LEGISLATIVE SURVEY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:
SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1993

Introduction

The Legislative Survey of the Russian Federation hopes to assist our readers in keeping abreast of the most important legislative output of the Russian Federation. The materials contained in this issue of the Legislative Survey have been selected from legislation adopted in the period 1 September to 31 December 1993. We have brought the different laws, decrees and others normative enactments issued in this period under a detailed system of headings, so that the various legal documents relate to each other in a meaningful way. Starting from the previous issue, our readers will also find in the Survey most important documents of the Supreme Arbitration Court of the Russian Federation. Unlike arbitration courts in western countries, Russian arbitration courts, which should rather be called commercial courts, exercise compulsory jurisdiction over all disputes between economic actors, including individual entrepreneurs and state agencies. Although traditional legal doctrine does not treat judicial decisions and findings as a source of law, their practical regulatory impact is most important. In certain instances, the opinion of the Supreme Arbitration Court may even prevail over formal sources of law which are often vague or contradictory.

The reported period was marked by dramatic events which are likely to have far-reaching influence on the future Russian history. In this short time the country has seen the final dismantling of the Soviet system, a street war in Moscow, and the adoption of the first ideology-free Constitution of Russia. But even in most critical days, the legislative activity in all legal fields did not stop, and the amount of legislative materials substantially increased in comparison with the preceding period. The main legislative source for this issue of the Survey was the official weekly which publishes all acts of the President and the Government (Sobranie Aktov Prezidenta i Pravitel'stv Rossiiskoi Federatsii, “SA”). The traditional parliamentary bulletin (Vedomosti, “Ved.”) collapsed as a result of the Supreme Soviet dissolution. Enactments issued by Russian ministries and agencies were taken from an official bulletin of ministerial regulations (Biulleten' Normativnykh Aktov Ministerstv i Vedomstv Rossiiskoi Federatsii, “BNA”). The “Supreme Arbitration Court Herald” (Vestnik Vysshego Arbitrazhnogo Suda Rossiiskoi Federatsii, “VVAS”) and the daily “Russian Gazette” (Rossiiskaia Gazeta, “RG”) were also used as sources of materials for this Legislative Survey.

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Abbreviations:

BNA Biulleten' Normativnykh Akтов Ministerstv i Vedomstv Rossiiskoi Federatsii (Bulletin of Normative Acts of Russian Federation Ministries and Departments)

CB Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Bank of Russia)

CC Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation

CCI Chamber of Commerce and Industry

CN Council of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation

CPD Congress of People's Deputies

FMO Russian Federal Migration Office

GKAP State Committee for Anti-monopoly Policy and Promotion of the New Economic Structures (Anti-monopoly Committee)

GKI Goskomimushchestvo (State Committee for the Administration of State Property)

GOST Gosudarstvennyi Obshchesoiuznyi Standart (All-Union State Standard)

GPU Gosudarstvenno-pravovoe Upravlenie (State Legal Department of the President of the Russian Federation)

Gov. Governmental

MEER Ministry of External Economic Relations

MJ Ministry of Justice

MI Ministry of the Interior

MinFin Ministry of Finance

RG Rossiiskaia Gazeta

RSFSR Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic

PSS Presidium of the Supreme Soviet

SA Sobranie Akтов Prezidenta i Pravitel'stva Rossiiskoi Federatsii (Collection of Acts of the President and the Government of the Russian Federation)

SAC Supreme Arbitration Court of the Russian Federation

SC Supreme Court of the Russian Federation

SCC State Customs Committee

SCSEI Russian Federation State Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Inspection

SP RSFSR Sobranie Postanovlenii Pravitel'stva RSFSR (Collection of Decrees of the RSFSR Government)

SS Supreme Soviet

STO State Tax Office


VVAS Vestnik Vysshego Arbitrazhnogo Suda Rossiiskoi Federatsii (Herald of the Supreme Arbitration Court of the Russian Federation)

Zak.Ek. Zakonodatel'stvo i Ekonomika (Legislation and Economics)