AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE RECIPROCAL PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS

The Republic of Turkey and the Syrian Arab Republic, hereinafter called the Parties.

Desiring to promote greater economic cooperation between them, particularly with respect to investment by investors of one Party in the territory of the other Party.

Recognizing that agreement upon the treatment to be accorded such investment will stimulate the flow of capital and technology and the economic development of the Parties.

Agreeing that fair and equitable treatment of investment is desirable in order to maintain a stable framework for investment and maximum effective utilization of economic resources, and

Having resolved to conclude an agreement concerning the encouragement and reciprocal protection of investments,

Hereby agree as follows:

Article I. Definitions

For the purpose of this Agreement;

1. The term "investor" means:

(a) natural persons deriving their status as nationals of either Party according to its applicable law,

(b) corporations, firms or business associations incorporated or constituted under the law in force of either of the Parties and having their headquarters in the territory of that Party.

2. The term "investment", in conformity with the hosting Party's laws and regulations, shall include every kind of asset in particular, but not exclusively:

(a) shares, stocks or any other form of participation in companies,

(b) returns reinvested, claims to money or any other rights having financial value related to an investment.

(c) movable and immovable property, as well as any other rights as mortgages, liens, pledges and any other similar rights as defined in conformity with the laws and regulations of the Party in whose territory the property is situated,

(d) industrial and intellectual property rights such as patents, industrial designs, technical processes, as well as trademarks, goodwill, know-how and other similar rights,

(e) business concessions conferred by law or by contract, including concessions related to natural resources.

The said term shall refer to all direct investments made in accordance with the laws and regulations in the territory of the Party where the investments are made. The term investment covers all investments made in the territory of a Party before or after enter into force of this Agreement, as specified in Article IX in this Agreement.

3. The term "returns" means the amounts yielded by an investment and includes in particular, though not exclusively, profit, interest, capital gains, royalties, fees and dividends.

4. For the purpose of this Agreement exclusively,

The term "Turkey" means, in accordance with international law, the territory of the Republic of Turkey including its internal

waters, territorial sea, the subsoil thereof and the airspace above them on which Turkey has sovereign rights and other maritime areas on which Turkey has the right to exercise sovereign rights for the purpose of exploration, exploitation and conservation of natural resources.

For the purpose of this Agreement exclusively,

The term "Syria" means, in accordance with international law, the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic including its internal waters, territorial sea, the subsoil thereof and the airspace above them on which Syria has sovereign rights and other maritime areas on which Syria has the right to exercise sovereign rights for the purpose of exploration, exploitation and conservation of natural resources.

Article II. Promotion and Protection of Investments

1. Each Party shall in its territory promote as far as possible investments by investors of the other Party.

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

Article III. Treatment of Investments

1. Each Party shall permit in its territory investments, and activities associated therewith, on a basis no less favourable than that accorded in similar situations to investments of investors of any third country, within the framework of its laws and regulations.

2. Each Party shall accord to these investments, once established, treatment no less favourable than that accorded in similar situations to investments of its investors or to investments of investors of any third country, whichever is the most favourable.

3. The Parties shall within the framework of their national legislation give sympathetic consideration to applications for the entry and sojourn of persons of either Party who wish to enter the territory of the other Party in connection with the making and carrying through of an investment; the same shall apply to nationals of either Party who in connection with an investment wish to enter the territory of the other Party and sojourn there to take up employment. Application for work permits shall also be given sympathetic consideration.

4. The provisions of this Article shall have no effect in relation to following agreements entered into by either of the Parties:

(a) relating to any existing or future customs unions, regional economic organization or similar international agreements,

(b) relating wholly or mainly to taxation.

Article IV. Expropriation and Compensation

1. Investments shall not be expropriated, nationalized or subject, directly or indirectly, to measures of similar effects except for a public purpose, in a non-discriminatory manner, upon payment of prompt, adequate and effective compensation, and in accordance with due process of law and the general principles of treatment provided for in Article III of this Agreement.

2. Compensation shall be equivalent to the market value of the expropriated investment before the expropriatory action was taken or became known. Compensation shall be paid without delay and be freely transferable as described in paragraph 2 Article V.

3. Investors of either Party whose investments suffer losses in the territory of the other Party owing to war, insurrection, civil disturbance or other similar events shall be accorded by such other Party treatment no less favourable than that accorded to its own investors or to investors of any third country, whichever is the most favourable treatment, as regards any measures it adopts in relation to such losses.

Article V. Repatriation and Transfer

1. Each Party shall grant to investors of the other Party the free transfer of all payments relating to an investment, including more particularly:

(a) returns,

(b) proceeds from the sale or liquidation of all or any part of an investment,

(c) compensation pursuant to Article IV,

(d) reimbursements and interest payments deriving from loans in connection with investments,

(e) salaries, wages and other remunerations received by the nationals of one Party who have obtained in the territory of the other Party the corresponding work permits relative to an investment,

(f) payments arising from an investment dispute.

2. Transfers shall be made in the convertible currency in which the investment has been made or in any convertible currency at the rate of exchange in force at the date of transfer, unless otherwise agreed by the investor and the hosting Party.

Article VI. Subrogation

1. If the investment of an investor of one Party is insured against non-commercial risks under a system established by law, any subrogation of the insurer, which stems from the terms of the insurance agreement, shall be recognized by the other Party.

2. The insurer shall not be entitled to exercise any rights other than the rights, which the investor would have been entitled to exercise.

3. Disputes between a Party and an insurer shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of Article VII of this Agreement.

Article VII. Settlement of Disputes between One Party and Investors of the other Party

1. Disputes between one of the Parties and an investor of the other Party, in connection with his investment, shall be notified in writing, including detailed information, by the investor to the recipient Party of the investment. As far as possible, the investor and the concerned Party shall endeavor to settle these disputes by consultations and negotiations in good faith.

2. If these disputes, cannot be settled in this way within six months following the date of the written notification mentioned in paragraph 1, the dispute can be submitted, as the investor may choose, to:

(a) the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) set up by the " Convention on Settlement of Investment Disputes Between States and Nationals of other States", in case both Parties become signatories of this Convention,

(b) an ad hoc court of arbitration laid down under the Arbitration Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Commission for International Trade Law (UNCITRAL),

(c) the Court of Arbitration of the Paris International Chamber of Commerce,

Provided that, if the investor concerned has brought the dispute before the court of justice of the party to dispute and a final award has not been rendered within one year.

3. The arbitration awards shall be final and binding for all parties in dispute. Each Party commits itself to execute the award according to its national law.

Article VIII. Settlement of Disputes between the Parties

1. The Parties shall seek in good faith and a spirit of cooperation a rapid and equitable solution to any dispute between them concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement. In this regard, the Parties agree to engage in direct and meaningful negotiations to arrive at such solutions. If the Parties cannot reach an agreement within six months after the beginning of disputes between themselves through the foregoing procedure, the disputes may be submitted, upon the request of either Party, to an arbitral tribunal of three members.

2. Within two months of receipt of a request, each Party shall appoint an arbitrator. The two arbitrators shall select a third arbitrator as Chairman, who is a national of a third State. In the event either Party fails to appoint an arbitrator within the specified time, the other Party may request the President of the International Court of Justice to make the appointment.

3. If both arbitrators cannot reach an agreement about the choice of the Chairman within two months after their appointment, the Chairman shall be appointed upon the request of either Party by the President of the International Court

of Justice.

4. If, in the cases specified under paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Article, the President of the International Court of Justice is prevented from carrying out the said function or if he is a national of either Party, the appointment shall be made by the Vice-President, and if the Vice-President is prevented from carrying out the said function or if he is a national of either Party, the appointment shall be made by the most senior member of the Court who is not a national of either Party.

5. The tribunal shall have three months from the date of the selection of the Chairman to agree upon rules of procedure consistent with the other provisions of this Agreement. In the absence of such agreement, the tribunal shall request the President of the International Court of Justice to designate rules of procedure, taking into account generally recognized rules of international arbitral procedure.

6. Unless otherwise agreed, all submissions shall be made and all hearings shall be completed within eight months of the date of selection of the Chairman, and the tribunal shall render its decision within two months after the date of the final submissions or the date of the closing of the hearings, whichever is later. The arbitral tribunal shall reach its decisions, which shall be final and binding, by a majority of votes.

7. Expenses incurred by the Chairman, the other arbitrators, and other costs of the proceedings shall be paid for equally by the Parties. The tribunal may, however, at its discretion, decide that a higher proportion of the costs be paid by one of the Parties.

8. A dispute shall not be submitted to an international arbitration court under the provisions of this Article, if the same dispute has been brought before another international arbitration court under the provisions of Article VII and is still before the court. This will not impair the engagement in direct and meaningful negotiations between both Parties.

Article IX. Scope of Application

This Agreement shall apply to investments in the territory of one Party, made in accordance with its national laws and regulations, by investors of the other Party, whether prior to, or after the entry into force of the present Agreement. However, the Agreement shall not apply to disputes that have arisen before entry into force.

Article X. Entry Into Force

1. Each Party shall notify the other in writing of the completion of the constitutional formalities required in its territory for the entry into force of this Agreement. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the latter of the two notifications. It shall remain in force for a period of ten years and shall continue in force unless terminated in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Article.

2. Either Party may, by giving one year's written notice to the other Party, terminate this Agreement at the end of the initial ten-year period or at any time thereafter.

3. This Agreement may be amended by written agreement between the Parties. Any amendment shall enter into force when each Party has notified the other that it has completed all internal requirements for entry into force of such amendment.

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Ankara on the day of January 06, 2004 in the Turkish, Arabic and English languages all of which are equally authentic.

In case of any conflict of interpretation the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Minister of State

Kürşad Tüzmen

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Minister of Tourism

Dr. Saadalla Agha AL kalaa