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**Law No. (20) of 2012 ratifying the International Land Transport Convention between The government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the government of the Turkish Republic**

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution,

And the Convention on International Road Transport between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the Republic of Turkey, The Shura Council and the Council of Representatives have approved the following law, which we have ratified and promulgated:

**Article One**

The International Land Transport Convention between the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the government of the Turkish Republic signed in the city of Ankara on 2 May 2006, and accompanying this law, was ratified.

**Article Two**

The Prime Minister and the ministers - each within his jurisdiction– shall implement this Law, and it shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**King of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On: 5 Jumada Al-Akhir 1422 A.H.

Corresponding to: 26 April 2012

International Land Transport Convention

between

The government of the Turkish Republic and the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain

The Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Government of the Republic of Turkey, wishing to facilitate the international road transport of passengers and goods between their countries and through their territories by transit,

Have agreed on the following:

First: Definitions

Article (1)

For the purposes of this Convention,the words and expressions set forth below and shall have the meanings assigned to them below, unless the context requires otherwise:

1. (Transporter) Any natural or legal person licensed to transport passengers and goods in accordance with the laws, regulations and instructions in force in the two Contracting Parties.

2. (Transportation mean):

a- Any means of road transport powered by a motor and intended for the transport of more than eight passengers excluding the driver, or for the transport of goods or towing such a means.

b- Or any transport group by tow as set forth in Paragraph (2-a) and an associated trailer or semi-trailer intended for the transport of passengers or goods.

3. (Permit) The permit issued for the means of transport registered with one of the Contracting Parties by the other Contracting Party to allow the means of transport to enter, exit or travel through the territory of this country issuing the permit, as well as the permit means any other permits referred to in this Convention.

4. (Quota) the number of permits issued annually by the competent authorities of both parties to both Contracting Parties

5. (Regular bus line) Transportation of passengers between the territories of the Contracting Parties under a specific route and in line with national routes and fares

6. (Regular Transit Bus Line) A regular bus line that departs from the territory of one Contracting Party and passes through the territory of the other Contracting Party without loading or unloading passengers and ends in the territory of a third country.

7. (Shuttle Line Service) International passenger transport oganized in the form of groups specified in the duration of the trip and from a fixed point of departure to a fixed point of arrival, and the return of this group to the first point of departure at the end of the regular trip (passengers in the group return in the same group, provided that the first return trip from the last trip to the place where the trip ends without passengers).

8. (Closed Tourist Transport Service) International transportation of a specified group of passengers in a specific means of transport on a tourist trip, starting from a point in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties and between points of departure and points of arrival located outside the territory of this Contracting Party.

9. (Transit transport) the transport of passengers and goods through the territory of one of the Contracting Parties and between points of departure and arrival outside the territory of that Contracting Party

10. (Usual fuel tank) The original fuel tank of the car.

Article (2)

The provisions of this Convention shall apply to the international road transport of passengers and goods to and from the territory of one Contracting Party and through the territory of the other Contracting Party (by transit) using the means of transport registered in the country of one of the Contracting Parties.

Second: General Provisions

Article (3)

Each Contracting Party shall recognize, under the provisions of this Convention, to the other Contracting Party the right of transit of passengers, their luggage, commercial goods and means of transport belonging to the other Contracting Party over the routes specified by the competent authorities of each Contracting Party.

Article (4)

Subject to the provisions of national legislation and by prior agreement, the carrier of one Contracting Party shall have the right to establish offices and appoint representatives or agents in the territory of the other Contracting Party, but without having the right to exercise the work of a travel or tourism agent in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

Article (5)

Neither Contracting Party may impose any fees or taxes (in addition to customs duties) that are normally imposed upon import, export or transit on the goods and means of transport belonging to the other Contracting Party transiting through its territory, except for the following:

a- Road use fees (private bridges & roads fees)

b- Allowance for maintenance, protection, management and transportation services on roads

c- Fines imposed for violation of gross weights, maximum dimensions + payload of means of transport stated in the domestic national legislation of the Contracting Parties

However, shipment authorized during transit through the territory of either Contracting Party on a reciprocal basis may be exempted from payment of fees for the services provided for in paragraph (b) referred to above.

Article (6)

In the event that the carriers and drivers of one Contracting Party violate the regulations and instructions governing traffic and transport in the territory of the other Contracting Party, the competent authority of that Contracting Party shall notify the competent authority of the other Contracting Party accordingly. The competent authority of the violating Contracting Party shall notify the competent authority of the other Contracting Party of the measures taken against the violations stated in the first paragraph of this Article.

Article (7)

A joint committee composed of representatives of the two Contracting Parties shall be formed and shall be responsible for the following:

a- Supervise the proper application of the provisions of this Convention

b- Determination of the form, times and methods of exchange of permits

c- Study and provide solutions to potential problems that cannot be solved directly between the competent authorities referred to in Article (24)

d- Study all topics related to this Convention and make appropriate recommendations to find solutions

e- Report on any other agreed matters related to transport

The Joint Committee shall hold its meetings when necessary at the request of one of the Contracting Parties alternately in Turkey and Bahrain.

The Joint Committee shall have the right to recommend the amendment of any article in this Convention and then submit it to the competent authorities for approval.

Article (8)

Means of transport registered in the territory of one Contracting Party shall not be permitted to transport passengers and goods between any two points within the territory of the other Contracting Party.

Unless the carrier from the first Contracting Party obtains a special permit from the competent authority of the other Contracting Party, he cannot carry out ttransport of passengers and goods from the territory of the other Contracting Party to the territory of a third country.

Article (9)

An empty mean of transport registered in the territory of one Contracting Party shall not be allowed to enter the territory of the other Contracting Party for transporting of passengers and goods to the country in which it is registered or to another country unless it obtains a special permit for this purpose from the competent authority of that other Contracting Party.

Third: Travellers’ Transportation

Article (10)

The carrier may, in the territory of one Contracting Party, operate a regular bus or a regular transit bus line through the territory of the other Contracting Party, provided that an annual prior authorization is obtained from the competent authority of the other Contracting Party.

Article (11)

Means of transport registered in the territory of one Contracting Party may carry out closed tourist line service and shuttle service to and from the other Contracting Party without obtaining a permit to do so.

Fourth: Transportation of Goods.

Article (12)

The carriage of goods by transit through the territory of one of the Contracting Parties shall require prior authorization based on a certain quota, except in the following cases:

1- Transportation of the dead (especially in vehicles designated for this purpose).

2- Transport of decorative materials related to theatrical performances.

3- Transporting goods, tools and animals used in musical performances, cinema, circuses, folkloric performances, sports events and recording television and radio programs

4- Transport of artworks

5- Transport of animals other than those intended for slaughter

6- Transportation of wrecked or broken vehicles

7- Mail Transport.

8 - Transportation of goods to and from airports in certain cases as a result of a change in the route or time of flights.

9 - Transport of relief materials in cases of natural disasters.

10- Transporting relief materials for exhibitions and festivals.

11. Transport services carried out by commercial means of transport (operated by engines), provided that its weight does not exceed (6 tons) with the trailer or with a load not exceeding (3.5 tons) with the trailer.

12. Any other matters agreed upon in the Joint Commission

Article (13)

The transport of goods between the Contracting Parties does not require a permit.

Except for transit permits and bilateral permits, whose validity period for the transport of goods is valid for one year and these permits are renewed for the following year in November of each year.

Additional permits are to be exchanged when the requirements of the two Contracting Parties need to be met by mutual agreement.

The validity of the permit shall be for a vehicle and one transporter on whose behalf the permit was drawn up, and it is not permissible to transfer this permit

Article (14)

The transport of weapons, explosives, war equipment and explosives between the Contracting Parties or through their territories shall require a special permit to be obtained from the competent authorities of both Contracting Parties.

The transit of any goods prohibited from entering either of the Contracting Countries for reasons of protection of human, animal or plant health shall be prohibited.

Fifth: General Provisions

Article (15)

The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary procedures to simplify, facilitate and expedite customs procedures and other official acts with regard to the carriage of passengers and goods.

Article (16)

Under this Convention, the International road transport is governed by the provisions of the "International Convention on the Carriage of Goods" covered by the TIR CARNETS document and/or local laws and regulations.

Vehicles transporting by international sea shall obtain the relevant international documents (CARNET de passage or TRYPTIQUE) and any other documents required by local laws and regulations. Drivers of vehicles engaged in international transport under the provisions of this Convention shall possess following documents:

a- A valid driving license, matching the category of vehicles he drives, and this license shall conform to the provisions of the laws and regulations in force in the country in which the mean of transport is registered or be an international driving license

b- A valid license for the transportation mean.

c- A valid passport containing all necessary entry visas.

Article (17)

The fuel contained in the standard tank of the means of transport shall be exempted from customs duties and other fees. Fuel levels are determined by the national laws of both countries

Article (18)

Used spare parts that have been replaced must be re-exported or destroyed under the supervision of the customs authority or delivered to them.

Import of spare parts is carried out in accordance with national laws and regulations

Article (19)

a- Means of transport used for the international road transport of passengers, their luggage and goods between the Contracting Countries or others shall obtain a third-party insurance policy under the laws and regulations in force in the territory of each Contracting Party.

b- Another insurance policy that covers damages that may be suffered by passengers, luggage and goods during transport, and that this policy shall be in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the country in which the mean of transport is registered

Article (20)

Financial settlements between the Contracting Parties with respect to transport and transit operations shall be made in accordance with convertible currencies accepted by licensed banks in the territory of each Contracting Party and in accordance with the laws, regulations and instructions in force in the territory of each Contracting Party.

Article (21)

Financial settlements between the Contracting Parties in respect of transport and transit operations shall be made in convertible currencies accepted by licensed banks in the territory of each Contracting Party and in accordance with the laws, regulations and instructions in force in the territory of each Contracting Party.

Article (22)

In case of accidents, offinces or any violations of the national laws of both countries, the competent authority of the Contracting Party in whose territory the incident occurred shall provide the other Contracting Party with reports, investigation results and any other necessary information.

Article (23)

The courts of either Contracting Party shall have jurisdiction to settle disputes relating to land transport or falling within the boundaries of either party.

Article (24)

The competent authorities responsible for the implementation of this Convention are:

a- In Turkey, The Ministry of Transport and Communications – Ankara / Turkey.

b- In Bahrain, Ministry of Transportation – Manama / Bahrain.

Article (25)

This Convention shall enter into force from the date of receipt of the notifications of the completion of the constitutional procedures necessary for the entry into force of this Convention in accordance with the national legislation of each of the Contracting Parties, and this Convention shall remain in force for a period of five years.

This Convention shall be automatically renewed for the same period(s) unless terminated by either Contracting Party with three months' written notice given to the other Contracting Party in writing three months prior to the expiry date of its validity period.

Done and signed in the city of Ankara on 2 May2006, in two true copies in English.

On behalf of the government On behalf of the government

the Turkish Republic

the Kingdom of Bahrain

Abdullah Gül

Khalid bin Ahmad Al Khalifa,

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs