



Key Russian Law Developments in January 2026

1. Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) Recognized as Permanent Arbitration Institution in Russia

On January 12, 2026, the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation announced that it had granted the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) the status of a Permanent Arbitration Institution (PAI).¹ This allows DIAC (or arbitral tribunals administered by DIAC) to, among other things:

- seek support from Russian courts throughout arbitration proceedings, including for interim measures and evidence collection;
- administer certain categories of corporate disputes involving Russian legal entities, including disputes relating to the ownership of shares or participatory interests in a company's charter capital, in particular disputes arising out of share purchase agreements (SPAs), as well as disputes concerning foreclosure on shares; the administration of other types of corporate disputes is subject to the adoption by DIAC of special corporate dispute rules;
- administer arbitrations where the parties have waived their right to challenge the award.

Currently, in addition to DIAC, the following arbitration institutions are recognized as PAIs: HKIAC, VIAC, SIAC, ICC and CRCICA.²

2. Reduced Liability for Certain Minor Customs Violations

On January 9, 2026, the law amending the Russian Code of Administrative Offences came into force.³ The amended Code now:

- exempts bona fide declarants and customs representatives from liability for inaccurate goods declarations where the inaccuracy is voluntarily disclosed and corrected before the goods are released. This exemption applies only if the customs authority has not requested any documents, issued any inspection or examination notices, or initiated any administrative proceedings related to the declared goods, and all applicable customs duties were paid.;

¹ [Official Website](#) of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation.

² [List of Foreign Arbitration Institutions Recognized as Permanent Arbitration Institutions](#) under Federal Law №382-FZ dated 29 December 2015 "On Arbitration (Arbitral Proceedings) in the Russian Federation."

³ [Federal Law №560-FZ dated 29 December 2025](#) "On Amendments to the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation."

- allows fines for customs violations to be paid by a third party. Previously, only the liable party could pay such fines;
- exempts from administrative liability for failure to submit the Statistical Form for Accounting of Goods Movement if the form is submitted to the customs authority within 8 business days of the submission deadline.

3. Miscellaneous Updates

- On January 19, 2026, the State Duma of the Russian Federation passed a bill in the first reading that would introduce administrative liability for violations concerning critical information infrastructure⁴ (CII).⁵ Under the bill, violations of the rules governing the operation of or access to CII would be subject to administrative fines: from RUB 10,000 to RUB 50,000 (~ USD 130 – USD 650) for officials, and from RUB 100,000 to RUB 500,000 (~ USD 1,300 – USD 6,500) for legal entities.
- On January 1, 2026, the law amending the Tax Code of the Russian Federation came into force, as we reported in November 2025.⁶ The law increased the standard value-added tax (VAT) rate to 22% for all VAT taxpayers; reduced the upper revenue limit for applying the simplified tax system (STS), and abolished preferential social insurance contribution rates for small and medium-sized enterprises.
- On January 14, 2026, the State Duma passed a bill in the first reading that would amend the law concerning foreign investments in strategic companies, as we reported in October 2025.⁷ The bill, among other things, expands the list of strategic activities, obliges foreign investors to obtain governmental approval for transactions involving certain property, imposes additional disclosure obligations on foreign investors, etc.

⁴ Information systems and networks used in sectors such as energy, transport, healthcare, and others.

⁵ [Bill №1071997-8](#) On Amendments to the Code of Administrative Offences of the Russian Federation.

⁶ [Federal Law No. 425-FZ dated 28 November 2025](#) "On Amendments to Parts One and Two of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation, Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation, and on Repeal of Legislative Acts (Certain Provisions of Legislative Acts) of the Russian Federation."

⁷ [Bill №1082676-8](#) On Amendments to the Federal Law "On the Procedure for Foreign Investments in Business Entities of Strategic Importance for National Defense and State Security" and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation, and on Repeal of Subparagraphs 8 and 9 of Paragraph 10 of Article 6 of the Federal Law "On Foreign Investments in the Russian Federation."

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have on this subject.



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