

# Translation of the Establishing Economic Courts Law No. 120 of 2008

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ترجمة قانون إنشاء المحاكم  
الاقتصادية رقم ١٢٠ لسنة ٢٠٠٨

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20 May 2026

  
ANDERSEN

## Law No. 120 of 2008 Promulgating the Law Establishing Economic Courts

In the name of the people: President of the republic

The House of Representatives has enacted the following law, which we hereby promulgate:

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### Preamble

The People's Assembly has decided, the Shura Council has approved the following law, and we have promulgated it:

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### Promulgation Articles

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#### Article (1):

The provisions of the attached law concerning Economic Courts shall apply, and no provision contrary thereto shall be applicable.

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#### Article (2):

Courts shall, of their own motion, refer any disputes and cases pending before them which, pursuant to the provisions of this law, fall within the jurisdiction of the Economic Courts, in their current state and without fees. If any litigant is absent, the court registry shall notify him of the referral order and summon him to appear on the scheduled date before the court to which the case has been referred.

The Economic Courts shall decide the matters referred to them pursuant to the preceding paragraph without submitting them to the Preparation and Mediation Panel provided for in Article (8) of the attached law.

Appeals which have become subject to the jurisdiction of the courts provided for in Article (12) of this law shall also be referred to those courts, in their current state.



The provisions of the first and third paragraphs of this Article shall not apply to disputes, cases, or appeals in which judgment has already been rendered, or which were adjourned for judgment before the effective date of this law. Judgments issued therein shall remain subject to the rules governing methods of appeal applicable on the date of their issuance.

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**Article (3):**

The Court of Cassation, Courts of Appeal, and appellate circuits within Courts of First Instance shall continue to hear appeals filed before them prior to the effective date of this law against judgments issued in the disputes and cases referred to in the first paragraph of Article Two.

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**Article (4):**

The provisions of the Criminal Procedure Law, the Law on Cases and Procedures of Appeal before the Court of Cassation, the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law, and the Evidence Law in Civil and Commercial Matters shall apply to matters not specifically provided for in the attached law.

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**Article (5):**

The Minister of Justice shall, in coordination with the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, issue the decisions regulating registration in the register referred to in Article (17) of the attached law, as well as the electronic filing and conduct of proceedings, electronic service, methods of protecting such proceedings, and the electronic interconnection of Economic Courts. The relevant authorities shall be bound to implement such decisions.

The Minister of Justice shall also, based on applications submitted by persons wishing to be registered and nominated by the competent regulatory authorities, chambers, federations, associations, and other entities concerned with financial, commercial, and industrial affairs, issue a decision regulating registration in the rosters referred to in the second paragraph of Article (8) of this law.

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**Article (6):**

This law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force as of 1 October 2008.

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**Law on the Establishment of Economic Courts**

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**Article (1):**

Within the territorial jurisdiction of each Court of Appeal, a court shall be established under the name "Economic Court." A President from among the Presidents of the Courts of Appeal shall be seconded to preside over it for a term of one year, renewable by a decision of the Minister of Justice after the approval of the Supreme Judicial Council. Its judges shall be selected from among the judges of the Courts of First Instance and the Courts of Appeal by a decision issued by the Supreme Judicial Council.

The Economic Court shall consist of Primary Circuits, Appellate Circuits, and Economic Felony Circuits of both levels. The locations of these circuits shall be designated by a decision of the Minister of Justice after consulting the Supreme Judicial Council.

The Primary Circuits, Appellate Circuits, and Economic Felony Circuits referred to in the preceding paragraph shall convene at the premises of the Economic Courts. They may, when necessary, convene at any other location pursuant to a decision issued by the Minister of Justice upon the request of the President of the Economic Court.

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**Article (2):**

Each Primary Economic Circuit shall be composed of three presidents of Courts of First Instance.

Each Appellate Circuit shall be composed of three judges from the Courts of Appeal, at least one of whom shall hold the rank of Vice-President of a Court of Appeal.

Each First-Degree Economic Felony Circuit shall be composed of three judges from the Courts of Appeal, at least one of whom shall hold the rank of Vice-President of a Court of Appeal.



Each Appellate Economic Felony Circuit shall likewise be composed of three judges from the Courts of Appeal, at least one of whom shall hold the rank of President of a Court of Appeal.

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### **Article (3):**

At the beginning of each judicial year, the General Assembly of the Economic Court shall designate one or more of its judges, holding at least the rank of President of a Court of First Instance (Category A), to adjudicate temporarily and without prejudice to the merits, urgent matters falling within the jurisdiction of the Economic Court where delay may cause irreparable harm.

The judge referred to in the first paragraph shall issue ex parte orders and interim orders in matters falling within the jurisdiction of the Economic Court.

Such judge shall also issue payment orders in these matters regardless of the value of the right claimed. In the event of refusal to issue the order, the judge shall schedule a hearing before one of the Primary or Appellate Circuits of the Court, as the case may be.

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

Without prejudice to the jurisdictions assigned to the Economic Courts under any other law, the Economic Courts, through their Primary and Appellate Circuits and Economic Felony Circuits of both levels, shall have exclusive subject-matter and territorial jurisdiction over criminal cases arising from the crimes stipulated in the following laws:

- The Penal Code concerning crimes related to currency and counterfeit coins.
- The Law on Supervision and Control of Insurance in Egypt.
- The Law on Joint Stock Companies, Partnerships Limited by Shares, Limited Liability Companies, and One-Person Companies.
- The Capital Market Law.
- The Law Regulating Financial Leasing and Factoring Activities.
- The Law on Central Depository and Registration of Securities.



- The Mortgage Finance Law.
  - The Intellectual Property Rights Protection Law.
  - The Central Bank, Banking Sector, and Money Law.
  - The Law on Companies Operating in the Field of Receiving Funds for Investment.
  - The Law Regulating Restructuring, Preventive Composition, and Bankruptcy.
  - The Law on the Protection of the National Economy from the Effects of Harmful Practices in International Trade.
  - The Competition Protection and Anti-Monopoly Practices Law.
  - The Consumer Protection Law.
  - The Telecommunications Regulation Law.
  - The Law Regulating Electronic Signatures and Establishing the Information Technology Industry Development Authority (ITIDA).
  - The Anti-Money Laundering Law.
  - The Movable Collateral Law.
  - The Law Regulating Microfinance Activities.
  - The Investment Law.
  - The Anti-Cyber and Information Technology Crimes Law.
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**Article (5):**

The Primary Circuits of the Economic Courts shall have jurisdiction to hear misdemeanor cases stipulated in the laws referred to in Article (4) of this Law. Appeals against their judgments shall be heard before the Appellate Circuits of the Economic Courts. The time limits, procedures, and provisions on provisional enforceability prescribed under the Criminal Procedure Law shall apply to appeals against judgments issued by the Primary Circuits of the Economic Courts in misdemeanor matters.

The First-Degree Economic Felony Circuits shall have original jurisdiction to hear felony cases stipulated in the laws referred to in Article (4) of this Law. Appeals against their judgments shall be heard before the Appellate Economic Felony Circuits. The time limits and procedures prescribed under the Criminal Procedure Law shall apply to appeals against judgments issued by the First-Degree Economic Felony Circuits in felony matters.

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**Article (6):**

Except for disputes and cases falling within the jurisdiction of the State Council, the Primary Circuits of the Economic Courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear disputes and cases whose value does not exceed fifteen million Egyptian pounds and which arise from the application of the following laws:

- Law No. 146 of 1988 on Companies Operating in the Field of Receiving Funds for Investment.
- Capital Market Law promulgated by Law No. 95 of 1992.
- Law No. 176 of 2018 Regulating Financial Leasing and Factoring Activities.
- Law No. 161 of 1998 on the Protection of the National Economy from the Effects of Harmful Practices in International Trade.
- Commercial Law promulgated by Law No. 17 of 1999, in relation to technology transfer, commercial agency, and banking operations, as well as other disputes and cases arising from the application of the same law where their value exceeds ten million Egyptian pounds.
- Mortgage Finance Law promulgated by Law No. 148 of 2001.



- Intellectual Property Rights Protection Law promulgated by Law No. 82 of 2002.
- Telecommunications Regulation Law promulgated by Law No. 10 of 2003.
- Law No. 15 of 2004 Regulating Electronic Signature and Establishing the Information Technology Industry Development Authority.
- Competition Protection and Anti-Monopoly Practices Law promulgated by Law No. 3 of 2005.
- Law No. 159 of 1981 on Joint Stock Companies, Partnerships Limited by Shares, Limited Liability Companies, and One-Person Companies.
- Central Bank and Banking Sector Law promulgated by Law No. 194 of 2020.
- Maritime Trade Law promulgated by Law No. 8 of 1990.
- Civil Aviation Law promulgated by Law No. 28 of 1981, in relation to the carriage of goods and passengers.
- Consumer Protection Law promulgated by Law No. 181 of 2018.
- Movable Collateral Law promulgated by Law No. 115 of 2015.
- Special Economic Zones Law promulgated by Law No. 83 of 2002.
- Law No. 141 of 2014 Regulating the Practice of Financing Medium, Small, and Micro Enterprises.
- Investment Law promulgated by Law No. 72 of 2017.
- Law No. 175 of 2018 on Combating Information Technology Crimes.

The Primary Circuits shall also have jurisdiction to hear compensation or insurance claims arising from the application of the provisions of the laws referred to in the first paragraph of this Article, as the case may be.

Judgments issued in the cases referred to in the first and second paragraphs of this Article shall be final if the value of the claim does not exceed seven hundred and fifty thousand Egyptian pounds.



The Appellate Circuits of the Economic Courts shall have exclusive original jurisdiction to hear all disputes and cases provided for in the first, second, and third paragraphs of this Article if their value exceeds fifteen million Egyptian pounds or if the claim is of an unquantified value.

The Primary and Appellate Circuits of the Economic Courts that issued the order shall have jurisdiction to hear grievances and claims relating to judicial fees arising from the application of this Law and from decisions issued by the judges of the Court.

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**Article (7):**

The Primary Circuit of the Economic Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction to adjudicate the following matters:

- Temporary and substantive execution disputes relating to judgments and orders issued by the Court.
- Cases and disputes related to and arising from the Law Regulating Restructuring, Preventive Composition, and Bankruptcy.

Judgments rendered in the foregoing matters may be appealed before the Appellate Circuit of the Economic Court.

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**Article (7) bis:**

At the beginning of each judicial year, the General Assembly of each Economic Court shall appoint one or more of its judges, holding at least the rank of President of a Court of First Instance (Category A), assisted by a sufficient number of execution assistants and employees designated by a decision of the President of the Economic Court. Such judge shall supervise execution procedures relating to enforceable instruments issued by that Court and shall issue decisions and ex parte orders relating to execution in matters falling within the jurisdiction of the Economic Court.

Grievances against the decisions and orders issued by such judge shall be submitted before the Primary Circuits of the Economic Courts, and the judgment rendered on the grievance shall be final.



**Article (7) bis (A):**

A special register shall be maintained at the Economic Court in which execution applications submitted to the Execution Judge shall be recorded. A file shall be opened for each application, in which all documents relating thereto shall be deposited.

The file shall be submitted to the Execution Judge following each procedure, and all decisions and orders issued by him, as well as any judgments rendered by the Primary Circuit in substantive or temporary execution disputes, shall be recorded therein.

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**Article (7) bis (B):**

Execution shall be carried out by execution assistants upon the request of the concerned parties once the enforceable instrument has been submitted to the competent Execution Judge.

If the execution assistant refuses to undertake any execution procedure, the concerned party may submit the matter by petition to the Execution Judge.

If resistance or assault occurs against the execution assistant, he shall take all precautionary measures and may, after presenting the matter to the Execution Judge, request the assistance of the public force and the local authority.

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**Article (8):**

At each Economic Court, a body named the “Preparation and Mediation Authority” (hereinafter referred to in this Law as the “Authority”) shall be established. The Authority shall undertake the preparation and mediation of cases falling within the jurisdiction of the Court, except for criminal cases, appealed cases, cases and orders stipulated in Articles (3) and (7) of this Law, and cases referred thereto by other courts due to subject-matter jurisdiction.

The Authority shall be chaired by a judge selected from among the judges of the Appellate Circuits of the Economic Court, referred to in this Law as the “President of the Authority,” and shall include a sufficient number of judges holding at least the rank of President of a Court of First Instance, referred to in this Law as the “Preparation Judge.” They shall be selected by the General Assembly of the Court at the beginning of each judicial year.



The Authority shall be assisted by the necessary number of administrative staff and clerks, and may seek the assistance of experts and specialists registered in the schedules prepared for this purpose at the Ministry of Justice.

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**Article (8) bis:**

The Preparation Judge shall verify the completion of all documents necessary to prepare and study the case for adjudication. He may hold hearing sessions and conduct mediation in disputes and cases.

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**Article (8) bis (A):**

The Preparation Judge shall notify the litigants to appear before the Authority by any means deemed appropriate, including email, telephone communication, or text messages.

The litigation shall be deemed duly constituted upon the appearance of the defendant or his legal representative. If any litigant fails to submit a document supported by justification appearing in the case file after being requested to do so, the Preparation Judge may impose a fine of not less than two hundred Egyptian pounds and not more than five hundred Egyptian pounds.

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**Article (8) bis (B):**

The Preparation Judge may hold one or more sessions with the parties, separately or jointly, while observing the applicable rules and customs governing such sessions.

These sessions shall be confidential, and neither the sessions themselves nor any concessions made therein by the parties to the dispute may be invoked before any court or other authority.

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**Article (8) bis (C):**

The Preparation Judge shall prepare the case within a period not exceeding thirty days from the date of its registration and shall propose an amicable settlement of the dispute to the parties.

If the litigants agree, he shall conduct mediation between them within a period not exceeding an additional thirty days, which may be extended for a similar period with the approval of the President of the Authority.

If the Preparation Judge succeeds in settling the dispute, he shall draft a settlement agreement signed by the parties and submit it to the President of the Authority for ratification. In such case, the agreement shall have the force of an enforceable instrument.

If the litigants do not agree to settlement, a substantive hearing shall be scheduled before the competent circuit, and the claimant shall be charged with effecting service.

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**Article (8) bis (D):**

The court competent to hear the merits may, at any stage of the proceedings, suspend consideration thereof and refer the matter once again to the Authority, upon the request of the litigants, in an attempt to reconcile the parties. The court shall specify a period not exceeding thirty days for such purpose, which may be extended once for a similar period.

The Preparation Judge shall perform his duties in the manner set forth in Article (8 bis (B)) of this Law.

If reconciliation is achieved, the Preparation Judge shall draft an agreement to that effect, which shall be appended to the minutes of the hearing for adjudication in accordance with the provisions of the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law.

If reconciliation proves impossible, the Preparation Judge shall prepare a memorandum detailing the procedures undertaken and resubmit it to the Court for determination of the merits.



**Article (8) bis (E):**

The President of the Authority may, upon the request of one of the parties or on his own initiative, correct any clerical errors appearing in settlement minutes.

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**Article (8) bis (F):**

Parties to disputes falling within the jurisdiction of the Economic Courts may directly resort to the President of the Authority at the locally competent court in order to settle the dispute amicably without filing a lawsuit in relation thereto.

In such case, a fee of not less than two thousand Egyptian pounds and not more than two hundred thousand Egyptian pounds shall be paid, the categories of which shall be determined by a decision of the Minister of Justice.

The Preparation Judge shall undertake mediation between the parties in the manner previously stated, and the limitation period for claims relating to such disputes shall be suspended during the conduct of these procedures.

If an amicable settlement is reached, the Preparation Judge shall draft a settlement agreement in the manner prescribed in Article (8 bis (C)) of this Law, and such agreement shall have the force of an enforceable instrument.

If amicable settlement proves impossible, the Preparation Judge shall archive the application and return all documents to the litigants.

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**Article (8) bis (G):**

The Preparation Judge shall be prohibited from hearing cases in which he has previously conducted mediation procedures.

Where there is an impediment preventing the Preparation Judge from conducting preparation and mediation procedures, the Preparation Judge or the concerned parties may submit an application to the President of the Authority to consider replacing him with another judge. The President of the Authority shall decide on the application within no more than three days from the date of its submission.

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**Article (9):**

The Primary Circuits, Appellate Circuits, and Economic Felony Circuits of both levels at the Economic Courts may seek the opinion of any specialized experts they deem appropriate from among those registered in the schedules prepared for this purpose at the Ministry of Justice.

Registration in such schedules shall be made by a decision of the Minister of Justice, based on applications submitted by persons wishing to be registered or by those nominated by chambers, federations, associations, and other organizations concerned with financial, commercial, and industrial affairs.

A decision of the Minister of Justice shall regulate the conditions and procedures for registration and for seeking the assistance of experts registered in the schedules. The relevant circuits shall, as the case may be, determine the fees payable to the expert in accordance with the rules and procedures issued by a decision of the Minister of Justice.

The disciplinary rules applicable to experts registered in the schedules shall be those set out in Decree-Law No. 96 of 1952 Regulating Expertise before Judicial Authorities.

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**Article (10):**

Appeals against judgments issued by the Primary Circuits of the Economic Courts shall be filed before the Appellate Circuits of those Courts exclusively. Appeals against judgments issued by the First-Degree Economic Felony Circuits shall likewise be filed before the Appellate Economic Felony Circuits exclusively.

Appeals against judgments, and grievances against orders, issued by the judge provided for in Article (3) of this Law shall be filed before the Primary Circuits of the Economic Courts exclusively.

Subject to the provisions of Article (5) of this Law, the time limit for appealing judgments issued in cases falling within the jurisdiction of the Primary Circuits of the Economic Court shall be forty days from the date of issuance of the judgment, except for judgments issued in urgent matters and appeals filed by the Public Prosecution.

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**Article (11):**

Except for judgments issued in felony and misdemeanor matters, and judgments issued at first instance by the Appellate Circuits of the Economic Court, judgments issued by the Economic Court may not be challenged by way of cassation, without prejudice to Article (250) of the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law.

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**Article (12):**

One or more circuits shall be formed at the Court of Cassation with exclusive jurisdiction to decide cassation appeals against the judgments provided for in Article (11) of this Law.

One or more circuits shall also be established at the Court of Cassation to examine such appeals. Each shall be composed of three judges of the Court holding at least the rank of Vice-President, and shall decide, sitting in chambers, appeals that disclose inadmissibility, non-acceptance due to forfeiture, or nullity of procedures.

The appeal shall be submitted to the Appeal Examination Circuit immediately after the Cassation Prosecution deposits its opinion memorandum. If the Circuit considers the appeal inadmissible or unacceptable for the reasons stated in the preceding paragraph, it shall order its non-acceptance by a briefly reasoned decision, and shall order the appellant to pay the costs, in addition to forfeiture of the bond where applicable. If it considers the appeal worthy of consideration, it shall refer it to the competent circuit and set a hearing for its examination.

In all cases, the decision issued by the Appeal Examination Circuit may not be challenged by any means.

By way of exception to Article (39) of the Law on Cases and Procedures of Appeal before the Court of Cassation and the second paragraph of Article (269) of the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law, if the Court of Cassation orders cassation of the challenged judgment, it shall rule on the merits of the case, even where the appeal is brought for the first time.

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**Article (13):**

For the purposes of applying the provisions of this Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to each of them below:

**Electronic Register:** The register prepared electronically at the Economic Courts for recording the data of the persons and entities provided for in Article (17) of this Law, and their means of communication, enabling the person wishing to effect service to notify the litigants of the case, incidental claims, or preliminary judgments issued therein.

**Chosen Electronic Address:** The domicile designated by the persons and entities specified in this Law for serving them with all procedures relating to electronically filed cases, whether such address consists of their email address, telephone number, or any other technological means.

**Electronic Filing:** The means of filing and registering the statement of claim, as well as incidental claims, joinder, and intervention, electronically signing their statements with an accredited electronic signature, and depositing documents and memoranda through the website designated for such purpose at the competent Economic Court.

**Website:** The website of the competent Economic Court designated for the electronic filing, registration, and service of cases.

**Electronic Uploading of Documents:** Uploading documents and memoranda submitted by the parties to the case to the website of the competent Economic Court, with the possibility of saving, retrieving, reviewing, and copying them in preparation for attaching them to the case file.

**Electronic Document or Instrument:** A data message containing information created, integrated, stored, sent, or received, wholly or partially, by electronic, digital, optical, or other similar means.

**Electronic Payment:** The means provided by banking and non-banking financial institutions for payment of all fees for using the electronic litigation service at Economic Courts, as well as court fees and prescribed stamps for filing cases, including prepaid cards, debit and credit cards, and bank transfers.

**Copied Image:** The printed copy of the electronic instrument deposited in the case file.

**Electronic Conduct of Proceedings:** Carrying out the legally prescribed litigation procedures through the website designated for such purpose.

**Electronic Service:** Serving the parties to the case with any legal procedure taken upon filing the case and during its progress, through the website or at the chosen electronic address.



**Methods of Protecting the Electronic Filing and Conduct of Proceedings:** Procedures for protecting electronically filed case documents, aimed at preventing the modification, alteration, or destruction of their files, whether intentionally or unintentionally.

**Relevant Authorities:** The authorities concerned with operating the electronic litigation system at Economic Courts, including the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation, the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones, the Financial Regulatory Authority, the Egyptian Exchange, the Central Bank of Egypt, and the Commercial Register.

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

Except in cases of cassation appeals, cases falling within the jurisdiction of the Economic Court, and appeals against judgments issued therein, may be filed by persons and entities registered in the Electronic Register by means of a statement signed and deposited electronically on the website designated for the registry of the competent Economic Court.

The case shall be registered after the claimant electronically pays the legally prescribed fees and stamps and electronically uploads the documents.

A fee of not less than one hundred Egyptian pounds and not more than one thousand Egyptian pounds shall be imposed for the use of such electronic service, according to the categories determined by a decision of the Minister of Justice. The proceeds of this fee shall accrue to the public revenues of the Economic Court's budget, and the State's public budget shall bear the costs of establishing and operating the website for this service.

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

The registry shall electronically send the case file to the Preparation Authority, and the Preparation Judge shall undertake the preparation and mediation functions provided for in this Law. For this purpose, he may require the parties to the case to appear before him whenever he deems it necessary.

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#### Article (16):

In electronically filed cases, the parties shall serve the litigants with the statement of claim, incidental claims, and joinder at the chosen electronic address. If this is not possible, the ordinary method of service prescribed under the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law shall be followed.

In such case, the registry shall deliver the copied image of the statement of claim, incidental claims, or joinder, no later than the following day after affixing the seal bearing the emblem of the Republic, to the bailiffs' office affiliated with the competent Economic Court for service and return, so that it may be deposited in the paper case file.

In all cases, the registry shall copy the electronic document or instrument and deposit it in the paper case file.

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#### Article (17):

Without prejudice to the provisions of any other law, the persons and entities subject to the provisions of this Law shall be required to designate a chosen electronic address through which service shall be affected.

A unified Electronic Register shall be established at the Economic Courts for recording the chosen electronic address, including the email address, of the following entities and persons:

- The State or any public legal person.
- Local or foreign companies, or any private legal person.
- Law offices.

The entities and persons referred to in the first paragraph of this Article shall provide the Economic Courts with their chosen electronic address for registration in such register. Natural persons may also register in this register, and such address shall be deemed their chosen domicile.

Nevertheless, the concerned parties may agree that service shall be affected at any other chosen electronic address, provided that such address is capable of being saved and retrieved.



**Article (18):**

Electronic service shall be affected by serving the case on the website at least five working days before the scheduled hearing date.

Service upon the State shall be affected at the chosen electronic address of the locally competent branch of the State Lawsuits Authority.

Service shall also be affected by the same means upon law offices registered in the Electronic Register, where the person to be served has designated such office as his chosen domicile.

Electronic service shall be deemed to have produced its legal effect once its transmission is proven.

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**Article (19):**

The litigants may deposit memoranda, submit documents, present their defenses and applications, and review the case papers electronically through the website designated for such purpose.

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**Article (20):**

If the claimant fails to attend the court hearings, the Court may apply Article (82) of the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law.

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**Article (21):**

Where the case is filed electronically, the registry may serve the litigants, by the same means, with judgments and decisions issued during the course of the proceedings which do not terminate the litigation.

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**Article (22):**

If the defendant appears at any hearing, or uploads documents and memoranda electronically, the judgment terminating the litigation shall be deemed adversarial as against him.

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