

Official Journal No. 2 January 9, 1997

Ministry of Economy and Trade

Decree No. 9656

**Establishment of the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce ,
Industry and Agriculture in Lebanon**

The president of the republic,
By virtue of the constitution,
Based on the legislative decree no. 36 issued on August 5, 1967, especially its article 4 ,
Upon suggestion of the ministry of economy and trade,
After consulting the state consultative council (advisory opinions no. 172/1996 on June 18,
1996 and no. 235/96 on August 1, 1996) ,
After the approval of the council of ministers in its meeting held on October 2, 1996,

Decree the following :

CHAPTER ONE

**Establishment of the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce,
Industry and Agriculture in Lebanon**

Article One:

It is established , in the Lebanese Republic, a federation of Lebanese chambers of commerce, industry and agriculture , known as :

Article Two:

The said federation is established between :

- 1- the chamber of commerce, industry and agriculture in Beirut and Mount Lebanon
- 2- the chamber of commerce, industry and agriculture in Tripoli and the North
- 3- the chamber of commerce, industry and agriculture in Saida and the South
- 4-
- 5- any chamber of commerce, industry and agriculture that may arise afterwards according to the legislative decree no. 36 dated August 5, 1967

Article Three:

The federation has its juridical personality as well as financial and administrative autonomy.

Article Four:

The federation is controlled by the ministry of economy and trade as indicated in legislative decree no. 36 dated August 5, 1967.

Article Five :

The Federation will have its permanent headquarters in the city of Beirut at the location determined by its board of directors, and may hold its meetings in any Lebanese mohafazat (province).

CHAPTER TWO

Federation Tasks

Article Six:

The Federation will coordinate between the different chambers of commerce and industry in Lebanon , and will look after its common interests, for example :

- 1- forts in
this purpose.
- 2- Hold economic conferences , make local and international exhibitions , and represent the chambers according to laws and applicable regulations.
- 3- Represent the chambers of commerce , industry and agriculture in common interests with official authorities as well as in economic talks with Arab, foreign and international delegations.
- 4- Cooperate with official authorities in order to organize, develop and promote the national economy, collect and coordinate economic and commercial information and statistics , issue newsletters and prepare studies and researches in this purpose.
- 5-
- 6- Exchange opinions, information and reports with international and foreign organizations and institutions interested by economic and commercial matters.
- 7- Give opinion to competent authorities before approving the establishment of new chambers and giving new permits to establish mixed chambers between Lebanese and foreigners.
- 8- Contact governmental departments, municipalities and public institutions in order to obtain necessary reports in any of its objects and tasks.

CHAPTER THREE

Article Seven:

The federation is composed of the following institutions:

- 1- General assembly
- 2- Board of directors
- 3- Bureau

Section One General Assembly

Article Eight :

The general assembly include all members of the chambers of commerce, industry and agriculture in Lebanon that compose the Federation.

Article Nine:

The chairman of the federation board of directors is ipso facto the president of the federation, president.

Article Ten:

The president of the federation, or one of his deputies when he is absent, will convoke the general assembly to meet. The invitation will be sent by post or by telegraph, with delivery note. In both cases, invitations are to be sent 21 days before the meeting.

Article Eleven:

The president of the federation, or one of his deputies when he is absent, will preside the session of the general assembly, the director general of the federation will act as secretary.

Article Twelve:

The general assembly, by invitation of the president or one of his deputies, will hold an ordinary meeting within the three first months of each year to discuss matters included in its agenda, especially :

1st-

and its agenda for the new year.

2nd-

3rd- Interrupt the past year accountancy and acquit the board of directors.

4th-

economy and trade.

directors each time it seems necessary. Members representing one third of the general assembly may ask to convoke a general extraordinary session provided that its agenda will be enclosed with the request.

Article Thirteen:

At the beginning of the session, a list of present members will be made and signed by the president and the secretary.

Article Fourteen:

The discussions of the general assembly will be legal only if the half of the assembly members are present. If there is no quorum, the general assembly will be invited to meet in a new session according to rules stipulated in article ten within ten days of the past session date, then, discussions of the general assembly will be legal whatever the number of present members is.

Article Fifteen:

Decisions of the general assembly are taken by the majority of present votes, and, in case of tie vote, the vote of the president will be a casting one.

Article Sixteen:

-verbal will be made for each session of the general assembly that will be registered in a special r by the president and the secretary.

Article Seventeen:

-verbal, signed by the president and the secretary, will be given upon request of component authorities or a chamber that is member of the federation.

Section Two Board of Directors

Article Eighteen :

The federation board of directors is composed of presidents and members of boards of chambers consisting the federation. Its duration is two years.

Article Nineteen :

A member of the federation may lost his membership in the following cases:

- 1- If the duration of the board of directors of the chamber he belongs to comes to an end.
- 2- If he resigns of the board of directors of the chamber he belongs to, or if his position becomes vacant for whatever legal cause.
- 3- If the board of directors of any chamber constituting the federation decides to substitute its representatives or any of its members that represent it in the federation board of directors.
- 4- If the membership of any representative declines for any legal cause.

Article Twenty:

If the duration of the federation board of directors comes to an end, for any reason , and no new board has been elected to replace it, the past board will continue its authority as usual till a new board of directors is elected.

Article twenty one :

The federation board of directors has the following tasks and competencies :

- Execute decisions and recommendations taken by the general assembly.
- Draft the directing policy of the federation , as well as its plans and programs, and supervise the executions of the same.
- Discuss proposed suggestions, and take decisions and recommendations about the same
- responsible of such work vis--vis of the general assembly.
- Run the federation funds and properties, and decide about collecting funds and spend the same.
- Appoint the director general of the federation and determine his authorities, as well as determine the obligations and the authorities of the federation employees and the conditions of their hiring according to bylaw to be written within three months following the first session of the federation board of directors, provided that the same will be approved by the minister of economy and trade.
- Appoint an auditor, provided that this auditing and fees will be determined in the bylaw.

Article Twenty Two:

The federation board of directors will meet by invitation of its president or one of his deputies when he is absent, together with the agenda, at least once every three months. It will meet exceptionally by invitation of its president or a request of one third of its members.

Article Twenty Three :

The board is legally convened if the half of its members are present. If there is no quorum, a second invitation will be done, provided that the meeting will take place within ten days whatever the number of present members is.

Article Twenty Four :

The board takes its decision by absolute majority of present votes, and , in case of tie vote, the vote of the president will be a casting one.

Article Twenty Five :

member of the board discussing matters regarding him , a relative of his up to the fourth degree, or one of his constituents.

Article Twenty Six:

The board of directors may constitute a needed consultative committee in order to execute its tasks. The board may ask for the assistance of experts with experience and invite them to attend sessions and participate to discussions without the right to vote, provided that all Lebanese regions will be considered while constituting committees dealing with matters regarding such regions.

Section Three

Bureau

Article Twenty Seven:

The bureau is composed of :

- The chairman of the federation.
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- The Secretary for finance and the secretary general.
- Two consultants designed by the board of directors.

Article Twenty Eight :

- 1- board of directors at the first session held by the board.
- 2- Vote will be confidential and by absolute majority of present members.
- 3- The duration of the bureau is two years.

Article Twenty Nine:

membership of the board of directors.

Article Thirty :

The federation bureau will meet at least once every month by invitation of the president or one of his deputies whenever it seems necessary.

Article Thirty One :

members, and decisions are taken by the majority of votes.

Article Thirty Two :

- 1- Execute the federation board of directors decisions.
- 2- Supervise the management of the federation.
- 3- Prepare the annual budget project, and present
- 4-
- 5- Study and coordinate suggestions proposed by the chambers that are members of the
- 6- commerce, industry and agriculture.

7- Take decisions that are of

The aforesaid is only to be taken in urgent necessity and if the board of directors is unable to meet. The board of directors will have to ratify the same at the first session it holds.

CHAPTER THREE

Finance

Article Thirty Three :

- 1- Subscription of members (chambers) according to the following percentages :
Chamber of Beirut 50%, chamber of Tripoli 25% , chamber of Saida 15% , chamber of Zahleh 10%.
- 2- Revenues of services given by the federation
- 3- Contributions , grants and donations given to the federation in harmony with its object.
- 4- Annual governmental allowance given to the federation.
- 5- board of directors.
- 6- Incomes of immovable properties owned by the federation.

Article Thirty Four :

The secretary for finance will supervise financial transactions of the federation, and will execute its budgets under the superintendence of the president of the federation who must approve all expenses and payment orders according to the federation bylaw stipulations.

CHAPTER FOUR

Final and Occasional Provisions

Article Thirty Five :

The general assembly, held with the two third of its members, may, upon request of the president of chamber, suggest the amendment of some provisions of the present decree. The amendment decree by the council of ministers.

Article Thirty Six :

If the federation is dissolved for any reason, its assets will be liquidated according to liquidation laws, its funds will be distributed to its members (chambers) corresponding to their shares in the federation finance.

Article Thirty Seven:

Exceptionally and only for once, the chairman of Beirut chamber of commerce and industry will at the first session of the said board in order to elect the chairman, his deputies , the secretary general , the secretary general for finance and the two consultants according to article 28 of the present decree, within at most one month from the date of validity of the said decree.

Article Thirty Eight:

The first session of the federation board of directors regarding the election of the federation's members as shown in the foregoing article will be held at the Beirut chamber of commerce, industry and agriculture and presided by the oldest member. The federation board of directors will choose later the federation headquarters.

Article Thirty Nine:

The present decree is to be published and executed once published in the official journal.

Baabda, december 28, 1996

Signed : Elias Al-HRAWI

Issued by the President of the Republic

Prime Minister

Signed : Rafic Al HARIRI

Minister of Economy and Trade

Signed : Yassin JABER