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**Legislative Decree No. (5) of 1995 ratifying the Economic and Commercial Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Bahrain and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic**

We, Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Emir of the State of Bahrain.

Having reviewed Article (37) of the Constitution;

Emiri Order No. (4) of 1975;

And the Economic and Commercial Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Bahrain and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic;

And upon the submission of the Minister of Finance and National Economy;

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers,

**Hereby Decree the following Law:**

**Article One**

The Economic and Commercial Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Bahrain and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, signed in Damascus on 28 Jumada Al-Awwal 1415 A.H., corresponding to 2 November 1994, in accordance with Article (12) thereof, attached to this Law, have been ratified.

**Article Two**

The Ministers - each within his jurisdiction- shall implement this Law, and it shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**Emir of the State of Bahrain**

**Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa**

Issued in Riffa Palace:

On 16 Ramadan 1415 A.H.

Corresponding to: 15 February 1995

**Economic and Commercial Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Bahrain and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic**

The Government of the State of Bahrain,

And the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic,

Based on the bonds of Arab brotherhood that unite the two brotherly countries,

And desiring to develop and strengthen the bonds of economic and commercial cooperation between them on the basis of mutual benefits and common interests in line with the objectives of Arab economic cooperation and integration,

Have agreed as follows:

**Article One**

The two governments shall allow the export and import of agricultural, animal, industrial products, and raw materials of local origin between each other in accordance with the laws and regulations of each country.

**Article Two**

Agricultural and animal products originating from one of the contracting countries and imported by the other country shall be exempted from customs fees and similar fees.

Industrial products originating from one of the contracting countries and imported by the other country shall be exempted from customs fees and similar fees in accordance with the schedules that define these products prepared by the Joint Committee referred to in Article Eleven of this Agreement.

Goods exported from the free zones in either of the two countries and sent to the other party shall be subject to customs exemption benefits and shall be subject to the customs tariffs applicable in both countries.

**Article Three**

For the application of the provisions of Articles One and Two of this Agreement, products exported from one of the contracting countries to the other shall be accompanied by a certificate of origin issued by the competent authorities in the exporting country, and an industrial product shall be considered of Syrian or Bahraini origin if not less than (40%) of its final value is attributable to local value added when it is produced in either of the two countries, without prejudice to the laws and regulations applicable in each of the two countries with regard to other conditions.

**Article Four**

Agricultural products must be accompanied by a certificate from the exporting country proving their safety from diseases and pests. Food and animal materials must also be accompanied by a certificate proving their suitability for human consumption.

**Article Five**

The contracting countries shall promote economic cooperation through the following means:

1- Establishing joint projects and companies in both countries.

2- Investing the capital of one of the contracting countries or its nationals in the other country in economic, health, construction, and other fields.

3- Encouraging tourism, recreation, and the establishment of joint tourism projects between them.

4- Projects and capital of each of the contracting parties invested in the other party shall benefit from all advantages and facilities provided by the investment laws and regulations in each of them.

**Article Six**

The governments of both the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Bahrain shall allow the entry of capital belonging to their nationals and permit its investment in various economic sectors in accordance with the laws applicable in both countries.

These investments shall enjoy the benefits, facilities, exemptions, and guarantees provided for in this Agreement, depending on the nature of each investment, and in particular:

A- Transfer of profits resulting from the investment of the mentioned capital.

B- Repatriation of capital after five years of investment or six months from its entry as assets into either of the two countries if compelling circumstances prevent its investment.

**Article Seven**

Current payments under the provisions of this Agreement between natural persons and legal entities shall be made in any convertible currency agreed upon by the contracting parties.

**Article Eight**

Each of the contracting countries shall provide the necessary facilities to the other country for the establishment of trade fairs, product markets, and participation in international exhibitions and markets in accordance with their respective laws.

**Article Nine**

The contracting parties shall facilitate the passage of goods, means of transportation, and their drivers returning to the other country through their territories in accordance with their respective laws, the bilateral agreement signed between the two countries regarding the regulation of the affairs of transport of goods by truck and public vehicles in 1975, and the Arab and international agreements in force in the two countries.

**Article Ten**

The contracting parties shall promote joint meetings and exchange visits between their chambers of commerce, industry, and agriculture with the aim of developing economic cooperation and trade exchange between them.

**Article Eleven**

A- In the interest of ensuring the proper implementation of this Agreement and ensuring and expanding the mutual benefits it guarantees, the two contracting parties have agreed to establish a joint Syrian-Bahraini committee that shall meet once a year or upon the request of either of the contracting parties in Damascus or Manama alternately. Its tasks shall be as follows:

1- Propose procedures for the implementation of the provisions of this Agreement.

2- Propose schedules of goods and products, the origin of which is the contracting countries or one of them, and which are required to be exempted from customs duties.

3- Study various subjects of agricultural, industrial, and trade cooperation between the two countries.

4- Agree on resolving and addressing problems arising from the implementation of this Agreement and finding appropriate solutions to disputes arising from contracts concluded within the framework of this Agreement.

5- Provide proposals for amending this Agreement to expand trade exchange and develop economic relations between the two countries.

B- The proposals, amendments, and recommendations approved by the Joint Committee shall be implemented as of the date of their approval by the governments of both countries.

**Article Twelve**

This Agreement shall be ratified in accordance with the procedures followed by each of the contracting countries and shall enter into force from the date of the exchange of ratification documents. It shall remain in effect for a period of three years and shall automatically renew for one year at a time, unless either of the contracting parties notifies the other in writing of its desire to terminate the Agreement before its expiration, with a notice period of at least three months before the end of any current year after the extension.

In the event of the termination of the application of this Agreement, its provisions shall remain in effect for all contracts and commitments reached in accordance with its texts until they are fully implemented.

This Agreement has been drawn up and signed in Damascus on Wednesday, 28 Jumada Al-Awwal 1415 A.H., corresponding to 2 November 1994, in two original copies in the Arabic language.

**On behalf of the Government of the State of Bahrain**

**On behalf of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic**

**Minister of Finance and National Economy**

**Minister of Economy and Foreign Commerce**

**Ibrahim Abdul-Karim Mohammed**

**Dr. Mohammed Al-Emadi**