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**Published on the website on May 2024**

**Law No. (13) of 2011 ratifying the Arab Convention on Regulating Passenger Transport on roads Between And Through Arab Countries**

We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution, And the Arab Convention on Regulating Passenger Transport on roads Between And Through Arab Countries, which was approved by the Council of the Arab League at ministerial level in accordance with its decision No. (6701) of 6/9/2006, and signed by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Cairo on 1 November 2006. The Shura Council and the Council of Representatives have approved the following law, which we have ratified and enacted:

**Article one**

The Arab Convention on Regulating Passenger Transport on roads Between And Through Arab Countries, which was approved by the Council of the Arab League at ministerial level in accordance with its decision No. (6701) of 6/9/2006, and signed by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Cairo on 1 November 2006, attached to this Law, has been ratified.

**Article two**

Any provision contrary to this law is repealed.

**Article three**

The Prime Minister and the Ministers - each within his jurisdiction - shall implement this law and it shall come into effect from the day following the date of its publication in the Official gazette.

**King of the Kingdom of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

Issued on: 10 Rajab 1432 A.H. corresponding to: 12 June 2011.

The Council of the League at ministerial level, having reviewed

The Note from the General Secretariat

the General Secretary's preliminary report and the General Secretariat's activities between the two sessions

The Council of Arab Ministers of Transport Decision No. 235 dated 24/11/2004

The League Decision at ministerial level No. 6519 د. ع.(123) dated 3/3/2005;

The Economic and Social Council Decision No. 1616 dated 16/2/2006,

The Decision of the Council of the League at the Khartoum Summit No. 351 د. ع (18) dated 29/03/2006

The Standing Committee of Legal Affairs Recommendation at its meeting from 27 to 28 \ 8 \ 2006

The Committee of Legal Affairs Recommendation

And after study and discussion

**Resolves to approve the Arab Convention on Regulating Passenger Transport on Roads Between And Through Arab Countries, as follows:**

Decision No. 6701 – د.ع 126 ) – P 2 – 6 \9\2006)

\* The Arab Republic of Egypt expresses its reservations concerning the addition of the word with their plates in the wording of Article (3). \*The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia asserts that the reservation made by the Arab Republic of Egypt in respect of the plates referred to in Article 3 should be deleted because it is contrary to the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

**Arab Convention on Regulating Passenger Transport on Roads Between And Through Arab Countries**

Desiring to strengthen and develop social and economic ties between the countries of the Arab League, and in order to achieve what is stipulated in Article 2 of the Charter of the League concerning the need to establish close cooperation between the countries of the League in economic and financial matters,

With a view to promoting pan-Arab tourism and eliminating obstacles to international road passenger traffic between the Member States of the Arab League,

and in light of pacta sunt servanda and principles of reciprocity,

The undersigned member states of the Arab League, hereby have agreed as follows:

**Article (1):**

The following terms have the meanings indicated for each of them:

1 - “Competent Authority”: The relevant governmental authority in each of the member states having jurisdiction over the application of laws and regulations related to the implementation of this Convention.

2 – “Transporter”: Is the natural or legal person from any of the member states who is licensed according to the laws and regulations of their own state to carry out the international transportation for the road passengers.

3 –“Passenger”: A person who intended to travel through the roads of the member state for a purpose of public, private, tourism or for any other purpose thereof.

4 –“Means of Transportation”: Vehicles that are registered in one of the member states and authorized to engage in such activity by competent authority in the respective member state for transportation of passengers and include the following: A - “Private Cars”: Vehicles that are intended for personal use and driven by the owner or his official authorized representative thereof. B – “Buses”: Vehicles that are licensed to transport more than eight passengers excluding the driver. It must meet all the technical conditions related to the safety, passenger comfort, and traffic safety, and should not exceed the lifespan of ten years from the date of manufacture thereof. C – “Taxis”: Vehicles that are licensed to transport eight passengers or less in return for payment of a fare

5 – “Regular Transportation”: It is intended to transport passengers and their personal belongings and goods from one member state, an Arab country being party to the Convention, on the specific routes according to the fixed declared dates and transportation tariffs to another Arab state being party to the Convention, in the form of a regular land transport service for the international transport of passengers among them by transporters licensed by the competent authorities and the sharing among them on the basis of mutual benefits and common interests of each party to this Convention.

6 – “Regular Crossing/ Passing Transportation”: It is intended to transport passengers from the territory of a member state being party of this Convention, through the territory of another member state, being party of this Convention, targeting a third member state being party to this Convention, or a non party state to this Convention, and vice versa, without landing or taking passengers from the crossing states, according to the list of the passengers’ names registering the information of each passenger.

7 – “Tourism Transportation”: This refers to the transportation of one group of passengers and their personal belongings, for a tourist trip in a defined itinerary, beginning from the country of registration of the vehicle and ending in the country of another party without landing or taking passengers along the itinerary and return the bus to either with the same group of passengers or being empty.

8 – “Transportation tariff”: It means the fare paid by the passenger for his transportation and carriage of his personal belongings or Luggage.

9 – “Contracting Parties”: The governments of the member states of the Arab League who are parties to this Convention.

**Article (2):**

The provisions of this Convention shall be applicable on the transportation of passengers (public, private or tourist) on the roads starting and reaching to the territory of any of the Contracting Parties by the means of transportation, or passing through.

**Article (3):**

In accordance with the provisions of this Convention, Contracting Parties hereby undertake to facilitate the free passage for the means of transportation with its plates\*, passengers and their personal belongings.

**Article (4):**

The drivers of the means of transportation shall be obliged to possess the following documents while driving their vehicles within the territory of any other Contracting Parties: -

1 - A valid passport contains the necessary visas, if required.

2 - A valid international driving license (Permission) or a national license recognized by the Contracting parties, related to the category of the vehicle that has been driven.

3 –Valid Passing Certificate (certificate of registration) for the vehicle that has been driven.

4 – The International traffic book valid and approved by the Contracting parties.

5 - Baggage Registration Statement, which includes the number, approximate weight, the passenger's name and address, and the name and address of the transporter, and the name of the local agent in the state of destination and his address.

6 –List of passengers, that includes their names, nationalities and passport numbers, which shall be provided to the competent authorities upon their request.

7 - An insurance policy on the vehicle, covering the journey from beginning to end, including third party liability, the driver and passengers, and which should be issued by an insurance company approved in the state of crossing and state of destination of the Contracting Parties.

**Article (5)**

Operations of transportation subject to the provisions of this Convention must be covered by insurance, issued by an insurance company approved in the states of crossing and arrival, from the beginning of the journey until to the end thereof.

Article **(6)**

The transporters under the Contracting Parties shall have local agents, for regular transport in the destination state of party to the Convention in order to facilitate the implementation of the passengers’ transportations operations procedures subject to the provisions of this Convention.

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Arab Republic of Egypt Reserve: had reservations about the addition of the word "plates" to the wording of the article.

**Article (7)**

The public transport means registered with any of the Contracting Parties shall not be permitted to enter into the territory of any of the other parties as empty for transporting passengers except by virtue of the prior permission granted by the competent authorities.

**Article (8)**

The public transport means, registered with any of the Contracting Parties shall not be permitted to carryout public transport between two points within the territory of any other party to this Convention.

**Article (9)**

The entry of various means of transportation should be through the official entrance of any of the Contracting Pparties and it shall be permitted for such parties to oblige the intended or crossing means of transportation to its territory of the specific itinerary.

**Article (10)**

Contracting Parties shall provide all facilities for passengers and means of passengers transport according to this Convention.

**Article (11)**

The means of transport of any of the Contracting Parties shall not be allowed to stay in the territory of another Contracting Party after the expiry of the period allotted except upon the special permission from the competent authority in that member State.

**Article (12)**

Without prejudice to the laws and national legislation in force, in the case of any violation of the provisions of this Convention by the transporter of any of the Contracting Parties, the territory of the Contracting State wherein the violation may have been committed shall have the right to take the following actions:

- A warning to the offending transporter, in case of violation for the first time.

- The temporary deprivation of the transportation in its territory for a period of maximum three months, in case of violation for the second time.

- The permanent deprivation, in case of subsequent repetition.

The competent authority in the member state, where the offence has been committed over its territory, shall be obliged to inform the competent authority of the state of the transporter, who issued license for him to transport, to take action against him, and the offending transporter shall have the right to appeal such action taken against him within sixty days from the date of notification in this respect.

**Article (13)**

A - Transporter shall issue individual tickets to passengers showing the passenger's name, address and ID number or passport and his travel destination, in addition to the name and address of the transporter.

B - Transporter shall issue passengers’ baggage registration statement contains the number, nature of the recieved baggage, approximate weighs, passenger name, address, and the name and address of the transporter.

**Article (14)**

A - The transporter shall be responsible for the safety of passengers transported in his vehicle, as long as they are inside such vehicle, and the Insurance document thereof shall determine the value of compensation for death, injury or damage related thereto, resulting from accidents during transport and transporter shall pay such compensation to passengers.

B - The transporter shall be bound to pay compensation for loss, damage or deficiency or defect occurring in the luggage thereto, and the compensation shall be subject to the value and status of baggage at delivery time, provided that, such event has been reported to the transporter in a timely manner and substantiated the same with valid records.

**Article (15)**

Passengers who suffer loss of, damage to or shortage of baggage have the right to claim compensation. The claim must be addressed to the transporter or its legal representative at its registered office or its authorised agent in the country of the other Contracting {arty.

**Article (16)**

The claim for compensation to the loss or damage or deficiency or defect in the luggage shall be in accordance with the law of either the state of departure or arrival wherein such loss, or damage or deficiency or defect in the luggage is discovered.

**Article (17)**

The means of transportation as well as their drivers and passengers may be registered with any of the Contracting parties, during their presence in the territory of another Contracting State, they shall be subjected to all laws and regulations in force at that party of, unless otherwise stipulated in this Convention.

**Article (18)**

Each Contracting State,, when the means of transportation registered in any of the other Contracting Parties enter or cross through their respective territory, shall relieve all the fees and taxes of any kind. However, the actual service charges, and the service fees which has been listed herein and exchanged among the Contracting Parties shall be collected.

**Article (19)**

Revenues resulting from international passenger transport in the country of a Contracting Party by means of transport registered in the country of another Contracting Party, are allowed to be transferred by convertible currencies by licensed banks in the contracting parties and in accordance with the currency conversion regulations and laws in force in each party.

**Article (20)**

Without prejudicing the provisions of the Conventionherein, the ContractingParties shall be permitted to grant more facilities to each other in Convention with each other than what has been stipulated in this Convention. Provided that these facilities do no hinder the trasportation under this Convention.

**Article (21)**

The amount of fuel and oil filled only in the original tanks of the means of transport entering or crossing, as well as the tires and spare parts backup for the purpose of repair, and not intended for commercial use thereof, shall be exempted from taxes and fees.

The used and unused spare parts, as well as the parts that have been replaced must be re-exported or disposed under the supervision of the customs authorities of the other Contracting Party.

**Article (22)**

This Convention shall be open to the Arab countries for signature and subject to ratification by the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures and shall deposit the instruments of ratification with the General Secretariat of the Arab league, which will prepare a record for depositing each ratification instrument of each Member State and the other Contracting parties shall be duly notified in this respect.

**Article (23)**

The non-signing states to this Convention from Arab League members may accede to it after its entry into force, by virtue of the declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Arab League, who shall subsequently notify its accession to the remaining member states of Contracting parties.

**Article (24)**

This Convention shall enter into force thirty days following the date of deposit of its instruments of ratification or accession by the seven member states.

**Article (25)**

For each member state ratifying or acceding to this Convention after the deposit of the instruments of ratification and accession of the seven member states, this Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit by such member states of its instrument of ratification or accession.

**Article (26)**

1 - Any Contracting Party shall be entitled to announce his intention to withdraw from this Convention by virtue of a written document submitted at the General Secretariat of the Arab League. .

2 - The foregoing withdrawal shall take in effect on those member states following the lapse of a period of six months from the date of submission of the document of withdrawal at the General Secretariat of the LArab League.

3 - Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article concerning the withdrawal of any of the Contracting Party, the obligation to the provisions of this Convention with respect to any process of entry into or passage, took place prior to the effective date of the withdrawal shall remain thereof.

**Article (27)**

1 - The implementation of this Convention shall be supervised by a technical committee composed of the authorized representatives of the Contracting Parties This committee shall meet within three months from the date on which the Convention's entry into force and whenever the need arises and with the participation of a representative of the Arab Union of Land Transport, as an observer. Furthermore, committee shall issue resolutions under the internal Rules and Regulations of the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport, on the disputes or differences arising out of or relating to the interpretation and implementation of this Convention. Such resolution shall be passed by the two-thirds majority of votes of the members present. In the event of failure to pass or implement these resolutions, the matter shall be referred to the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport at its subsequent meeting to take the appropriate actions.

2 - The Committee shall meet at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of Arab League at the invitation of the Secretariat, and any of the Contracting State may hold a meeting of the Committee by the invitation sent to the Secretariat.

**Article (28)**

1 -The proposal to amend this Convention shall be allowed by one or more Contracting Party , by way of introducing the proposal to the Technical Committee referred to in Article (27) of this Convention to make recommendations thereon.

2 - Any amendments thereof shall be deemed to take effect thirty days following the date of submission by the seventh Contracting Party of the instruments of ratification on the amendments thereof with the General Secretariat of the Arab League.

**Article (29)**

This Convention shall be deemed a expired if the number of Contracting Parties remained to be less than seven for a period of twelve consecutive months subsequent to its entry into force.

**Article (30)**

The Secretary General of the Arab League shall undertake to inform the member states, the following matters:

A –The member states which have signed and ratified in accordance with the provisions of Article (22) of this Convention.

B - The member states that joined in accordance with the provisions of Article (23) of this Convention.

C - The date of entry into force of the Convention herein, in accordance with the provisions of Article (24) of this Convention.

D –The member states that intents to withdraw from the Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article (26) of this Convention.

E - The member states which have withdrawn from this Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article (26) of this Convention.

F– Any effective date of amendment in accordance with the provisions of Article (28) of this Convention.

G - The cancellation/ abolition of the Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article (29) of this Convention.

**Article (31)**

The original version of this Convention shall be deposited with the General Secretariat of the Arab League, who shall send certified copies thereof to all the member states ratifying or acceding to this Convention.

Done in Arabic at Cairo on Wednesday 6/9/2006, In witness whereof, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective governments, have signed this Convention.

**For the governments**

**For the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

**For United Arab Emirates**

**For The Kingdom of Bahrain**

**For Republic of Tunisia**

**For People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**

**For Republic of Djibouti**

**For The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**For Republic of the Sudan**

**For The Syrian Arab Republic**

**For Democratic Republic of Somalia**

**For The Republic of Iraq**

**For The Sultanate of Oman**

**For The State of Palestine**

**For The State of Qatar**

**For United Republic of Comoros**

**For The State of Kuwait**

**For Lebanese Republic**

**For Libyan Arab Republic**

**For Arab Republic of Egypt**

**For Kingdom of Morocco**

**For Islamic Republic of Mauritania**

**For Republic of Yemen**