



BANKING

National agency to combat money laundering instituted

Decree No. O441/PR/MEP, of 25 November 2024, instituted the National Financial Investigation Agency (NFIA) to comply with Article 65 of Regulation No. O1/CEMAC/UMAC/CM, of 11 April 2016, on the prevention and suppression of money laundering and the financing of terrorism in Central Africa, which foresees the existence of such an autonomous entity in each State member of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa. The NFIA is an administrative authority placed under the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance, but financially autonomous and with autonomous decision–making power on matters placed within the scope of its competence, which include collecting, gathering and exploiting information on the source of any money or the nature of any suspicious operations, conducting periodic studies on new money laundering or financing of terrorism methods, and developing international actions to fight them.

ENVIRONMENT

Air and maritime carriers will be subject to carbon emissions' contribution

The Parliament has passed Law No. 0054/PR/MECCHF, of 16 January 2025, which establishes a greenhouse gases control and compensation mechanism for air and maritime carriers operating in or transiting through Gabon. It mandates the

reporting of emissions to a National Carbon Registry for Maritime and Air Transportation, and introduces a Sovereign Carbon Contribution aimed at financing environmental programs. The implementation of this framework is entrusted to an autonomous body yet to be created, with the Gabonese Strategic Investment Fund assuming responsibilities until that body is created. One of its main tasks is to define how the Sovereign Carbon Contribution will be paid and set the price of the ton of carbon. The adoption of this Law aligns with Gabon's 2050 carbon neutrality goal under the Paris Agreement.

Creation of national agency for green economy development

The Gabonese Agency for Green Economy Development (GAGED) has been created by the Presidency by means of Ordinance No. 0003/PT-PR, of 22 January 2025. The GAGED is a public agency of an industrial and commercial nature placed under the responsibility of the Presidency of the Republic to promote the development of a green economy in the country. The main goals and tasks of the GAGED revolve around promoting carbon and biodiversity credits' monetization, preserving and adding value to natural assets, developing a green economy excellence hub, and seeking funding for green initiatives and projects. The agency is to operate with administrative and financial autonomy, and to be funded through revenue from environmental assets' monetization and public allocations. This ordinance reflects Gabon's ambition to strengthen its contribution to the green economy, leveraging its natural resources while ensuring their sustainable management.

AVIATION

New regulations on aircraft operators licenses and certificate

New rules on the requirements and procedures for the issuance, modification, suspension and withdrawal of air operators' licenses and certificates have been adoptedby the Government through Decree No. 00000039/MTMMM/ANAC, of 22 November 2024. The National Civil Aviation Agency remains responsible for monitoring and enforcing compliance with these regulations. The new regulations became effective at the end of 2024, but aircraft operators certified prior to the entry into force of the Decree will not need to reapply for licenses and certificates for as long as these remain valid.



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