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SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENTS ON GEOSPATIAL DATA MANAGEMENT

The Law on the Amendment to the Village Law and Certain Other Laws ("**Law**") entered into force upon its publication in the Official Gazette dated 12 December 2024 and numbered 32750.

Purpose of the Law

The Law amended the processes of collecting, producing, and sharing geospatial data regulated under the Law No. 7221 on Geographical Information Systems and the Amendment to Certain Laws, and a general framework has been established by introducing objective criteria regarding fee exemptions, processes subject to authorization, authorization durations, and application procedures.

Key Amendments

Authorization Durations

The validity period of the authorization certificate to be obtained from the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change (“Ministry”) for the collection, production, sharing, or sale of geospatial data under the National Geospatial Data Responsibility Matrix shall be determined based on the applicant’s request, within a range of one to five years.

Authorization Fee Calculation Criteria

- For Turkish citizens, the authorization fee will be calculated based on the number of geospatial data themes, the area of operation, the authorization duration, and the sales revenue stated in the applicant’s income statement.
- For foreign real persons or legal persons, the authorization fee will be determined by multiplying an authorization coefficient value of TRY 1,750 by 1,250 and then by the duration coefficient.

Sanctions for Unauthorized Activities

If unauthorized activities are detected by the Ministry, the period granted to submit an authorization application will be extended from 10 days to 15 days. At the end of this period, Turkish citizens who fail to apply will be subject to an administrative fine equal to the highest annual authorization fee, while foreign applicants will face a fine amounting to twice the annual authorization fee.

Regulations for Local Governments and the Private Sector

- Local governments collecting geospatial data through sensors as part of smart city applications will be required to register these sensors in the system established by the Ministry.
- Legal persons holding distribution licenses for electricity or natural gas will be exempt from the authorization requirement, provided they are registered with the National Geospatial Information Platform. However, the sale of geospatial data for commercial purposes is excluded from this exemption.

Disaster and Emergency Management

Real persons and private legal persons engaged in Geographical Information Systems activities are obligated to share the geospatial data they produce under the National Geospatial Data Responsibility Matrix with the Ministry free of charge, to be used in studies conducted within the scope of disaster and emergency management before and after disasters and emergencies.

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