

**FEDERAL LAW NO. 4-FZ OF JANUARY 4, 1999 ON COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS OF THE SUBJECTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Passed by the State Duma

on December 2, 1998

This Federal Law prescribes in compliance with Article 72 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation the general procedure for coordination of international and foreign economic relations of the subjects of the Russian Federation and encompasses legal guarantees of ensuring rights and legitimate interests of the subjects of the Russian Federation in the establishment and development of international and foreign economic relations.

**Article 1. The Right of the Subjects of the Russian Federation to Implement International and Foreign Economic Relations**

1. The subjects of the Russian Federation shall, within the limits of the powers they are granted by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal legislation and agreements between the bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation and the bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation's subjects on division of subject-matters of competence and powers, have the right to implement international and foreign economic relations with the subjects of foreign federative states, administrative and territorial formations of foreign states as well as to participate in the activities of international organisations within the framework of bodies set up specially for the purpose. The subjects of the Russian Federation shall with the consent of the Government of the Russian Federation have the right to implement such relations also with the bodies of state authority of foreign states.

2. For purposes of this Federal law, international and foreign economic relations of subjects of the Russian Federation shall mean relations implemented in the sphere of trade, economics, science, technology, ecology, humanitarian issues, culture and other areas with foreign partners specified under Item 1 hereof.

**Article 2. The Right of the Bodies of State Authority of the Subjects of the Russian Federation to Hold Talks and Make Agreements on Implementation of International and Foreign Economic Relations**

1. The bodies of state authority of a subject of the Russian Federation shall within the limits of the powers granted by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal legislation and the legislation of the subject of the Russian Federation, have the right to hold talks with foreign partners specified under Item 1 of Article 1 of this Federal Law as well as to make agreements therewith for implementation of international and foreign economic relations.

2. The agreements for implementation of international and foreign economic relations made by the bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation's subject shall not contain provisions contradictory to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, generally accepted principles and norms of international law, international treaties of the Russian Federation, federal legislation, agreements between the bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation and the bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation's subjects on division of subject-matters of competence and powers as well as provisions infringing upon the legitimate interests of other subjects of the Russian Federation.

**Article 3. Conclusion by the bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation's subject of agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations**

1. The bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation's subject shall in good time inform relevant federal executive authorities of entering into talks on conclusion of an agreement for implementation of international and foreign economic relations.

2. The bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation's subject shall determine a procedure for making agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations with due account for the necessity to coordinate draft agreements.

**Article 4. Coordination of draft agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations**

1. The draft agreement on implementation of international and foreign economic relations to be made by the bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation's subject shall, not later than a month prior to its signing, be submitted for coordination to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and if need be, also to other federal bodies of executive authority.

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and other federal bodies of executive authority shall inform the body of state authority of the Russian Federation's subject of the results of examination of a draft agreement on implementation of international and foreign economic relations, as a rule, not later than within 20 days following receipt of the draft agreement.

3. In the event of differences between the federal executive bodies and the bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation's subject on a draft agreement on implementation of international and

foreign economic relations, the conciliatory procedures envisaged by the legislation of the Russian Federation shall be applied.

**Article 5.** Registration of agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations

The registration of agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations made by the bodies of state authority of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be performed according to the procedure established by the Government of the Russian Federation.

**Article 6.** Publication of agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations

1. The texts of agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations made by the bodies of state authority of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be released in the press.

2. The procedure for publication of agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations shall be established by statutes and other statutory legal acts of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

**Article 7.** The status of agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations

Agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations made by the bodies of state authority of a subject of the Russian Federation, regardless of the form, name and contents thereof, shall not be international treaties.

**Article 8.** Responsibility of federal bodies of state authority under agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations

The federal bodies of state authority shall not be liable under agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations made by the bodies of state authority of the subjects of the Russian Federation, except for cases when said agreements with state authorities of foreign states have been made with the consent of the Government of the Russian Federation or if a specific agreement of a subject of the Russian Federation falls under formal guarantees of the Government of the Russian Federation.

**Article 9.** Assistance by federal bodies of state authority to the bodies of state authority of the subjects of the Russian Federation in the implementation of international and foreign economic relations

The federal bodies of state authority shall provide the bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation's subjects with the required legal, expert and consultative assistance in the development of international and foreign economic relations, the organisation and conduct of talks, the preparation of wordings of agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations to be made by the bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation's subjects, the fulfilment of said agreements as well as provide for the safeguarding of rights and legitimate interests of the Russian Federation's subjects in foreign states.

**Article 10.** The right of subjects of the Russian Federation to have representative offices on territories of foreign states

1. The subjects of the Russian Federation, for the purposes of realization of agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations shall, by agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, exercise the right to open their representative offices outside the Russian Federation.

2. The bodies of state authority of the subject of the Russian Federation shall, by agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, have the right to give permission to open on the territory of the given subject representative offices of subjects of foreign federative states, administrative and territorial formations of foreign states.

3. The opening of representative offices of the subjects of the Russian Federation on territories of foreign states as well as the opening of foreign representative offices on the territory of the Russian Federation's subject shall be effected on the basis of agreement between a respective state authority of the subject of the Russian Federation and a competent body of the subject of a foreign federative state or a competent body of an administrative and territorial formation of a foreign state.

4. The representative offices of the subjects of the Russian Federation on territories of foreign states as well as foreign representative offices on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation specified under Item 2 hereof, shall not have the status of a diplomatic representative office and they may not be charged with the performance of consular or diplomatic functions. The employees of said representative offices shall enjoy not diplomatic privileges or immunities.

5. The representative offices of the subjects of the Russian Federation outside the Russian Federation shall be headed by citizens of the Russian Federation.

**Article 11.** Federal bodies of state authority in charge of coordination of international and foreign economic relations of the subjects of the Russian Federation

1. The coordination of international and foreign economic relations of the Russian Federation's subjects shall be entrusted to federal bodies of executive authority in the manner established by the President of the Russian Federation at the suggestion of the Government of the Russian Federation.

2. The relevant federal executive authorities shall be entitled to receive from state bodies of the Russian Federation's subjects information about the implementation of international and foreign economic relations conducted by the Russian Federation's subjects and to present to the state bodies of the Russian Federation's subjects their proposals and recommendations.

**Article 12.** Settlement of disputes under agreements for implementation of international and foreign economic relations

1. In the event of differences arising between state bodies of the Russian Federation and state bodies of the Russian Federation's subjects as well as between state bodies of the Russian Federation's subjects with respect to agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations made by state bodies of the Russian Federation's subjects, the use shall be made of conciliatory procedures as is provided by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and legislation of the Russian Federation.

2. In the event that agreement on implementation of international and foreign economic relations made by state body of the Russian Federation's subject is contradictory to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, generally accepted principles and norms of international law and international treaties of the Russian Federation, infringes upon legitimate interests of any other subject of the Russian Federation or violates the procedure established by this Federal law, such an agreement may be contested in due course of law.

3. The effect of agreements on implementation of international and foreign economic relations made by executive authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation and containing provisions contradictory to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, generally accepted principles and norms of international law and international treaties of the Russian Federation may, in accordance with Article 85 (Part 2) of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, be suspended until the resolution of that issue by the respective court.

**Article 13.** On Entry into Effect of This Federal Law

This Federal law shall take effect as of the day of its official publication in the press.

**Article 14.** Bringing Statutory Acts into Accord with This Federal Law

The President of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation and bodies of state authority of the subjects of the Russian Federation shall bring their statutory acts into accord with this Federal law.

President  
of the Russian Federation

Moscow, the Kremlin

B. Yeltsin