

**Law No. (1) of 2020**  
**On the Unified Economic Register**

**We, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar,**

Having perused the Constitution; and

The Law No. (8) of 1996 with respect to Endowment (Waqf) and its amending Laws; and

The Law No. (12) of 2004 on Private Associations and Foundations and its amending Laws; and

The Law No. (30) of 2004 Regulating the Auditing Profession; and

The Law No. (25) of 2005 with respect to the Commercial Registry and its amending Laws; and

The Decree Law No. (21) of 2006 on Private Foundations for the Public Benefit and its amending Laws; and

The Advocacy Law, issued by Law No. (23) of 2006 and its amending Laws; and

The Law No. (15) of 2014 Regulating Charitable Activities; and

The Law No. (11) of 2015 promulgating the Commercial Companies Law; and

The Law No.(13) of 2016 on the Protection of the Privacy of Personal Data;

The Law No. (22) of 2017 Regulating Real Estate Brokerage; and

The Law No. (14) of 2018 on the Unified Economic Register;

The Law No. (20) of 2019 on Combatting Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing;

The Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on the Exchange of Country-by-Country Reports ratified by Decree No. (10) of 2019;

The Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance on Tax Matters ratified by Decree No. (14) of 2019;

The Proposal of the Minister of Commerce and Industry;

The Draft- Law put forward by the Council of Ministers; and

After having consulted the Advisory Council (Shura Council),

**Hereby promulgate the following Law:**

## Article (1)

In the application of the provisions of this Law and its Implementing Regulations, the following terms and expressions shall have the meaning shown opposite to each, unless the text requires otherwise:

**Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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**Competent Department:** The administrative unit responsible for the commercial registration and licensing in the Ministry.

**Competent Authority:** any authority licensing or registering Economic Establishments, Legal Arrangements, Non-Profit Organizations (NPO's), or Sole Practitioners, in accordance with the Law.

**Economic Establishment:** the Economic Establishment as an individual enterprise or company or entity engaged in any area of the economic sector.

**Legal Arrangement:** Express Trusts or any other similar arrangements.

**Express Trust:** a legal relationship that does not establish a legal personality, created by a written deed, whereby a person places funds under the control of a trustee for the benefit of one or more beneficiaries or for a defined purpose.

**Non- Profit Organization (NPO):** any entity or organization, legal person or Legal Arrangement, which collects, receives or disburses funds for charitable, religious, cultural, educational, social or fraternal purposes; or to achieve one or more of the public benefits purposes.

**Sole Practitioners:** those with sole practices that directly rely on the practitioners' mental, educational or intellectual talents and personal skills, and that are regulated under special laws.

**Unified Economic Register:** a register where the counterpart registers/records related to Economic Establishments, Legal Arrangements, Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs), Sole Practitioners, in addition to the Beneficial Owners Unified Register, are collected and maintained, irrespective of the licensing or registering authority, in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**Unified Economic Number:** a number issued once upon licensing or registration, for each of the Economic Establishments, Legal Arrangements, Non-Profit Organizations and Sole Practitioners, as set forth in the Implementing Regulations.

**Basic Information:** information identifying the applicants to the registry at each Competent Authority, in terms of their legal form and status, their basic features and the purpose of incorporation, in addition to any other information required by virtue of the relevant applicable law that the applicant is subject to.

**Beneficial Owner:** the natural person(s) who effectively and ultimately owns or controls a legal person or legal arrangement, or the natural person on whose behalf transactions are being conducted. It also includes any person who exercises ultimate and effective control over a legal person or legal arrangement.

**Required Information:** information about the beneficial owners that legal persons and legal arrangements must declare when applying for licensing, registration, amendment or renewal, and that they must maintain updated and supported with evidencing documents in a register they keep for this purpose, as set forth in the Implementing Regulations

**Beneficial Owners Register:** a register maintained by each Competent Authority, and where the Required Information are collected.

**Beneficial Owners Unified Register:** a register where are collected all information, data and documents related to the Beneficial Owners, and that are maintained in the Beneficial Owners Register.

**Implementing Regulations:** the Implementing Regulations of this Law.

## **Article (2)**

A Unified Economic Register shall be established at the Ministry, to enhance the transparency of the economic and financial transactions, by collecting, maintaining and making available to the public and the competent authorities, in accordance with Articles (6) and (7) of this Law, all basic information, required information, data and documents related to Economic Establishments, Legal Arrangements, Non-Profit Organizations( NPO's), Sole Practitioners and Beneficial Owners.

The Unified Economic Register shall consist of the Beneficial Owners Unified Register and of the following counterpart registers:

- The Commercial Register.
- The Register of Legal Arrangements.
- The Register of NPOs.
- The Register of each Sole Practitioner.
- Any other Register similar to the above listed Registers, held by the authorities stipulated under Article (13) of this Law.

The Implementing Regulations shall set forth the relevant mechanism for setting up and regulating the Unified Economic Register.

## **Article (3)**

The Competent Department shall provide each competent authority with a "Unified Economic Number" to be used in the data entry and update of all data, basic information and required information.

The competent authority shall include the Unified Economic Number of any licensed or registered applicant, in any register it holds or license it issues.

The Unified Economic Number shall be used in all instant electronic exchange of information, data and documents between the Unified Economic Register and all the registers held by the competent authorities in the framework of databases linking.

The databases of other national authorities may be linked to the Unified Economic Register, as set forth by the Competent Department and approved by the Minister.

The database of the Unified Economic Register shall be managed in accordance with the rules of safety and good governance.

The Competent Department shall determine the Unified Economic Number, the mechanisms of databases linking and the necessary information to be exchanged, to ensure transparency and update of such databases.

#### **Article (4)**

The competent authority shall maintain a register of all basic information and data that enable the identification of the applicants for license or registration, in addition to all amendments or changes made thereto within the time limits and methods established by the enforceable law, and link it to the Unified Economic Register.

The applicant for license, registration, amendment or renewal shall submit any request on a form approved by the competent authority for this purpose, along with all the supporting documents as specified by the relevant law.

Should the applicant for license, registration, amendment or renewal be a legal person or legal arrangement, a declaration of the Beneficial Owner shall be submitted with the application on a form approved by the Competent Department for this purpose.

The Implementing Regulations shall determine the relevant mechanisms and criteria to identify the Beneficial Owner and any required information.

Any application under this Article shall not be accepted if incomplete or unaccompanied with the declaration relating to the beneficial owner.

#### **Article (5)**

Legal persons and legal arrangements shall maintain a complete, accurate and up-to-date register of the required information pertaining to the beneficial owners, and shall submit a copy of such register to the competent authority, as set forth in the Implementing Regulations.

#### **Article (6)**

The Competent Authorities shall make available to the public, all the basic information related to the Economic Establishments, Legal Arrangements, Non-Profit Organizations and Sole Practitioners.

Any stakeholder may submit a written request to the Competent Department to extract a copy from the entry of the Unified Economic Register, a certificate of specific data, or negative attestation in the absence of the entry, provided that all relevant supporting documents are attached, and following the payment of the prescribed fees.

The Implementing Regulations shall set forth the relevant procedures for submitting the application, the dates to decide thereon, and the procedures to petition against any decision made thereon.

#### **Article (7)**

The Competent Department shall make any required information pertaining to the beneficial owners available to law enforcement authorities, judicial and supervisory authorities, financial institutions and DNFBPs, as defined in the applicable Law on Combatting Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, and to the General Tax Authority and other national authorities, upon their request.

The Competent Department shall not make any required information pertaining to the beneficial owners available to financial institutions and DNFBPs, except within the limits of the implementation of the Customer Due Diligence measures established by law.

#### **Article (8)**

The Competent Department shall, promptly and upon request, share with foreign counterparts, basic information and required information pertaining to the beneficial owners, according to the applicable rules and laws, or pursuant to arrangements and memoranda of understanding (MOUs), or subject to the principle of reciprocity, in consistency with the fundamental principles of the State's legal system, to enhance the transparency of economic and financial transactions, identify the beneficial owners and exchange information for tax purposes.

#### **Article (9)**

The Competent Department may request the competent authorities to provide any documents, information or data that are deemed necessary for the performance of its duties.

#### **Article (10)**

The Competent Department may use the data of the Unified Economic Register to produce statistics and analysis and publish them in periodic bulletins or annual reports.

All information and data collected pursuant to the provisions of this Law shall be handled in accordance with the provisions of the Law on the Protection of Privacy and Personal Data.

## **Article (11)**

Without prejudice to a more severe penalty stipulated in any other law, the competent authorities may impose, in case it is evidenced that any registered or licensed entity has violated the provisions of this Law and its Implementing Regulations, one or more of the following measures:

1. Ordering regular reports on the corrective measures taken.
2. Ordering compliance with specific instructions.
3. Sending written warnings
4. Suspending directors, board members of economic establishments, trustees of legal arrangements, senior executives or managers of NPOs, on temporary basis and for a period not exceeding one (1) year.
5. Suspending the license, activity or continuation of work, on temporary basis and for a period not exceeding one (1) year.
6. Revoking the license or crossing out the entry from the register or striking-off the name, as the case may be.

Petitions against the decisions referred to, may be filed in accordance with the controls, procedures and timelines set forth in the Implementing Regulations.

## **Article (12)**

Without prejudice to a more severe penalty stipulated in any other law, whoever contravenes the provisions of Article (5) of this Law shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two (2) years and a fine not more than (500,000 QR) five hundred thousand Qatari Riyals, or any of these two penalties.

The legal person who contravenes the provisions of the previous Article shall be subject to the fine stipulated in this Article.

## **Article (13)**

This Law shall apply to all competent authorities in the State, which are responsible for licensing and registration pursuant to special legal regulations, in relation to obtaining basic information and required information about the beneficial owners from their licensed or registered entities.

The competent authorities stated in the previous paragraph shall not be subject to the obligation of obtaining a Unified Economic Number from the Competent Authority to the entity they register or issue license thereto, They shall link their databases to the Unified Economic Register, and disseminate the basic information and the required information pertaining to beneficial owners to the Competent Department.

The Implementing Regulations shall set forth the scope and procedures for the application of this Article.

#### **Article (14)**

The competent authorities shall reconcile their registers in conformity with the provisions of this Law, within six (6) months from the date of this Law coming into effect. Such period may be extended for a similar period(s) by a Decision of the Council of Ministers.

#### **Article (15)**

The Council of Ministers shall issue the Implementing Regulations for this Law. Until the issuance of such Implementing Regulations, the current applicable decisions shall remain in force, provided that they do not contravene with the provisions of this Law.

#### **Article (16)**

The Law No. (14) of 2018 referred to, shall be repealed.

#### **Article (17)**

All Competent Authorities, each within its own competence, shall implement this Law, which shall come into force on the day following its publication in the Official Gazette.

**Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani**

**Emir of the State of Qatar**

Issued at the Emiri Diwan on 13/5/1441 AH, corresponding to 8/01/2020 AD.