

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, LAW
MINISTRIA E DREJTËSISË, LIGJ

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Unofficial translation of the consolidated version of the Law on the Organisation and Functioning of the Ministry of Justice, containing the initial law and the following amending laws¹:

Amending law no 9112, dated 24/07/2003²

Amending law no 9694, dated 19/03/2007³

Amending law no 40/2017⁴

Date of last check: 07/07/2017

LAW
No. 8678 of May 14, 2001

ON THE ORGANISATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

In reliance on Articles 78, 83, paragraph 1, of the Constitution, upon the proposal of the Council of Ministers,

THE ASSEMBLY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

DECIDED:

¹ Promulgated by the Decree no 3026, dated 24/05/2001, of the President of the Republic of Albania Rexhep Meidani

² This law has been promulgated by Decree no 3938, dated 19/08/2003, of the President of the Republic and it has been published in the OJ no 78, p 3492 and it contains the following temporary article:
Article 10

This Law shall enter into effect 15 days after its publication in the official journal.

³ This law has been promulgated by Decree no 9694, dated 19/03/2007, of the President of the Republic and it has been published in the OJ no 36, p 689 and it contains the following temporary article:
Article 3

This Law shall enter into effect 15 days after its publication in the official journal.

⁴ This amending law was approved on 30 March 2017, published in the Official Journal on 19 April 2017, and contains the following temporary provision:
Article 12

This law enters into effect 15 days after its publication in the Official Journal;

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 Object of the law

This law specifies the rules of organisation and functioning and the fields of activity of the Ministry of Justice.

~~Article 2~~ ~~The legal basis of the organisation and functioning of the Ministry of Justice~~

~~The Ministry of Justice is organised and functions in compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, the Law No. 8549, dated 11/11/1999 "On the status of the civil servant", the legal provisions on the organisation and functioning of the Council of Ministers, and other legal provisions that set out the rules of organisation, the functioning and the powers of the Ministry of Justice.~~

Article 2 Legal basis of the organization and functioning of the Ministry of Justice (Amended by Law no. 40/2017, Article 1)

The Ministry of Justice is organized and functions in accordance with the:

- a) Constitution of the Republic of Albania;
- b) Law on the organization and functioning of the Council of Ministers;
- c) Law on the organization and functioning of the state administration;
- d) Law on the civil servants;
- e) Other special laws containing rules related to Ministry of Justice; and
- f) This law.

Article 3 Subordinate legal acts on the organisation and functioning of the Ministry of Justice

This law provides for the most important issues of the structure, organisation and functioning of the Ministry of Justice, while the detailed regulation of these issues is defined in the rules of the Ministry of Justice and the orders and instructions of the Minister of Justice.

~~Article 4~~ ~~Status of political functionaries and civil servants~~ ~~(Amended by law no. 9112, dated 24/07/2003)~~

- ~~1. The political functionaries of the Ministry of Justice enjoy the rights and fulfil the obligations foreseen for them in the respective legal provisions.~~
- ~~2. The civil servants of the Ministry of Justice enjoy the rights and fulfil the obligations set out in Law No. 8549, dated 11/11/1999 "On the status of the civil servant", while those provided for in the Labour Code apply for the other employees.~~
- ~~3. Judges and prosecutors may be admitted and serve at the management or executive levels of legal professional structures of the Ministry of Justice.~~
- ~~3. Judges and prosecutors may serve as legal advisers at the management or executive levels of legal professional structures of the Ministry of Justice.~~
- ~~4. The acceptance and appointment of judges or prosecutors is carried out following the consent, respectively, of the High Council of Justice or the General Prosecutor, upon the request of the Minister of Justice. For vacancies at the management and executive levels of the legal professional structures of the Ministry of Justice, the acceptance and appointment are performed without competition.~~
- ~~5. The period of exercising either the political or the civil service function at the structures referred to in point 3 of this Article is recognised as a period of seniority at work as a judge or prosecutor for the purpose of the requirements of the professional career provided in the legal provisions on the organisation of the judicial power, the High Court, the Constitutional Court and the prosecutor's office.~~
- ~~6. Judges or prosecutors who serve in the structures referred to in point 3 of this Article are re-appointed judges or prosecutors without a competition, at their request.~~

Article 4

Status of employees at the Ministry of Justice

(Amended by Law no. 40/2017, Article 2)

1. Political functionaries at the Ministry of Justice shall enjoy the rights and fulfill the obligations as provided in the law on the organization and functioning of the public administration.
2. Civil servants at the Ministry of Justice shall enjoy the rights and fulfill the obligations as provided in the law on the civil servants.
3. Employment relationships for other employees shall be governed through the provisions of Labor Code.
4. Magistrates may be seconded to the Ministry of Justice in accordance with the rules provided in the law in on the status of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Albania. Seconded magistrates shall enjoy the status of magistrate provided for in the law on the status of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Albania.

CHAPTER II FIELD OF ACTIVITY

Article 5

Mission of the Ministry of Justice

(Paragraph 1 and 3 amended by law no. 40/2017, Article 3)

1. In compliance with the Constitution and the laws, the Ministry of Justice exercises the functions and assumes the powers for drafting and following up the policies, preparing legal acts and subordinate legal acts, and performing necessary services related to the judicial system, the system of execution of criminal and civil decisions, the system of free legal-professional services, international co-operation in the civil and criminal matters, other fields of justice and of its competence according to law, as well as co-ordinating, harmonising and reforming Albanian legislation as a whole. *Exception shall be made to the sublegal acts and the services related to the justice system that in accordance to the special laws fall under the competencies of other bodies of the justice system.*

2. In the performance of its activity, the Ministry of Justice aims at requiring the observation of the Constitution and the laws, the realisation and protection of dignity, fundamental human rights and freedoms and of contributing to the prevention of violations of law, in conformity with and in the service of the requirements of the democratic development and European integration of the Republic of Albania.

~~3. In compliance with the law, the Ministry of Justice supports, co-operates and co-ordinates its activity with the organs of the judicial power and with the prosecutor's office, respecting the principle of the separation of powers and the independence of the judicial power and the prosecutor's office.~~

~~3. The Ministry of Justice shall, in accordance with this law, exercise competencies, support, collaborate and coordinate its activity with the institutions of the governance of the justice system, with the organs of prisons system, probation service, legal professions, except when the special laws otherwise provide.~~

Article 6

Fields of Activity

The scope of the activity of the Ministry of Justice

(Amended by law no 9112, dated 24/07/2003)

(Amended by law no.40/2017, Article 4)

~~The Ministry of Justice shall, in line with the main directions of the general state policy and the governmental program, carry out its activities in the following fields:~~

~~The Ministry of Justice exercises its activity in the following fields.~~

1. It follows and renders account for the accomplishment of overall state policy in the field of justice.

2. It prepares drafts of legal and subordinate legal acts in the field of justice *except the sublegal acts that fall under the competence of the state organs, in accordance to the provisions of the special laws.*

3. It gives a specialised opinion on drafts of legal acts and normative subordinate legal acts of the Council of Ministers, the ministers and the heads of other central institutions, as well as on the realisation of the reform of legislation in general.

4. It gives a specialised opinion about the content of draft international agreements entered into in the name of the Republic of Albania or the Council of Ministers.

5. It prepares and follows the implementation of unified Albanian methodology for the legislative process and the drafting of normative acts and legal terminology.

~~6. It follows up and coordinates efforts with other institutions and is responsible for the process of implementing the strategy of approximation of the Albanian legislation to that of European Union.~~

6. It follows up and realises policies and activities related to approximation and integration of the system of justice with the respective international structures and initiatives as well as co-ordinating work with other institutions in the service of approximating Albanian legislation to that of the European Community Union and its Member States.

~~7. It attends to the functioning and organisation of the judicial power.~~

7. It attends to the organisation and functioning of the services related to the judicial system and to justice in general except the services that fall under the competence of the state organs, in accordance to the provisions of the special laws.

~~8. It presides over and controls the judicial administration.~~

8. It attends to and supervises the activity of the judicial administration.

~~9. It carries out inspections and does disciplinary proceedings of judges of the courts of the first instance and courts of appeal according to law.~~

~~10. It controls the prosecutor's office and reports to the President of the Republic and to the Assembly according to the law.~~

10. Minister of Justice may submit complaints to the High Inspector of Justice regarding the alleged disciplinary misconduct of magistrates, and can request the High Justice Inspector to conduct institutional and thematic inspections at courts and prosecution offices. Minister of Justice submits to the High Justice Inspector the reasoned request for inspection, only after evaluating all the available information in accordance to the legal provisions in force, showing that there are credible data that the magistrate committed the disciplinary misconduct.

~~11. It supports and participates, according to law, in accomplishing the functions of the High Council of Justice.~~

12. He directs the pre-trial detention system and the execution of criminal decisions.

13. He directs the system of execution of civil decisions and executive titles.

14. He directs the activity of the Centre of Official Publications.

~~15. He directs the unified statistical service in the field of justice.~~

15. He analyses the statistical data and publishes the yearly statistical bulletin in the field of justice. The governance organs of the justice system shall, in accordance to the provisions by special laws, transmit the requested statistical data to the Ministry of Justice with the aim of publishing the yearly bulletin. The format of the yearly statistical bulletin and the frequency of the transmission of the information shall be regulated by the Order of Minister of Justice, after the consultations with other organs of the justice system, in accordance to the fields that they cover.

16. He keeps the criminal records and issues certificates based on the registration.

~~17. He provides the legal administrative services, which, under the law, fall within the scope of the Minister of Justice.~~

~~17. He attends to, directs and checks, according to law, the legal administrative services related to or carried out in the justice system.~~

~~18. He attends to the functioning and organisation of the legal profession, notary, arbitration, mediation, legal aid in the field of justice and, generally, for the free legal professional occupations.~~

~~18. He attends to and supports, according to law, the practicing, organisation and functioning of the professions of advocate, notary, arbitrator, mediator, bankruptcy administrator and other free professions related to the justice system.~~

18. He supports and takes care of exercising, organization and functioning of the profession of the advocates, notaries, arbitrators, mediators, bankruptcy administrators and other professions related to the justice system, in accordance to the special legal provisions of the fields.

18/1. He supervises, controls, inspects and conducts the disciplinary proceeding for the professions of notary, private bailiffs, mediators, bankruptcy administrators, and other professions related to the justice system, in accordance to the provisions of special laws in force for respective fields.

~~19. He supports and takes part in the co-ordination of activities with state bodies, courts and the prosecutor's office in connection with the recognition, study and measures for preventing and combatting criminality and violations of law.~~

~~20. He attends to and coordinates the activity for the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of the minors in the field of justice, as well as for the legal education and prevention of the law infringements by the minors.~~

~~20. He attends to the realisation and co-ordination of activities for juveniles in the field of justice, the protection of their lawful rights and interests, legal education and the prevention of violations of law by them, and the conduct of services for juveniles by the respective structures of the justice system.~~

20. He supports the activity in the field of juvenile justice, in the protection of their legitimate rights and interests, legal education and prevention of the breach of law by them, and also for exercising the services towards the juveniles from the respective structures of justice system, in accordance to the provisions of the special laws in force for respective field.

21. He directs the service of legal expertise.

22. He carries out the methodical direction of the civil status services.

23. He carries out the methodical direction of the services and registration of immovable properties.

24. He carries out the methodical direction of the legal offices of the ministries and other central institutions.

~~25. He attends to and supports activities for professional training, qualification and specialisation of judges, prosecutors, advocates, notaries and public administration lawyers.~~

25. He exercises the competences with regard to the initial and continuous professional training of the subjects provided in law on the governance institutions of the justice system, and also the professional enhancement and the specialization of the subjects of the special laws on legal professions, in accordance to the provisions of the special laws in force.

26. It attends to and supports scientific activities in the field of justice and the dissemination of legal edification.

27. It attends to following and coordination of relations with civil society in the field of justice.

28. It pursues international cooperation in the criminal and civil matters and, in conformity with international agreements to which the Albanian state is a party, the realisation of jurisdictional relations with competent authorities of other countries as well as with international bodies.

29. It carries out other functions in conformity with international agreements to which the Albanian state is a party.

30. It performs other functions and activities in conformity with law.

31. The responsible structures for the information technology system provides to the Ministry of Justice access at the “visitor” level to the data generated by the respective electronic information technology systems and the documents created by the courts, showing the procedural continuation of the cases, excluding access to the data and documents that contain protected personal data, information regarding juveniles, state secrets, financial and business data of the parties, issues of security regarding the parties or witnesses or any other data and information protected by law.

The responsible structures for the technology of information provides to the Ministry of Justice access at the “visitor” level for the Ministry of Justice, to the data generated by the respective electronic information technology systems and the documents created by the prosecution offices, only after the finalization of the investigation, showing the procedural continuation of the cases, excluding access to the documents that contain protected personal data, information regarding juveniles, state secrets, financial and business data of the parties, issues of security regarding the parties or witnesses or any other data and information protected by law.

32. The Minister of Justice coordinates the work on the collection of data and drafts and submits the proposal to the Council of Ministers, regarding the recommendations for the Prosecution Office in issues related to the fight against criminality. The Minister of Justice shall inform the chief prosecutors of all levels on the most important recommendations related to the fight against criminality, which shall be followed during the coming year. The Minister of Justice shall follow the implementation of the recommendations issued from the Council of Ministers. On this regard, the Minister of Justice shall request information from the Prosecutor General and Chief Special Prosecutor, not less than 2 times per year, on the application of the recommendations. The received information shall be reviewed from the Minister of Justice and, based of the findings, a proposal shall be submitted to the Council of Ministers and to the High Prosecutorial Council, suggesting the measures that shall be taken in accordance to the law with the intention of fulfillment of the recommendations.

CHAPTER III ORGANISATION OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Article 7

Political functionaries

1. The Minister of Justice assumes powers and presides, under his responsibility, over all fields of activity of the Ministry of Justice.
2. The Minister of Justice issues orders and instructions to the effect of exercising his powers.
3. The Minister of Justice is, in the course of exercising his powers, assisted by the deputy ministers.
4. The Minister of Justice is, in the course of exercising his powers, supported by the Cabinet of the Minister.

Article 8
~~Civil service~~

The Organizational Structure of Ministry of Justice
(Amended by law 40/2017, Article 5)

In conformity with the fields of activity, the civil services of the Ministry of Justice are provided by:

1. The Secretary General;
2. Directorates General;
3. Directorates;
4. Sectors;
5. ~~Offices.~~

~~Article 9~~

~~**Relations among the structures of the Ministry of Justice**~~

~~1. The rights, obligations and relations between the Minister, a deputy minister, the Cabinet of the Minister, the General Secretary and other structures of the civil service of the Ministry of Justice are organised and function in conformity with the legal provisions and other normative acts in the field of the civil service and on the organisation and functioning of the Council of Ministers.~~

~~2. In conformity with law and the normative acts of the Council of Ministers, in order to fulfil the activities in his competence, the Minister of Justice designates or proposes for approval detailed rules on the organisation, functioning, structure and organogram of the Ministry of Justice, related to the division and accomplishment of the duties among political functionaries and civil servants at the management and executive levels, on the particular criteria for employment in the structures of the Ministry, on discipline and internal regulation in the institution, as well as on the management and daily administration of the activity of the Ministry.~~

Article 9

(Amended by law 40/2017, Article 6)

“With the aim of assuming his competencies, Minister of Justice approves internal detailed regulations on the daily administration of the activity, internal functioning, staff job descriptions, order and discipline in the institution.

Article 10

General Directorate of Codification

(Repealed by law no 9694, dated 19/03/2007)

1. ~~The General Directorate of Codification is composed of the following directorates:~~
 - ~~– Directorate of Legislation and Legal Assistance;~~
 - ~~– Directorate of Approximation of Albanian Legislation to that of European Union.~~

~~1. The General Directorate of Codification exercises functions and duties related to the fields of activity of the Ministry of Justice set out in article 6, points 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 16, 17, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29 and 30 of this law. In order to accomplish its functions, according to the respective fields, the following directorates are established and function:~~

- ~~a) the Directorate of Legislation and Legal Aid;~~
- ~~b) the Directorate of Integration and the Development of International Relations;~~
- ~~c) the Directorate of Justice for Juveniles and of Legal-Administrative Services.~~

~~2. The Directorate of Legislation and Legal Aid exercises the following activities:~~

- ~~a) it prepares draft laws and subordinate legal acts in the field of justice or in the competence of the Ministry of Justice;~~
- ~~b) it organises and follows the activity of special working groups for the preparation of draft acts;~~
- ~~c) it follows the process of examination, approval and publication of legal and normative subordinate legal acts;~~
- ~~ç) it gives legal feedback and opinions in the cases and in the manner specified by law and in international agreements;~~
- ~~d) it directs and methodologically guides services and activities according to the competence set by law;~~
- ~~dh) it prepares legal opinions about draft laws and other normative draft acts of the Council of Ministers, the ministers and the central institutions, as well as international agreements entered into in the name of the Republic of Albania and of the Council of Ministers;~~
- ~~e) it organises and makes scientific studies about the field of justice and legislation, the strategy of legislative reforms and the legislative process, the methodology of preparing draft acts, unified legal terminology, the generalisation of the practice for the implementation of legislation and the rendering of justice, and also supports, in general, scientific activity in the field of justice.~~

~~3. The Directorate for the Approximation of the Albanian Legislation to that of the European union shall carry its activity as follows:~~

- ~~a) preparing the draft strategy, reports and programs for the approximation of the Albanian legislation to that of the European Union;~~
- ~~b) following up the progress of the approximation process of the Albanian legislation and its compliance to the other measures being launched in the context of the processes of the integration of Albania into the European Union;~~
- ~~c) supervising and coordinating the efforts with the other interested ministries and institutions, with the civil society and competent structures of the European Union for the issues of the approximation of the legislation;~~
- ~~ç) Following up the new developments of legislation in the European Union, informing the interested ministries and institutions about the legislation in the respective field;~~
- ~~d) preparing orienting materials about the specific aspects of the process of approximating the Albanian legislation to that of the European Union;~~
- ~~dh) drafting comparative studies to the European law, containing the respective evaluations and perspectives for the process of approximation of legislation;~~
- ~~e) providing specialised opinion on the compliance of the draft laws and draft normative acts with the strategy of the approximation of Albanian legislation to that of the European Union and with the White Book;~~
- ~~ë) Contributing to the professional training and skills of lawyers in these fields;~~

~~f) establishing, attending to and maintaining the data bank of the Albanian legislation and that of the European Union, as well as disseminating to the interested ministries and institutions the entire information ensured from the European Union pertaining to the process of approximation of legislation.~~

~~3. The Directorate of Integration and the Development of International Relations exercises the following activities:~~

~~a) it prepares, follows and co-ordinates work for the accomplishment of the policies, programmes and reporting on the integration of the justice system with the respective international structures and initiatives, as well as for the development of international relations in the field of justice;~~

~~b) it attends to and co-ordinates work with other institutions for accomplishing the approximation of Albanian legislation with that of the European Community and its Member States in the field of justice;~~

~~c) it prepares comparative studies and materials about developments in the field of international law and Albanian law;~~

~~ç) it follows and realises the process of studying, negotiating, signing, approving and implementing international agreements pertaining to the field of competence of the Minister of Justice;~~

~~d) it attends to the establishment of international relations and contacts of the Ministry of Justice with international institutions, analogous institutions of other states, foreign judicial authorities, and other foreign public or private organisations;~~

~~dh) it attends to and takes measures for the organisation, participation and realisation of the necessary services for international activities in the field of justice, within or outside the state.~~

~~4. The Directorate of Justice for Juveniles and of Legal Administrative Services exercises the following activities:~~

~~a) it prepares, follows and co-ordinates the realisation of the policies, programs and activities that are related to the field of justice for juveniles, legal education, the fight against and the prevention of violations of law and criminality by juveniles;~~

~~b) it attends to and co-ordinates the work with the institutions entrusted with legal duties for accomplishing and defending the rights and lawful interests of juveniles in the field of justice, especially in connection with their adoption and guardianship;~~

~~c) it attends to the development and implementation of legislation assigned by the Ministry of Justice and, in the entirety, the organs of justice, in fulfilling various legal administrative services.~~

~~The structure and organogram of the Ministry of Justice shall be set out in accordance with Article 7 of the Law no 9000, dated 30/01/2003, "On the organisation and functioning of the Council of Ministers".~~

Article 10

(Amended by law no. 40/2017, Article 7)

The functioning structure and the detailed organigram of the institution shall be drafted in accordance with law on the organization and functioning of the state administration.

Article 14

General Directorate of Justice Issues

(Repealed by law no 9694, dated 19/03/2007)

~~1. The General Directorate of Justice Issues is composed of the following directorates:~~

~~1. The General Directorate of Justice Issues exercises functions and duties related to the fields of activity of the Ministry of Justice set out in article 6, points 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 18, 19, 21, 25, 28 and 30 of this law. In order to accomplish its functions, according to the respective fields, the following directorates are established and function; —~~

~~–The Directorate of Judicial Organisation;~~

~~–The Directorate of Inspection;~~

~~–The Directorate of Free Professions.~~

~~2. The Directorate of Judicial Organisation exercises the following activities:~~

~~a) it prepares recommendations related to legal and organisational measures for the functioning of the judicial power, the number of courts, their location and territorial competence, the sections of the courts, the personnel structure and the number of their judges and other questions of judicial organisation;~~

~~b) it prepares recommendations related to legal and organisational measures for the functioning of the judicial administration, the organic chart and the number of personnel of the judicial administration;~~

~~c) it supports, co-operates with and co-ordinates its work with the Faculty of Law, the Magistrates' School and other institutions, local and foreign, related to questions of professional training, qualification and specialisation of judges, prosecutors, advocates, notaries and public administration lawyers, as well as personnel of the judicial administration;~~

~~ç) it attends to the collection, processing and maintenance of unified procedural, administrative, investigative and judicial statistical data as well as the methodology and manner of keeping criminal and civil judicial statistics;~~

~~d) it attends to the accomplishment of the services of information technology related to the collection, processing, maintenance and exchange of data in the fields of activity of the Ministry of Justice.~~

~~3. The Directorate of Inspection exercises the following activities:~~

~~a) it carries out inspections in courts of the first instance and courts of appeal related to the organisation and work of judicial services and the judicial administration in general and prepares recommendations for the Minister of Justice related to the taking of necessary measures for the resolution of problems and for the violations identified;~~

~~b) it carries out inspections of particular judges and courts according to law and also prepares recommendations for the Minister of Justice related to the taking of necessary measures for the resolution of problems and for the violations identified;~~

~~c) it controls the prosecutor's office and prepares recommendations for the Minister of Justice related to the issues that are the object of control;~~

~~ç) it carries out inspections in the institutions for the execution of civil and criminal decisions, as well as other institutions under the Ministry of Justice or which exercise activity in its competence, and also prepares recommendations for the Minister of Justice related to the taking of necessary measures for the resolution of problems and for the violations identified.~~

~~4. The Directorate of Free Professions carries out its activity as follows:~~

~~a) it follows up, in compliance with the respective legal provisions, the functioning and organisation of the legal profession and notary, chambers and offices of the lawyers and notaries;~~

~~b) it follows up, in compliance with the respective legal provisions the functioning and organisation of the arbitration, mediation, legal aid and activities of the other free professions, natural and legal entities, authorised for carrying out these activities;~~

~~c) it attends to and supports the functioning of the activity and services of translation and legal expertise, as well as follows up other issues in compliance with the respective legal provisions of the legal acts regulating their activity.~~

~~4. The Directorate of Free Professions exercises the following activities:~~

~~a) it attends to and supports, according to law, the practicing of the profession of advocate, notary, arbitrator, mediator, bankruptcy administrator and other free professions related to the justice system as well as the organisation and functioning of such professions;~~

~~b) it attends to and supports the functioning of the activity and the services of legal expertise, as well as following other issues, in conformity with the respective provisions of the legal acts regulating their activity;~~

~~c) it attends to the collection, processing and maintenance of the file folders and the criminal records, as well as issuing the respective certificates based on this register.~~

~~Article 12~~

~~Directorate of International Agreements and Jurisdictional Relations~~

~~Directorate of International Judicial Cooperation~~

~~(Repealed by law no 9694, dated 19/03/2007)~~

~~The Directorate of International Agreements and Jurisdictional Relations exercises the following activities:~~

~~a) it follows up and realises the process of research, negotiation, signing, approving and implementing the international agreements, being within the scope of powers of the Minister of Justice;~~

~~a) it realises and follows the relations of the Ministry of Justice with bodies of the system of justice, in the service of meeting the obligations that derive from the instruments of international judicial cooperation;~~

~~b) in conformity with the law and international agreements, it follows and realises the exercise of the competences of the Minister of Justice related to the development and realisation of jurisdictional relations and other procedures of international cooperation in the criminal and civil matters;~~

~~c) it provides and realises official translations, from the Albanian language into foreign languages and vice versa, of Albanian legislation, the legislation of other states and acts of international law;~~

~~ç) it provides translations of documents and other official documents in the cases and the manner provided by law, international agreements and the respective generally recognised practices;~~

~~d) it also provide the service of official translation, as well as the translation of the drafts of laws and normative acts that are officially forwarded to other states and international institutions.~~

~~The Council of Ministers shall set out the cases of implementation and the book of fees of the official translation service, due to be paid by the third parties, in accordance with the letters “c”, “ç” and “d” of this Article.~~

~~The Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance set criteria and rules for the selection of freelance translators, their compensation fees and the cases and compensation fees that third parties should pay, according to letters “c,” “ç,” and “d” of point 1 of this Article.~~

~~Article 13~~

~~**Directorate of Legal and Administrative Services**~~

~~(Repealed by law no 9694, dated 19/03/2007)~~

~~The Directorate of Legal and Administrative Services shall carry out its activity as follows:~~

- ~~a) it shall attend to collecting, processing and storing the criminal records and cards as well as for issuing the respective certificates based on this register;~~
- ~~b) it shall draft programs, surveys and it shall attend to coordinating the efforts and necessary legal measures for the treatment and protection of legitimate rights and interests of the minors in the field of justice, as well as for the necessary measures for the legal education, prevention of law infringement and combating the criminality among minors;~~
- ~~c) it shall follow up and provide the legal administrative services, which under the law fall under the scope of the Minister of Justice.~~

~~**Directorate of Economic and Financial Control**~~

~~(Repealed by law no 9694, dated 19/03/2007)~~

~~The Directorate of Economic and Financial Control exercises the following activities:~~

- ~~a) it realises economic and financial control of the structures of the Ministry of Justice and the dependent institutions;~~
- ~~b) it recommends legal and institutional measures for the improvement of the situation and the economic and financial practices of the activity of the Ministry of Justice and the dependent institutions;~~
- ~~c) it conducts audits of the activity of the structures of the judicial administration for the fulfilment of the legal duties concerning which the law assigns responsibility to the Ministry of Justice;~~
- ~~ç) it proposes, according to law, the taking of disciplinary measures against persons responsible for a violation of the legal provisions related to economic and financial discipline;~~
- ~~d) it coordinates the activity with other specialised structures of the executive in the field of internal administrative and economic-financial audit.~~

~~Article 14~~

~~**Directorate of Personnel, Organisation and Services**~~

~~(Repealed by law no 9694, dated 19/03/2007)~~

~~The Directorate of Personnel, Organisation and Services exercises the following activities:~~

- ~~a) it studies and takes measures for meeting the needs of the Ministry related to human resources and for the selection and professional qualification of the specialists and ordinary employees of the Ministry and administers personnel documentation;~~
- ~~b) it controls observation of the law and the rules of internal functioning of the Ministry, and follows the procedures related to the taking of disciplinary measures against civil servants and employees in the competence of the Minister;~~
- ~~c) it attends to the administration, inventorying and maintenance of movable and immovable property of the Ministry;~~
- ~~ç) it attends to the planning and implementation of the annual programme for investments and for furnishing the Ministry with equipment and materials of every kind for the maintenance of inventories and the administration of the warehouse;~~
- ~~d) it attends to the functioning of the means of communication, the distribution and movement of vehicles, cleanliness and order in the work environment, and to preserving and securing them, and also provides other services necessary for the activity of the structures of the Ministry;~~
- ~~dh) it follows and realises all activities related to the incoming and outgoing correspondence of the Ministry, the archives, the protocols, the typing and the reproduction of written documents and forms;~~
- ~~e) it attends to the maintenance, protection and use of the archives of the system of justice in conformity with the respective legal and subordinate legal acts;~~
- ~~ë) it attends to and supports the cooperation of the Ministry of Justice with counterpart institutions and judicial authorities of other states, bodies and international institutions, and other foreign public and private institutions, as regards participation in and organisation of international activities, within and outside the state;~~
- ~~f) it follow and take measures for the means of communication and relations with the public, for the clarification, explanation and simplification of actions and administrative written documents of the Ministry, as well as for the receipt, informing and correct examination of complaints and requests of the public;~~
- ~~g) it follows and takes measures for research, processing, maintenance, use and exchange of information within and outside the Ministry, and also for communication and exchange of information with press entities and the mass media;~~
- ~~gj) it follows and performs actions involving bookkeeping, books of account and the cashbox.~~

Article 15

Economic Directorate

(Repealed by law no 9694, dated 19/03/2007)

The Economic Directorate shall carry out its activity as follows:

- ~~a) it shall attend to acknowledging the situation and meeting the procedures for filling out the budget requests of the ministry;~~
- ~~b) it shall take measures for the programming, planning, ensuring and implementing the budget approved for the realisation of the financial funds and investments in the fields of the activity of the Ministry;~~

~~e) it shall program, organise and conduct controls and inspections about the observation of the financial and budget discipline by all the constituent structures or depending on the Ministry of Justice.~~

~~Article 15~~

~~**Economic Directorate**~~

~~(Repealed by law no 9694, dated 19/03/2007)~~

~~The Economic Directorate exercises the following activities:~~

- ~~a) it follows and co-ordinates the activities of studying and fulfilling procedures for the preparation of the budgetary requests of the Ministry of Justice and its dependent institutions;~~
- ~~b) it takes measures, follows up and reports, according to law, on the planning, provision and implementation of the approved budget, for the realisation of the financial funds and investments in the fields of activity of the Ministry of Justice and its dependent institutions.~~

Article 16

General Directorate of Prisons

1. The General Directorate of Prisons is an institution under the Ministry of Justice that, according to the law, follows and realises the organisation and functioning of the pre-trial detention system, the execution of criminal decisions, the serving of punishment and the treatment of persons who are detained, arrested or sentenced to imprisonment.

Article 17

General Directorate of the Bailiff's Service

The General Directorate of the Bailiff's Office is an institution under the Ministry of Justice that, according to the law, follows and realises the organisation and functioning of the system of execution of civil decisions and executive titles.

~~Article 18~~

~~**Centre of Official Publications**~~

~~The Centre of Official Publications is an institution under the Ministry of Justice that, according to the law, exercises the activities of official legal publications and printing, legal professional texts and other activities for the publication of the legislation and information about it.~~

Article 18

Center of Official Publications

(Amended by law no. 40/2017, Article 8)

The Center of Official Publications is a public legal entity under the Ministry of Justice, which is responsible for the publication of the Official Gazette, Bulletin of Official Announcement's and for updating and well-functioning of the Electronic Archive of Acts and other publications in accordance to the legal provisions in force on the organization and functioning of the Center of Official Publications.

Article 18/1

Albanian Adoption Committee

(Amended by law no 9112, dated 24/07/2003)

The Albanian Adoption Committee is an institution under the Ministry of Justice that, according to the law, follows and realises the organisation and functioning of activities related to adoptions, for the lawful interest and protection of the rights of juveniles.

Article 18/2

Probation Services

(Added by law no. 40/2017, Article 9)

The Probation Service is a public service, organized and functioning under the Ministry of Justice in accordance to the special legal provisions.

Article 18/3

Forensic Medicine

(Added by law no. 40/2017, Article 9)

The Institute of Forensic Medicine is a central, budgetary, institution, under the Ministry of Justice, in accordance with the special legal provisions.

Article 18/4

State Archive of the Judicial System

(Added by law no. 40/2017, Article 9)

The State Archive of the Judicial System is organized and functions at the Ministry of Justice. The organization and functioning of this institution is regulated by the Decision of Council of Ministers.

Article 18/5

National Agency of Bankruptcy

(Added by law no. 40/2017, Article 9)

National Agency of Bankruptcy, as the state authority competent on supervision, training and licensing of the activity of administrators, is organized and functions at the Ministry of Justice in accordance with the provisions of the special legislation.

CHAPTER IV FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 19

Law no. 7381 of May 8, 1990 “On the establishment of the Ministry of Justice,” with its later amendments, and any provision conflicting with this law, is repealed.

Transitory provisions *(Added by law no. 40/2017, Article 9)*

Judges and Prosecutors who have been exercising leading and executive functions at the Ministry of Justice, at the time of the entry into force of Law 96/2016 “On the status of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Albania”, shall be considered as seconded magistrates and the provisions of the law on the status of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Albania shall apply. They shall undergo the process of the reevaluation in accordance with the law on the transitional reevaluation of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Albania.

Article 20

This law enters into force 15 days after publication in the Official Journal.