

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
ON ECONOMIC AND TRADE COOPERATION**

The Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the Republic of Belarus, (hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties");

Aspiring to promote and expand friendship and cooperation;

Desiring to further strengthen economic and trade relations between the two States on the principles of equality and mutual benefit;

Recognising the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain and of the Republic of Belarus to observe the rules and regulations generally applied in international trade including those of the World Trade Organisation (WTO),

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with the national laws and regulations in force of the Kingdom of Bahrain and of the Republic of Belarus, take all necessary measures to ensure the development of economic and trade co-operation between the two States on a long-term and stable basis.

Article 2

The Contracting Parties shall grant each other the most-favoured-nation treatment in all areas regarding:

Customs duties and charges of any kind applicable in respect of import and export, including the methods of levying such duties and charges;

Rules and procedures relating to import and export including rules and procedures relating to customs clearance, transit, warehousing and transshipment;
Methods of payment and the transfer of such payments for goods and services;

Rules relating to sale, purchase, transportation, distribution, storage and use of goods and services on the domestic market;

Taxes and internal charges of any kind applicable directly or indirectly in respect of imported goods.

Each Contracting Party shall accord to goods originating in or exported to the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party non-discriminatory treatment regarding application of quantitative restrictions and granting of licenses.

Article 3

The provisions of Article 2, shall not apply to:

- a. Advantages, which either Contracting Party has accorded or may accord to the neighbouring countries to facilitate frontier trade;
- b. Advantages resulting from the effective or possible participation of either Contracting Party in the customs union and/or free trade area and or regional cooperation organisation or similar international agreement;
- c. Advantages granted to third countries in accordance with the World Trade Organisation (WTO), as well as the advantages granted to developing countries in accordance with WTO and other international agreements.

Article 4

Import and export of goods and services shall be carried out on the basis of contracts concluded between natural and legal persons of both States of the Contracting Parties in accordance with the laws and regulations of each State and in accordance with international trade practice.

Neither of the Contracting Parties shall be responsible for liabilities of the natural and juridical persons, resulting from the contracts.

Article 5

Payments for goods and services under the contracts mentioned in Article 4 of this Agreement shall be effected in a freely convertible currency agreed upon by the parties to the contracts in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in each of the States.

Article 6

The country of origin shall be considered as the country in which the product has been produced or has undergone sufficient processing.

The Contracting Parties reserve the right to request certificates of origin when importing any goods.

Article 7

The Contracting Parties shall apply national laws and regulations to goods, which are admitted in the territory of their States for, re-export either in invariable form or after internal processing.

Each Contracting Party shall allow in accordance with national laws and regulations of its State import and re-export of goods, which are assigned for trade promotion activities such as fairs, exhibitions and seminars on the territory of its State and on the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party.

Article 8

For securing the full and effective implementation of the provisions of this Agreement an intergovernmental Bahrain-Belarusian Joint Economic Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee") shall be established under the joint chairmanship of:

In the case of the Republic of Belarus: a Minister to be appointed by the Government of the Republic of Belarus; and

In the case of the Kingdom of Bahrain: the Minister of Finance and the National Economy.

The Committee shall meet in the capitals of both States alternately, at the date agreed upon by the co-chairmen of the Committee.

The procedures of the Committee shall be approved at its first meeting.

Article 9

The Contracting Parties shall encourage contacts between natural and legal persons of the States of the Contracting Parties, in particular, through exchange of delegations, participation in fairs and exhibitions, exchange of information as well

Article 10

By the mutual consent of the Contracting Parties this Agreement may be subject to modifications and amendments made by Protocols, which are an integral part of the Agreement.

Article 11

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last notification through which the Contracting Parties mutually inform each other of the fulfilment of the domestic procedures regarding the approval of the Agreement and shall be valid for periods of five (5) years if neither of the Contracting Parties notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate it not later than six months prior to the date of expire of the Agreement.

The termination of the present Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of economic operators under contracts concluded during the validity of the Agreement.

Done at Minsk this 26th day of July 2004, in the Arabic, Russian and English languages, all versions being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

**Abdulla Hassan Saif
Minister of Finance and
National Economy**

**Nikolai Korbut
Minister of Finance**