

The Legislative Decree No. 8 of 2007.

Investment Law

The President of the Republic

According to the provisions of the constitution, the following is decided:

Article 1

The following words and expressions shall have the meanings hereunder assigned to them, in the provisions application of this Legislative Decree

/ A / The Supreme Council .. The Supreme Council for Investment

B / The Agency .. The Syrian Investment Agency established according to the provisions of the Syrian Investment Agency Law.

/ C / The Board of Directors .. The Board of Directors of the Syrian Investment Agency.

/ D / Investment .. Establishing, expanding, developing or modernizing projects.

E / The investor ... the natural or legal person who invests in Syria in accordance with the provisions of this legislative decree.

/ And / The project .. any economic activity established by the investor in accordance with the provisions of this legislative decree.

G / Assets ... machines, tools, installations, equipment and means of transportation (local and imported) that are new or non-reconditioned.

/ H / Foreign money .. The money originally received from abroad by Syrian citizens, Arabs, or foreigners.

Chapter One

Investment Guarantees

Article 2

/A/ The investor is allowed to own and lease the lands and real estate necessary to establish or expand investment projects even if the area exceeds the property limit specified in the laws and regulations in force provided that they are used exclusively for the purposes of the project.

/B/ When the project is canceled or definitively liquidated, the investor must abandon to other Syrian Arab citizens in accordance with the laws and regulations in force for his ownership in excess of the legally defined limit.

.. Also, the non-Syrian investor must abandon the ownership of the lands belonging to the project and the buildings built on it, and in case the relinquishment was from a Syrian or foreign investor and in the interest of a non-Syrian person to set up an investment project to obtain prior approval from the Board of Directors and specify a period of a maximum of two years to implement the said abandonment process.

Article / 3 /

Licensed projects and investments in accordance with the provisions of this legislative decree enjoy not confiscating or expropriating or limiting the disposal of the ownership of the investments and their returns unless it is for the purpose of public benefit and in exchange for an immediate and fair compensation to the investor equal to the market value of the project immediately before the date of expropriation in a convertible currency in relation to foreign money. With retention of the provisions of the Law on the Collection of Public Funds No. 341 of 1956, it is not permissible to seize the project except by a court ruling.

Article / 4 /

/ A / The non-Syrian investor obtains work and residence permits for himself and his family for the duration of the project's implementation and operation.

/ B / The investor may obtain work and residence licenses for non-Syrian workers working in the project according to the laws and regulations in force.

Article / 5 /

A- The investor has the right to transfer the proceeds of disposal with his share of the project and in a convertible currency abroad after the investor has paid the taxes resulting from the disposal process.

B / The investor has the right to transfer the profits and interests attained by the invested foreign money annually in accordance with the provisions of this legislative decree abroad and in a convertible currency after paying the due taxes resulting from these profits and interests.

/ C / The investor has the right to transfer the foreign money abroad after the lapse of six months from the date of its receipt, if difficulties or circumstances beyond the investor's will prevent his investment, whose assessment returns to the Board of Directors, which in special cases is entitled to agree to transfer the foreign money abroad without being bound by regardless of the period mentioned.

/ D / Experts, workers and technicians from the Arab and foreign countries working in one of the approved projects are allowed to transfer / 50 / percent of their net wages, salaries, and bonuses and / 100 / percent of the end-of-service compensation abroad in a convertible currency, provided that the due taxes resulting from these wages, salaries, and bonuses are paid.

E / The transfer process is conducted through the duly licensed banks.

/ F / The investor is allowed to enter the equipment for the installation of assets in the project and remove it upon the approval of the Board of Directors.

Article / 6 /

A- The provisions of international bilateral and multilateral agreements related to investment and investment guarantee in force in the Syrian Arab Republic signed with other countries or Arab and international organizations shall be taken into consideration.

B / The investor is free to insure the project with any of the insurance companies Licensed to work in Syria.

Article 7

/ A / Investment disputes between the investor and the Syrian public entities and institutions are settled through an amicable solution, and if the two parties do not reach an amicable solution within three months from the date of submitting written notice of the amicable settlement by one of the parties of the dispute, either of them is entitled to resort to one of the following methods ..

1 / Arbitration.

/ 2 / The competent Syrian judiciary.

/ 3 / The Arab Investment Court formed under the unified agreement to invest Arab capital in the Arab countries for the year / 1980 /.

4 / The Investment Guarantee and Protection Agreement signed between the Syrian Arab Republic and the country of the investor or an Arab or international organization.

/ B / All investment disputes are to be considered by the competent court in an urgent manner.

Chapter Two

Investment Advantages and Incentives

Article / 8 /

A- The project in the following sectors shall enjoy the exemptions stipulated in the income tax law in force, its amendments, and all the benefits and guarantees stipulated in this legislative decree.

Agricultural projects and land reclamation projects

Industrial projects

Transport projects

Communication and technology projects

Environmental Projects

.. service projects

Electricity, oil and mineral wealth projects

Any other projects the Supreme Council decides to include in the provisions of this legislative decree based on the proposal of the Board of Directors.

B- The Board of Directors shall issue the necessary instructions to define and specify the sectors mentioned in Item A of this Article.

Article 9

Projects licensed to be established in accordance with the provisions of this Legislative Decree have the right to import all of their needs without being bound by the provisions of import stopping, preventing and restricting and the direct import system from the country of origin and the provisions of the currency systems..

Contrary to any paragraph in force, imported assets are exempt from customs duties, which include (machinery, equipment and installations used in the production process and non-tourist service transportation) / provided that they are used exclusively for the purposes of the project and may not be abandoned except with the approval of the Board of Directors, and the Supreme Council issues, upon the proposal of the Board of Directors, a system that defines the regulations and the provisions and procedures related to that.

Article / 10 /

For the purposes of this Legislative Decree, the investment areas and the minimum value of the assets in each developmental investment zone are determined by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

Article / 11 /

/ A / The Supreme Council, based on a justified proposal from the Board of Directors, decides to grant any other projects investment facilitations, guarantees, or benefits stipulated in this Legislative Decree or any additional privileges or guarantees.

B / The Supreme Council may approve the basis for deduction, other than those mentioned in the income tax law in force and its amendments, for projects of special importance to the national economy.

Chapter Three

General Provisions

Article / 12 /

The investor in any approved project must do the following:

/ A / Informing the agency in writing, immediately upon completion of the installation and preparation of the assets, on the date of commencement of work or actual production of the project.

B / Maintaining regular accounts for the project in accordance with international accounting standards and providing the agency with a copy of the project's budgets certified by licensed audit firms and auditing companies.

C/ Maintaining a detailed record of the project's assets.

/ D / Providing any information, data or documents required by the agency and allowing any worker authorized by the agency to match the data and information with the reality.

Article / 13 /

Any project that has been approved under the provisions of the investment legislation in force before this legislative decree's entry into force continues to benefit from all exemptions and privileges granted to it until the end of the exemption period under any of these legislations and the conditions contained therein.

Article / 14 /

In case of transferring the ownership of the approved projects to others in whole or in part, the new owner shall replace the previous owner in his due rights, obligations and duties resulting from it according to the provisions of this Legislative Decree and the regulations and instructions issued in this regard. Capital gains resulting from the sale of fixed assets are subject to income tax in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

Article / 15 /

The details of the data and private information provided by investors regarding their projects are not subject to publication or circulation.

Article 16

A / The approved projects shall be subject to the provisions of the Companies Law or the provisions of the Joint Companies Law in force in a manner that does not conflict with pursuant to the provisions of this Legislative Decree.

B / In the application of scope of implementing this legislative decree, any paragraph mentioned in any other legislation shall not enter into force if it conflicts with provisions of this legislative decree.

/ C / Law No. 10 of 1991 and its amendments shall be terminated.

Article / 17 /

This legislative decree shall be published in the Official Gazette, and it shall enter into force on January 1, 2007.

Damascus, 8/1/1428 AH / corresponding to 27/1/2007 AD.

President of the Republic

Bashar Al-Assad