

LAW ON FREE LEGAL AID

CONSOLIDATED TEXT **1**

Chapter One

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Law shall regulate the right to free legal aid, the procedure wherein exercised, the beneficiaries, the conditions and the manner of its exercise, the free legal aid providers, the bodies competent for making decisions, the protection of the right to free legal aid, the financing and the supervision over its exercise, the organization of free legal advice days, the free legal aid in cross-border disputes, as well as the supervision over the application of the provisions of this Law.

Article 2

(1) The aim of the law shall be to ensure equal access of citizens and other persons determined by this Law to the state institutions, for the purpose of meeting, exercising and insuring effective legal aid, in accordance with the principle of equal access to justice.

(2) The procedure for free legal aid shall be an urgent procedure.

Article 3

The terms used in this Law shall have the following meaning:

1. "Family members" mean spouses or unwed partners, children and relatives in a direct line up to fourth degree or in an indirect line up to second degree, living in the same household with the applicant for free legal aid and jointly bear the cost of living;

2. "Property" of the applicant for free legal aid, means the entire movable and immovable property, the property rights, the amount of cash in domestic or foreign currency, the funds on a personal account or savings book, the gift, securities, stocks, shares in capital and other property of the applicant or the adult members of the same household in the country or abroad;

3. "Free legal aid beneficiary" means a natural person using the prescribed forms of legal aid determined by this Law;

4. "General legal information" means a form of free legal aid containing general and basic instructions for legal regulation of a certain area;

5. "Authorized citizens' association" means an association which, according to the provisions of this Law, meets the conditions for provision of preliminary legal aid and which, on the basis of a decision by the Minister of Justice (hereinafter: the Minister), is authorized to provide preliminary legal aid in accordance with this Law and is registered in the Registry of Citizen's Associations for Provision of Preliminary Aid, and

6. "Legal advice" means information regarding the manner and capabilities for solving a certain legal issue.

Article 4

(1) The free legal aid, in accordance with this Law, shall be given by the Ministry of Justice, attorneys at law and authorized citizens' associations.

(2) The funds necessary for approving the free legal aid shall be provided from the Budget of the Ministry of Justice (hereinafter: the Ministry) as a separate program proposed by the Minister, approved by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, as well as from donations and other revenues in accordance with law.

Article 5

The natural persons shall have the right to free legal aid (hereinafter: beneficiaries) in the manner and under the conditions determined by this Law.

Article 6

(1) The free legal aid shall be exercised as preliminary legal aid and legal aid in all judicial and administrative procedures.

(2) The preliminary legal aid shall include:

- initial legal advice for the right to use legal aid;
- general legal information and
- legal aid in completing the application for free legal aid.

(3) The preliminary legal aid shall be provided by an authorized official person in the regional offices of the Ministry and by authorized citizens' associations.

(4) The legal aid in a procedure before the competent body and organization (hereinafter: legal aid), shall include:

- representation in a procedure before the Ministry of Interior and the Social Service Center in accordance with the Law on Children's Justice, [2](#)
- representation at all levels in judicial and administrative procedures, and
- preparation of writs in judicial and administrative procedures.

(5) The legal aid shall be given by attorneys at law.

Article 7

The free legal aid anticipated by this Law shall not apply to the cases of mandatory defense anticipated in the Criminal Procedure Code nor to the exemption from payment of the procedure costs anticipated in the Law on Litigation Procedure and the Law on General Administrative Procedure.

Article 8

(1) The application for legal aid in accordance with the provisions of this Law shall be approved in all judicial and administrative procedures, provided it resolves an issue of interest for the legal aid applicant.

(2) Issues in terms of paragraph (1) of this Article shall be: rights in the field of social, health, pension or disability insurance, labor relations, protection of children, victims of domestic violence, protection of victims of crime, protection of victims of human-trafficking, recognition of the right to asylum and property-legal issues.

Article 9

The free legal aid in accordance with this Law shall not be approved for matters which are clearly unreasonable or are not supported by legal facts on the basis of which a legal action can be undertaken.

Article 10

The Ministry shall decide upon the submitted application for free legal aid.

Article 11

The matters in the field of free legal aid shall be carried out by the Ministry in collaboration with the Bar Association, the bodies of the judiciary authority, the state administration bodies, the Social Service Center, the citizens' associations and other bodies.

Chapter 2

FREE LEGAL AID BENEFICIARIES

Article 12

(1) The persons referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article who, regarding their material position, are not able to exercise their rights guaranteed by the Constitution and law, without imperiling their own sustenance and the sustenance of the members of their family leaving in a joint household, shall have the right to free legal aid.

(2) The citizens of the Republic of Macedonia with permanent residence in the Republic of Macedonia shall have the right to free legal aid, that is:

- a child at risk, **3**
- a child under suspicion that it has committed an act defined as a crime or offense under law,
- beneficiaries of social security,
- beneficiaries of the right to disability allowance, that do not generate other incomes on the basis of earnings or income from immovable property,
- beneficiaries of the lowest retirement living in a family community with two or more persons supported by him/her, and
- families or self-supporting parent with one or more juveniles exercising the right to child allowance.

(3) In accordance with this Law, the right to free legal aid shall be also entitled to:

- seekers of the right to asylum, a person to whom the right to asylum has been recognized, internally displaced person, as well as displaced or expelled person who has a temporary residence on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia,
- a foreign citizen, who in accordance with the international agreements, no matter if he/she has a permanent or temporary residence on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, exercises his/her rights under the competence of the state body of the Republic of Macedonia,
- a stateless person legally residing in the Republic of Macedonia, and
- a citizen of a member state of the European Union under the conditions and in the manner determined by this Law.

(4) It shall be considered that the support of the person seeking free legal aid and the support of his/her family members living together in a joint household is being endangered provided that the incomes on all basis of that person and the members of his/her household do not exceed the amount of 50% of the average monthly salary paid in the Republic of Macedonia for the previous month, at the time of filing the application for free legal aid.

(5) The incomes of the person seeking free legal aid can be assessed individually, provided that there are conflicting family interests in a dispute requiring free legal aid.

(6) The Ministry shall obtain information from the Social Services Center for the beneficiaries of social security or disability allowance, not generating their income on the basis of earnings, or beneficiaries of child allowance.

(7) The material condition of the person seeking free legal aid shall be determined on the basis of a proof issued by a competent body for the material condition which is determined on the basis of data on income on all grounds of that person, as well as of the members of his/her household living together, and on the basis of a statement of his/her material and social status for a period of six months before submitting the application.

Article 13

The entire movable and immovable property shall be considered an income of the person applying for legal aid, that is of the members of his/her family living in the same household, except the:

- child allowance,
- disability allowance,
- carer's allowance,
- scholarships and other allowances, for the purpose of education and professional training,
- funds received in order to remove the consequences of natural disasters,
- damage compensation due to reduced life activity,
- damage compensation for persons unjustifiably convicted or unlawfully deprived of freedom, and
- funds approved by the competent institution for medical treatment abroad.

Article 14

(1) The free legal aid cannot be approved if the applicant or a member of his/her family living together in the same household has a property that reaches or exceeds five average monthly gross salaries paid in the Republic of Macedonia for the previous month.

(2) The following shall not be considered property as referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article:

- items which in accordance with the Law on Enforcement are exempted from enforcement, and
- motor vehicle whose value does not exceed five average gross monthly salaries in the Republic of Macedonia for the previous month.

Chapter Three

EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO FREE LEGAL AID

Article 15

The free legal aid shall cover those expenses of the procedure that occurred after the day of approval of the application for granting free legal aid and the legal actions for legal aid that after the day of approval of the legal aid have not yet been taken.

Article 16

The preliminary legal aid shall be given by authorized official persons in the regional offices of the Ministry and authorized citizens' associations entered in the Registry of Citizens' Associations for Preliminary Legal Aid.

Article 17

- (1) The authorized citizens' associations can provide preliminary legal aid provided that they meet the requirements determined by this Law, that is:
- 1) to be registered in the Registry of Citizens' Associations in the Central Register of the Republic of Macedonia;
 - 2) to have at least one employed law graduate with passed judiciary exam;
 - 3) in the act for establishment and the statute of the citizens' association one of the aims for its establishment is providing preliminary legal assistance in the fields it has been established for, and
 - 4) to have a liability insurance covering the possible damage from advising of at least the minimum insurance policy / insurance premium.
- (2) The content of the application for authorization for providing preliminary legal aid shall be prescribed by the Minister.

Article 18

- (1) The regional offices of the Ministry of Justice can give preliminary legal aid if they fulfill the requirements determined by this Law, i.e. to have at least one law graduate with passed judiciary exam who, on the basis of a decision by the Ministry of Justice, shall be the responsible official person for provision of preliminary legal aid.
- (2) If damage is caused while providing preliminary legal aid, the compensation shall be borne by the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia.

Article 19

- (1) The authorized citizens' association for provision of free legal aid cannot use any form of advertisement for provision of preliminary legal aid in accordance with the provisions of this Law. Unlawful advertising shall be a base for revocation of the authorization for provision of preliminary legal aid.
- (2) The Ministry of Justice shall inform the citizens about the right and the manner of using preliminary legal aid through the media (printed and electronic).
- (3) The Ministry shall be obliged to publish an updated list of authorized citizens' associations providing free legal aid every three months.

Article 20

- (1) The persons referred to in Article 12 paragraph (2) of this Law shall submit the application for free legal aid to the competent regional office of the Ministry, in person or by mail, on a form with a content prescribed by the Minister.
- (2) In addition to the application for free legal aid the applicant shall also submit a written statement signed by him/her and the members of his/her family who live in the same household and jointly bear the cost of living for their total movable and immovable property, as well as a permit for insight in all the data for their property status.
- (3) As an exception to paragraph (2) of this Article, in the case the applicant for free legal aid is a victim of family violence, the statement referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article shall be submitted in person and need not to be signed by the members of his/her family leaving together in the same household and it shall be immediately acted upon the application.

(4) Where the applicant for free legal aid is a person from one of the categories referred to in Article 12 paragraph (3) of this Law, he/she shall submit a proof for his/her status issued by a competent body in addition to the application.

(5) The applicant shall have material and criminal liability for the accuracy of the data stated in the application.

(6) No administrative taxes shall be paid in the procedure for free legal aid.

Article 21

(1) The authorized official person from the regional office of the Ministry shall be obliged to deal with the application immediately, taking into consideration the urgency of the dispute anticipated in the respective procedure and to complete it and submit it to the Ministry not later than 12 days from the day of its receipt.

(2) Upon the submitted request by the Ministry, the competent body for property status shall be obliged, based on the signed statement referred to in Article 20 paragraph (2) of this Law, immediately and not later than three days, to provide the requested data for the property status of the applicant for free legal aid.

Article 22

(1) The Ministry shall be obliged to act upon the application for free legal aid not later than eight days as of the day the application has been received in the regional office of the Ministry, taking into consideration the urgency of the dispute anticipated in the respective procedure.

(2) The Minister shall decide with a decision upon the application for free legal aid.

Article 23

The dissatisfied client can initiate an administrative procedure before a competent court against the decision refusing the application for free legal aid.

Article 24

(1) In case the legal aid is approved, the beneficiary's choice of attorney at law shall be respected, if there is such possibility. The Ministry in cooperation with the beneficiary shall determine the attorney at law providing legal aid in the decision referred to in Article 22 paragraph (2) of this Law.

(2) In case when the appropriate attorneys' at law associations does not have enlisted attorneys at law in the Attorneys' at Law Registry for providing free legal aid, then the Ministry shall determine an attorney at law from the nearest attorneys' at law association in the manner anticipated in paragraph (1) of this Article.

Article 25

(1) After the approval of the application for granting free legal aid, the beneficiary of this right has to meet all the requirements for its granting during the whole procedure for which the aid has been granted until its legally valid conclusion, and shall be obliged to immediately inform the Ministry about any change that has occurred that can affect the exercise of that right, and within eight days at the latest.

(2) In the case referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article, if the beneficiary of the right does not inform the Ministry for the changes that affect the exercise of this right in the anticipated time period, the Ministry can decide to terminate the exercise of this right and to require for compensation for the incurred costs in a court procedure.

Article 26

(1) The Minister shall adopt a decision to terminate the right to use free legal aid, if after the approval of the application for free legal aid a change in the property status of the beneficiary occurs, which if existed in the moment of making the decision might lead to rejection of the application.

(2) If it is established that the applicant for free legal aid provided false data in order to exercise the right to free legal aid, with a decision, he/she shall not be allowed to exercise this right nor submit a new application within six months as of the day the decision has been adopted.

(3) If during the time of using free legal aid it is determined that the beneficiary provided false data in order to exercise the right to free legal aid, the Minister, with a decision, shall terminate the further exercise of this right and shall require for return of the paid funds within eight days.

(4) An administrative dispute before a competent court can be initiated against the decision referred to in paragraphs (1), (2), (3) of this Article.

Article 26-a

(1) A child referred to in Article 12 paragraph (2) of this Law shall be entitled to free legal aid in the procedures for protection of the rights and interests of the child conducted before the Ministry of Interior and the social service center in the cases and under the conditions set out by the Law on Children's Justice.

(2) The respective social service center shall decide on the right to free legal aid referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article by a decision which it submits to the Ministry of Justice.

(3) The dissatisfied party may initiate an administrative dispute against the decision disapproving the free legal aid.

Article 26-b

(1) The free legal aid referred to in Article 26-a of this Law shall be provided by an attorney at law and shall cover the costs for the attorney at law that are incurred in the procedure before the social service center or the Ministry of Interior.

(2) The fee for the attorney at law related to the costs referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be calculated in accordance with the List of Fees and Costs for the Work of Attorneys at Law decreased by 50%.

Chapter 4

REGISTERS FOR LEGAL AID AND SUPERVISION

Article 27

The Ministry shall keep a Registry of Attorneys' at Law Providing Legal Aid (hereinafter: the Registry of Attorneys' at Law) and a Register of Citizens' Association for Provision of Preliminary Legal Aid.

Article 28

(1) The registers referred to in Article 27 of this Law shall be kept in a written and electronic form and shall be published on the web site of the Ministry.

(2) The Ministry shall submit a copy from the Registry of Attorneys' at Law to the Bar Association of the Republic of Macedonia.

Article 29

(1) The application for entry into the Registry of Attorneys' at Law shall be filled in by the attorney at law and submitted to the Ministry.

(2) The Ministry can request verification of the data regarding the application referred to in paragraph (1) of this Law from the Bar Association.

(3) The Minister shall adopt a decision for listing the attorney at law in the Registry referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article within eight days as of the day the application has been submitted.

(4) The form and the content of the application referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be prescribed by the Minister.

Article 30

(1) Citizens' associations interested in providing preliminary legal aid in accordance with this Law, shall submit a request for obtaining an authorization by the Ministry and submit the supporting documents in accordance with Article 17 of this Law, as following: the Act on Establishment and the Statute of the association, evidence for an employed person - law graduate with passed judiciary exam, copy from the insurance policy, and an evidence that the association has been registered in the Central Register of the Republic of Macedonia for Citizens' Associations.

(2) The Minister shall be obliged, within 30 days from the day the request has been submitted, to adopt a decision authorizing the citizens' association to provide preliminary legal aid and shall list it in the Register of Citizens' Associations for Provision of Preliminary Legal Aid.

(3) Administrative dispute can be initiated before a competent court against the decision of the Minister rejecting the application for listing in the Registry of Citizens' Associations for Provision of Preliminary Legal Aid.

Article 31

(1) The Minister shall not list an attorney at law in the Register of Attorneys at Law or shall remove him/her from the Registry of Attorneys at Law in accordance with the statutory provisions of the Bar Association.

(2) The removal from the Register of Attorneys at Law shall be done with a decision by the Minister.

(3) The attorney at law shall have the right to initiate an administrative dispute before a competent court against the decision rejecting the listing of the attorney at law in the Register of Attorneys at Law, i.e. his/her removal from the Register of Attorneys at Law.

(4) The removal from the Register of Attorneys at Law shall be published on the website of the Ministry and shall be submitted to the Bar Association.

Article 32

(1) The Minister, with a decision, shall remove an association authorized for provision of preliminary legal aid from the Registry, in cases where:

- during the regular supervision over the case, irresponsible, not expert and unprofessional performance of the entrusted duty is established,
- if the citizens' association does not any longer meet the requirements stated in Article 17 of this Law, and
- establishes unauthorized advertisement.

(2) An administrative dispute can be initiated before a competent court against the decision of the Minister.

(3) The removal from the Registry of Citizens' Associations authorized for provision of preliminary legal aid shall be published on the website of the Ministry.

Article 33

The supervision over the implementation of the provisions of this Law shall be conducted by the Ministry of Justice.

Article 34

(1) The Ministry shall supervise the work of the attorney at law and the authorized citizens' association during the process of providing free legal aid.

(2) The Ministry during the supervision referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article, shall have the right to request an opinion from the competent body before which the procedure is conducted, as well as other information from the person who was granted the right to use free legal aid.

Article 35

(1) The Ministry shall submit an annual report for the activities related to free legal aid to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

(2) The report referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be published on the website of the Ministry.

(3) The report shall especially contain data on:

- the number of submitted applications for free legal aid;
- the number of adopted decisions for approved legal aid;
- the number of rejected applications for free legal aid;
- the type of activity for which the legal aid has been approved;
- the sum of the funds allocated for the approved legal aid;
- the amount of the recovered funds from the paid costs during the enforcement procedure;
- the statistics indicators, and
- the total number of days for free legal advice.

(4) The Government of the Republic of Macedonia shall submit the annual report to the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia within 30 days of its adoption.

Chapter Six

FEE FOR THE PROVIDED LEGAL AID

Article 36

(1) The attorney at law fee for the provided legal aid shall be calculated in accordance with the price list of the attorney at law for the scope of the performed activities for each case separately, submitted to the Ministry, and in accordance with the Tariff for Fees and Compensation for the costs of the activities of the attorneys at law reduced for 30%.

(2) The attorney at law shall submit the price list on a prescribed form.

(3) With a decision, the Ministry shall not paid the attorney at law the compensation for the concrete case if during the regular supervision over the case, irresponsible, not expert and unprofessional performance of the entrusted duty is established.

(4) An administrative dispute against the decision referred to in paragraph (3) of this Article can be initiated before a competent court.

(5) The contents of the form referred to in paragraph (2) shall be prescribed by the Minister.

Article 37

(1) The compensation for the authorized citizens' association for the provided preliminary legal aid shall be calculated in accordance with the price list for the scope of the preformed activities for each separate case, submitted to the Ministry, and in accordance with the Tariff for compensation of the activities of the citizens' associations for preliminary legal aid.

(2) The tariff shall be submitted on a prescribed form.

(3) By a decision, the Ministry shall not paid the association the compensation for the concrete case if during the regular supervision over the case, irresponsible, not expert and unprofessional performance of the entrusted duty is established.

(4) An administrative dispute against the decision referred to in paragraph (3) of this Article can be initiated before a competent court.

(5) The tariff referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be adopted by the Minister.

(6) The contents of the form shall be prescribed by the Minister.

Article 38

(1) The creditor i.e. debtor for payment of the compensation during the enforcement procedure in accordance with the Law on Enforcement shall be the Republic of Macedonia, i.e. the Ministry.

(2) The request for enforcement shall be submitted by the Ministry.

Chapter 6

FREE LEGAL ADVICE DAYS

Article 39

(1) The Ministry in cooperation with the Bar Association, the Notary Chamber, The Chamber of Enforcement Agents, and the Chamber of Mediators shall quarterly organize days of free legal aid for all citizens for issues in the field of mediation, practice of law, notary and enforcement.

(2) The Ministry shall adopt a three-month plan for the schedule and the time of holding the free legal aid days and shall publicly announce it in the daily newspapers.

Chapter 7

SPECIAL PROVISIONS ON APPROVING FREE LEGAL AID IN CROSS-BORDER DISPUTES

Article 40

(1) Cross-border dispute, in terms of this Law, shall be a dispute in which the party submitting the application for free legal aid has a temporary or permanent residence in a member state of the European Union in which the competent court enforcing the decision is located.

(2) The legal aid in cross-border disputes shall be approved in a litigation procedure in all stages and instances, as well as in a mediation procedure.

(3) The free legal aid shall not be approved in administrative, tax and customs issues.

(4) The existence of cross-border dispute shall be established in accordance with the time of submitting the application for free legal aid.

Article 41

(1) The person submitting the application for free legal aid in cross-border disputes shall be approved the application if he/she meets the criteria referred to in this Law in the amount determined as for a citizen of the Republic of Macedonia, in the manner and in the procedure determined by this Law.

(2) As an exception to paragraph (1) of this Article, free legal aid can be approved when the applicant does not meet the criteria anticipated by this Law, but can prove that he/she is not in a position to cover the costs of the procedure due to the difference in the costs of living between the member country where he/she has a temporary or permanent residence and the costs of living in the Republic of Macedonia.

(3) The free legal aid shall not be provided to an applicant if he/she in the particular case has an effective access to other mechanisms of legal aid covering the costs for the procedure anticipated in Article 43 of this Law.

(4) Administrative taxes shall not be paid in the procedure for granting free legal aid in cross-border disputes.

Article 41

(1) The person who has a temporary or permanent residence in a country member of the European Union, and is applying for free legal aid in a cross-border dispute before a court in the Republic of Macedonia, shall exercise the right to free legal aid in accordance with this Law. The law of the country where the party has a temporary or permanent residence shall be authoritative for determining the temporary or permanent residence.

(2) The person referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article or the competent body of the member state where the applicant has a temporary or temporary residence shall submit the applications for free legal aid to the Ministry.

(3) The forms and all the submitted documents have to be translated into Macedonian language, if not, the application for free legal aid shall be rejected.

(4) The Ministry, with a decision, shall reject the application if it is determined that it is not a case of a cross-border dispute, or if the application was submitted by a party who has no right to free legal aid in cross-border disputes.

(5) An administrative dispute against the decision rejecting the application for free legal aid can be initiated before a competent court.

Article 43

The free legal aid approved in the member state of the European Union where the court has jurisdiction shall cover the following expenses related to the nature of the cross-border dispute:

- 1) interpretation;
- 2) translation of documents requested by the court or the competent body and which are used by the beneficiary as necessary for resolving the case,
- 3) travel expenses for the applicant when the presence of the persons responsible for presenting the case of the applicant is required in the court, in accordance with law or the court of that member state, when the court decided that the persons could not be sufficiently heard in any other way.

Article 44

(1) The person who has a temporary or permanent residence in the Republic of Macedonia, and who applies for free legal aid in cross-border disputes in front of a court of other country, member state of the European Union, shall submit his/ her application to the competent regional office of the Ministry which shall be obliged to submit it to the Ministry within 15 days from the day of receiving the application.

(2) The Ministry shall translate the application together with the supporting documentation into the official language, or one of the official languages of the member states of the European Union and shall submit it to the competent body for receiving writs of the member state of the European Union in which the court has jurisdiction and in which the court decision is to be enforced not later than 15 days after receiving the application. If the application for free legal aid is not approved, the person applying for free legal aid shall be obliged to cover the translation costs.

(3) The Ministry shall reject the application with a decision if it establishes that the dispute is not an cross-border one according to this Law, or if the party applying for free legal aid does not have the right of free legal aid in cross-border disputes.

(4) Against the decision rejecting the application for free legal aid, an administrative dispute can be initiated before a competent court.

(5) As an exception to paragraph (1) of this Article, the free legal aid application can be submitted directly to the body competent for receiving applications in the member state of the European Union in which the court shall enforce the decision.

Article 45

The member state of the European Union where the person applying for free legal aid has a temporary or permanent residence shall provide legal aid necessary to cover:

- 1) expenses for the attorneys' at law or other person authorized by law to provide legal services, which occurred in that member state while the application for free legal aid is still not approved in the member state where the court is in session, and
- 2) translation of the application and the supporting documents submitted to the bodies of that member state.

Article 46

(1) The application for free legal aid and the application for sending the application for free legal aid referred to in Article 42 of this Law shall be submitted in prescribed forms.

(2) The form and the content of the form referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be prescribed by the Minister.

Chapter Eight

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 47

The Minister shall adopt the bylaws anticipated by this Law within a period of three months as of the day this Law enters into force, and shall adopt the bylaw referred to in Article 46 of this Law within one year.

Article 48

The provision referred to in Article 30 paragraph (1) shall not apply to the Kingdom of Denmark.

Article 49

(1) The provisions referred to in Article 18 of this Law shall start to apply as of 1st January 2012.

(2) The provisions referred to in Article 40 through 46 shall start to apply after the accession of the Republic of Macedonia in the European Union.

Article 50

This Law shall enter into force on the eight day of its publication in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia", and shall start to apply within six months as of the day of entry into force.