



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**DECISION**

**NO. 1023, DATED 16.12. 2015**

**ON**

**STRATEGIC SUBSECTORS AND PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT ZONES**

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution and points 2 and 7 of Article 8 of Law no. 55/2015, “On Strategic Investments in the Republic of Albania”, on the proposal of the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship, the Council of Ministers

**D E C I D E D:**

**I. STRATEGIC SUBSECTORS**

1. Pursuant to Law no. 55/2015, “On Strategic Investments in the Republic of Albania”, strategic sectors are economic sectors that are considered by the Albanian Government as sectors of high economic growth potential for the country.

2 The strategic investment sectors shall be:

- a) The sector of “Energy and Mining”;
- b) The sector of “Transport, Electronic Communications Infrastructure and Urban Waste”;
- c) The sector of “Tourism (Tourist Structures)”;
- d) The sector of “Agriculture (large agricultural farms) and Fisheries”;
- e) The sector of “Technological and Economic Development Zones”;
- f) The priority development zones.

3. Within the strategic sectors specified in the point nr. 2 of this decree are defined and specified the following specific subsectors:

a) The strategic energy and mining sector:

- i. The energy subsector includes strategic investments in the areas of electricity generation, transmission, distribution and supply;
- ii. The hydrocarbon subsector includes strategic investments in the areas of research, development, extraction, production, division, processing, collection, transport and distribution of crude oil and hydrocarbon by – products and activities in the areas of transmission, distribution, trade, storage, supply, and building and operating natural gas infrastructure;

iii. The mining subsector includes strategic investments in the areas of research, discovery and exploitation of mineral resources.

b) Strategic sector of “Transport, electronic communications infrastructure and urban waste”:

i. The maritime transport subsector includes strategic investments in relation to the construction, maintenance, administration of seaports, port zones and marinas, and the provision of sea transport services for goods and passengers;

ii. The air transport subsector includes strategic investments in relation to the construction, maintenance and administration of airports, and the provision of air transport services for goods and passengers;

iii. The railway transport subsector includes strategic investments in relation to the construction, maintenance and administration of railway infrastructure, and the provision of railway transport services for goods and passengers;

iv. The road transport subsector includes strategic investments in relation to the construction, maintenance and administration of regional and national roads, as well as the provision of road transport services for goods and passengers;

v. The transport network subsector includes strategic investments in relation to the construction, maintenance and administration of alternative transport networks, such as trams, underground or similar alternative transports, and as well as the provision of passenger transport services;

vi. The electronic communication subsector includes strategic investments in relation to the construction, maintenance and administration of electronic communication infrastructure, as well as the provision of user access to these networks.

vii. The urban waste subsector includes strategic investments in relation to the integrated waste management, including waste collection, transport, reclamation, destruction of waste, construction, upgrading, administration and care for closing landfills.

viii. The water supply – sewerage and wastewater treatment subsector includes strategic investments in relation to the construction, rehabilitation and/or maintenance of the water supply system, sewerage system, and wastewater plants.

c) Strategic sector of “Tourism” in which the subsector of tourist structures includes strategic investments in relation to the construction, maintenance and administration of tourist accommodation structures, considered as tourist enterprises in accordance with the tourism law provisions.

d) Strategic sector “Agriculture and Fisheries”

i. The crop farming production subsector includes strategic investments based on a large crop farm model;

ii. The animal farming infrastructure subsector includes strategic investments which establish and manage the infrastructure needed for animal farming, and provide services related to the distribution of animal farm products;

iii. The fishery infrastructure subsector includes strategic investment related to the construction and administration of fisheries and aquaculture infrastructures, as well as the delivery of services for distribution of fishing products.

e) Strategic sector “Technological and economic development zones” in which the industrial/technological parks subsector includes strategic investments in relation to the construction, maintenance and management of industrial/technological and innovation parks, and the provision of the infrastructure needed for manufacturing, industrial development and trade, and the provision of services related to the activities carried out within those parks.

## II. PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT ZONES

1. Pursuant to Law no. 55/2015, “On Strategic Investments in the Republic of Albania”, “Priority Development Zones” are regional and/or local zones of local governing units considered zones of special importance, which need special support for their economic growth, the promotion of employment, the improvement of their quality of life and the efficient exploitation of the sources of public infrastructure.

2. The development of priority development zones shall focus mainly on the following lines of action:

a) Guide investments in specific territorial areas, in order to promote the concentration of the same or similar types of industries or commercial activities in order to benefit by the specialization of jobseekers, economies of scale and the allocation of infrastructure costs. For this purpose will use incentive mechanisms, which aim to increase the efficiency of the infrastructure existing or emerging, and will be taken measures to protect the environment from industrial impacts;

b) Guide investments in specific geographic areas with higher unemployment rates and low economic development compared with other regions in the country. This will be ensured through mechanisms that aim at achieving economic development, increasing the wellbeing of the population, increasing employment, providing professional training and improving infrastructure.

3. The supplementary criteria for the identification of priority development zones shall be the following:

a) The study of location, concentration, number and economic importance of the existing industrial and trade activities in order to ensure economic synergy among them;

b) The analysis of the existing infrastructure or of the developing infrastructure;

c) The level of unemployment in the zones;

d) The economic revenues per capita and other aid criteria, based on public needs and strategies;

e) Implementation of effective environmental objectives;

f) Effective utilization of special abilities and qualifications of active job seekers in the zones;

g) Statistics of economic growth of the relevant zones based on studies by INSTAT or other public entities;

4. Proposals for proclamation of priority development zones may be made by the line ministries, the Albanian Investment Development Agency, and the Strategic Investment Committee.

5. The identification, proclamation, and specification of the manner and rules for the operation of the zones to be considered priority development zones shall be done, case by case, from the Council of Ministers with special decrees.

### III. PROVISIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

The Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism Trade and Entrepreneurship, the Albanian Investment Development Agency and the relevant ministries shall be responsible for verifying the compliance of investment projects with the strategic subsectors and for drafting proposals for the declaration of priority development zones in the implementation of this decree.

This decree shall become effective following its publication in the “Official Gazette”.

**PRIME MINISTER**

**EDI RAMA**