



ENVIRONMENT

Congo Keen on Tackling Climate Change

Honoring its international commitments, Congo took two critical steps to implement its strategic plan to combat climate change by ratifying the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the Protocol instituting the Congo Basin Climate Commission (Decrees No. 2020-26 and No. 2020-27, both of 11 February 2020). The Kigali Amendment targets the progressive reduction in the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons. For its part, the Congo Basin Climate Commission is aimed at accelerating the implementation of climate transition and economic transformation in the Congo Basin, through a sustainable development approach

Congo Cuts Carbon Emissions

Further to the approval in mid-2018 of the national strategy for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, Congo is now implementing emission reduction programs in the Sangha and Likouala Departments. Decree No. 2021-108 of 19 February 2021 approved the plan for the splitting of profits originating in this program, whereas Decree No. 2021-91 of 9 February 2021 approved

the price per ton of carbon dioxide. This program is expected to allow Congo to sell carbon credits, and thus diversify the national economy.

BUSINESS

Special Economic Zones are Even More Attractive

New statutes on the Special Economic Zones (“SEZs”) are the backdrop for the first major project within the Pointe Noire SEZ. Law No. 2-2021 of 21 January 2021 revised the legal framework on the SEZs, which may now encompass several geographical areas. This statute is supplemented by Law No. 3-2021 of 21 January 2021, which expanded the Pointe Noire SEZ to include a second area within its territorial scope. The Pointe Noire SEZ is thus better equipped to channel further investments, including those in connection with the construction of a crude oil refinery, the Establishment Agreement of which was approved by Law No. 4-2021, also of 21 January 2021.

AVIATION

The United States, Benin, Togo and Cape-Verde Fly to Congo

Laws No. 60-2020, No. 61-2020, No. 62-2020, all of 22 December 2020, and Law No. 12-2021 of 27 January 2021 authorized the ratification of the Air Transportation Agreements between Congo and Benin, Togo, Cape-Verde, and the United States of America, respectively. The purpose of these international instruments is to grant the other State rights to exploit international air transportation by the operators it appoints. The terms of appointment of said operators, the conditions for the revocation and suspension of such appointment, the rules on the carrying-out of commercial activities, as well as the special customs and tax regimes, are amongst the matters addressed in and governed by these Agreements.

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