

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

DISCLAIMER

Please note that the translation provided below is a provisional translation only and therefore does NOT represent an official document of the Republic of North Macedonia. It confers no rights and imposes no obligations separate from those conferred or imposed by the legislation formally adopted and published in the Macedonian language. This document and the specific wording have been selected by the contractor and do not represent any opinion of the EU.

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

In accordance with article 75, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, the President of the Republic of North Macedonia and the President of the Parliament of the Republic of North Macedonia, issue the following

DECREE ON THE PROMULGATION OF THE LAW ON LOBBYING

The Law on Lobbying, adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of North Macedonia at its session held on 1 June 2021 is hereby promulgated.

No. 08-2647/1
1 June 2021
Skopje

President of the Republic
of North Macedonia,
Stevo Pendarovski, signed

President of the Parliament of the Republic of North Macedonia,
Talat Xhaferi, M.A., signed

LAW ON LOBBYING

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

- (1) This Law shall regulate the conditions for acquiring a status of lobbyist and lobby organization, the registration of the lobbyists and the lobby organizations, obligations of the lobbyists and lobby organizations and obligations of the lobbied persons and bodies, with the aim of having transparent processes of preparation, adoption and amendment of public policies or programs, laws, bylaws or other general acts.

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

- (2) This Law shall apply to lobbying at the authorities of the legislative and executive government and the authorities of the units of the local self-government.

Meaning of the terms in this Law

Article 2

- (1) The term “lobbied person” shall mean an elected or appointed person, secretary in the unit of the local self-government, general or state secretary, special advisor or cabinet officer.
- (2) The term “lobbied body” shall mean authority of the legislative or executive government or an authority of the unit of the local self-government.
- (3) The term “contact” shall mean indirect or direct communication, regardless of the location where it takes place, the manner and means of communication used.
- (4) To determine the meaning of the term “special advisor”, the provisions of the Law on Public Sector Employees shall apply.
- (5) To determine the meaning of the term “cabinet officer” the provisions of the Law on Administrative Servants shall apply.
- (6) The term “Publicly stated position or opinion” shall mean a position or opinion announced at a public gathering, public event, public session, gathering of citizens or through the media, content published on a website which is public and not restricted or publicly placed or distributed poster, leaflet or banner.
- (7) To determine the meaning of the term “conflict of interests”, the provisions of the Law on Preventing Corruption and Conflict of Interests shall apply.

Definition of lobbying

Article 3

- (1) Lobbying is an activity aimed at influencing the processes of preparation, adoption and amendment of:
- laws, bylaws or other general acts,
 - public policies i.e. programs adopted by the lobbied bodies, i.e. programs adopted by the lobbied bodies, especially when those policies or programs refer to spatial planning, development and allocation i.e. distribution of public funds.
- (2) Lobbying means contact with a lobbied person in order to specifically target the process, i.e. the content of public policies or programs, regulations and other acts referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article, and that contact is made outside the established and initiated procedure and it does not represent a publicly announced position or opinion, nor participation in a call or request by a lobbied body in the work of

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

preparing, reviewing or requesting, i.e. providing factual information or data or expert opinions on initiatives and proposed solutions for public policies, programs, laws, other regulations and general acts.

- (3) Lobbying does not represent and does not refer to:
- a. court or administrative proceedings, procedures implemented in accordance with the regulations governing public procurement and procedures where decisions are made on the rights and obligations of individuals;
 - b. communication with a citizen regarding the exercise of individual rights;
 - c. communication where its disclosure may pose a threat to the security of any person or to the security of the state;
 - d. civil initiative raised in accordance with the law;
 - e. communication with trade unions, i.e. with representatives of trade unions when they represent the interests of their members in the negotiations on employment and working conditions;
 - f. communication between officials in legislative government body, executive government body or in the unit of the local self-government body, which they conduct within the scope of their work tasks or functions;
 - g. communication between appointed members in bodies formed by the legislative government authorities, the executive government authorities or authorities of the units of the local self-government, for the purpose of reviewing, assessing and analysing public policy issues, in order to inform the authorities from which the bodies are formed;
 - h. communication with or on behalf of international organizations;
 - i. communication with or on behalf of a political party and
 - j. communication between the associations and foundations, registered in accordance with the Law on Associations and Foundations, with the representatives, i.e. bodies of the legislative government, executive government and the bodies of the unit of the local self-government.

Article 4

- (1) Lobbying can be done only by lobbyists registered according to the provisions of this Law.
- (2) As an exception to paragraph (1) of this Article, on behalf of and for the account of the lobby organization, lobbying may be performed by a legal representative, employee or authorized person of the lobby organization (hereinafter: representative of the lobby organization).
- (3) In order to lobby, the representative of the lobby organization shall be registered in the Register for lobbyists, lobby organizations and lobbying, in accordance with the provisions of this Law.
- (4) The provisions of this Law, which determine the obligations of lobbyists and lobby organizations, shall apply for determining the obligations of the representative of the lobby organization when lobbying.

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

Lobbying clients

Article 5

- (1) Lobbying client is a natural person or legal entity who hires a lobbyist or lobby organization for the purpose of lobbying on the basis of an agreement concluded in writing.
- (2) The client referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall issue a power of attorney to the lobbyist, i.e. the lobby organization, in order to represent their interests before the lobbied bodies.

II. CONDITIONS FOR ACQUIRING STATUS OF LOBBYISTS OR LOBBY ORGANIZATION

Article 6

- (1) A lobbyist can be a natural person who has capacity to contract.
- (2) Lobby organization can be a legal entity registered in the Central Register of the Republic of North Macedonia (hereinafter: The Central Register).
- (3) Foreign legal and natural persons may lobby, provided that they are registered as a lobby organization or lobbyist in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 7

- (1) Elected and appointed persons, secretaries in the local self-government units, general secretaries, state secretaries, responsible persons in a public enterprise or a public institution established by the lobbied body and responsible persons in organizations with public authorities cannot lobby during their term of office.
- (2) The persons from paragraph (1) of this Article, can lobby after the expiration of three years from the date of the termination of the term of office.
- (3) Employees and special advisors in a lobbying body cannot lobby while employed in those bodies.
- (4) The persons referred to in paragraph (3) of this Article cannot lobby before the expiration of one year from the day of termination of their employment.

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

III. REGISTERING OF LOBBYISTS, LOBBY ORGANIZATIONS AND LOBBYING

Register of lobbyists, lobby organizations and lobbying

Article 8

- (1) Lobbyists and lobby organizations are registered by registering in the Register of Lobbyists, Lobby Organizations and Lobbying (hereinafter: The Register).
- (2) The Register is managed by the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (hereinafter: State Commission).
- (3) The Register contains:
 - a. data on lobbyists and lobby organizations:
 - data collected with the application for entry in the Register (Article 9),
 - date and number of the decision for entry into the Register,
 - date and number of the decision for removal from the Register,
 - reasons for removal from the Register and data for initiated court procedure against the adopted decision and outcome of the procedure;
 - b. agreed minutes of contacts made for lobbying (Article 20);
 - c. reports on the activities of lobbyists and lobby organizations (Article 16);
 - d. adopted internal acts that regulate procedures for establishing and recording contacts in order to lobby at the lobbied bodies (Article 24).
- (4) The form and the manner of keeping the Register shall be prescribed by the State Commission.
- (5) The Register is published on the website of the State Commission, with the exception of data that are protected by law.
- (6) The data entered in the Register and the documentation attached to it shall be kept in accordance with the law within a period of ten years after the removal of the lobbyist or lobby organization from the Register.
- (7) The updating of the data in the Register and the deleting of the data from the Register, which are published on the website of the State Commission, shall be performed in accordance with Article 12 of this Law.

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

Registering in the Register

Article 9

- (1) The application for entry in the Register shall be submitted to the State Commission.
- (2) The application referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article for registration of a lobbyist shall contain:
 - name, surname and ID number of the person applying to be a lobbyist;
 - citizenship of the person applying to be a lobbyist;
 - address and residence of the person applying to be a lobbyist and e-mail address for contact;
 - areas for which the person applying to be a lobbyist would like to register as their lobbying interest;
 - a signed statement confirming the non-existence of restrictions for lobbying referred to in Article 7 of this Law.
- (3) The application referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article for a registration of a lobby organization shall contain:
 - name and company identification number of the legal entity applying for a lobby organization;
 - address of the registered office of the legal entity applying for the lobby organization and e-mail address for contact;
 - areas for which the legal entity applying for lobby organization would like to register as its lobbying interests;
 - a list with a name and a surname, personal identification numbers, addresses of residence and abode of the persons registering as representatives of the lobby organization, with attached signed statements by which the persons individually confirm non-existence of restrictions for lobbying referred to in Article 7 of this Law.
- (4) The application referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article shall be accompanied by a photocopy of the identification document of the natural person applying for lobbyist.
- (5) The application referred to in paragraph (3) of this Article shall be accompanied by a photocopy of identification documents of the persons registering as representatives of the lobby organization and proof of the registration of the legal entity from the Central Registry i.e. other competent register if a foreign person applies.
- (6) A foreign person who submits an application referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall also submit a certified translation of the attachments referred to in paragraph (4) i.e. paragraph (5) of this Article.
- (7) The form and content of the application form and the statements referred to in this Article shall be prescribed by the State Commission.

Article 10

- (1) The State Commission shall check the completeness of the received applications for entry in the Register on the basis of the data from the application and the data from the Register.

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

- (2) If the State Commission after the check referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article determines that the applicant for the entry in the Register meets the requirements referred to in Articles 6 and 7 of this Law and the applicant's right to re-entry in the Register is not suspended (Article 13 paragraphs (5) and (6) of this Law), it shall adopt a decision for registering the lobbyist, i.e. the lobby organization in the Register within 8 days of the receipt of the application.
- (3) The registration of the lobbyist, i.e. the lobby organization in the Register shall be performed on the day of the adoption of the decision referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article.

Article 11

- (1) If the State Commission determines that the application for entry in the Register does not contain all the required data and attachments in accordance with Article 9 of this Law or the list referred to in Article 9 paragraph (3) of this Law indicates a representative of the lobby organization whose right to re-entry in the Register is suspended (Article 13 paragraphs (5) and (6) of this Law), the State Commission shall notify and summon the applicant for registration in the Register, within 15 days of the day of the receipt of notification, to complete or correct the application.
- (2) If the applicant for the entry in the Register does not act in accordance with paragraph (1) of this Article, the State Commission shall adopt a decision to reject the application for entry in the Register.
- (3) The decision referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article is final.
- (4) If the State Commission determines that the applicant for registration in the Register does not meet the requirements referred to in Articles 6 and 7 of this Law or their right to register is suspended in accordance with Article 13 paragraphs (5) and (6) of this Law, it shall adopt a decision to reject the application for entry in the Register.
- (5) The applicant for the entry in the Register has the right to file a lawsuit against the decision referred to in paragraphs (2) and (4) of this Article, to the Administrative Court, within 30 days from the receipt of the decision.

Updating the Register

Article 12

- (1) Lobbyists and lobby organizations are required to report to the State Commission, within three working days, any changes in the data registered for them in the Register.
- (2) The State Commission shall act upon the report referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article by updating the data in the Register without delay, and no later than within three working days from the receipt of the report.

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

- (3) The data published for a lobbyist or lobby organization for which a decision for deregistration from the Register has been adopted in accordance with the provisions of this Law, are removed from the website of the State Commission on the day of the adoption of the decision.

Deregistration from the Register

Article 13

- (1) The State Commission shall adopt a decision for deregistering the lobbyist i.e. the lobby organization from the Register in the following cases:
- The State Commission concludes that the data and attachments from the submitted application for entry in the Register are false;
 - The State Commission determines that the lobbyist or lobby organization no longer meet the requirements for entry in the Register, in accordance with Articles 6 and 7 of this Law;
 - The State Commission determines that the lobbyist or lobby organization acted contrary to the provisions of Articles 14 and 15 of this Law;
 - the lobbyist or lobby organization does not act upon the request by the State Commission for additional information in order to check the completeness and truthfulness of the report referred to in Article 16 of this Law or otherwise obstructs the checks referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article, Article 18 or Article 22 of this Law, or
 - the lobbyist or lobby organization submit a request in writing for deregistration from the Register.
- (2) The State Commission shall determine the cases referred to in paragraph (1) items a., b. and c. of this Article after receiving a complaint or a report, within 20 days, after a check conducted in accordance with Article 18 of this Law.
- (3) For the purposes of the inspection referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article, the lobbyists, lobby organizations, representatives from the lobby organizations, lobbying clients and state bodies are required to act upon the request by the State Commission within 15 days from the receipt of the request.
- (4) The State Commission shall adopt the decision referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article within three days from the receipt of the request for deregistration from the Register, i.e. from determining a case from paragraph (1) of this Article.
- (5) The lobbyist or lobby organization that were deregistered from the Register, the right to re-register in the Register as a lobbyist, lobby organization or a representative of the lobby organization, shall be suspended for a period of one year from the day of the adoption of the decision referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article.
- (6) The decision referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article adopted for a lobby organization shall determine the suspension referred to in paragraph (5) of this Article and for a representative of a lobby organization

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

for which the State Commission determined that it was involved or contributed in the case, and as a consequence a decision was adopted to deregister the lobby organization from the Register.

- (7) A lawsuit against the decision referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article to the Administration Court is allowed within 30 days from the receipt of the decision.

IV. OBLIGATIONS OF THE LOBBYISTS AND THE LOBBY ORGANIZATION

Article 14

- (1) For the purpose of lobbying, the lobbyist i.e. the lobby organization shall not accept, give, promise donations, gifts, services, influence or other benefits or advantages for themselves or others.
- (2) The lobbyist, i.e. the lobby organization shall not propose or undertake activities or organize and make contacts which will put the lobbied person in the situation of conflict of interests or cause them a sense of obligation towards the lobbyist or lobbying organization.
- (3) Simultaneous or parallel lobbying on the same issue in a certain area aimed at achieving conflicting interests is prohibited.

Article 15

- (1) The lobbyist or the lobby organization may not give false or incomplete information to the lobbied persons regarding the status of the capacity in which it lobbies or for the lobbying client on whose behalf it lobbies.
- (2) The lobbyist or the lobby organization may not use or disclose information or document that it has received from the lobbied person contrary to the purposes for which it received the information or document.

Article 16

- (1) The lobbyist or the lobby organization is required to submit a written report on its activity to the State Commission, no later than January 31st of the current year for the previous year and no later than 30 days from the day of the deregistration from the Register, regardless of the reasons for deregistration.
- (2) The report referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall contain:
 - data on the identity of the lobbyist i.e. the lobby organization and the representatives of the lobby organization that lobbied on its behalf, with a number and date of the decision for registration in the Register;

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

- data on the identity of the lobbying clients, with data on the area and subject of lobbying on behalf of each of the clients;
 - data on the lobbied bodies, data on all the lobbied persons and which lobbying activities were undertaken;
 - data on the amount of payments for each work received by a client on whose behalf it is lobbied. If the lobbying is part of a general service agreement that includes other activities, and the value of the lobbying cannot be determined, the lobbyist shall submit data on the value of the overall service agreement and the percentage of time spent on lobbying relative to the other services in that agreement.
- (3) The lobbyist or lobby organization are required to keep the documentation on the basis of which they completed the report referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article, within five years from the day the report was submitted.
- (4) The form and content of the report form referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be prescribed by the State Commission.
- (5) The report referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article is public information.

Article 17

- (1) The State Commission shall perform a formal review of the report referred to in Article 16 of this Law upon its receipt.
- (2) If the State Commission, upon review referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article determines that the report is incomplete, it shall notify and request that the lobbyist or the lobby organization submit complete report within 15 days from the receipt of the notification.

Article 18

- (1) The State Commission after a received report or complaint, shall check the completeness and truthfulness of the data from the report referred to in Article 16 of this Law, by:
- inspection of the documentation referred to in Article 16 paragraph (4) of this Law,
 - request for submission of additional data from the lobbyist i.e. the lobby organization,
 - request for submission of data from the clients on whose behalf the lobbyist i.e. the lobby organization lobbied,
 - request for submission of data from the authorities and/or persons where the lobbyist or the lobby organization lobbied or
 - request for submission of data from political parties and organizers of election and referendum campaigns.

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

- (2) The person or authority, as well as the political party or the organizer of election and referendum campaigns to which the State Commission submitted a request referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article, is required to reply within 15 days from the receipt of the request.
- (3) For the purposes of inspection referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article, the State Commission may request data from other state authorities, in addition to the authorities referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article.
- (4) The authorities referred to in paragraph (3) of this Article are required to act upon the request by the State Commission within 15 days from the receipt of the request.

V. OBLIGATIONS OF THE LOBBIED PERSON

Article 19

- (1) The lobbied person is required to be careful not to put themselves in a position of conflict of interests when lobbying, taking into consideration the goals of the lobbying performed by the lobbyist i.e. the lobby organization that contacts them.
- (2) In case of the situation referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article, the lobbied person is required to terminate the contact and refuse any further contact with the lobbyist i.e. the lobby organization and the representative of the lobby organization.

Article 20

- (1) For each contact for lobbying, the lobbied person is required to prepare agreed minutes of contacts made for lobbying (hereinafter: Minutes) containing the following data:
 - name, surname and working position of the lobbied person;
 - name and surname of the lobbyist i.e. the representative of the lobby organization and name of the lobby organization and number and date of the decision for registration in the Register;
 - the area of lobbying and the subject of discussion i.e. the purpose of the lobbying, with a short description;
 - data on the lobbying client;
 - date, place and manner of establishing the contact for lobbying.
- (2) The lobbied person is required to forward a copy of the Minutes to the State Commission within eight days from the day of establishing the contact, for publication in the Register.
- (3) The form and the content of the form for the Minutes shall be prescribed by the State Commission.

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

Article 21

- (1) The State Commission shall perform a formal inspection of the Minutes upon receipt.
- (2) If the State Commission, during the inspection referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article determines that the Minutes are incomplete, it shall request the lobbied person to submit complete Minutes within eight days.

Article 22

- (1) The State Commission shall inspect the content of the Minutes upon received complaint or intelligence, within 20 days, in accordance with Article 18 of this Law.
- (2) For the purposes of the inspection referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article, the lobbyists, lobby organizations, representatives of the lobby organizations, lobbying clients and state authorities are required to act upon the request from the State Commission within 15 days.

Article 23

- (1) The lobbied person is required to submit a complaint to the State Commission if the lobbyist or the lobby organization, i.e. the representative of the lobby organization acts contrary to the provisions of this Law, within ten days from the contact with the lobbyist or the lobby organization i.e. the representative of the lobby organization.
- (2) The State Commission shall, within three days from the day of the receipt, submit the complaint referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article to the lobbyist or the lobby organization it refers to, and within ten days the lobbyist or the lobby organization shall comment on the statements made in the complaint.
- (3) The State Commission shall, within 20 days from the receipt of the complaint referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article, determine existence of violation of the provisions of this Law by the lobbyist or the lobby organization i.e. the representative of the lobby organization and decide to initiate misdemeanor proceedings and/or deregistration from the Register in accordance with the provisions of this Law.
- (4) For the purpose of acting upon the complaint referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article, the State Commission shall conduct an inspection in accordance with Article 18 of this Law.
- (5) For the purposes of inspection referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article, the lobbyists, lobby organizations, representatives of the lobby organizations, lobbying clients and state authorities are required to act upon the request by the State Commission within 15 days.

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

VI. OBLIGATIONS OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT AND THE AUTHORITIES OF THE LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT UNITS

Article 24

- (1) The lobbied bodies are required to establish, with internal acts, procedures i.e. rules that shall regulate the following:
 - establishing and recording contacts for lobbying;
 - identifying and recording the persons who make contacts in the institutions;
 - transparent processes of preparation, adoption and amendment of public policies i.e. programs, laws or bylaws or other general acts, which include publishing data on the identity of all participants in the process, the entities whose interests were represented, the conditions under which the participation occurred, and the fees paid for it;
 - proactive publication of announcements for realized official meetings, with data on the present participants and the subject of discussion.
- (2) The lobbied bodies are required within 30 days from the adoption of the internal acts referred to in paragraph (1) indent 1 of this Article, to inform the State Commission on the established procedures i.e. rules referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article and to submit the internal acts to the State Commission for publication in the Register.

Article 25

- (1) The lobbied bodies are required to publish on their websites data on the identity of the participants in the processes of preparation, adoption and amendment of the public policies i.e. programs, laws or bylaws or other general acts, the entities whose interests were represented, the conditions under which the participation occurred and the fees paid, during the process, and no later than five working days after the completion of the processes.
- (2) As an exception to paragraph (1) of this Article, the lobbied bodies may restrict the transparency of the processes and the publication of the data that constitute classified information with an appropriate degree of classification according to law, by separating that data, and making the rest publicly available without compromising the security of the classified information.

Article 26

- (1) The State Commission shall conduct activities for developing the public and institutional awareness about lobbying and it shall provide guidelines on proper implementation of the provisions of this Law at the request of the lobbied bodies.

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

- (2) The activities referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be planned by the State Commission in its annual work plan.

VII. SUPERVISION

Article 27

- (1) The State Commission shall supervise the implementation of the provisions of this Law.
- (2) The State Commission shall inform about the implementation of this Law within its annual work report.

VIII. MISDEMEANOR PROVISIONS

Article 28

- (1) A charge in the amount of 300 to 500 euro in denar equivalent shall be pronounced for misdemeanor to elected or appointed person, secretary in the unit of the local self-government, general secretary or state secretary or responsible person in a public enterprise or a public institution established by a lobbied body or responsible person in an organization with public authorities, if:
- they lobby during their term of office (Article 7 paragraph (1) of this Law);
 - they lobby before the expiration of three years from the day of the termination of the term of office (Article 7 paragraph (2) of this Law).
- (2) A special advisor in a lobbied body shall be fined with a charge in the amount of 300 to 500 euro in denar equivalent for a misdemeanor, if:
- they lobby while employed in a lobbied body (Article 7 paragraph (3) of this Law);
 - they lobby before the expiration of one year from the day of the termination of employment, i.e. employment in a lobbied body (Article 7 paragraph (4) of this Law).
- (3) An employee in a lobbied body who is not a special advisor shall be fined with a charge in the amount of 200 euro in denar equivalent for a misdemeanor, if:
- they lobby while employed in a lobbied body (Article 7 paragraph (3) of this Law);
 - they lobby before the expiration of one year from the day of the termination of employment in a lobbied body (Article 7 paragraph (4) of this Law).

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

Article 29

- (1) A legal entity (lobby organization) shall be fined with a charge in the amount of 500 to 1.000 euro in denar equivalent for misdemeanor if:
- for the purpose of lobbying receives, gives or promises donations, gifts, services, influence or other benefits or advantages for themselves or others (Article 14 paragraph (1) of this Law);
 - it proposes or undertakes activities or organizes and makes contacts which will put the lobbied person in a situation of conflict of interests or cause them a sense of obligation towards the lobby organization. (Article 14 paragraph (2) of this Law);
 - it lobbies simultaneously or in parallel on the same issue in a certain area aimed at achieving conflicting interests, decisions or outcomes (Article 14 paragraph (3) of this Law);
 - it gives false or incomplete information to the lobbied persons with regard to the status of the position or for the lobbying client on whose behalf it lobbies (Article 15 paragraph (1) of this Law);
 - it uses or discloses information, or a document received by a lobbied person contrary to the purpose for which they received the information i.e. the document. (Article 15 paragraph (2) of this Law);
 - it fails to act upon the request by the State Commission for additional information for reviewing the completeness and truthfulness of the report referred to in Article 16 of this Law or the Minutes, or otherwise obstructs the review referred to in Article 13 paragraph (2), Article 18 and Article 22 of this Law.
- (2) A legal entity shall be fined with a charge in the amount of 500 to 1.000 euro in denar equivalent for misdemeanor if it lobbies even though it is not registered as a lobby organization in the Register, or it is deregistered.
- (3) The responsible person in the legal entity shall be fined with a charge in the amount of 200 euro in denar equivalent for misdemeanors determined in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article.
- (4) A natural person (lobbyist) shall be fined with a charge in the amount of 200 euro in denar equivalent for misdemeanors determined in paragraph (1) of this Article.
- (5) For the misdemeanors determined in paragraph (1) of this Article, the legal entity (lobby organization) and the natural person (lobbyist or representative of a lobby organization), the State Commission shall determine a suspension of the right to re-enter in the Register for one year, in accordance with Article 13 of this Law.

Article 30

- (1) A legal entity (lobby organization) shall be fined with a charge in the amount of 500 to 1.000 euro in denar equivalent for misdemeanor if:
- it does not submit a written report on its work to the State Commission within the deadline determined by Article 16 paragraph (1) of this Law;
 - it does not keep the documentation on the basis of which it submitted a report to the State Commission, within the deadline determined by Article 16 paragraph (3) of this Law;

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

- it does not submit a complete report on its work to the State Commission within the deadline determined by Article 17 paragraph (2) of this Law;
 - the State Commission determines untruthfulness of the data in the submitted application for the entry in the Register.
- (2) The responsible person in the legal entity (lobby organization) shall be fined with a charge in the amount of 200 euro in denar equivalent for the misdemeanors determined in paragraph (1) of this Article.
- (3) A natural person (lobbyist) shall be fined with a charge in the amount of 200 euro in denar equivalent for the misdemeanors determined in paragraph (1) of this Article.
- (4) For the misdemeanors determined in paragraph (1) of this Article, the legal entity (lobby organization) and the natural person (lobbyist or representative of a lobby organization), shall have their right to re-entry in the Register suspended for one year by the State Commission, in accordance with Article 13 of this Law.

Article 31

A lobbied person shall be fined with a charge in the amount of 200 to 400 euro in denar equivalent for misdemeanor if they:

- do not forward to the State Commission a copy of the minutes from the contact made in order to lobby within the deadline determined by Article 20 paragraph (2) of this Law;
- do not submit a complaint to the State Commission if the lobbyist or the lobby organization, i.e. the representative of the lobby organization act contrary to the provisions of this Law within the deadline determined by Article 23 paragraph (1) of this Law.

Article 32

A manager of a lobbied body shall be fined with a charge in the amount of 300 to 500 euro in denar equivalent for misdemeanor, if they:

- do not determine the procedures referred to in Article 24 paragraph (1) of this Law, do not inform the State Commission on the determined procedures;
- do not submit to the State Commission the internal acts referred to in Article 24 paragraph (1) indent 1 of this Law for publication in the Register;
- do not publish on their websites data on the identity of the participants in the process of reviewing, adoption or amendment of public polices, i.e. programs, laws or bylaws or other general acts, data on the entities whose interests were represented, the conditions under which the participation occurred, and the fees paid, during the process, and no later than five working days after the completion of the process (Article 25).

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

Article 33

- (1) For the misdemeanors determined by this Law, the misdemeanor procedure shall be conducted and misdemeanor sanctions pronounced by the Misdemeanor Committee in the State Commission.
- (2) Members of the Misdemeanor Committee referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article are authorized officials in the Secretariat with an appropriate degree and type of professional training and necessary working experience determined by law, out of which at least one member is a law graduate with passed bar exam.
- (3) Before submitting a request for initiating a misdemeanor procedure, a settlement procedure shall be conducted by issuing a misdemeanor payment order, in accordance with the Law on Misdemeanors.
- (4) The authorized officials referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article are required to keep record of the issued misdemeanor payment orders and the outcome of the initiated procedures.
- (5) The following data shall be collected, processed and stored in the records referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article: name and surname, i.e. name of the perpetrator of the misdemeanor, place of residence, registered office, type of misdemeanor, number of the misdemeanor payment order and the outcome of the procedure.
- (6) The personal data referred to in paragraph (5) of this Article shall be kept for five years from the day of their entry in the records.
- (7) The form and content of the misdemeanor payment order shall be prescribed by the State Commission.

Article 34

The charge shall be assessed in accordance with the Law on Misdemeanors.

Article 35

The realization of the right to a legal remedy after a pronounced fine and the procedure that follows shall be conducted in accordance with the Law on Misdemeanors.

EU Support for Rule of Law - Republic of North Macedonia

IX. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 36

- (1) The bylaws determined by this Law shall be adopted within six months from the date of entry into force of this Law.
- (2) The internal acts referred to in Article 24 of this Law shall be adopted within six months from the date of entry into force of this Law.

Article 37

With the entry into force of this Law, the Law on Lobbying (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 106/08 and 135/11) shall cease to be valid.

Article 38

This Law shall enter into force on the eighth day from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia, and this Law shall be implemented one year from the date of its entry into force.