

PARLIAMENT

Banks Parliament approved a new Act on Housing Loans on December 9. It implements EU directive 2014/17/EU on Housing Loans and creates the legal framework for the housing loan market. Consumers will be better informed about their payments, interest rate and changes in interest rates. Banks will be obliged to provide clients with more information prior to signing a contract or refinancing. Banks will have to tighten their loan standards. Parliament has already approved the revision in November, but president Andrej Kiska vetoed it. MPs re-approved it without making any changes.

Effective date: March 21, 2016. (nrsr.sk)

Loans Parliament approved a revision to the Act No. 99/1963 Coll. Court Civic Order on December 15. The revision changes the Act on Consumer Loans, namely a ban on cash loans. Parliament has already approved the revision in November, but president Andrej Kiska vetoed it. When re-approving it, MPs made changes in the revision so that it does not ban installment sales, leasing, and mortgage refinancing.

Effective date: day of publication. (nrsr.sk)

Forfeiting Parliament approved a revision to Act No. 657/2004 Coll. on Heat Energy on December 15. The revision bans the forfeiting of the assets of state-owned heating companies. Parliament has already approved the revision in November, but president Andrej Kiska vetoed it. MPs re-approved it without making any changes.

Effective date: the day of publication. (nrsr.sk)

Healthcare Parliament approved a revision to Act No. 578/2004 Coll. on Providers of Healthcare, Healthcare Professionals and Professional Healthcare Organizations on November 24. The revision sets out minimum wages for numerous healthcare professionals, such as nurses, pharmacists, masseurs, and lab technicians, as a percentage of the average wage in the economy. The wage floor will apply to both state-owned and private providers. The revision also transposes EU directive 2004/23/EC on setting standards of quality and safety for the donation, procurement, testing, processing, preservation, storage, and distribution of human tissues and cells. Parliament has already approved the revision in November, but president Andrej Kiska vetoed it. MPs re-approved it without making any changes.

Effective date: January 1, 2016. (nrsr.sk)

GOVERNMENT

Wages The government approved a directive setting wages for employees working in public interest on December 2. The directive implements the Collective Treaty signed on October 28, 2015, based on which the wages of teachers, scientists, and healthcare professionals will increase by 4% as of January 1, 2016. Annual costs will be €129m.

Effective date: January 1, 2016. (rokovania.sk)

Wages The government approved a directive setting wages for state employees on December 2. The directive implements the Collective Treaty signed on October 28, 2015, based on which the wages of state employees will increase by 4% as of January 1, 2016. Annual costs will be €23m.

Effective date: January 1, 2016. (rokovania.sk)

Wages The government approved a directive setting wages for fire-fighters, rescue, and mountain rescue service workers on December 16. It increases their wages by 4% starting on January 1, at a cost of €9.5m.

Effective date: January 1, 2016. (rokovania.sk)

Toll The government approved a revision to its directive No. 497/2013 Coll. on toll rates on December 16. In line with inflation, the revision cuts the toll rates for trucks for 2016 by 0.5%.

Effective date: January 1, 2016. (rokovania.sk)

Land The government approved a revision to its directive No. 238/2010 Coll. on the conditions for selling, leasing and exchanging land by the state land fund (SPF) on December 9. The revision aims to make it easier for young and small farmers to buy or lease land from SPF.

Effective date: January 1, 2016. (rokovania.sk)

Farming The government approved a revision to its directive No. 342/2014 Coll. on the conditions of providing direct payment subsidies in agriculture on December 9. It makes technical changes to bring the rules in line with EU norms.

Effective date: January 1, 2016. (rokovania.sk)

Telecom The government approved a revision to its directive No. 420/2012 Coll. on the frequency spectrum on December 2. It aims to improve the use of the frequency spectrum for both civilian and military use. The regulator RÚ will oversee the efficient use of the spectrum.

Effective date: January 1, 2016. (rokovania.sk)

Cells The government approved a revision to its directive No. 622/2007 Coll. on the conditions for processing, storing, and distributing cells and tissues on December 2. The revision defines a numerical code that each harvested tissue or cell must be equipped with.

Effective date: January 1, 2016. (rokovania.sk)

Healthcare The government approved a revision to its directive No. 296/2010 Coll. on professional qualifications for the health occupations, their training, and a system for certifying professions on December 9. It transposes EU directive 2013/55/EU on the recognition of professional qualifications. In particular it specifies the requirements for the training of pharmacists, nurses, midwives, and dentists.

Effective date: December 15, 2015. (rokovania.sk)

Water The government approved a revision to its directive No. 354/2006 Coll. setting requirements on drinking water and its control on December 9. It transposes the EU directive 2013/51/Euratom. When monitoring the quality of water, radon will be measured as well.

Effective date: January 1, 2016. (rokovania.sk)

Social Work The government approved a revision to its directive No. 219/2014 Coll. on social work on December 9. It sets out requirements for systemic education in the area, for instance by defining the qualifications required for individual types of social work.

Effective date: January 1, 2016. (rokovania.sk)