

## **AGREEMENT**

### **Between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Lebanon concerning cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters**

The Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Lebanon hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties;

Considering the necessity of developing the commercial and economic relations between the two countries;

And seeking to consolidate their cooperation and mutual assistance in matters of customs inspection and fighting contraventions of the law during the transportation of merchandise and the circulation of passengers between the two, countries;

Have agreed on the following:

#### **Article 1**

For the purposes of this agreement:

1. The term "customs regulations" means the legal provisions concerning the organization and control of transport, import, export, and transit of merchandise, goods, and other substances, of personal luggage, shipment, international mail parcels, currencies, shares, and bonds throughout international frontiers, and of duties and other taxes or customs privileges, customs barriers, restrictions, licenses, and other materials and merchandise.

2. "Customs Services" are referred to as "The Administration of Customs of the Republic of Armenia" in the Republic of Armenia and the "Customs Administration" in the Republic of Lebanon.

3. The term "customs contraventions" means any contravention of the customs regulations or attempt to violate those regulations.

4. The term "drugs" means the list of drugs mentioned in the International Customs Agreement signed on March 30 1961.

5. The term "psychotropic substances" means the list of substances that affect the nerves and considered as such in international agreements.

#### **Article 2**

For the purposes of this agreement, the Contracting Parties shall undertake all necessary measures in order to hasten the process of customs inspection on the transport of merchandise, the circulation of passengers, and the shipment of mail parcels. Moreover, they shall seek to develop inspection methods in order to prevent contraventions of the law related to the transport of goods, passengers, and mail parcels and to prevent entrance or exit of currencies through illicit channels which may prejudice the economic interests of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Lebanon.

### **Article 3**

The merchandise in transit in the customs area of one of the Contracting Parties properly listed in a customs declaration shall transit freely without undergoing inspection except in cases where there are doubts about the transit operation or suspicions that the shipped merchandise contains some forbidden or prohibited substances.

### **Article 4**

The customs authorities of the Contracting Parties shall recognize the respective customs declarations, specimens of lead seals, and customs seals affixed on vehicles, goods, and mail parcels. The Parties shall exchange, within three months from the date of signature, specimens of customs declarations, customs seals, and lead seals as well as lists of substances whose import, export, and transit is restricted.

### **Article 5**

If one of the Contracting Parties prohibits the entrance of imported goods, vehicles, personal luggage as well as currencies, shares, bonds, and other items in its territory in compliance with the current customs regulations concerning foreign currencies, quarantine imposed on plants, and control on animals, or for security reasons, they shall be returned to the customs authorities of the other Contracting Party except for substances that are strictly prohibited (drugs, weapons, tobacco products...) with a notice on the customs declaration concerning the reasons for preventing import or, upon request, with a report on this matter to the customs authorities of the other Contracting Party.

### **Article 6**

The merchandise, carriers, personal luggage, mail parcels, currencies, stocks, and other items that are smuggled to and from the territory of one of the Contracting Parties shall be submitted to the provisions of the customs laws in the country where the merchandise and the aforementioned substances are located.

### **Article 7**

The transit goods transported through customs posts of the other Contracting Party shall be exempted from customs duties customs inspection, and the passage permit requirement except from charges for official services rendered such as passage tariffs, road maintenance, and services provided by public institutions of the Contracting Parties.

Transit goods shall be carried through the territory of the Contracting Parties in compliance with the provisions of the International Transport law.

## **Article 8**

The current regulations in the legislation of each of the Parties shall apply regarding safety of transit merchandise and damages that may occur to it during the passage of this merchandise on the territory of the Parties.

## **Article 9**

The personal luggage of transit passengers undergoes customs control as per the current regulations of the Contracting Parties and it is exempted from customs duties during its transit passage across the territory of one of the Contracting Parties.

## **Article 10**

The Contracting Parties shall cooperate, within the limits of this agreement and in compliance with customs regulations and provisions applicable in their respective countries towards suppressing smuggling operations, restricting contraventions of customs regulations as well as prohibiting the traffic of drugs and psychotropic substances.

## **Article 11**

The Contracting Parties shall exchange information, of their own motion or upon request of one of the Parties, on:

- a) persons known for or suspected of drug trafficking and smuggling operations;
- b) carriers, merchandise, and mail parcels used for the circulation of smuggled goods;
- c) facts pertaining to the apprehension of drugs and smuggling operations within the territory of the other Contracting Party.

## **Article 12**

Within the framework of the current laws and in cases necessitating a more efficient fight against drug trafficking, the Contracting Parties shall apply "the method of investigation and proceeding" in order to detect drugs and psychotropic substances.

## **Article 13**

The Contracting Parties shall cooperate to fight the smuggling of cultural valuables as per current laws and regulations and within the scope of this agreement.

Customs authorities of the Contracting Parties shall turn over the archeological and artistic items in its possession when seized during their

passage through the borders of the other Contracting Party for contravention of the customs laws and other regulations according to the rules applicable by that Party.

#### **Article 14**

Conflicts arising from the application, interpretation, or amendment of the present agreement shall be settled through negotiations between the customs authorities of the Contracting Parties. Amending this agreement or adding an annex to it may be done by mutual agreement of the Contracting Parties.

#### **Article 15**

The Contracting Parties shall notify each other of any modifications to the laws pertaining to customs matters. The customs authorities of the Contracting Parties shall offer mutual assistance to each other without any compensation.

#### **Article 16**

The exchange of full experiences shall be provided regularly - in writing or verbally - between the customs authorities of the Contracting Parties in view of implementing this agreement.

The correspondence between the Contracting Parties will be either in French or in English.

#### **Article 17**

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date the Contracting Parties notify each other of their respective approval of this agreement after the fulfillment of the necessary official procedures.

It shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall be automatically extended for successive similar periods unless one of the Contracting Parties notifies the other in writing of its desire to terminate it, six months prior to the expiration of the agreement.

Done at Beirut on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1997 in two original copies in the Arabic, Armenian, and English languages all texts being equally authentic. In case of conflict in the interpretation of this agreement, the English text shall prevail.

***The Agreement has entered into force on December 22, 1998.***