

Legislative Decree (21)

President of the Republic

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution

Decreases the following

Article 1

The Ministry of Economy and Trade shall assume the following tasks and jurisdictions in the area of national economy:

- 1- Take part with the bodies concerned in drawing up the economic and trade policy to achieve the socioeconomic development and proposing the proper measures to raise the economic growth rate and coordinate them with the monetary and financial policies to attain the total economic balance in harmony with the social market economy.
- 2- Formulate strategies, plans and programs to develop and promote exports and improve the balance of trade and balance of payments.
- 3- Take part in consolidating the concept of knowledge economy and IT.
- 4- Address the negative effects on the national economy resulting from the liberalization of foreign trade and the unfair practices in world trade.
- 5- Boost the competitiveness of the national economy, the business sector and national products.
- 6- Take part in elaborating a hard currency plan in cooperation with the other bodies concerned.
- 7- Supervise, develop and activate the role of free zones.
- 8- Take part in improving the investment climate, facilitate investment-related services & businesses, design programs & incentives to attract investors, sign agreements to promote and protect investments and join international conventions pertaining to investment assurance and investment-related dispute resolution mechanisms.
- 9- Design the suitable mechanisms to maintain the balance of the internal market and create a proper environment to activate competition and protect consumers.
- 10- Supervise the business sector in Syria.
- 11- Establish and supervise a center for economic and trade policies.
- 12- Implement the boycott provisions.

Article 2

The Ministry of Economy and Trade shall assume the following tasks in the area of foreign trade:

- 1- Propose and supervise the implementation of foreign trade provisions.
- 2- Take part in proposing the foreign trade-related legislations and take the necessary measures in coordination with the other bodies.
- 3- Develop the trade and economic relations with the Arab Economic Unity Council and the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League and run

the negotiations related to Syria's accession to the relevant Arab and international organizations and agencies.

4- Manage the trade and economic relations with the Arab Economic Unity Council and the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League; UN Convention for Trade and Development, WTO, the Islamic Conference's Permanent Committee for Economic and Trade Cooperation and other similar bodies.

5- Set up trade representation offices to cover external markets and create a trade point connected with the world trade points.

6- Supervise and take part in organizing local, Arab and international fairs and establish varied overseas trade centers to promote and market Syrian goods.

7- Exercise technical control (quality control) over imports and exports.

8- Establish and supervise a center to develop and promote Syrian exports.

Article 3

The Ministry of Economy and Trade shall assume the following tasks in the area of internal trade:

1- Manage the internal trade sector, improve market environment and develop the participation with the private sector according to the state general policy.

2- Elaborate plans and draw up strategies to secure the country's needs of basic materials and determine and manage the strategic stock.

3- Develop policies to organize internal markets, update internal trade laws and legislations, modify regulations and tasks of the public companies and institutions affiliated to the Ministry and boost their role in providing the necessary food supplies to the public in consistency with the state policy.

4- Take the necessary measures to address emergencies, give full jurisdictions to the Minister in this field and oblige producers or importers of consumer goods to deliver portions of these materials determined by the minister to the benefit of government centers or any other body pursuant to commercial principles.

5- Implement the state pricing policy; organize and enhance market forces and competition environment; fight monopoly, dumping and other harmful practices.

6- Preserve consumer rights and formulate the necessary legislations to protect consumers in coordination with the bodies concerned.

7- Take part with the bodies concerned to establish an integrated quality system, set a national accreditation body, maintain developing fixed and mobile labs, provide the necessary equipment and instruments and employ the quality management system in their activities.

8- Organize the trade register, handle the affairs of commercial agencies and register them, handle licensing petitions of commercial institutions and companies and their branches who conduct their activities in Syria.

9- Organize the work commercial and industrial property protection, grant marks of identification, industrial designs and models, patents and keep on

joining Arab and international conventions related to commercial and industrial property protection.

10- Supervise the works of consumer cooperatives, their unions, organize their affairs and activate their roles.

11- Supervise the chambers of commerce, their federations, organize their affairs and develop them.

12- Take part in supervising SMEs and in formulating the necessary legislations with the competent authorities to upkeep and develop them.

13- License the offices and firms of chartered accountants, consultancy and economic studies and IT in coordination with the competent authorities.

Article 4

The Ministry shall present the following subjects to the Prime ministry (specialized committees) in order to discuss them and take the necessary decisions pursuant to the laws and regulations in force.

1- Principles of public pricing policy.

2- Sale prices of essential items in the retail trade which are determined by the Prime Ministry.

3- Selling consumer goods in prices lower than cost price and determine the body which will bear the loss when necessary until the justifying causes cease to exist.

4- Determine the commercial services whose allowances are needed to be fixed by the Ministry.

5- Design the proper mechanisms related to the production, circulation, consumption or transference of consumer goods and subject these goods to the controlled or rationing system by virtue of ration cards or determine or prohibit their sale in certain days or times or areas.

6- Issues directly affecting the public economic interests related to food supplies and internal trade which are not provided for in the Ministry's jurisdictions stipulated by the provisions of this Decree.

7- Seize the consumer goods, movables, transport means, real estates and commercial and industrial facilities for supply necessities and assign any individual to perform any task that lead to providing consumer goods.

Article 5

Articles (2, 3, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 21) of Decree /158/ of 03/08/1969 and its amendments shall be nullified.

Article 6

Decree /2804/ of 17/12/1969 shall be nullified.

Article 7

This Decree shall be published in the official gazette.

Damascus: /22/3/2007

President of the Syrian Arab Republic

Bashar Al-Assad