



LISBON CITY COUNCIL APPROVES REFERENDUM ON LOCAL ACCOMMODATION IN LISBON

The Lisbon Municipal Assembly approved the proposal for a referendum on local accommodation (LA) in the city.

The referendum arose from a popular initiative that was put to a decision in the Lisbon Municipal Assembly.

The conversion of this popular initiative into a local referendum was the result of a resolution approved in the first week of December by the Lisbon Municipal Assembly, with votes in favour from PS, BE, PEV, PAL, Livre and two non-attached deputies, votes against from PSD, CDS-PP, IL, PPM, Aliança, Chega and a non-

attached deputy, and abstentions from PCP and MPT.

This referendum aims to stop the activity of tourist accommodation and the granting of new licences in residential buildings.

The Referendum for Housing Movement's proposal seeks to give residents the decision to end local accommodation in residential buildings.

With the agreement of the municipal deputies on 3 December, the way was cleared for what could be the first referendum by popular initiative in Portuguese democracy.

CALDEIRA PIRES

SOCIEDADE DE ADVOGADOS | LAW FIRM

The proposal was submitted to the Constitutional Court, under the terms of Article 25 of the Legal Framework for Local Referendums, which states: *“Within eight days of the decision to hold the referendum, the president of the decision-making body shall submit it to the Constitutional Court for the purposes of a preventive review of its constitutionality and legality.”* (emphasis added)

The aim of the draft amendment to the local accommodation municipal regulations is to improve LA regulation in the municipality of Lisbon, with more appropriate and effective measures to protect the housing function, seeking to guarantee the desirable balance between tourism and housing in all parishes.

We therefore await the Constitutional Court's decision on the matter.

Inês de Azeredo Silva | Ines.as@caldeirapires.pt

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