

De Bijzondere Financieringswet: heden en toekomst

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this article is to present an overview of the current Special Finance Act for Regions and Communities in Belgium as well as to describe the new Special Finance Act that was envisioned by the negotiators of the federal Government Agreement in December 2011.

By discussing the current and future structure of the Special Finance Act it becomes clear which finance mechanisms will change, which will be left out or will be added. Since the formal drafting the new Special Finance Act is still pending and not all parameters are determined yet, it was necessary to formulate several important hypotheses in order to sketch the financial implications of the sixth reform of the State on the Special Finance Act.

The new Special Finance Act should provide an answer to several difficulties inherent in the current act. Although the question can be raised whether the new act will not create new problems. As for the Regions and Communities, some will be better off under the new act while others might feel the financial consequences of the reform. Given the transition mechanism put forward by the negotiators, these consequences should be eased during the first years in order to give the Regions and Communities time to adjust to the new finance mechanisms envisioned in the new Special Finance Act.

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