



# Regulation of Tobacco Trade

Egypt • Greece • Gulf Cooperation Council • Jordan  
Saudi Arabia

May 1996

LL File No. 1996-2518  
LRA-D-PUB-002020

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It has not been updated.

**EGYPT**

The Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Supply\* is the authority responsible for regulating imports and exports, including tobacco products. This authority was established by Law No. 118 of 1975, entitled Law Concerning Imports and Exports, published in AL-JARIDA AL-RASMIYA (official gazette), No. 39, of September 25, 1975. The Executory Regulations of this Law (Minister of Trade Order No. 1036 of 1978, published in AL-WAQAI' AL-MISRIYA (supplement to the official gazette) No. 225 *bis*, of October 1, 1978, as amended) details the administrative functions and procedures pertaining to the regulation of imports and exports.

The overall supervision and control of imports and exports is entrusted to the General Organization for the Supervision of Exports and Imports. The Organization maintains offices in Cairo and answers to the Minister of Trade and was established by Presidential Decree No. 1770 of 1971 and published in the official gazette No. 28 of July 15, 1971. The Board of Directors of the Organizations is made up of an appointed chairman and the following ex officio members:

Chief of Industrial Control Bureau at the Ministry of Industry;

Chief of the Foreign Trade Planning Department at the Ministry of Trade;

Chief of the Customs Bureau at the Ministry of Finance;

Chief of Division at the Ministry of Agriculture, chosen by the Minister of Agriculture;

Chief of Division of Trade and Supply, chosen by the Minister of Supply;

Chief of Division at the Ministry of Health, chosen by the Minister of Health of the Organization;

Representative of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, chosen by the Chairman of the Union;  
and

the Chief of Technical Affairs Bureau at the Organization.

Prepared by George N. Sfeir  
Senior Legal Specialist  
Directorate of Legal Research  
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\* Ministerial portfolios have changed over the years. When the Law of Imports and Exports was issued in 1975, it gave the Minister of Trade the responsibility for regulating imports and exports. Subsequently, this authority was given to the Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade. In the most recent government reshuffle in January of this year, the Minister of Trade and Supply became responsible for both internal and external trade.

**GREECE**

Imports and exports in Greece have been under the auspices of the Ministry of National Economy since 1991. Presidential Decree No. 405/1991<sup>1</sup> transferred the General Department of Export Trade from the Minister of Commerce to the Minister of National Economy.

The General Department of External Trade is responsible for:

- a) supervising and promoting the export activities of the country;
- b) supervising the external commercial relations of Greece with other Member States, countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the United States and Canada;
- c) regulating issues involving the importation and exportation of goods having different customs tariffs; and
- d) coordinating the activities of the Commercial Counselors and Commercial Secretaries of the Embassies abroad.<sup>2</sup>

The production of tobacco falls within the competence of the Ministry of Agriculture. Presidential Decree No. 402/1988<sup>3</sup> on Organization of the Ministry of Agriculture established a number of services within the Ministry for the cultivation and development of plant products of a high yield. Tobacco falls under the supervision of the Service on Tobacco, Aromatic and Pharmaceutical Plants. In addition, Presidential Decree No. 396/1988<sup>4</sup> regulates the National Organization of Tobacco. It is composed of a number of departments with a wide variety of responsibilities. It appears that the National Organization of Tobacco is also within the competence of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Prepared by Theresa Papademetriou  
Senior Legal Specialist  
Directorate of Legal Research  
Law Library of Congress  
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<sup>1</sup> EPHEMERIS TES KYVERNESEOS TES HELLENIKES DEMOKRATIAS (Official Law Gazette of Greece) Pt. A, No. 145 (1991).

<sup>2</sup> O. Pharmakidis & V. Tzamtzi, *Import and Export Regulation*, AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE, DOING BUSINESS IN GREECE, Ch. 23, 10 (1996).

<sup>3</sup> *Supra* note 1, No. 187 (1988).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* No. 184 (1988).

## GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL

The Gulf Cooperation Council whose membership is made up of the states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates was formed on May 25, 1981. Its purpose is to achieve cooperation and integration among the member states including the formulation of similar regulations in the economic, commercial, educational and social affairs.<sup>1</sup>

The Secretariat General of the Council is entrusted with the task of preparing studies, reports and draft laws for approval by the Council in pursuit of the Council's objectives. Over the years, the Legal Department of the Secretariat General has proposed common laws and tariffs for adoption by the Member States, but the incorporation of such laws into the legal systems of the Member States has been slow, uneven and selective. It is not known whether specific legislation has been proposed for the production and trade in tobacco. However, The Unified Economic Agreement Between the Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, signed at Riyadh on November 11, 1982, defines the purposes and principles of economic unification among the Member States.<sup>2</sup> A copy of this Agreement is appended.

Prepared by George N. Sfeir  
Senior Legal Specialist  
Directorate of Legal Research  
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<sup>1</sup> Text of the Gulf Cooperation Council Agreement appears *in* 26 I.L.M. 1131 (1987).

<sup>2</sup> Text of the Unified Economic Agreement appears *in* 26 I.L.M. 1160 (1987).

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## **JORDAN**

The Ministry of Finance, acting through the Customs Bureau, is the authority in the Jordanian Government responsible for regulating the import, export and production of tobacco. The law granting this authority is the Tobacco Law, No. 32 of 1952, published in AL-JARIDA AL-RASMIYA (the official gazette), No. 1110 of June 1, 1952, as subsequently amended.

Prepared by George N. Sfeir  
Senior Legal Specialist  
Directorate of Legal Research  
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## **SAUDI ARABIA**

The Ministry of Finance is the authority in the Saudi Arabian Government responsible for regulating the import, export and production of tobacco. The royal decree establishing this authority, entitled Trade and Sale of Tobacco and Smoking Material and Cigarette Paper, was issued circa 1365 AH (1945/46 AD). The text of the Decree is available in an ARAB STATES COLLECTION OF LAWS which did not give a reference to UMM AL-QURA (the official gazette) where the decree may have been published, nor does the Law Library have in its collection that particular year of the Saudi official gazette.

Prepared by George N. Sfeir  
Senior Legal Specialist  
Directorate of Legal Research  
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