



LAW No. (13) OF 2000

**QATAR'S INVESTMENT LAW
REGULATING THE INVESTMENT OF FOREIGN CAPITAL IN
ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

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Regulating the Investment of Foreign Capital in Economic Activities We,
Jassem Bin Hamad A1-Thani, Deputy Amir of the State of Qatar,
Having pursued the temporary amended basic ordinance of the Constitution,
in particular Articles (22), (23), (34), & (51),
And Commercial Companies Law promulgated by Law No. (11) of 1981, as
amended by Law No. (9) of 1998,
And Customs Law promulgated by Law No. (5) of 1988 and its amendments,
And, the Law Decree No. (25) of 1990 Regulating Non-Qatari Capital
Investment in the Economic Activity as amended by Law No. (9) of 1955,
And the Law Decree No. (11) of 1993 concerning the Income Tax,
And the Law Decree No. (22) of 1993 Organising the Ministry of Finance,
Economy and Commerce and assigning its jurisdictions,
And upon the proposal of the Minister of Finance, Economy and Commerce,
And the draft law submitted by the Council of Ministers,
And having consulted the Advisory Council,
Have decided the following Law:

CHAPTER ONE

Definitions

ARTICLE (1)

In the application of the provisions of this Law, the following terms and phrases shall have the following meanings assigned for each of them unless the context requires otherwise:

- The Ministry: The Ministry of Finance, Economy, and Commerce
- The Minister: The Minister of Finance, Economy, and Commerce
- The Foreign Investors: Non-Qatari nationals, Natural or Juridical, who are directly investing their capital in one of the projects authorised by the State according to the provisions of this Law.
- The Invested Foreign Capital: Cash money, rights in term, or other rights having monetary value in the State of Qatar, invested by foreign investors including:
 1. Cash transferred into the State through banks and other licensed financial institutions.
 2. Imported material assets for the purpose of investment according to the provisions of this Law.
 3. Profits, revenues, and reserves resulting from investing the foreign capital in a project if the capital of this project was increased or if they were invested in one of the authorised projects according to the provisions of this Law.

4. Incorporeal rights such as licenses, patents, and trademarks registered in the State.
- The Foreign Investment: the invested foreign capital in one of the authorised projects in accordance to the provisions of this Law:

CHAPTER TWO

Investing the Foreign Capital

ARTICLE (2)

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph (3) of this Article, foreign investors may invest in all the sectors of the national economy provided that they have one or more Qatari partners whose share is not less than 51% of the capital, and provided that company is properly incorporated in accordance with the provisions of the Law.
2. Nevertheless, the Minister may issue a decree allowing foreign investors ' share to exceed 49% up to 100% of the project's capital, in the sectors of agriculture, industry, healthcare, education, tourism, exploitation and development of natural resources, energy or mining provided that these projects are compatible with the development plans in the State and taking into account preference of projects that achieve optimal exploitation of the available domestic raw materials, export industries or industries that provide new products or use modern technology, projects that settle globally well-known industries, and projects that take interest in national cadres and their rehabilitation .

3. The foreign investments referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) are not allowed to invest in the banking sector, insurance companies, commercial agencies and the purchase of real estate.

ARTICLE (3)

After consultation with the competent authorities, the Minister may authorise the foreign companies involved in business contracts in the State to execute these contracts if this would facilitate the performance of public service or utility.

ARTICLE (4)

For matters not dealt with under this Law, the provisions of the laws in force in the State pertaining to the concerned activity, shall be applied with regard to obtaining the necessary licenses and permits by the foreign investor to invest in any of the authorised activities.

CHAPTER THREE

Investment Incentives

ARTICLE (5)

Required real estate may be leased to the foreign investor to establish his investment project, for a period not exceeding 50 years renewable.

ARTICLE (6)

The foreign investor may import whatever is needed to establish, operate, or expand his project in accordance with laws and procedures in force in the State.

ARTICLE (7)

The Ministry may:

1. Exempt the foreign capital invested in sectors referred to in Article 2 of this Law from income tax for a period not exceeding 10 years starting from the date of operating the investment project.
2. Exempt the foreign investment projects from customs with respect to the needed imported equipment and machinery for its establishment.
3. Exempt the foreign investment projects in industry from customs with respect to imported raw materials and semi-manufactured products necessary for the production, which are not available in the domestic markets.

ARTICLE (8)

1. The foreign investments shall not be subject, either directly or indirectly, to expropriation or any measure with similar effect, unless it is done in the public interest and in a non discriminatory manner, and in return for a speedy and appropriate compensation in accordance with legal procedures and the general principles referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article.

2. Compensation shall be equivalent to the real economic value of the expropriated investment at the time of expropriation or of its announcement. Such compensation shall be assessed on the basis of normal economic situation and prior to any threat of expropriation. The due compensation shall be paid without delay and shall enjoy free transfer. This compensation shall be subject to interest, calculated on the basis of the prevailing rate in the State, until date of payment.

ARTICLE (9)

1. Foreign investors are free to make all transfers related to their investment, into and out of the country without any delay. These transfers include:
 - a. Investment returns.
 - b. Proceeds resulting from selling or liquidating the whole or part of the investment.
 - c. Proceeds resulting from the settlement of investment disputes.
 - d. Compensation referred to in Article 8 of this Law.
2. Transfers are effected in any convertible currency at the rates prevailing on the date of the transfer.

ARTICLE (10)

The foreign investor may transfer the ownership of his investment to another foreign or domestic investor or even relinquish his investment in favour

of his domestic partner in case of partnership, provided that this transfer is made in accordance with the laws and procedures in force.

In these cases, the investment will still be governed by the provisions of this Law, provided that the new investor continues to operate the investment, and that he succeeds the former investor with respect to rights and obligations.

ARTICLE (11)

Agreement may be reached on the settlement of any dispute between the foreign investor and others by means of domestic or international arbitration panels.

CHAPTE FOUR

General Provisions

ARTICLE (12)

The provisions of this Law shall not apply to:

1. Companies and individuals assigned by the State to extract, exploit, or manage natural resources by virtue of a particular concession or agreement except to the extent it does not contradict the provisions of the special agreement or concession contract.
2. Companies incorporated by the Government, or in which the Government participates, and other public corporations and associations, in participation with foreign investors in accordance with Article (90) of the Law on Commercial Companies.

ARTICLE (13)

The foreign investor must preserve the safety of the environment against pollution, abide by all laws, regulations and instructions relating to public health and security. Moreover the foreign investor must not take any action that jeopardizes the public policy and morality of the State.

ARTICLE (14)

The provisions of this Law shall not prejudice advantages and tax exemptions and other guarantees and incentives, enjoyed by the existing companies and projects at the date of entry into force of this Law. These companies and projects shall continue to enjoy these advantages, exemptions, guarantees and incentives, in accordance with the legislation, agreements and contracts derived therefrom.

CHAPTER FIVE

Penalties and Final Provisions

ARTICLE (15)

When the foreign investor violates any provision of this Law, the Ministry shall advise the foreign investor of the need to rectify the violation within three months from the date of notification.

ARTICLE (16)

Without prejudice to any more severe penalty stipulated in other laws, any foreigner engaging in an economic activity in contravention to this Law, shall be liable to pay a fine of not less than fifty thousand Qatari Riyals and not more than one hundred thousand Qatari Riyals. Furthermore, any Qatari national partaking in such activity shall be subject to the same fine.

ARTICLE (17)

The Ministry's technical staff delegated by the Minister shall have the capacity of legal seizure officers to investigate and identify the crimes committed in violation of the provisions of this Law and its implementing decisions. They have, in this respect, the right of access to premises and projects subject to this Law and to inspect and examine their documents and records.

ARTICLE (18)

The Law Decree No. (25) of 1990 referred to shall be abolished and any provision in contradiction to this Law shall also be cancelled.

ARTICLE (19)

The Minister shall issue all regulations and decisions necessary for the implementation of this Law including the determination of fees.

ARTICLE (20)

All parties concerned, each within its own competence, shall execute this Law, and it will enter into force upon its publication in the Official Gazette.

Issued at Diwan Amiri on: 19/7/1421 AH. corresponding to: 16/10/2000 AD.

Jassem Bin Hamad Al-Thani

Deputy Emir of the State of Qatar