

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO FOR THE RECIPROCAL PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS

The State of Israel and Serbia and Montenegro (hereinafter: the "Contracting Parties"),

DESIRING to intensify economic cooperation to the mutual benefit of both countries,

INTENDING to create favorable conditions for greater investments by investors of either Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party, and

RECOGNIZING that the reciprocal promotion and protection of investments on the basis of the present Agreement will be conducive to the stimulation of individual business initiative and will increase prosperity in both States,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article 1. Definitions

For the purposes of the present Agreement:

1. The term "investments" shall mean any kind of assets, invested in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Contracting Party in whose territory the investment is made including, but not limited to: (a) Movable and immovable property, as well as any other rights in rem,

(b) Rights derived from stocks, shares, bonds, debentures and other kinds of interests in companies;

(c) Claims to money and any other claim having an economic value;

(d) Rights in the field of intellectual property, including patents, trade marks, geographical indications, industrial designs, technical processes, copyrights and related rights, undisclosed business information, trade secrets, goodwill and know-how, topographies of integrated circuits and plant-breeders rights,

(e) Business concessions conferred by law or under contract, including concessions to search for, cultivate, extract or exploit natural resources.

2. The Contracting Party in whose territory the investment is made shall be called the "Host Contracting Party".

3. The term "returns" shall mean the amount yielded by an investment including, but not limited to: dividends, profits, sums received from the total or partial liquidation of an investment, interest, capital gains, royalties or fees.

4. The provisions of this Agreement relating to investments shall apply to the reinvestment of the returns of an investment, which shall be granted the same treatment granted to the original investment, if the reinvestment is effected in accordance with the legislation of the Host Contracting Party. A change in the form of the investment or a change in the form of the reinvestment shall not affect their character as investments if that change is effected in accordance with the legislation of the Host Contracting Party.

5. The term "investor" shall mean: (a) A natural person who is a national or a permanent resident of one Contracting Party who is not also a national of the other Contracting Party.

(b) A legal entity, including a corporation, a firm, an association or a partnership - (1) That was incorporated, constituted or otherwise duly organized in accordance with the legislation of one Contracting Party, and is making an investment in the territory of the other Contracting Party; or

(2) That is controlled, directly or indirectly, by persons who are nationals or permanent residents of one Contracting Party,

and - (a) That has its center of management or its registered office in the territory of that Contracting Party and is making an investment in the territory of the other Contracting Party, or

(b) That was incorporated, constituted or otherwise duly organized in accordance with the legislation of the Contracting Party in whose territory the investment is made.

6. The term "territory" shall mean: (a) With respect to the State of Israel: the territory of the State of Israel including the territorial sea, as well as the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone over which the State of Israel exercises sovereign rights or jurisdiction in conformity with international law.

(b) With respect to Serbia and Montenegro: the area encompassed by land boundaries as well as the sea, seabed and its subsoil beyond the territorial sea, over which Serbia and Montenegro exercises, in accordance with its national laws and regulations and international law, sovereign rights or jurisdiction

7. The term "freely usable currency" shall mean a currency that the International Monetary Fund determines, from time to time, as a freely usable currency in accordance with the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund and Amendments thereto.

Article 2. Promotion and Protection of Investments

1. Each Contracting Party shall, in its territory, encourage and create favorable conditions for investments by investors of the other Contracting Party and, subject to its laws and regulations, shall admit such investments.

2. Investments made by investors of each Contracting Party shall be accorded fair and equitable treatment in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, and shall enjoy full protection and security in the territory of the other Contracting Party. Neither Contracting Party shall in any way impair by unreasonable measures the management, maintenance, use, enjoyment or disposal of investments in its territory of investors of the other Contracting Party.

Article 3. Treatment

1. Neither Contracting Party shall, in its territory, subject investments or returns of investments of investors of the other Contracting Party, to treatment less favorable than that which it accords to investments or returns of investments of any third state or, in accordance with its legislation, which it accords to its own investors.

2. Neither Contracting Party shall, in its territory, subject investors of the other Contracting Party, as regards the management, maintenance, use, enjoyment or disposal of their investments, to treatment less favorable than that which it accords to investors of any third state or, in accordance with its legislation, which it accords to its own investors.

3. The provisions of this Article granting treatment not less favorable than that accorded to the investors of either Contracting Party or of any third state shall not be construed so as to oblige one Contracting Party to extend to the investors of the other, the benefit of any treatment, preference or privilege resulting from:

(a) Any international agreement of arrangement relating wholly or mainly to taxation or any domestic legislation relating wholly or mainly to taxation;

(b) Any existing or future customs union, free trade area agreement or similar international agreement within the meaning of "free trade agreement" in accordance with Article XXIV of the GATT Agreement, to which either Contracting Party is or will be a party;

(c) Any existing or future bilateral or multilateral agreement concerning intellectual property;

(d) Any Agreement for the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments between Israel and a third state, that was signed before 1st of July, 2003.

Article 4. Compensation for Losses

1. Investors of one Contracting Party whose investments in the territory of the other Contracting Party suffer losses owing to war or other armed conflict, revolution, a state of national emergency, revolt, insurrection, riot or other such similar activity in the territory of the Host Contracting Party shall be accorded by the Host Contracting Party treatment, as regards restitution, indemnification, compensation or other settlement, not less favorable than that which the Host Contracting Party accords to its own investors or to investors of any third state. Resulting payments shall be freely transferable.

2. Without prejudice to paragraph 1 of this Article, investors of one Contracting Party who, in any of the situations mentioned

in that paragraph, suffer losses in the territory of the other Contracting Party, resulting from:

(a) Requisitioning of their property by its forces or authorities, or

(b) Destruction of their property by its forces or authorities, which was not caused in combat action or was not required by the necessity of the situation,

Shall be accorded restitution or adequate compensation. Resulting payments shall be made without undue delay, in a freely usable currency, and shall be freely transferable.

Article 5. Expropriation

1. Investments of investors of either Contracting Party shall not be nationalized, expropriated or subjected to measures having effect equivalent to nationalization or expropriation (hereinafter: "expropriation") in the territory of the other Contracting Party, except for a public purpose. The expropriation will be made in accordance with the law of that Contracting Party, without any discrimination against the investor, and against prompt, adequate and effective compensation.

2. Such compensation shall amount to the market value of the investment expropriated immediately before the expropriation or before the impending expropriation became public knowledge, whichever is the earlier, shall include interest at the applicable rate provided by the legislation of that Contracting Party until the date of payment, shall be made without delay, be effectively realizable and be freely transferable.

3. The investors affected shall have a right, under the legislation of the Contracting Party making the expropriation, to prompt review, by a judicial or other independent authority of that Contracting Party, of the "legality of the expropriation and of the valuation of their investment, in accordance with the principles set out in this Article.

Article 6. Repatriation of Investments and Returns

1. Each Contracting Party shall, in respect of investments, guarantee to investors of the other Contracting Party the rights of unrestricted transfer of their investments and returns in accordance with the following terms:

(a) Transfers shall be effected without delay in the freely usable currency in which the capital was originally invested or in any other freely usable currency agreed by the investor and the Host Contracting Party, provided that the investor has complied with all his fiscal and other financial obligations to government or local authorities of that Contracting Party.

(b) Unless otherwise agreed by the investor, transfers shall be made at the rate of exchange applicable on the basis of transfer pursuant to the exchange regulations in force in the Host Contracting Party.

2. Notwithstanding the forgoing:

(a) When a Contracting Party is in serious balance of payments difficulties or in serious difficulties for the operation of the exchange rate policy or monetary policy, or under threat thereof, that Contracting Party may, in conformity with the conditions laid down within the framework of the GATT and with Articles VIII and XIV of the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund, adopt restrictive measures which may not go beyond what is necessary to remedy the situation, for a period not exceeding six months. The Contracting Party shall notify the other Contracting Party, as soon as possible, as to the measures taken, and the expected timetable for their removal.

(b) Such measures shall be equitable, non-discriminatory, and in good faith.

Article 7. Exceptions

1. Either Contracting Party may take measures strictly necessary for the maintenance or protection of its essential security interests. Such measures shall be taken and implemented in good faith, in a non-discriminatory fashion and so as to minimize the deviation from the provisions of this Agreement.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Agreement, with respect to intellectual property rights, the Contracting Parties may permit the unauthorized use of an intellectual property right, if it is in conformance with the principles set forth in the Agreement of Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights ("TRIPS") (1994).

Article 8. Settlement of Investment Disputes between a Contracting Party and an Investor

1. Any investment dispute between a Contracting Party and an investor of the other Contracting Party shall be settled by negotiations.
2. If a dispute under paragraph 1 of this Article cannot be settled within six (6) months of a written notification of this dispute, it shall be on the request of the investor settled as follows:
 - (a) By a competent court of the Host Contracting Party; or
 - (b) By conciliation, or if conciliation is not chosen or if either side deems the conciliation not successful;
 - (c) By arbitration by the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), established by the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States, opened for signature at Washington, D C. on march 18, 1965, provided that both Contracting Parties are Parties to the Convention; or
 - (d) By an ad hoc arbitration tribunal, which is to be established under the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). Unless otherwise agreed, all submissions shall be made and all hearings shall be completed within six (6) months of the date of selection of the Chairman, and the arbitral panel shall render its written and reasoned decisions within two (2) months of the date of the final submissions or the date of the closing of the hearings, whichever is later.
3. Each Contracting Party hereby gives its unconditional consent to the submission of a dispute to international arbitration in accordance with the provisions of this Article. This consent and the submission by a disputing investor of a claim to arbitration shall satisfy the requirements of:
 - (a) Chapter II of the ICSID Convention or the Additional Facility Rules of ICSID for written consent of the parties;
 - (b) Article II of the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, 1958 ("The New York Convention"), for an agreement in writing.
4. Unless otherwise agreed, an investor who has submitted the dispute to national jurisdiction may have recourse to the arbitral tribunals mentioned in paragraph 2 of this Article so long as a judgment has not been delivered on the subject matter of the dispute by a national court.
5. The award shall be final and binding. Each Contracting Party shall carry out without delay the provisions of any such award and provide in its territory for the enforcement of such award.

Article 9. Disputes between the Contracting Parties

1. Disputes between the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, should be settled through the diplomatic channel, which may include, if both Contracting Parties so desire, referral to a Bilateral Commission composed of representatives of both Contracting Parties or to conciliation.
2. If a dispute according to paragraph 1 of this Article cannot be settled within six (6) months from notification of this dispute it may, upon the request of either Contracting Party, be submitted to an arbitral tribunal.
3. Such an arbitral tribunal shall be constituted for each case in the following way: within two (2) months of the receipt of the request for arbitration, each Contracting Party shall appoint one member of the tribunal. The two arbitrators shall then select a national of a third state on approval of the two Contracting Parties, and this person shall be Chairman of the tribunal. The Chairman shall be appointed within two (2) 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, in the absence of any other agreement, invite the Secretary General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague (hereinafter: the "PCA") to make any necessary appointments. If the Secretary General of the PCA is a national of either Contracting Party or is otherwise prevented from discharging the said function, then the Deputy Secretary General of the PCA who is not a national of either Contracting Party shall be invited to make the necessary appointments.
5. Unless otherwise agreed, the arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the UNCITRAL arbitration rules. Unless otherwise agreed, all submissions shall be made and all hearings shall be completed within six (6) months of the date of selection of the Chairman, and the arbitral panel shall render its written and reasoned decisions within two (2) months of the date of the final submissions or the date of the closing of the hearings, whichever is later.
6. The arbitral tribunal shall reach its decision by a majority vote. Such decision shall be 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.

Article 10. Insurance and Guarantee Contract

In any proceeding involving an investment dispute, a Contracting Party shall not assert, as a defense, 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 pursuant to an insurance or guarantee contract.

Article 11. Subrogation

1. If one Contracting Party or its designated Agency (hereinafter: the "First Contracting Party") makes a payment under an indemnity given in respect of an investment in the territory of the Host Contracting Party, the Host Contracting Party shall recognize:

(a) The assignment to the First Contracting Party by law or by legal transaction of all the rights and claims of the party indemnified; and

(b) That the First Contracting Party is entitled to exercise such rights and enforce such claims by virtue of subrogation, to the same extent as the party indemnified, and shall assume the obligations related to the investment.

2. The First Contracting Party shall be entitled in all circumstances to:

(a) The same treatment in respect of rights, claims and obligations acquired by it, by virtue of the assignment; and

(b) Any payments received in pursuance of those rights and claims, as the party indemnified was entitled to receive by virtue of this Agreement, in respect of the investment concerned and its related returns.

Article 12. 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 investors or investments of investors of one Contracting Party to a treatment more favorable than is provided for by this Agreement, such rules shall, to the extent that they are more favorable, prevail over the present Agreement.

Article 13. Application of the Agreement

The provisions of this Agreement shall apply to investments made upon or before the entry into force of this Agreement, but shall not apply to an investment subject to a dispute which has arisen before the entry into force of this Agreement.

Article 14. Entry Into Force

Each Contracting Party shall notify the other Contracting Party in writing, through the diplomatic channels, of the completion of its internal legal procedures required for the entry into force of this Agreement. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the latter notification.

Article 15. Duration and Termination

This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of ten (10) years. Thereafter it shall continue in force until the expiration of twelve (12) months from the date on which either Contracting Party shall have given to the other, through the diplomatic channels, written notice of termination. In respect of investments made while this Agreement is in force, its provisions shall continue in effect with respect to such investment for a period of ten (10) years after the date of termination and without prejudice to the application thereafter of the rules of general international law.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this agreement.

Done in this day of , which corresponds to the day of , in duplicate in the Hebrew, Serbian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

In case of differences in interpretation the English text shall prevail.

For the State of Israel

For Serbia and Montenegro