the European Commission for information purposes and the Government will pass a decree introducing the changes in the upcoming period.

"Auction contestation procedures will be changed so that bidders do not abuse challenges and halt the public procurement process. Basically, bidders will be allowed to contest a public auction until the procedure is finished and a new auction may be held, or the contracted works may start right away," Bidders may contest public auctions within ten days from when the auction procedure is completed.

The new public procurement rules Romania is considering also shorten settlement periods to ten days instead of twenty, unless additional documents are required for the process. Currently, auction settlement may take up to thirty days, during which time public procurement procedures are suspended.

Romanian Chamber Committee Modifies Wealth Statements, Tax Section Eliminated

The Romanian Chamber of Deputies' committee for legal matters decided to modify wealth statement forms by eliminating the section regarding land and building taxes paid by public officials and raising the value of gifts that must be included in the wealth statement.

The Committee decided to eliminate from wealth statements the section referring to land and building taxes paid by public officials. Deputies in the committee for legal matters decided that gifts, scholarships, loans, guarantees, free services or subsidized services granted by individuals, organizations, companies, autonomous departments, foreign or Romanian companies or institutions, whose value exceeds EUR2,000 must be included in the wealth statement.

The draft law approved by the Government stated that gifts and services must be included in the wealth statement if their value exceeds EUR300. The Romanian Chamber of Deputies' committee for legal matters adopted with fifteen votes in favor and five abstentions a favorable report on the new law regulating the activity of the National Integrity Agency ANI.

Romania's Government Monday approved a draft law regulating the functioning of the National Integrity Agency, a EU-backed public anticorruption body, after a Constitutional Court ruling stripped it of its main attributions in screening public officials wealth and interest statements and recommending prosecution for wrongdoing.

The Court said the integrity agency's law is unconstitutional, as it breaches the right to privacy and does not apply the presumption of innocence to those investigated.

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