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# Mexican Airspace Protection Law is enacted

Last Wednesday, March 1, 2023, was published in the Official Gazette of the Federation ("DOF") the Decree enacting the Mexican Airspace Protection Law (the "Law"), which regulates articles 27, 48 and 73, section XXIX-M, of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, in matters of security and protection of the Mexican Airspace and entered into force on March 2, 2023.

This law is federal, of general observance in the national territory, and its purpose is to establish and regulate the measures, actions and procedures to preserve the security, sovereignty and national independence of the Mexican Airspace. In terms of Article 4 of the Law, security for safeguarding sovereignty in the airspace over national territory is governed by the provisions therein and international treaties to which Mexico is a party in matters of civil aeronautics and the protection of human rights and, in the absence of express provisions, by the Civil Aviation Law, the Airports Law, the Federal Administrative Procedure Law, the Organic Law of the Mexican Army and Air Force and the Federal Criminal Code.

The Law establishes the following matters that are necessary to highlight:

The Mexican Ministry of National Defense ("SEDENA"):

i. In accordance with its powers, it shall coordinate the participation of the corresponding authorities to assist in the surveillance and protection of the Mexican Airspace. ii. with the prior approval of the Surveillance and Protection Center, shall be in charge of issuing the necessary regulations for effective compliance with the Law.

The operation of the following institutions is regulated as summarized below:

- i. The Surveillance and Protection Center.
- ii. The Airspace Protection and Surveillance Council, and
- iii. The Airspace Surveillance and

Protection System.

The Surveillance and Protection Center shall have the authority to observe whether certain flight maneuvers may be considered as traces of interest, unauthorized flights or clandestine flights as long as the aircraft crew performs certain conducts established in the Law.

The Surveillance and Protection Center will carry out the activities for the operating detection means, coordinating and executing air interception, airspace monitoring, controlling operations within restricted airspace, determining air defense identification zones and Mexican airspace surveillance and protection zones, among others.

The Airspace Protection and Surveillance Council is the highest authority and will be in charge for issuing the policies of coordination and exchange of information between the different governmental dependencies of the Federal Public Administration, and these, according to their powers and based on the principles of legality and legal certainty, shall ensure the protection of Mexican airspace, as well they shall be in charge for determining the protocols to determine warnings in the airspace, the issuance of the manual of integration and operation of the Council.

Pursuant to Article 14 of the Law, Airspace Protection and Surveillance Council shall be composed by:

- i. The President of the Republic, who shall chair this Council;
- ii. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs;
- iii. The Secretary of SEDENA;
- iv. The Secretary of the Navy;
- v. The Secretary of Security and Citizen Protection;
- vi. The Secretary of Infrastructure, Communications and Transportation,
- vii. The head of the Command of the Center, who will also be the head of the Technical Secretariat of this Council.

The purpose of the Airspace Surveillance and Protection System is to coordinate among the different governmental dependencies of the Federal Public Administration, the actions to be taken to prevent and inhibit illicit air operations that could threaten national security.

The Airspace Surveillance and Protection System, shall be comprised by:

- i. SEDENA, who will be in charge of coordinating this System through the Command of the Mexican Air Force, and the Command of the Surveillance and Protection Center; ii. the Ministry of the Navy, jointly with the Directorate of the Command and Control Center of the Mexican Navy;
- iii. the Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications and Transportation, with the Federal Civil Aviation Agency, and the Mexican Airspace Navigation Services;
- iv. the Ministry of Security and Citizen Protection, through the National Guard, and the National Intelligence Center; and finally v. he Ministry of the Interior through the National Immigration Institute.

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