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**Legislative Decree No. (19) of 1997 ratifying the Agreement to Establish an Egyptian Commercial Centre in the State of Bahrain**

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 to Establish an Egyptian Commercial Centre in the State of Bahrain, signed in Cairo on 17/09/1997;

And upon the submission of the Minister of Commerce,

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers,

**Hereby Decree the following Law:**

**Article One**

Agreement to Establish an Egyptian Commercial Centre in the State of Bahrain, signed in Cairo on 17/09/1997, attached to this Law, has 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 at Riffa Palace:**

**On 19 Jumada al-Akhir 1418 A.H.**

**Corresponding to 20 October 1997**

**Agreement to Establish an Egyptian Commercial Centre in the State of Bahrain**

The Government of the State of Bahrain and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, recognising the importance of developing trade cooperation, enhancing the many elements for further rapprochement and integration between their countries, and desiring to strengthen trade relations between them on the basis of mutual benefit, have agreed to the following:

**Article -1-**

A centre shall be established in the State of Bahrain called (the Egyptian Commercial Centre), which shall have a legal personality, be headquartered in Manama, and be subject to the laws and regulations in force in the State of Bahrain.

**Article -2-**

This centre will be a regional centre for Egyptian commercial companies, goods, products, and services provided by these Egyptian companies and commercial institutions.

**Article -3-**

Purposes of the Centre:

1- Displaying and storing Egyptian industrial and agricultural products for the purpose of re-exporting them to countries in the region, as well as direct wholesale sales to Bahraini companies, institutions, and Bahraini businessmen licenced to do so.

2- Introducing the products and services provided by Egyptian companies and commercial institutions in various economic and commercial fields, for the purpose of promoting and marketing these Egyptian products and services in the State of Bahrain and the countries of the region, starting from Bahrain.

3- The Centre works to facilitate the conclusion of contracts and commercial agreements between Bahraini businessmen and businessmen from countries of the region on the one hand, and Egyptian businessmen on the other hand, in addition to facilitating the conclusion of contracts and commercial agreements between Bahraini companies, institutions, and commercial and economic bodies in countries of the region and their counterparts in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

**Article -4-**

The Government of the State of Bahrain shall provide all possible facilities to the Centre to perform its purposes stipulated in Article (3) of this Agreement within the framework of the laws and regulations applicable in the State of Bahrain.

**Article -5-**

Under this Agreement, the Centre represents Egyptian companies and commercial institutions, as well as Egyptian businessmen inside Bahrain and in the countries of the region.

The Centre is permitted to sell directly in bulk to Bahraini commercial companies and institutions, as well as businessmen registered and licenced to practice that type of commercial activity in Bahrain, taking into account any previous agreements, contracts, or arrangements concluded between Bahraini merchants and businessmen or Bahraini companies or institutions with their Egyptian counterparts in accordance with Legislative Decree No. (10) of 1992 regarding Commercial Agency.

**Article -6-**

The Egyptian side shall bear all costs of establishing, setting up, and managing the Centre, whether those related to rent, electricity, water, municipal fees, or any other fees required to establish the Centre, in accordance with the regulations in force in the State of Bahrain.

**Article -7-**

Egyptian products, goods, and services imported for display at the Centre are exempt from customs duties, in accordance with the laws and regulations followed in the State of Bahrain.

**Article -8-**

The private sector in both countries, represented by the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Egyptian Industries, the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce and the Egyptian Businessmen Association, must implement this Agreement, each within its jurisdiction.

**Article -9-**

This Agreement shall enter into force from the date on which each Contracting Party notifies the other of the completion of the necessary constitutional procedures for the enforcement of this Agreement.

**Article -10-**

This Agreement remains valid for a period of five years, automatically renewable, unless one Party notifies the other of its desire to terminate it in writing six months before its term.

Contracts or agreements concluded through this Centre or with its facilitation will not be affected by the termination of this Agreement or the closure of the Centre, and will continue until the completion of the implementation of those contracts that were concluded in implementation of this Agreement.

Signed in Cairo on 17/09/1997, in two original copies in the Arabic language, each of which has the same legal authority.

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

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

**Mr. Ali Saleh Al-Saleh**

**Dr. Ahmed Ahmed Gowaili**

**Minister of Commerce**

**Minister of Commerce and Supply**