

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Belarus, hereinafter referred to as the Parties;

aspiring to promote and expand friendship and cooperation desiring to further strengthen trade and economic relations between the two states on the principles of equality and mutual benefit

Recognising the efforts of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and of the Republic of Belarus to observe the rules and regulations generally applied in international trade including those of the World Trade Organization (WTO),

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Parties shall, in accordance with the national laws and regulations in force of their states, take all necessary measures to ensure the development of trade and economic cooperation between the two states on a long-term and stable basis.

Article 2

The Parties shall grant each other the most favoured nation treatment in trade of goods originating in the territory of their states, 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, storage, warehousing and transshipment;

methods of payment and the transfer of such payments for goods and services;

rules relating to sale, purchase, transport, distribution and use of goods in the domestic market;

taxes and internal charge of any kind applied directly or indirectly in respect of imported goods.

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

Article 3

The provisions of Article 2 of the present Agreement, however, shall not apply to advantages:

accorded by either Party to neighbouring states to facilitate frontier traffic either Party has accorded or may accord to developing countries under international agreement.

resulting from the effective or possible participation of either Party in a customs union and/or free trade area.

Article 4

Import and export of goods and services shall be carried out on the basis of contracts concluded between natural and juridical persons of both states of the Parties in accordance with the laws and regulations of each state and in accordance with international trade practice

Neither Party 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 the Article 4 of this Agreement shall be effected in a freely convertible currency or by way agreed upon by the parties to the contract in accordance with the laws and regulations in force of the Parties.

Article 6

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

The parties reserve the right request certificates of origin when importing ay goods.

Article 7

The Parties shall encourage participation of enterprises, organizations and institutions of their states in international fairs and exhibitions held on its territory The Parties, in accordance with their national laws and regulations in force, shall take all necessary measures to exempt the goods, temporarily imported for exhibition in fairs, from customs duties and taxes

Article 8

The Parties shall provide each other with information about the laws regulating trade activities, including customs tariffs and formalities, investment, taxation. insurance and other financial services, transport.

Article 9

For securing full and effective implementation of the provisions of this Agreement the Lao-Belarusian Joint Commission on trade-economic cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) shall be established The Commission shall:

Analyze the development of bilateral economic relations, including examination of impediments in trade development;

Identify new forms of cooperation, including the way of its implementation and exchange of the information, required for economic cooperation ;

Develop recommendations on improvement of facilities of trade-economic cooperation between the two states.

The commission shall meet in the capital of both states alternately, at the date agreed upon by the co-chairmen of the national part of the commission.

The procedure of the commission shall be approved at its first meeting.

Article 10

By mutual consent of the Parties this Agreement may be subject to modifications and amendments which shall be made in writing and shall be an integral part of the Agreement

Article 11

This Agreement shall enter into force on the day of diplomatic notes exchange by which the Parties notify each other that conditions required by internal legal order for entering into force were met.

The present Agreement shall be valid for a period of three (3) years. Thereafter it shall be automatically extended for similar periods unless either Party shall give written notice through diplomatic channels to the other Party, six months prior to the date of expiry of the relevant period, of its intention to denounce it.

The termination of this Agreement shall not effect the validity and duration of any arrangements and/or contracts made under this Agreement until the completion of such arrangements and/or contracts.

This Agreement may be modified or amended by mutual consent of the Parties through diplomatic channels.

Done at Minsk this 30th day of August 2001 in two originals each in the Lao, Russian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

In case of any divergence when interpreting the provisions of this Agreement the text in English shall prevail.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

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