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Legal Updates September 2026



Dominican Republic

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01

Corporate Criminal Law

Law No. 44-26 on Corporate Criminal Liability

The Executive Branch enacted Law No. 44-26, which amends and adds provisions to the Dominican Republic's Criminal Code (Law No. 74-25), strengthening the criminal liability regime applicable to legal entities. The legislation was the subject of intense congressional debate during the summer of 2026, driven in part by concerns raised by the business sector and international bodies regarding corporate compliance standards.

Among the most relevant aspects for companies operating in the country is the expansion of the catalogue of offenses for which a legal entity may be held criminally liable, together with clearer criteria for attributing such liability when the punishable act is committed by directors, representatives, or employees in the course of their duties and for the direct or indirect benefit of the entity.

The law also provides for a regime of mitigating circumstances tied to the existence of compliance programs effectively implemented prior to the commission of the offense, which makes the adoption of such programs a first-order legal risk management priority for organizations.

Under the enacted text, the law will enter into force on November 5th, 2026, giving companies a limited window to review and, where necessary, strengthen their internal compliance policies, reporting channels, and third-party due diligence procedures.

Date	Milestone
Summer 2026	Congressional debate and business-sector comments on the bill
2026	Congressional approval of Law No. 44-26
2026	Enactment by the Executive Branch
2026	Publication in the Official Gazette
November 5th, 2026	Law No. 44-26 enters into force

For further details, please refer to the following link: https://www.consultoria.gov.do

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Commercial Registry

MICM Unifies Commercial Registry Criteria (Resolution No. 237-2026)

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MICM) issued Resolution No. 237-2026, dated September 9th, 2026, establishing unified criteria for the Commercial Registry applicable to corporate and registration proceedings filed before every Chamber of Commerce and Production in the Dominican Republic.

The resolution addresses a need repeatedly flagged by notarial and corporate practitioners to harmonize the requirements and procedures that, until now, could vary from one Chamber of Commerce to another, creating uncertainty and inconsistency in matters such as incorporation of companies, bylaw amendments, capital increases and reductions, mergers, and the registration of corporate acts generally.

According to MICM Minister for Internal Trade Yayo Sanz Lovatón, who presented the measure, the goal is to provide greater legal certainty and predictability to users of the Commercial Registry, reducing response times and preventing the same procedure from being treated differently depending on the territorial jurisdiction where it is filed.

For law firms and corporate affairs departments, this unification of criteria means reviewing the formats and templates customarily used for minutes, bylaws, and other corporate documents, as to comply with the new guidelines and avoid objections or rejections by the Chambers of Commerce.

For further details, please refer to the following link: https://www.micm.gob.do/

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Constitutional Law

TC Reserves Judgment on Five Constitutional Challenges Against the New Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code

The Constitutional Court (TC) has reserved judgment on five direct actions seeking declarations of unconstitutionality against various provisions of the new Criminal Code (Law No. 74-25) and the Criminal Procedure Code (Law No. 97-25), following a public hearing attended by the claimants, representatives of the Attorney General's Office, the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, as well as several voluntary interveners.

Among the cases taken under advisement is the action filed by the Dominican Inclusive Lesbian Community (Colesdom) and Rosalba Karina Díaz Crisóstomo challenging Article 173 of Law No. 74-25, which relates to protection against discrimination. The TC also reserved judgment on other actions challenging various provisions of the new Criminal Code, as well as an amparo action against a provision of Law No. 97-25.The TC further reported that it continues to have pending decisions on additional constitutional challenges against provisions of Law No. 74-25, including a case seeking the decriminalization of abortion that had previously been heard by the Court.

As of the date of this publication, the Constitutional Court had not issued a decision on the merits of any of these actions. Accordingly, the challenged provisions remain subject to the ongoing constitutional review process.

For further details, please refer to the following link: https://listindiario.com

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Judiciary

National Council of the Judiciary Advances Supreme Court Renewal Process

The National Council of the Judiciary (CNM) continues its process of evaluating and potentially renewing Supreme Court of Justice (SCJ) justices, within the framework of the constitutional and legal provisions governing the judicial career and terms of office of high-court judges.

On September 9th, 2026, the CNM ratified a group of Supreme Court of Justice justices, and on September 17th, 2026, it released a shortlist of candidates for the seats that remain vacant or subject to competitive selection, following the credential-review, interview, and public-consultation procedure set out in the applicable rules.

According to the timeline released by the Council itself, the selection process is expected to conclude with the final appointment of justices no later than October 23rd, 2026, the date on which the new composition of the Supreme Court of Justice would take effect for the corresponding term.

The final composition of the SCJ is of direct interest to legal practice, as it affects case-law interpretation in civil, commercial, criminal, and administrative litigation matters, among others, that are relevant to business activity in the country.

For further details, please refer to the following link: https://presidencia.gob.do

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Regulatory & Technology Law

Senate Merges Bills on Artificial Intelligence Regulation

On September 15th, 2026, the relevant Senate committee agreed to merge two legislative initiatives that had been separately filed to regulate the development, use, and commercialization of artificial intelligence systems in Dominican territory, with the aim of producing a single, consolidated text for discussion on the Senate floor.

While the final content of the merged bill is still under drafting and consultation, the original initiatives contemplated, among other elements, general principles of transparency and accountability in the use of artificial intelligence systems, oversight mechanisms for applications considered high-risk, and provisions on personal data protection in the training and operation of such systems.

Companies that develop, integrate, or use artificial intelligence solutions in their operations in the Dominican Republic are advised to closely monitor the progress of this legislative initiative, given its potential impact on regulatory compliance, data protection, and civil liability, among other areas.

As of the close of this bulletin, the merged bill has not been submitted to a floor vote in the Senate, and there is accordingly no legislative text currently in force on this specific subject matter under Dominican law.

For further details, please refer to the following link: https://www.senadord.gob.do/

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