



ECONOMY

State Funding for Cross-border Development Program

Decree No. 539/PM/MAE, dated 9 September 2024, sets out the framework for Gabon's contributions to the Tri-Border Integrated Development Program between Gabon, Cameroon, and Equatorial Guinea, including the various specific costs to be covered by the State for a 5-year period which can be renewed. This development program seeks to promote the development of a special economic zone to improve the life of the resident population, increase cross border trading, diversify the economy of the three countries, and enhance border security.

Adoption of Rules to Fight Illicit Tobacco Trade

The licensing of the importation, manufacturing, and commercialization of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and related devices, is now regulated by the recently-adopted Decree No. 0390/PR/MCPMEPMIAGR, of 16 October 2024. To combat the illicit trade of tobacco products, this Decree establishes rules on inspections and administrative and financial penalties for non-compliance. Businesses have a 6-month window to align with the new requirements.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

New Technical Controls for Hydrocarbon Activities Introduced

Decree No. 0374/PR/MPG, dated 20 September 2024, establishes comprehensive rules for the technical monitoring of petroleum and gas products, water quality, sludge, and waste oils from hydrocarbon activities. This Decree provides for mandatory inspections, sampling and laboratory tests, to ensure compliance with environmental and technical standards. Companies involved in the importation, carriage, storage or distribution of hydrocarbon products can now be subject to stricter monitoring, with penalties for non-compliance including fines, confiscations, and operational bans. The adoption of these rules aims to enhance environmental protection and ensure product quality for the domestic market.

MARITIME SECURITY

Enhanced Rules for Ships and Ports Security Announced

Decree No. O363/PR/MTMMM, of 18 September 2024, sets forth stricter security measures for ships and port facilities operating under Gabon's jurisdiction. Aligning with international rules such as the SOLAS Convention and ISPS Code, this Decree mandates comprehensive safety protocols, including security plans, regular inspections, and compliance certifications for vessels and ports. Operators face penalties for non-compliance, with a three-month window being afforded for compliance.

For further information about the content of this Legal News, please contact: gabon@mirandaalliance.com



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