



Colombia National Development Plan approved, including measures with tax consequences

On 9 June 2015, Colombia's president approved the 2015 National Development Plan (Act 753), which is effective as from that date. The plan covers years 2014-2018 and includes some tax-related measures:

- Self-employed individuals may deduct business expenses that fulfill the requirements of section 107 of the Tax Code (which includes requirements relating to proportionality, necessity and a causal relationship with the income-producing activities of the business) from their taxable income, and may exclude the VAT amount charged on the services they perform from their social security contribution base.
- Forestry incentive certificate (CIF) subsidies will be distributed regionally to ensure they will reach small reforestation activities.
- Cities or districts may establish minimum presumptive tax bases for the property tax, starting from the 2017 taxable year.
- The public lighting tax is replaced by a special contribution for public lighting services. As long as the contribution fulfills the requirements of section 107 of the Tax Code, it will be a deductible expense for income tax and income tax for equality (CREE) purposes.
- The specialized logistic infrastructure (ILE) entities engaged to perform certain logistics activities relating to optimizing the flow of goods are empowered to carry out custom operations previously specified by the tax authorities (DIAN).
- A mandatory registry for electronic invoices is created and will be managed by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism; this requirement does not affect regular (nonelectronic) invoices or invoices issued by a computer system.
- A new local tax for parking and establishment services is introduced.
- The "surveillance fees" paid by port corporations and operators are replaced by a special surveillance contribution paid to the Superintendency of Ports and Transport.
- Municipalities or districts with more than 300,000 inhabitants may establish tolls for road use that differ from the tolls set by Law 105/1993 for the usage of areas of high traffic, environmental pollution or infrastructure built to avoid urban congestion.

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