

CORONAVIRUS



Muja Law brings you the latest issue of the *Legal Update* regarding the measures taken in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic in Albania.

Recently, in the Official Journal No.178, dated 09.10.2020, has been published the Normative Act of the Council of Ministers, No.31, dated 07.10.2020 “*On pardoning of administrative measures with punitive nature imposed during the infection caused by COVID-19 and damaged families from natural disasters*”, (hereinafter referred to as “*Normative Act*”)

Some of the most important aspects of the Normative Act are as follows:

Normative Act

Pardoning of administrative measures

The Normative Act provides that all administrative measures of a punitive nature, imposed by the relevant state authorities, for the violation of rules or bylaws issued in the framework of measures taken to prevent and combat the infection caused by COVID-19, *from 17.04.2020 until 07.10.2020, are pardoned.*

Furthermore, the Normative Act provides that all administrative measures imposed by the structures of local self-government units against families affected by natural disasters and the earthquakes of September 21st, 2019 and November 26th, 2019, for violations found during the repair/reconstruction of individual houses, are pardoned.

Return of the obligation of the administrative measure with a fine

The return of the amount of the pardoned but paid obligation, for the administrative measures with a fine, is taken from the respective item of the state budget or the budget of the institution in which the amount was collected, by order of the first authorizing officer, and transferred to the bank account of the beneficiary subject or, in its absence, this amount is sent to the state institution that has imposed the fine measure to deliver it to the beneficiary subject.

The Normative Act provides that all state institutions, which have exercised the authority to impose an administrative measure with a fine, must prepare the lists of subjects against which the administrative

measure with a fine has been imposed, including the amount, as well as the necessary data for its return within October 30, 2020.

The return of the amounts to the bank account of the beneficiary subject or the state institution that has imposed the administrative measure with the fine is to be done within 15 November 2020. The detailed manner and rules of return of the paid amounts are determined by the instruction of the Minister of Finance and Economy.



In the case of fines imposed by local self-government units, according to the above

provisions, all relevant structures must send the lists of subjects against which the administrative measure has been imposed. The detailed manner and rules for the implementation of the pardon and the return of the amounts paid, according to the provisions of this Normative Act, are determined by the municipal council.

Return of permits/licenses and blocked vehicles, in implementation of administrative measures

The Normative Act provides that all administrative measures of a punitive nature, except those provided in above, such as permits/licenses and blocked vehicles, must *be returned within 15 November 2020* to the beneficiary subject.

The heads of each of the state institutions and the local self-government units, which have imposed administrative measures according to above, are charged with issuing the relevant instructions for determining the manner of repayment of the pardoned obligation.

Entry into force

This Normative Act has entered into force immediately.



If you wish to know more on our publications, legal updates, tax updates, legal bulletins, or other articles, you may contact the following:

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Muja Law is a family-run law office where we work hard for the success of our clients and to provide excellence in legal service. Our roots go back to 2001 when our Managing Partner, Krenare Muja (Sheqeraku), opened her law practice office in Tirana, Albania. Krenare’s son Eno joined her in 2014, and the other son Adi entered the practice in 2019. What started in Tirana as a small, family-run law office has grown and flourished in the community for the last 20 years. The office consists of various respected and talented lawyers who possess outstanding educational and community service backgrounds and have a wealth of experience in representing a diverse client base in various areas of the law.

The office is full-service and advises clients on all areas of civil, commercial and administrative law. With significant industry expertise, we strive to provide our clients with practical business driven advice that is clear and straight to the point, constantly up to date, not only with the frequent legislative changes in Albania, but also the developments of international legal practice and domestic case law. The office delivers services to clients in major industries, banks and financial institutions, as well as to companies engaged in insurance, construction, energy and utilities, entertainment and media, mining, oil and gas, professional services, real estate, technology, telecommunications, tourism, transport, infrastructure and consumer goods. In our law office, we also like to help our clients with mediation services, as an alternative dispute resolution method to their problems.

While we have grown over the past 20 years and become recognized as one of Albania’s leading law offices, we are grounded in the essence of “who” we are and “where” we started. We understand the importance of family, hard-work, and dedication.

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