

A G R E E M E N T
ON
THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS
BETWEEN
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
AND
THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Belarus, hereinafter referred to as “the Contracting Parties”,

Desiring to extend and intensify the economic co-operation between the two States on the basis of equality and mutual benefit;

Intending to create and maintain favourable conditions for greater investment by investors of one Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party;

Recognising that the promotion and reciprocal protection of such investments under this Agreement will be conducive to the stimulation of business initiative and will increase economic prosperity of both States;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Definitions

For the purposes of this Agreement:

1. The term "investment" means every kind of asset invested for the purpose of acquisition of economic benefit or other business purpose by an investor of one Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party in accordance with the laws and regulations of the latter and in particular, though not exclusively, shall include:

- a) Movable and immovable property as well as any other property rights such as mortgages and liens or other securities;
- b) Shares, stocks and any other form of participation in companies;
- c) Claims to money or to any performance having an economic value;
- d) Intellectual property rights such as copyright and neighbouring rights, patents, industrial designs, trademarks, trade names and know-how;
- e) Business concessions conferred by law or under contract, including concessions to search for, cultivate, extract and exploit natural resources.

Any subsequent change in the form in which assets are invested or reinvested shall not affect their character as investments provided that such change is in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Contracting Party in whose territory the investment has been made.

2. The term "investor" means any natural or legal person who invests in the territory of the other Contracting Party:

- a) In respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina:
 - (i) the term "natural person" means any natural person deriving its status as Bosnia and Herzegovina citizen from the law in force in Bosnia and Herzegovina if he/she has permanent residence or main place of business in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
 - (ii) the term "legal person" means any legal person established in accordance with the laws in force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which have its registered seat, central management or main place of business in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- b) In respect of the Republic of Belarus:
 - (i) the term "natural person" means any natural person having the nationality of the Republic of Belarus, who makes an investment in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
 - (ii) the term "legal person" means any legal person incorporated, constituted or otherwise duly organised in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Belarus, having its seat and performing real business activity in its territory and making an investment in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

3. The term “returns” means an amount yielded by an investment and in particular, though not exclusively, includes royalties or licence fees, profits, interest, dividends, capital gains, fees and other compensations.

4. The term "territory" means:

a) With respect to Bosnia and Herzegovina: all land territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, its territorial sea, whole bed and subsoil and air space above, including any maritime area situated beyond the territorial sea of Bosnia and Herzegovina which has been or might in the future be designated under the law of Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with international law as an area within which Bosnia and Herzegovina may exercise rights with regard to the seabed and subsoil and the natural resources.

b) With respect to the Republic of Belarus: the territory over which the Republic of Belarus exercises, in accordance with international law, sovereign rights and jurisdiction.

Article 2

Promotion and Protection of Investments

1. Either Contracting Party shall encourage and create favourable, stable and transparent conditions for investors of the other Contracting Party to invest capital in its territory and, within the framework of its laws and regulations, shall admit such investments.

2. Investments of investors of each Contracting Party shall at all times be accorded fair and equitable treatment and shall enjoy lawful protection and security in the territory of the other Contracting Party. Neither Contracting Party shall in any way impair by unreasonable or discriminatory measures the expansion, management, maintenance, use, enjoyment or disposal of investments in its territory of investors of the other Contracting Party.

Article 3

National Treatment and Most-favoured-nation Treatment

1. Each Contracting Party shall in its territory accord to investments and returns of investors of the other Contracting Party treatment which in any case shall not be less favourable than that which it accords to investments and returns of its own investors or to investments and returns of investors of any third State, whichever is more favourable to the investors of the other Contracting Party.

2. Neither Contracting Party shall in its territory subject investors of the other Contracting Party, as regards their expansion, management, maintenance, use, enjoyment or disposal of their investments, to treatment less favourable than that which it accords to its own investors or to investors of any third State, whichever is more favourable to the investors of the other Contracting Party.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall not be construed so as to oblige

one Contracting Party to extend to investors of the other Contracting Party the benefit of any treatment, preference or privilege resulting from:

- a) The membership of or association with any existing or future free trade area, customs union, economic union, common market, or similar international agreement to which the Contracting Party is or may become a party;
- b) International agreements on avoidance of double taxation or any other arrangements relating wholly or mainly to taxation issues.

Article 4 Nationalisation and Expropriation

1. Investments of investors of either Contracting Party shall not be nationalised, expropriated or subjected to requisition or to measures having effect equivalent to nationalisation or expropriation (hereinafter referred to as “expropriation”) in the territory of the other Contracting Party except for a public purpose related to the internal needs and under due process of law, on a non-discriminatory basis and against prompt, adequate and effective compensation.

2. The compensation referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall amount to the market value of the investments affected immediately before the expropriation or before the impending expropriation became public knowledge, whichever is the earlier. The compensation shall include interest calculated on the LIBOR basis for the currency the investment has been made in, from the date of expropriation until the date of payment. The compensation shall be paid in a freely convertible currency and made transferable without delay, to the country designated by the claimants concerned.

3. The affected investors of either Contracting Party shall have a right, under the law of the Contracting Party making the expropriation, to prompt review, by a judicial or other independent authority of that Contracting Party, concerning the legality of the expropriation, its process and the valuation of the investment in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 1 of this Article.

4. For the avoidance of doubt it is confirmed that a taking by one Contracting Party of property of the investor of the other Contracting Party in response to criminal conduct by this investor or in response to a violation of penal or other laws of the former Contracting Party is legitimate and is not compensable. The term “expropriation” in the meaning of this Article shall not include such taking.

Article 5 Compensation for Losses

Investors of either Contracting Party who suffer losses including damages in respect of their investments in the territory of the other Contracting Party owing to war or other armed conflict, revolution, a state of national emergency, revolt, insurrection or riot shall be accorded by the latter Contracting Party treatment, as regards restitution, indemnification, compensation or other settlement, no less favourable than that which the latter Contracting

Party accords to its own investors or to investors of any third State, whichever is more favourable to the investors of the other Contracting Party.

Article 6 **Transfers**

1. Each Contracting Party shall guarantee to investors of the other Contracting Party the free transfer of payments relating to their investments in and out of its territory. Such transfers shall include in particular, though not exclusively:

- a) Initial capital and additional amounts necessary for the maintenance and development of the investment;
- b) Returns from the investment;
- c) Funds in repayment of loans related to an investment;
- d) Proceeds from the total or partial sale or liquidation of an investment;
- e) Any compensation or other payment referred to in Articles 4 and 5 of this Agreement;
- f) Payments arising out of the settlement of the disputes;
- g) Unspent earnings and other remuneration of nationals engaged from abroad in connection with the investment.

2. Transfers shall be effected without delay in a freely convertible currency.

The exchange of freely convertible currency for making transfers under this Article shall be made at the market rate applicable on the date of transfer pursuant to the exchange regulations of the Contracting Party concerned.

3. Transfers shall be done in accordance with the procedures established by the exchange regulations of the Contracting Party in whose territory the investment was made.

4. The Contracting Parties undertake to accord to such transfers a treatment no less favourable than that accorded to transfers originating from investments made by investors of any third State.

5. The provisions of paragraph 1. of this Article, shall not be construed so as to permit tax evasion.

6. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1. and 2. of this Article, each Contracting Party may protect the rights of creditors, or ensure the compliance with laws on the issuing, trading and dealing in securities and the satisfaction of judgements in civil, administrative and criminal adjudication proceedings, through the equitable, non-discriminatory, and good faith application of its laws and regulations.

Article 7 Subrogation

1. If a Contracting Party or its designated agency makes a legal payment to any of its investors, under a guarantee or a contract of insurance against non-commercial risks given in respect of an investment, the other Contracting Party shall recognise, notwithstanding its rights under the Article 10 of this Agreement, the validity of the subrogation in favour of the former Contracting Party or its designated agency to any right or title held by the investor.
2. The Contracting Party or its designated agency that is subrogated in the rights of an investor shall be, in all circumstances, entitled to the same rights and the same treatment as those of the indemnified investor, payments due pursuant to those rights.
3. In the case of subrogation as defined in paragraph 1 of this Article, the investor shall not sue or pursue a claim unless authorised to do so by the Contracting Party or its agency.

Article 8 Settlement of Disputes between an Investor of one Contracting Party and the other Contracting Party

1. Any dispute which may arise between an investor of one Contracting Party and the other Contracting Party in connection with an investment on the territory of that other Contracting Party shall be settled amicably through consultations and negotiations.
2. If a dispute can not be settled in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article within a period of a three months from the date on which either party to the dispute requested amicable settlement, the investor concerned may submit the dispute either to:
 - a) The competent court of the Contracting Party in the territory of which the investment has been made; or
 - b) Ad hoc arbitral tribunal established under the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL); or
 - c) The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (hereinafter referred to as “the Centre”) through conciliation or arbitration established under the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of other States opened for signature in Washington D.C. on 18 March 1965.
3. Neither Contracting Party shall pursue through the diplomatic channels any dispute referred to the Centre unless:
 - a) The Secretary-General of the Centre, or a conciliation commission or an arbitral tribunal constituted by the Centre, decides that the dispute is not within the jurisdiction of the Centre; or
 - b) The other Contracting Party should fail to abide by or to comply with any award rendered by an arbitral tribunal.

4. The arbitration award shall be based on:

- the provisions of this Agreement;
- the laws of the Contracting Party in whose territory the investment has been made including the rules relative to conflict of laws; and
- the rules and universally accepted principles of international law.

5. The arbitration award shall be final and binding on both parties to the dispute and shall be executed according to the law of the Contracting Party concerned.

6. During the arbitral or execution proceedings Contracting Party shall not assert as a defence, objection, counterclaim, right of set-off or for any other reason, that indemnification or other compensation for all or part of the alleged damages has been received or will be received by investor who is contending party, pursuant to an insurance or guarantee contract against political risks.

Article 9

Settlement of Disputes between Contracting Parties

1. Disputes between the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement should, if possible, be settled by consultations and negotiations through diplomatic channels.

2. If a dispute between the Contracting Parties cannot be settled in accordance with paragraph 1. of this Article within six months from the date of request for settlement, the dispute shall upon the request of either Contracting Party be submitted to an arbitral tribunal of three members.

3. Such arbitral tribunal shall be constituted for each individual case in the following way. Within two months from the date of receipt of the request for arbitration, each Contracting Party shall appoint one member of the tribunal. Those two members shall then select a national of a third State who on approval by the two Contracting Parties shall be appointed Chairman of the tribunal. The Chairman shall be appointed within two months from the date of appointment of the other two members.

4. If within the periods specified in paragraph 3. of this Article the necessary appointments have not been made, either Contracting Party may invite the President of the International Court of Justice to make any necessary appointments. If the President is a national of either Contracting Party or if he is otherwise prevented from discharging the said function, the Vice-President shall be invited to make the necessary appointments. If the Vice-President is a national of either Contracting Party or if he too is prevented from discharging the said function, the Member of the International Court of Justice next in seniority who is not a national of either Contracting Party shall be invited to make the necessary appointments.

5. The tribunal shall determine its own procedure.

6. The arbitral tribunal shall reach its decision by a majority of votes. Such decision shall be

final and binding on both Contracting Parties.

7. Each Contracting Party shall bear the cost of its own member of the tribunal and of its representation in the arbitral proceedings; the cost of the Chairman and the remaining costs shall be borne in equal parts by the Contracting Parties. The tribunal may, however, in its decision direct that a higher proportion of costs shall be borne by one of the two Contracting Parties, and this award shall be binding on both Contracting Parties.

8. A dispute shall not be submitted to an international arbitral tribunal under the provisions of this Article, if the same dispute has been brought before another international arbitration court under the provisions of Article 8 and is still before the court. This will not impair the possibility of dispute settlement in accordance with paragraph 1. of this Article.

Article 10 **Consultations and Exchange of Information**

1. Upon the request by either Contracting Party, the other Contracting Party shall, without undue delay, begin consultations concerning interpretation and application of this Agreement.

2. Upon the request by either Contracting Party, information shall be exchanged on the impact that the laws, regulations, decisions, administrative practices, or procedures or policies of the other Contracting Party may have on investments covered by this Agreement.

Article 11 **Application of other Rules**

If the provisions of law of either Contracting Party or obligations under international law existing at present or established hereafter between the Contracting Parties in addition to the present Agreement contain rules, whether general or specific, entitling investments by investors of the other Contracting Party to a treatment more favourable than is provided for by the present Agreement, such rules shall to the extent that they are more favourable prevail over the present Agreement as long as they last.

Article 12 **Entry into Force, Duration and Termination**

1. Each Contracting Party shall notify the other in writing of the completion of the internal legal formalities required in its territory for the entry into force of this Agreement. This Agreement shall enter into force thirty days after the date of the dispatch of the latter of the two notifications.

2. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of ten years after the date of its entry into force and shall continue in force unless terminated in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article. This Agreement shall apply to investments made or acquired after the time of its entry into force.

3. Either Contracting Party may, by giving one year in advance written notice to the other

Contracting Party, terminate this Agreement at the end of the initial ten year period or at any time thereafter.

4. With respect to investments made or acquired prior to the date of termination of this Agreement, the provisions of all other Articles of this Agreement shall continue to be effective for a further period of ten years from such date of termination.

5. This Agreement may be amended by written agreement between the Contracting Parties. Any amendment shall enter into force under the same procedure required for entering into force of the present Agreement.

6. This Agreement shall be applied irrespective of whether or not the Contracting Parties have diplomatic or consular relations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned representatives, duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Sarajevo this 29 day of November 2004 in two originals in the Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Russian and English languages. Every original text is equally authentic. In the event of discrepancy in the interpretation of the texts of this Agreement, the English text shall prevail.

For
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dragan Doko
Minister of Foreign Trade and
Economic Relations

For
the Republic of Belarus

Vladimir A. Mackjevi
Ambassador