

**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

D E C I S I O N

Nr. 547, dated 9.8.2006 (updated)

ON SETTING UP THE NATIONAL AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution and Article 10 of Law nr.9000, dated 1.30.2003 "On organization and functioning of the Council of Ministers", the proposal of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy, Council of Ministers

DECIDED:

1. Establishment of National Agency of Natural Resources (AKBN), as an institution under the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, headquartered in Tirana.
2. National Agency of Natural Resources object to development activities, overseeing the rational exploitation of natural resources, according to government policy, and monitor their post- exploitation in mining, hydrocarbons and energy.
3. National Agency of Natural Resources has the following duties and responsibilities:
 - Counsels, proposes to and collaborating with relevant government structures for policy making in the field of mining, hydrocarbons and energy;
 - Implement government policies in the field of mining, hydrocarbons and energy;
 - Provide, within the scope of its activity, opposing government studies and projects in the field of mining, post-mining, hydrocarbons and energy, presented by entities, state and private, domestic or foreign. For special cases may require specialized assistance;
 - Promote the mineral resources of hydrocarbons, hydrocarbon and mineral negotiates agreements and pursue implementation of their development plans;
 - Prepare necessary documentation and procedures for issuing permits, licenses, authorizations, in accordance with the law, which allow access to hydrocarbon agreements and hydrocarbon operations, according to the signed agreements;
 - Oversee the mining, post-mining, hydrocarbon and energy;
 - Follows up the implementation of agreements on hydrocarbons;
 - Performs monitoring of exploited areas, the risk of closure of mining and mining activities;
 - Administer, exclusively, all the hydrocarbon sector primary data and data related to the mining and post-mining.
 - Serves as a specialized body to the minister responsible for energy, the problems of strategy and policy in this area;
 - Promote renewable energy sources, and proposes measures to increase energy use in the energy cycle;
 - Prepare and publish an annual energy balance, both nationally and regionally in formats compatible with Eurostat and the International Energy Agency;
 - Monitors the concession contracts for the hydro power plants.

4. National Agency of Natural Resources is a public entity created by the merger of the National Hydrocarbon Agency, Research and Design Institute of Metallurgy, Institute of Technology Extracting and Processing of Minerals and Research Institute of Mechanics and Design of Wood and National Energy Agency.
5. National Agency of Natural Resources, for services provided, is funded from the state budget through the project.
6. All rights and obligations determined by previous acts of legislation, those contractual assets and bank accounts, the institutions mentioned in paragraph 4 of this decision are transferred to National Agency of Natural Resources.
7. The structure, the organigramme and functioning of the National Agency of Natural Resources are determined in regulation of this agency, approved by order of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy.
8. Assignment, termination of contract and dismissal of director of the National Agency of Natural Resources are ordered by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy.
9. Budget for the year 2006, for this institution to be covered by the reserve fund of the Council of Ministers.
 - 9.1.a. value of 15 million (fifteen million) Lek, approved for the National Energy Agency, in the 2007 budget, the program "Support for energy", item "Studies and projections", to be transferred to the program "Support for natural resources", item "Studies of projections".
 - 9.1.b. Facing the expenditure on salaries of employees who become unemployed by the restructuring, to become the 2007 budget, approved the National Energy Agency, the program "Support for energy" of 1.8 million (one million eight hundred thousand) leks, item "current expense".
10. Decisions no.445, dated 03.09.1993 "On establishment of the National Agency of Hydrocarbons", no.66, dated 10.06.1978 "On establishment of the Research and Design Institute of Metallurgy", the Council of Ministers, and in the connection I "Research and Design Institute of Mechanics and Wood (ISPMD)" the decision nr.197, dated 18.3.1996 of the Council of Ministers" On the state's network of scientific institutions", and the order of the Minister, nr.4685 / 1, dated 1 .9.1993 "For the creation and organization of the Institute of Technology minerals extraction and processing", are abolished.
 - 10.1 Decisions No. 443, dated 16.7.1998 "On the establishment of National Energy Agency" and No.31 0, dated 15.5.2003 "On approval of salary structure of employees of the National Energy Agency", the Council of Ministers, are abolished.
11. The Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy is in charge to implement this decision.

This decision shall enter into force after publication in the Official Journal.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Sali Berisha (signature)