

AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LEBANESE  
REPUBLIC  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF CROATIA  
ON THE TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The Government of the Lebanese Republic and the Government of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter referred to as the “Contracting Parties”) desiring to:

- Promote and establish diverse and reciprocally useful economic and trade relations between the Contracting Parties on an equal basis ;
- Further intensify their relations established on the principles of equality, mutual respect and common benefit

Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1**

The Contracting Parties, in compliance with their respective national legislation, shall take necessary measures for the insurance of favorable conditions for further development of the mutual advantageous economic relations in all domains of the economic life.

In view of the achievement of a stable growth of the bilateral trade, each Contracting Party shall encourage the mutual exchange of goods and services, cooperation in production, joint investments and other long-term forms of economic cooperation, in compliance with national legislation of each of the Contracting Party.

**Article 2**

The Contracting Parties shall grant each other the most favoured nation treatment in their bilateral trade with respect to customs duties and charges of any kind, in connection with their importation or exportation of goods having their origin in the Contracting Parties.

The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply to:

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- a- Advantage that one of the contracting parties granted or shall grant to a neighboring state in order: to facilitate frontier trade.
- b- Advantages that one Contracting Party granted or shall grant to third countries pursuant to the Agreement on Free Trade Area, membership in a customs union or pursuant to their participation in a similar regional economic agreement or other Community.
- c- Advantages granted to developing countries in accordance with the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization, the General System of the Preferences and other international arrangements that benefit developing countries.
- d- Advantages granted or which may be granted by the Lebanese Republic to the Arab countries as the members of the Arab League.

### **Article 3**

If any good is being imported, as a result of an unpredictable development of situation, into the territory of one Contracting Party in such increased quantities or subject to such conditions as to cause serious injury to the territory's domestic producers of the like or directly competing goods, the Contracting Party affected by the injury shall be entitled to take protection measures in accordance with the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1994) and agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO) apply appropriate measures, as in cases of proved dumping upon the importation of goods from the other Contracting Party, so in cases of proved subsidies on imported goods.

### **Article 4**

Export and import of goods and services between the Republic of Croatia and the Lebanese Republic shall be realized through contracts concluded between natural and legal persons in accordance with the respective national legislation of the Contracting Party.

### **Article 5**

The Contracting Parties shall in accordance with their respective national legislation take necessary measures to exempt from customs duties and taxes the non-commercial objects imported into the country and the goods temporarily imported for being exhibited at fairs.

## **Article 6**

The Contracting Parties, for the purpose of improving and establishing a diverse bilateral trade, have agreed to facilitate and accelerate the exchange of information, to initiate contacts between their businessmen, and to support the participation at international exhibitions and fairs organized on the territory of one of the Contracting Parties.

## **Article 7**

The Contracting Parties shall mutually take appropriate measures in order to recognize one another the results of research work and certificates for the purpose of facilitating the bilateral exchange of commodities and services. The Contracting Parties, in compliance with their respective national legislation, shall encourage the cooperation between institutions of Standard, Measurement and Quality (analysis and attestation of the quality of products).

## **Article 8**

The Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with their respective national legislation encourage their authorized institutions to facilitate and accelerate the issuance of export and import licenses required for the implementation of contracts concluded within the framework of this Agreement.

## **Article 9**

All payment pertaining to the import and export of goods and services between entities of the Contracting Parties shall be effected in convertible currencies, in accordance with the international business practice, if not otherwise agreed upon by the business entities.

## **Article 10**

Having in view to establish optimum conditions for developing bilateral economic relations and in particular to facilitate trade exchange, the Contracting Parties have agreed to promote the cooperation between their respective commercial banks.

## **Article 11**

The Contracting Parties have decided to establish a Lebanese – Croatian joint Economic Commission (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”) in order to supervise the implementation and make recommendations to the Governments of both states for further development of bilateral economic and trade relations.

The Commission shall be composed of the representatives appointed by their respective Governments, and shall alternately meet in the Lebanese Republic and in the Republic of Croatia, on the basis of an agreement between the Contracting Parties.

#### **Article 12**

This Agreement shall not influence the rights and obligations derived from the international agreements in force to which the Republic of Croatia and the Lebanese Republic are the parties.

#### **Article 13**

This Agreement enters into force on the date of receiving the latter of two notifications by which the Contracting Parties notify each other in writing through diplomatic channels that all conditions for the entry into force have been fulfilled in compliance with the national legislation of the Contracting Parties.

This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years from the date of its entry into force, and shall be tacitly renewed each year thereafter. In case one of the Contracting Parties wishes to denounce this Agreement, it should notify in writing the other Contracting Party of its intention to denounce the Agreement through diplomatic channels, not later than six months prior to the expiration of the current period.

Upon the denouncement of this Agreement, its provisions shall continue to apply to any unfulfilled obligations under the contracts concluded during its period of validity.

Done in Beirut on 13/12/2002 , in two originals, each in Arabic, Croatia and English language, all texts being equally authentic.

In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.