

Law No. 11 of 1990 Establishment of the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) 11 / 1990

Number of Articles: 45

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We, Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar;

Having perused the Amended Provisional Constitution, and in particular Articles 23, 34, and 51 thereof,

Law No. 2 of 1962 on the Organisation of the Fiscal Policy in Qatar;

Law No. 11 of 1962 on the Establishment of a Commercial Register System, as amended,

Law No. 4 of 1963 on the Establishment of the Qatar Chamber of Commerce;

Law No. 5 of 1970 ON the Specification of the Powers of Ministers and the Terms of Reference of the Ministries and other Government Agencies as amended,

The Civil and Commercial Matters Law No 16 of 1971, as amended by Law No. 10 of 1982;

Law No. 3 of 1985 on the Participation of non-Qatari Capital in Economic Activity, as amended by Law No. 10 of 1989;

The Council of Ministers Resolution No. 2 of 1980 on the Organization of Markets and exhibitions, and amending decisions thereof;

Resolution No. 1 of 1963 on the Implementing Regulations of the Qatar Chamber of Commerce;

The proposal of the Minister of Economy and Trade;

The draft law submitted by the Council of Ministers;

Having consulted the Shura Council;

Hereby promulgate the following Law:

Part 1

Establishing the Chamber

Article 1

Upon the provision of this law, a public benefit establishment shall be established, known as "Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry" hereinafter "the Chamber". This Chamber aims at organizing, representing, defending and promoting Qatari commercial, industrial and agricultural interests, in addition to supporting and developing the economic and productive events for the benefit of the country in general and of its members in particular.

Article 2

The headquarters of the Chamber shall be in Doha city, but other branches outside Doha city may be established by resolution of the General Assembly.

Article 3

The Chamber is a legal personality and has the right to possess, sell, purchase, obtain loans, mortgage, accept financial or other gifts or assistance, and to litigate and perform other legal acts within its functions.

Part 2

Chamber Terms of Reference

Article 4 (Amended By Law 11/1996)

The Chamber's functions shall be as follows:-

1. Collecting, classifying and disseminating information and statistics that are of interest to the workers in agriculture, industry and commerce; supplying the government with data, information and opinions related to agricultural, industrial and commercial issues, as well as explaining industrial and commercial customs.
2. Giving opinions in a consultative way regarding establishing stock markets, markets, industrial and agricultural fairs, as well as granting franchise rights related to public utilities. The Chamber shall give its opinion within three months of a request, but within one month if requested as a matter of urgency. Failure to provide its opinion within the allotted timeframes shall render the Chamber's opinion invalid.
3. Providing concerned ministries and bodies with any suggestions or opinions on the following issues:
 1. Laws and regulations related to agriculture, industry and trade;
 2. Customs tariffs;
 3. Establishing and amending transportation methods, fees and related costs ;
 4. All other issues related to introducing trade, industry and agriculture.
1. Assigning experts based on a request by the public authorities, courts, municipalities or other concerned persons who are working in commerce, industry or agriculture to study the issues of a commercial, industrial or agricultural nature, including examining the disputed commodities and endorsing the certificates of experts in this regard.
2. Establishing permanent fairs, galleries, markets, schools, commercial, industrial or agricultural institutions and other establishments related to agricultural, industrial and commercial matters within the limits of applicable laws and regulations. The government may assign the administration of its affiliated establishments and institutions to the Chamber. A resolution by the Minister of Finance, Economy and Commerce is to be issued for the Chamber to practice its functions stated in this paragraph after obtaining the opinions of other concerned ministries. In the case of establishing or running schools or institutions, the resolution is to be issued after consultation with the Minister of Education.
3. Holding economic conferences in Qatar and participating in economic conferences held abroad, but only after obtaining a written license from the Minister of Finance, Economy and Commerce.
4. Issuing certificates that show the origin of a commodity, the nationality of exporters, prices of commodities, as well as all certificates whose issue the Minister of Finance, Economy and Commerce permits.
5. Arbitrating disputes that are submitted before it by agreement of the concerned parties.
6. Approving the data and documents of individuals and commercial companies when they apply for a commercial register or its renewal or amendment. The Chamber may form committees from among its members and anybody whom it considers experts in order to practice some of these functions. It may also form any other committees that would help meet its objectives, and assign such committees any of the functions it deems suitable. It may also contact the governmental bodies regarding any data or information related to the work of its functions.

Article 5

The Chamber shall not be bound to any speculation or work harmful to the market or any political or religious matters

Article 6

The government shall assign one or more representatives to attend the Chamber's sessions whenever necessary. The representative may participate in deliberations without having a counted vote. The decisions issued by the Chamber shall be invalid in the case of the representative not being invited to attend such sessions.

Part 3

Membership

Article 7

Ordinary and legal persons who practice commercial or industrial activity- even if related to agricultural investment- and who have their headquarters, branch or agency in Qatar, may join the Chamber and the Chamber shall register the names of the members joining it and classify them in categories according to its objectives.

Article 8

Persons working in simple crafts such as sewing, shaving, blacksmithing, plumbing, upholstery or regular repairing works or other similar crafts may not join the Chamber, provided that the craft owner shall practice it by himself without the assistance of any other individuals.

Article 9

In the application for joining the Chamber, the following requirements shall be met:-

1. The applicant must be a Qatari national or a foreigner licensed to practice the activities stated in Article 7;
 2. The applicant must be registered in the commercial register;
 3. The applicant must be at least 21 twenty one years old;
 4. The applicant must not have been convicted of a crime of immorality, unless three years have passed since execution of the sentence. If the sentence has not been executed, the three-year period shall commence from the date of issuing the sentence.
 5. The applicant's headquarters where he practices his activities must be located and known in Qatar.
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Article 10

The member may lose his membership in the following cases:-

1. Loss of any of the requirements stated in Article 9;
 2. Failure to pay membership fees for more than one year;
 3. Dismissal upon a decision by a majority of three quarters of the Chamber board. The board resolution shall state the reason for the dismissal.
 4. Any person may apply to regain his membership after the reason for the loss is no longer valid.
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Part 4

Chamber Organs

Section One

General Assembly

Article 11

The Chamber's General Assembly comprises all members who have already paid their membership fees. The General Assembly may convene upon an invitation of the Chairman of the board once a year in regular session to discuss the budget, final account and annual report of the Chamber's works. It may also be held for exceptional reasons upon a decision of the board or upon a written request submitted by thirty members who have the right to attend the Assembly.

Article 12

The meeting of the General Assembly shall be considered valid if attended by at least half of the members. If this quorum has not been reached in the first meeting, the invitation for a second meeting is to be sent within two weeks but no later than one month. The second meeting shall be considered valid irrespective of the number of members attending. The meeting shall include an agenda of the subjects to be discussed in the session, and no matters not included in the agenda may be mentioned or discussed. The General Assembly decisions are to be issued upon absolute majority; if votes are equal, the party with whom the chairman sits shall prevail.

Section Two

Board of Directors

Article 13 (Amended By Law 11/1996)

The Chamber board shall be composed of seventeen members elected by the General Assembly and shall represent the economic sectors. A resolution of the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Commerce is to be issued, after considering the opinions of concerned ministers, to define the percentage of members representing such sectors. The membership term of the board is four years. The by-law regulations of the Chamber shall be set up to define how to conduct elections.

Article 14 (Amended By Law 11/1996)

The board shall have all powers necessary to follow up on the Chamber's affairs so as to meet its objectives, and shall issue any instructions that it deems necessary and authorize a person to undertake any of its powers so as to guarantee the progress of work in a beneficial way. The board shall prepare the by-law regulations, financial regulations and any other administrative regulations. Such regulations shall have no force and effect unless approved by the Minister of Finance, Economy and Commerce.

Article 15

The board of directors shall, in its first meeting, elect the chairman, the vice-chairman and an honorary secretary of the fund.

Article 16

The chairman of the board is the representative of the Chamber before others and before the jurisdiction.

Article 17

Whenever the chairman is absent for any reason, his vice-chairman shall replace him and practice all his functions. In case of the absence of both the chairman and vice-chairman, the board shall choose a substitute from among the remaining directors.

Article 18 (Amended By Law 11/1996)

If any director position becomes vacant for any reason, it shall be filled by anyone who wins the majority of votes cast by candidates who did not win membership on the board, and the new member shall continue the term of his predecessor.

Article 19

The Chamber board shall be held once a month at least, upon an invitation of the chairman of the board. The meeting of the board shall not be valid unless by the attendance of half of the members. If the quorum wasn't completed, an invitation for another meeting is to be called for another meeting. Such meeting is to be considered valid whatever the number of the members attending is. The board resolutions are to be issued with the majority of the attendants' votes. Whenever votes are equal, the party having the chairman shall win.

Article 20

If any director fails to attend a board meeting five consecutive times without providing an acceptable reason, he shall be considered as having resigned.

Article 21

The board may form from among its members sub- or temporary committees to study certain subjects. Such committees may request the assistance of any person it considers an expert, even if such person was not a member of the Chamber and whose assistance is not supported by the members.

Section Three

Executive Office

Article 22

The executive office of the Chamber is composed of the chairman of the board, his vice-chairman and the honorary secretary of the fund

Article 23

The executive office supervises the execution of the board resolutions and the administrative and financial bodies of the Chamber. One of its functions is the preparation of the annual report of the Chamber's works and submission thereof to the board for approval by the General Assembly.

Article 24

The office shall organize the works of the Chamber and the Treasury. It shall also assign employees and workers and define their salaries and wages and dismiss them according to the by-law regulations of the Chamber.

Article 25

The board shall assign a full-time manager of the Chamber who is not a member of the board of directors. The manager shall have the right to attend board meetings and participate in its discussions without having a counted vote. The executive regulation of this Law shall define the functions of the Chamber manager.

Part 5

The Chamber Financing

Article 26

The funds of the Chamber are composed of:-
Annual subscription fees;
Fees for approving certificates and documents;
Fees for approving signatures, petitions and reports;
Fees for examining commodities and preparing reports thereon;
Fees of commercial arbitration submitted to the Chamber with the consent of the concerned parties;
Revenue from the sale of books and magazines issued by the Chamber;
Revenue from estates owned by the Chamber;
Financial and non-monetary gifts and assistance;
Loans taken out by the Chamber.

Article 27 (Amended By Law 11/1996)

The fees paid to the Chamber shall be defined according to the attached schedule hereto. Upon a resolution of the Cabinet, and upon the recommendation of the Minister of Finance, Economy and Commerce, and after considering the opinion of the Chamber, such fees may be amended or augmented.

Article 28

Unless approved by the General Assembly, neither the chamber board, any member, the director nor any of the staff therein may make payments of any amount not allocated in the budget or that is in excess of the allocated amounts. Decisions issued in prejudice of the provisions of the preceding paragraph shall be deemed null and void. Violators shall be jointly responsible for the money spent in contradiction of the budget items, and for purposes other than those fulfilling the chamber purposes. They shall also be liable for all damages caused thereby. The General Assembly may take a decision to seek legal recourse to recover such money and to pay it as compensation. The due amounts ruled in execution of this Article shall be collected by the methods followed for levying public money.

Article 29

The chamber board shall lay down the draft budget, including revenues and expenditures thereof, at least three months before the beginning of the fiscal year. All supporting information and documents used for the budget estimates of revenues and expenses shall be enclosed. The board may, after sanctioning the budget, use any amount for purposes other than those specified therein.

Article 30

The General Assembly may, while discussing the draft budget, increase or decrease any of the figures stated therein.

Article 31

If the General Assembly has not approved the budget before the fiscal year commences, the previous budget shall be applied until such approval is given. If the approval has not been given within three months of the submission of the draft budget to the General Assembly, the board shall have the right to apply the budget it submitted.

Article 32

The Chamber board shall submit the draft of the final account of the previous year to the financial administration within a maximum of three months of the end of the fiscal year.

Article 33

The budget and the final account shall be published in one of the local magazines after being approved.

Article 34

The Chamber board shall assign one or more banks in which it shall deposit the Chamber's monies. All spending shall be in accordance with the Chamber's financial regulations.

Article 35

The Chamber's fiscal year shall commence on 1st January and end on 31st December each year, except for the first fiscal year which commences from the beginning of the Chamber's activity until 31st December of the same year.

Article 36

The General Assembly shall assign a legal auditor, to whom the financial officer and his assistants shall present all financial documents necessary to conduct an audit properly.

Part 6

Rights and duties of the members

Article 37

No Chamber member may participate in any deliberations of the General Assembly, the board of directors or any committees in which he, or his dependents or other persons in his custody, or any of his agents or clients, has a private interest.

Article 38 (Amended By Law 11/1996)

Upon the instruction of the Minister of Finance, Economy and Commerce or the instruction of the board, the membership of the chamber member in violation of Articles 28 and 37 shall be revoked. The decision revoking the membership shall be issued by a committee headed by a judge delegated by the Minister of Justice based on the nomination of the president of the judicial courts, and the membership of two other chamber members to be appointed by the board. The committee's decision shall be final. Reinstatement of membership may be effected only after three years have elapsed since the date of the revocation.

Article 39

The Chamber members, and any member whose membership is revoked, shall be liable to repay monies reimbursed to them in violation of the provisions hereof. Such reimbursement shall include the addition of any damages incurred by such violation. The amounts claimed in execution of this Article are to be collected by those methods applied for levying public money.

Part 7

Section One

Chamber Dissolution

Article 40 (Amended By Law 11/1996)

The Chamber shall be dissolved by governmental decree if the provisions of Article 5 hereof are violated. This decree may be confined to dissolving only the Chamber board, in which case the General Assembly shall elect another board within a maximum of three months of the date of dissolution of the previous board. The Minister of Finance, Economy and Commerce shall entrust the running of the Chamber's works within this period to a temporary committee.

Section Two

Transitional and Final Provisions

Article 41

Such Chamber shall replace the Qatar Chamber of Commerce established by Law no. 4 of 1963 in all its rights and obligations.

Article 42

Members of the Chamber board are to be appointed within two months of this Law taking effect. Until assignment of the first chairman, the Chamber board membership established by law no. 4 of 1963 referred to above shall continue.

Article 43

Law no. 4 of 1963, which established the Qatar Chamber of Commerce, is to be cancelled, together with any other provision in contradiction with the provisions of this Law.

Article 44 (Amended By Law 11/1996)

The Minister of Finance, Economy and Commerce, after consultation with the Chamber, shall issue all regulations and decisions necessary for executing this Law within three months of its enforcement. Until such regulations and decisions are issued, the executive regulation of law no. 4 of 1963 referred to above shall be in force, provided that such executive regulation does not contradict the provisions of this Law

Article 45

All concerned authorities, each in their respective jurisdictions, shall implement this Law, which shall be published in the *Official Gazette*.

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