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**Published on the website on May 2024**

**Legislative Decree No. (15) of 1997 ratifying the Agreement On Economic And Trade Cooperation Between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

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

Having reviewed the Constitution

Emiri Order No. (4) of 1975;

And the Agreement On Economic and Trade Cooperation Between the Government of the Kingdom Of Bahrain and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, signed in Cairo on 15/05/1418 H. corresponding to 17/09/1997,

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 Agreement on Economic and Trade Cooperation Between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, signed in Cairo on 15/05/1418 A.H. corresponding to 17/09/1997, attached to this Law, has been ratified.

**Article Two**

The Ministers - each within his jurisdiction- shall implement the provisions of 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 at Riffa Palace:**

**27 Jumada Al-Awwal 1418 A.H.**

**Corresponding to 29 September 1997**

**Agreement on Economic and Trade Cooperation between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

The Government of the State of Bahrain and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, based on the ties of Arab fraternity that bind their peoples, and the ancient historical relations between their countries,

Desiring to develop economic and commercial relations between the two countries in order to expand the base of common interests and mutual benefits in various fields, enhance economic integration between the two countries, and support development and progress for the two brotherly peoples,

Believing in the importance of working to liberalise trade exchange between them within the framework of the Charter of the League of Arab States and in accordance with the rights and obligations in the convention establishing the World Trade Organisation,

Have agreed as follows:

**Chapter One**

**Preamble**

**Article One:**

The two contracting parties shall make their efforts to liberalise trade exchange between them to the maximum extent possible in accordance with the provisions of this agreement, and within the framework of what is required by the laws, regulations and procedures in force in both countries.

**Article Two: Definitions**

For the purposes of this Agreement, the words and phrases mentioned below shall have the meanings indicated opposite to them unless the context indicates otherwise:

**1- The Agreement:**The Economic and Commercial Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the State Of Bahrain and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt

2- The ‎Contracting Parties The Government of the State of Bahrain and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**3 - Customs Duties, Fees and Other Taxes of Similar Effect:**The fees imposed by the State Party under the customs tariff on imported goods, as well as other fees and taxes that it imposes on imported goods and to which the products of the State Party themselves are not subject, whatever the name of these fees and taxes.

This definition does not include fees collected for a specific service, such as land, storage, transportation, loading, or unloading fees.

**4- Non-customs Restrictions:**Measures and procedures that a State Party may take to control imports from the other Party. These restrictions include, in particular, import licences and quantitative, monetary and administrative restrictions that it imposes on imports.

**Chapter Two**

**Commercial Exchange**

**Article Three:**

This agreement aims to establish a free trade zone between the contracting parties in accordance with the following principles:

a - Complete cancellation of customs duties, fees and other taxes of similar effect on national goods and products exchanged between the contracting parties.

b - Immediate cancellation of all non-customs restrictions between the contracting parties - if any - immediately upon entry into force of this agreement.

**Article Four:**

a - The complete and immediate exemption of customs duties, fees and other taxes of similar effect shall apply on all national goods and products exchanged between the contracting parties.

b - The list of goods and products included in Annex No. (1) attached to the agreement is excluded - temporarily - from the exemptions set forth in the agreement.

c - In order for goods and products to be considered for the purposes of this agreement to be of national origin, they shall adhere to the rules of origin contained in the protocol attached to this agreement (Annex 2).

d - Goods exchanged between the two parties with regard to sales tax are treated as national production.

e - Goods and products originally exempt from customs duties according to the customs tariff of either contracting party will remain exempt vis-à-vis the other party after signing this agreement, and the exemption extends to other duties and taxes with a similar effect.

**Article Five:**

The exemptions provided for in the agreement do not apply to manufactured and semi-manufactured goods produced in the free zones of either party and exported to the other party or imported from a country other than the country of origin.

**Article Six:**

The two contracting parties have the right to apply the prevention measures provided for in the Convention Establishing the World Trade Organization, and the Prevention Convention resulting from the Uruguay Round, in accordance with the provisions contained in these two conventions. This applies only to the product that either party determines has been imported into its territory in increasing quantities, whether absolutely or relatively compared to domestic production and such that it causes serious harm or threatens to cause serious harm to the domestic industry that produces products similar to or directly competitive with those imported from the other party.

**Article Seven:**

If either party faces a case of subsidies or dumping in its imports from the other party, it can take appropriate measures to confront such cases in accordance with the provisions of the conventions on subsidies and countervailing duties and anti-dumping procedures attached to the convention establishing the World Trade Organisation.

**Article Eight:**

1 - Agricultural, animal and food commodities exported from one party to the other party shall comply with the agricultural and health requirements applied in the importing country, and each party is obligated to notify the other party of the relevant laws and regulations applied in its country.

2 - The provisions of this agreement do not apply to products or materials that are prohibited from being introduced, traded, or used in either party for religious, health, security, or environmental reasons.

**Article Nine:**

The two contracting parties shall take into account that the goods and products exported from the country of either of them to the country of the other party conform to the specifications and standards in force in the country of the other party. In the event that there is no applicable local standard, the internationally applicable specifications and standards approved by them shall be taken into account, provided that the two parties exchange the laws and regulations applied in each contracting party. and notification of any amendment thereto.

**Article Ten:**

The two contracting parties work to coordinate customs regulations and procedures between them and exchange their information and data.

**Article Eleven**

Any other Arab country may join this agreement, provided that the contracting parties agree.

**Article Twelve:**

The Contracting Parties shall work to encourage economic and commercial cooperation between them within the framework of the laws in force in both parties, by means including:

a - Encouraging joint industrial activities, including market development activities in their countries and joint activities in a third country.

b - Assistance and cooperation in establishing promotion and marketing channels in the two countries.

c - Encouraging direct communications between commercial, industrial and economic bodies.

d - Assisting and facilitating visits by businessmen to both countries.

e - Joint cooperation in protecting and improving the environment.

f - Encouraging and promoting activities aimed at facilitating trade between them, including private and public trade exhibitions, conferences, advertising, consulting services and other services.

**Article Thirteen:**

The two contracting parties shall work to facilitate transit and re-export trade and undertake to provide all facilities, guarantees and obligations that either of them provides to a third party in this field.

**Article Fourteen:**

Both parties encourage the participation of their countries' institutions and companies in international exhibitions held in the other country, as well as the holding of temporary exhibitions for the products of both parties in the other country, as well as the activity of trade weeks, and each of them provides the necessary assistance to achieve the above in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable to them.

**Article Fifteen:**

The two Contracting Parties shall provide and apply adequate, effective and non-discriminatory protection with regard to intellectual, commercial and industrial property rights, including the registration of patents, trademarks and industrial design, as well as the protection of literary and artistic works in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable to them. They agree to abide by the provisions of the International Convention and the Convention on Commercial Aspects Related to Intellectual Property Rights in the World Trade Organisation framework.

**Part Three**

**Supervision of Implementation**

**Article Sixteen**

1 - For the purposes of following up on the implementation of the provisions of this agreement and addressing problems that may arise during implementation, a “permanent joint trade committee” shall be established, headed by the two ministers responsible for foreign trade in the two countries and with the membership of representatives of the ministries and relevant authorities in each of them.

2 - The Permanent Joint Trade Committee shall issue its decisions and recommendations on the issues presented to it by agreement of the two parties.

3 - The Permanent Joint Trade Committee shall meet at least once a year, and the meetings take place alternately in the capitals of the two countries. Each party has also the right to request a meeting of that committee whenever the need arises.

4 - The heads of the Joint Trade Committee shall have the right to form specialised subcommittees to look into disputes that may arise as a result of applying the provisions of this agreement, especially disputes related to the origin of goods, in order to verify and treat complaints and propose the necessary measures to prevent their recurrence, including prohibiting dealing with an exporter who proves that he does not comply with the rules of origin. This is without prejudice to the laws and regulations in force in both countries, provided that the other side is notified of these procedures in a timely manner.

**Chapter Four**

**Settlement of Disputes**

**Article seventeen**

Disputes arising from the application of this agreement shall be submitted to the permanent joint trade committee formed in accordance with Article (16) of this agreement to follow up on implementation and to decide on them.

**Chapter Five**

**Final Provisions**

**Article Eighteen**

The two contracting parties shall be committed to facilitating and exchanging data and information necessary to identify the course of trade exchange, whether between them or between each of them and other countries.

**Article Nineteen**

This agreement shall enter into force as of the date of the exchange of documents of ratification by the constitutional authorities of the two countries.

**Article Twenty**

This agreement shall remain in effect unless one party notifies the other party in writing and through diplomatic channels of its desire to terminate its application six months before the date of the requested cancellation. The texts of this agreement shall remain in effect for an additional period of six months after its expiry, with regard to documentary credits opened for commercial contracts concluded during its validity period that were not implemented until the date of its termination.

**Article Twenty-One:**

With the entry into force of this agreement, all previous commercial agreements between the contracting parties shall be repealed.

This agreement was drawn up in Arabic in Cairo on 17/09/1997, corresponding to 15/05/1418 A.H., in two originals, each of which has legal authority.

**On behalf of the government**

**On behalf of the government**

**the State of Bahrain**

 **the Arab Republic of Egypt**

**Mr. Ibrahim Abdul-Karim**

**Dr. Ahmed Ahmed Gowaili**

**The Minister of Finance and National Economy**

**The Minister of Commerce and Supply**