



**Agreement**  
**on the Establishment of Common Border Offices**  
**between the Lebanese Republic and the Syrian Arab Republic**  
[Informal Translation]

The Lebanese Republic,  
and the Syrian Arab Republic,

Based on the privileged fraternal ties provided for in the Fraternity, Cooperation and Coordination Treaty concluded between them in Damascus on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1991 and in view of the implementation of the final provisions thereof that provide for the conclusion of special agreements between both countries as a complementary part of the fields covered by this Treaty,

And desirous to facilitate and speed up the entrance, exit and (transit) passage of persons and goods in a way that completes and enhances both the Economic and Social Cooperation and Coordination Agreement as well as the Agreement on the Regulation of Transport of Persons and Goods concluded between them of the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 1993,

**Have agreed on the following:**

**Chapter One**  
**General Provisions**

**Article 1:**

For the purposes of this Agreement, the following terms shall mean the following:

1. "*Control*" shall mean the application of all the legal, regulatory and administrative provisions that are in force in both Contracting Countries with respect to the regulation of entry, exit and (transit) passage of persons and goods, including the means of transport and other properties,
2. "*State of Location*" shall mean the state on which territory the other state performs control activities inside the control zone,
3. "*The Other State*" shall mean the state that performs control activities on the territory of the state of location inside the control zone,
4. "*Control Zone*" shall mean part of the territory, which is situated within the state of location and where both states' officers perform control activities,
5. "*Officers*" shall mean all workers pertaining to the serviced concerned with control and responsible for fulfilling their tasks, whether in a normal or casual manner, inside the control zone,
6. "*The Office*" shall mean the joint control office.

**Article 2:**

Each of the joint control offices shall be established, modified or abolished, in application of the provisions of this Agreement, pursuant to a special agreement concluded between the relevant ministers in both countries.

**Article 3:**

Both Contracting Parties shall take all the necessary measures, within the framework of this Agreement and all the other agreements concluded between them, in view of facilitating and speeding up the movement of persons and the transport of goods, during the entry into and exit from their countries.

For the purpose of reaching this objective, they may:

1. Establish joint control offices directly situated on both sides of the border between both states, or when necessary, inside the territory of either state and as close as possible to the border,



2. Entitle the competent officers, in both countries, to practice their functions inside the control zones in the territory of the other country, according to the conditions and rules provided for in the provisions of this Agreement and the special agreements concluded in application thereof.

**Article 4:**

The special agreement for the establishment of each of the offices shall define the control zone relating thereto which may encompass, for instance:

1. Part of the buildings set for service,
2. Parts of the road and other installations,
3. The road situated between the border and the office.

## **Chapter Two Control**

**Article 5:**

The legal, regulatory and administrative provisions governing control in the Other State shall be applied inside the Control Zone, by the Officers of that state, as if they were being applied inside its territory. The competent courts therein shall prosecute contraventions committed or made, as a result of the application of these provisions, as the case would have been had these contraventions been committed or made inside the administrative unit falling under their jurisdiction.

Otherwise, the law of the State of Location shall be applied inside the Control Zone.

**Article 6:**

The other state's Officers shall not have the right to proceed, inside the Control Zone, to arresting persons who have not effectively entered the territory of that state except if these persons have committed, inside the Control Zone, contraventions that are provided for in the legal, regulatory and administrative texts governing control, and they are compelled to arrest them.

**Article 7:**

Control activities, inside the joint offices, shall be performed, according to the following order and rules:

1. Control activities shall be performed by the officers of the country of exit before those of the country of entry,
2. The competent authorities of the country of entry shall not proceed to performing their activities before control procedures in the country of exit have been completed by their counterparts,
3. The competent authorities in the country of exit shall not resume their work once again, if the officers of the country of entry have started performing their functions, except in cases where they obtain the approval of the competent authorities in the country of entry. Such cases shall be determined by the Joint Committee provided for in Article 26 of this Agreement.

**Article 8:**

The other state's officers shall be entitled to:

1. Transfer, freely and without any restrictions whatsoever, the amounts yielded inside the control zone to their country,
2. Transfer goods and other properties seized inside a control zone, to their country or sell them in accordance with the legal provisions in force in their country (with the intention of introducing them into their state), and freely transfer the proceeds of the sale thereof to their country.

**Article 9:**

Goods returned to the other state after passing through the control of the officers of that state, upon exit, as well as the goods returned, at the request of the concerned persons, before the commencement of control activities by the officers of the state of location, shall not be subjected to the legal regulations relating to exportation nor to control procedures upon their exit in the state of location.

**Article 10:**

The competent authorities in the country of exit shall not refuse the return of persons prohibited from entering the other country. Moreover, these authorities should not refuse to take back goods returned by the officers of the country of entry.

**Article 11:**

Both countries' officers shall take all the necessary measures to mutually assist each other in carrying out their functions inside the control zone, especially for the purpose of ensuring the good performance of control activities, speeding them up and preventing the passage of persons, goods and other properties through places other than the legal locations and passages designated for joint control activities.

### Chapter Three Officers

**Article 12:**

The authorities of the state of location shall grant the other state's officers, for the performance of their functions, the same guarantees and protection they shall grant to their own officers. Thus, crimes committed within the control zone against officers of the other state, during the performance of their functions, shall be sanctioned pursuant to the law of the state of location, as would have been the case had these crimes been committed against its officers while performing similar functions.

**Article 13:**

Lawsuits for compensation of damages caused by the other state's officers, during the performance of their functions inside the control region, upon certain persons regardless of their nationalities, shall be governed by the law and justice of that state just as the case would have been had these harmful acts been committed inside its territory.

**Article 14:**

The other state's officers entrusted with fulfilling their functions inside the state of location, pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement, shall be entitled to wear their official suits and put on their distinctive badge. They shall also be entitled to carry their regular weapons during their work in the control zone as well as on the road between their work location and residence. However, they shall not be allowed to use these weapons except in the cases defined by the law.

**Article 15:**

The officers of the other state shall be exclusively submitted to the authorities they report to in all what concerns the performance of their functions, duty reports and behavioral discipline. The authorities of the state of location shall not be allowed to detain or arrest the other state's officers for reasons related to acts they did in performance of their functions inside the control zone. The jurisdiction to examine such actions shall be reserved to the competent judicial authorities in their country.

**Article 16:**

Officers of the other state residing in the state of location as well as all their family members living with them under the same roof shall benefit, pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement, from the provisions of the regulations governing temporary admission into the state of location in what concerns their house furniture and personal belongings, including their own transportation means, according to the applied conditions and during the entire period during which they occupy their positions at the common border.

**Article 17:**

The provisions of the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation concluded between the two states shall be applied on the salaries, wages and compensations to be earned by the officers of the other state in the control region and they may freely transfer these salaries, wages and compensations to their country.



## Chapter Four Offices

### Article 18:

The locations where the joint offices shall be established as well as the installations of these offices and the rules of work performance therein shall, for the purpose of this Agreement, be set by common agreement between the competent services (Customs Service, Syrian Immigration and passports service - Lebanese General Security, Transport Service), especially:

1. The necessary locations, equipment and installations required for the work of the other state's officers as well as the due fees and compensations, when necessary, in return for the use thereof,
2. The competences of the established offices and the work hours of the officers working therein,
3. The legal passages leading to the offices and the rules for the performance of control activities thereon.

### Article 19:

The places destined for the work of the other state's officers in the joint offices shall be designated by distinct writings and official emblems over which the flag of that state shall be hung.

### Article 20:

The other state's officers shall be entitled to impose order inside the locations exclusively set for their own use and to prohibit turmoil therein. They may also request, when necessary, the assistance of the state of location's officers for this purpose.

### Article 21:

All office supplies, whether furniture, tools, necessities, equipments, etc... required for the work of the other state's officers shall not be subjected, in implementation of the provisions of this Agreement, to custom procedures in the state of location. This shall also apply to service or personal cars used by officers during the performance of their functions inside the control zone.

### Article 22:

The state of location shall gratuitously ensure all the necessary utilities such as water and electricity, including phone and telegraph lines, faxes and telefaxes required for work performance in the other state's offices and shall connect them to that state's network in view of exchanging direct communications therewith. Expenses incurred for the consumption of water and electricity as well as communication fees shall remain at the other state's expense.

### Article 23:

All the correspondence and packages incoming to the other state's offices or issued by them shall be transported by that state's officers and under their supervision, without the need for any interference from the post service in the state of location.

## Chapter Five Clearance Agents

### Article 24:

Persons coming from the other state shall be entitled to complete formalities regarding custom control activities in the locations and offices designated for that state in the state of location, under the same conditions as the case would have been had they been working on the territory of the state to which they belong.

### Article 25:

Licensed clearance agents coming from the other state to clear goods that are not theirs may complete their formalities in accordance with Article 24 of this Agreement. They shall, in this quality, be subjected to the legal, regulatory and administrative provisions governing the clearance of goods in their country. The formalities they complete and the services they provide in this respect shall be



considered as having taken place in their country, especially in what concerns the legal and financial consequences resulting from the completion thereof.

## **Chapter Six The Joint Committee**

### **Article 26:**

A joint Lebanese-Syrian Committee shall be constituted from representatives of the services mentioned in Article 18 of this Agreement within one month from its entry into force, the functions of this committee shall be:

1. Drawing special agreements in view of designating, establishing, modifying and abolishing joint border control offices,
2. Preparing the necessary texts in order to modify this Agreement whenever necessary,
3. Dealing with the difficulties that may arise during the practical application of this Agreement and the other agreements concluded within its framework.

### **Article 27:**

The Joint Committee shall be formed of six members, three of which shall be appointed by each Party. The committee shall either hold ordinary sessions every three months, alternately in Beirut and Damascus, or extraordinary sessions, upon the convocation of the General Secretariat of the Syrian Lebanese Higher Council, by its own initiative or at the request of either Party.

The General Secretary or his representative shall participate in all these meetings. The head of the Party in which country the session is being held shall preside the sessions.

### **Article 28:**

Certain officers from both Parties may be appointed to participate in the committee meetings in their quality as experts.

## **Chapter Seven Final Provisions**

### **Article 29:**

This Agreement shall be considered as complementary to the Fraternity, Cooperation and Coordination Treaty concluded between both countries in Damascus on 22 May 1991.

### **Article 30:**

This Agreement shall be ratified in accordance with the constitutional regulations in both Contracting Countries and shall become effective as of the date of exchange of the instruments of ratification through the General Secretariat of the Syrian Lebanese Higher Council.

Done in two original copies and signed by the representatives of the two Contracting Parties in Damascus on 12/1/1997.

For the Lebanese Republic

**Fouad Sanioura**

For the Syrian Arab Republic

**Mahmoud Khaled al-Mahayni**