

FOREIGN TRADE AND INVESTMENTS LAW "LEXI"¹ (Law No. 12)

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

CONSIDERING:

That the development and progress of Ecuador demand a dynamic and expanding foreign trade to contribute to the economical growth and the social welfare of the country;

That the international economy and foreign trade relationships are subject to in-depth transformation, driven by a sustained technological and information progress;

That Ecuador must ensure a decisive intervention in the changes and transformations that are going on in the world trade, mainly through negotiation processes, so as to assure its participation in the opportunities generated by the internationalisation of the economy;

That the Ecuadorian foreign trade holds an excessive dependence on oil exportation and therefore, to drive the growth and diversification of exports for other products, especially non-traditional ones, should be a priority;

That the issuance of a law to promote and incentive this activity is necessary to turn it into the propelling force of domestic development;

That direct investment constitutes an important way to incorporate the country to the technology, management, markets and financing; and,

In exercise of its constitutional and legal faculties, issues the following:

LAW ON FOREIGN TRADE AND INVESTMENTS – LEXI ⁽¹⁾

Title I: OF THE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE LAW

Art. 1.- This Law's objective is to rule and promote foreign trade and direct investment, increase the domestic economy competitiveness, favour the efficient use of the productive resources of the country, tend to its sustainable development, integrate the Ecuadorian economy with the international one, and contribute to improve the welfare of the population.

Art. 2.- It is understood by "Foreign Trade Sector" the group of organizations and entities from the public sector and institutions, or, private persons or legal entities from the private sector that participate in the design and execution of the foreign trade policy of goods, services and technology that develop foreign trade or related activities, except hydrocarbon exports undertaken by the Ecuadorian State which will continue subject to the legal ordinance that rules them.

¹ "LEXI" for the title in Spanish: Ley de Comercio Exterior e Inversiones

Title II: OF THE PRINCIPLES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR THE COMPLIANCE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS LAW

Art. 3.- Foreign trade is considered as national priority, especially the promotion of exports and investments.

The State will design and execute its policies in this matter, according to the following general outline:

- a) To assure freedom for export and import activities development and to facilitate management of the economic agents in this matter
- b) To encourage the internationalisation of the Ecuadorian economy in order to achieve an increasing rhythm and a sustained development
- c) To take advantage of the opportunities offered by the world trade on technology and services to benefit the exportable production of the country
- d) To encourage the modernization and the domestic production efficiency, in order to adequately satisfy the internal and external demand, improving its international competitiveness and satisfying the consumer's needs, taking into account the demands of the world trade on the preservation of the environment
- e) To promote the growth and diversification of goods, services and technology exports
- f) To make sure that the domestic production competes internationally according to the true and fair practices of the freedom of trade. To this end, the National Government will adopt definite actions to assure an effective defence, in accordance to the international trade agreements where the country is signatory
- g) To encourage the strengthening and development of the promotion mechanisms for exports and investments
- h) To promote, by means of encouragement and incentives, direct domestic and foreign investment, the integration processes and the bilateral and multilateral trade agreements that would expand investment and facilitate external transactions for the country
- i) To prevent and counteract the negative effects that the application of untrue trade practices may cause to the domestic production

Art. 4.- The State will assure the necessary coherence between foreign commerce policies and fiscal, customs duty, monetary, credit, exchange and economic-social development policies, and the corresponding ruling regimes.

Art. 5.- It is confirmed the fiscal neutrality principle, in order to assure transparency in the development of the exports, imports and investment activities.

Art. 6.- It is forbidden to issue any practice or administrative or economic disposition that may limit free competence or impede the development of the foreign and domestic trade and the production of goods and services, notwithstanding the prohibition or limitations that may be exceptionally imposed, according to lit. i) in Article 12 of this Law and Article 63 of the Law of Monetary Regime and the State Bank. However, corrective measures may be taken in the cases included in the Regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Note: The reference made to Article 12, lit. i) in this Law, should belong in fact to Article 11, lit. i).

Art. 7.- The State, within the Constitutional norms and the subscribed and approved international agreements, will guarantee competitive freedom in the service for

international transportation for passengers and cargo, and will contribute to its efficiency by exercising actions to facilitate its development.

Art. 8.- Exports are exempt of all taxes except hydrocarbon exports. Imports will not be liable to additional taxes other than the customs duties, if so required, to value added tax, special consumption tax, compensatory rights or antidumping or to applicable protection measures if adopted temporarily in order to prevent untrue trade practices in the frame of the WTO regulations, as it may be the case, and to the rate for real services rendered.

Art. 9.- (Reformed by Art. 127, num. 3 in Law 99, O.R. 359, 13-VII-98) The assumption of truthfulness of that declared in the export transactions will be the basis for any procedure at the organizations and entities of the public sector.

In order to determine the declared value of Ecuadorian products exports that are not subject to setting the FOB referential minimum prices, those regulations stated at the WTO in this matter will be followed.

The registration of the Foreign Trade operations at the Central Bank of Ecuador will be exclusively for statistics purposes.

Title III: OF THE INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

Chapter I

OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PROMOTION OF EXPORTATION AND INVESTMENTS

Art. 10.- (Reformed by Art. 2 in Law 24, O.R. 165, 2-X-97) It is created the Foreign Trade and Investment Council - COMEXI, consisting of:

- a) The President of the Republic or its permanent representative, who will chair it
- b) The Minister of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery

Note: Art. 16 lit. i of the By Laws of the Juridical and Administrative Regime of the Executive Function changed the name of Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery, for the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization, Fishery and Competitiveness.

- c) The Minister of Finance and Public Credit

Note: The Ministry of Finance and Public Credit is currently the Ministry of Economy and Finance (E.D. 366, O.R. 81, 19-V-2000).

- d) The Minister of Foreign Affairs
- e) The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock
- f) The Minister of Tourism
- g) The President of the Federation of Ecuadorian Exporters, FEDEXPOR, or its representative
- h) The President of the National Federation of the Chambers of Industries in Ecuador or its representative
- i) The President of the National Federation of the Chambers of Commerce in Ecuador or its representative
- j) The President of the National Federation of the Chambers of Agriculture in Ecuador or its representative

- k) A delegate of the Agricultural, Aquaculture and Fishery sectors of products for exportation, at a national level

Will act as Secretary of the COMEXI the Undersecretary of Foreign Trade and Integration, and in his absence, the Director of Foreign Trade and Integration of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery.

In case of absence or impediment to attend from the permanent representative of the President of the Republic, the Minister of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery will chair the COMEXI, who in this case will participate in the decisions with one vote. In case of absence or impediment from a Minister of State to attend the COMEXI meetings, he will be replaced by the Undersecretary in charge of handling matters related with Foreign Trade and Investment.

The Secretary General for Planning of the CONADE will be a counselling member of the COMEXI, with voice but no vote. The Foreign Trade and Investment Council may invite other officials of the public sector, as well as receive other representatives of the private sector in general commission.

Notes:

- By resolution of Art. 255 of the current Political Constitution, the Planning National System will be under a technical organization dependent of the Presidency of the Republic, so the CONADE disappears. Until its regulatory Law is issued, and under the 39th transitory disposition of the Constitution, the Planning Office has been created (E.D. 120, O.R. 27, 16-IX-98).
- Art. 3 of E.D. 120 (O.R. 27, 16-IX-98) reformed by Art. 3 of E.D. 103 (O.R. 23, 23-II-2000) states that in all those norms where collegiate bodies with the CONADE, its President or its Planning Secretary General are included, it will be understood that it is meant the Vice President of the Republic as General Director of the Planning Office.

Art. 11.- Duties and responsibilities of the Foreign Trade and Investment Council - COMEXI are:

- a) To set up the policies for foreign trade of goods, services and technology, integration and direct investment, in accordance with the free trade principles, the world trade environment, the international commitments undertaken by the country in these matters, the macro-economic program and with the general and sectorial development plans for the country.
- b) (Substituted by Art. 1 of Law 99-22, O.R. 156, 25-III-99) To issue the norms that, within the frame stated by this Law, may be needed in matters of foreign trade, integration and investments to carry out and develop the policies dictated. The public sector entities, within their competence area, are forced to comply with these norms and provide means and information as required by the COMEXI.
- c) To propose guidelines and strategies for the international negotiations that the National Government carries out in matters of Foreign Trade, Economic Integration and Direct Investment, as well as to put together groups of stable negotiators of the public and private sector, constituted by specialized persons with ample experience in these matters, appointed for six years.
- d) To recommend the celebration of bilateral or multilateral treaties or agreements on foreign trade, integration and direct investment to the competent authorities.
- e) To establish general guidelines as a basis for the formulation of the strategic plan for the promotion of exports and direct investment, of which the Corporation is in charge of, as stated in Title IV of this Law.

- f) (Reformed by Art. 127 num. 3 of Law 99, O.R. 359, 13-VII-98) To determine the policies in order to promote the strengthening and development of the special regimes, such as duty-free zones, maquila, credit insurance for exports, as well as other supporting implementation for exportation.
- g) To enact the policies related to the imports and exports procedures, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit.

Note: Art. 16 lit. d) of the By Laws for the Juridical and Administrative Regime of the Executive Function changed the name of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit for the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

- h) (Revoked by Art. 128 let. c) of Law 99, O.R. 359, 13-VII-98)
- i) (Reformed by Art. 1 of Law 99-22, O.R. 156, 25-III-99) The Council will be informed on the decisions undertaken by the Ministry of Foreign Trade, as to the measures adopted to counteract dumping, subsidies and the regular import movement that deserve the application of safeguard measures according to the WTO, measures that once approved, will be set in force by the COMEXI.

Note: The phrase highlighted in bold letters has been added to letter h) of this article; however, this letter was revoked by Art. 128 lit. c) of Law 99 (O.R. 359, 13-VII-98) so we understand it will correspond to letter i).

- j) To temporarily impose compensating rights, antidumping or the application of safeguard measures to correct untrue practices and anomalous situations in the imports that harm domestic production, always observing the WTO norms and procedures.
- k) To come up with a shortlist of three candidates for the position at the Foreign Trade Service, whose appointment falls under the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery, according to Title IX of the Organic Law for Foreign Service

Note: Art. 16 lit. i from the By Laws of the Juridical and Administrative Regime of the Executive Function changed the name of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery for Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization, Fishery and Competitiveness.

- l) To issue criteria to be considered by the President of the Republic on the competence conflicts that may arise among the different entities of the public sector which are part of the Foreign Trade Sector.
- m) To define policies tending to acquire more competitiveness of the domestic production and promote programs and projects that will allow the development of productive activities for later exportation.
- n) (Substituted by Art. 1 of Law 99-22, O.R. 156, 25-III-99) To encourage the necessary mechanisms to obtain and channel the domestic and international finance resources in order to carry on with the development of foreign trade and investments.
- o) (Added by Art. 1 of Law 99-22, O.R. 156, 25-III-99) To make up, from within, an Executive Commission formed by the President of the Entity, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery and, by a representative of the private sector, to which it will be delegated the functions that they deem convenient.

Note: Art. 16 lit. i from the By Laws of the Juridical and Administrative Regime of the Executive Function changed the name of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization

and Fishery for Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization, Fishery and Competitiveness.

- p) (Added by Art. 1 of Law 99-22, O.R. 156, 25-III-99) To resolve all the aspects not included in this Law that are directly related to foreign trade or investments.
- q) (Added by Art. 1 of Law 99-22, O.R. 156, 25-III-99) All those established by the Law.

Art. 12.- The COMEXI will meet prior a notification as stated by the President or his representative, or as requested by, at least, four of its members.

Art. 13.- The COMEXI will legally meet in session with the attendance of at least six of its members and decisions will be taken by simple majority. In case of a tie, the chairman will have the settling vote.

In order to take decisions, the COMEXI must have the technical reports presented by the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery, and the criteria of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in matters of their concern.

The COMEXI may rule all internal matters that they deem necessary in order to comply with its responsibilities and duties.

Note: Art. 16 lit. i from the By Laws of the Juridical and Administrative Regime of the Executive Function changed the name of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery for Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization, Fishery and Competitiveness.

Art. 14.- The operation expenses of the COMEXI will be included in the budget for the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery.

Note: Art. 16 lit. i from the By Laws of the Juridical and Administrative Regime of the Executive Function changed the name of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery for Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization, Fishery and Competitiveness.

Chapter II

OF THE FOREIGN TRADE AND INVESTMENTS POLICY EXECUTIVE ENTITY

Art. 15.- It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery to plan, manage, control and execute the policies of foreign trade for goods, services and technology, integration and direct investment, task which will be carried out in close coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to coordinate with the entities of the public and private sectors which constitutes the Foreign Trade Sector, to contribute to the due execution of said policies in their corresponding area.

Note: Art. 16 lit. i from the By Laws of the Juridical and Administrative Regime of the Executive Function changed the name of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery for Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization, Fishery and Competitiveness.

Art. 16.- Besides the competences established in the aforementioned article, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery will have the following duties and attributions:

- a) To develop and present to the Foreign Trade and Investment Council, on its own initiative or on request of said entities, technical reports containing proposals for the adoption of the policies assigned to that entity.
- b) To participate in forums and international trade entities, and in the bilateral and multilateral negotiation processes in matters of foreign trade, integration and direct investment, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other ministries of State.
- c) To watch for the compliance of the norms and procedures in foreign trade and investments matters.
- d) To evaluate and apply the policy in relation to foreign trade prevention and correction of untrue, restrictive and harmful practices that may influence domestic production.
- e) To apply the norms on the existence and operation of the duty free zones, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit.

Note: Art. 16 lit. d from the By Laws of the Juridical and Administrative Regime of the Executive Function changed the name of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit for Ministry of Economy and Finance.

- f) To prepare, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit and the National Customs Service, the proposals for a duties policy and the norms for in-costume value of the merchandise, of the especial customs regimes and of the exportation and importation procedures for the knowledge and resolution by the COMEXI.

Note: Art. 16 lit. d from the By Laws of the Juridical and Administrative Regime of the Executive Function changed the name of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit for Ministry of Economy and Finance.

- g) To gather, produce and disclose reports and statistics on foreign trade and investments, as well as to promote and coordinate economic and trade information systems with the corresponding entities in order to support the management of domestic producers and exporters, and the development of foreign trade.
- h) To study and evaluate the support services to foreign trade on goods, services and technology in order to propose and coordinate actions for the improvement of international competitiveness of the domestic production.
- i) To prepare, in coordination with the National Council for Development and the COMEXI, the promotion plans for exports and investments that will be part of the National Development Plan.
- j) To organize and set up, in coordination with the competent entities, a National System for metrology, technical norms, sanitary norms, quality certificate; and, to legally enable the laboratories for the control and issuance of certificates or sanitary and quality registries.
- k) To manage the Commercial Service established in Title IX of the Organic Law for Foreign Service, and to participate with it in the Ecuadorian System for Foreign Promotion, as stated in this Law.

Note: Art. 16 lit. i from the By Laws of the Juridical and Administrative Regime of the Executive Function changed the name of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery for Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization, Fishery and Competitiveness.

Title IV: OF THE PROMOTION

Chapter I OF THE NON-FINANCIAL PROMOTION FOR EXPORTS AND DIRECT INVESTMENTS

Art. 17.- For the non-financial promotion of exports and investments, within the country and abroad, the Ecuadorian System for External Promotion is created. It will be composed of the Exports and Investments Promotion Corporation - CORPEI, and its external net, the Trade Service, by its representation in those cities that deserve negotiation functions in trade policies and the cooperation of the Foreign Service, through their Embassies or Diplomatic Missions.

The organization, operation, implementation and coordination mechanisms of the Ecuadorian System for External Promotion, will be ruled by the President of the Republic, through an Executive Decree, as proposed by the Foreign Trade and Investment Council.

Art. 18.- As a constituent part of the Ecuadorian System for External Promotion, the Exports and Investments Promotion Corporation is established with domicile in Guayaquil, whose acronym will be CORPEI, as a legal private non-profit organization, with its own patrimony and funding, whose operation will be ruled by Title XXIX of the Civil Code and its By-Laws approved by the President of the Republic, which will state its administrative organization. It will be directly in charge of the design and execution of the non-financial promotion for exports and investments both within the country as well as out of the country. Its management will be supported by the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery, the Trade Service and the Ecuadorian organizations of Foreign Service, as stated by the By-Laws to be issued for this purpose and the agreements to be subscribed.

Note: Art. 16 lit. i from the By Laws of the Juridical and Administrative Regime of the Executive Function changed the name of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery for Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization, Fishery and Competitiveness.

Art. 19.- (Reformed by Art. 3 of Law 24, O.R. 165, 2-X-97) The By-Laws of the Exports and Investments Promotion Corporation will include, as part of its organization, a Board of Directors to be formed as follows:

- a) A permanent delegate from the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery

Note: Art. 16 lit. i from the By Laws of the Juridical and Administrative Regime of the Executive Function changed the name of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery for Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization, Fishery and Competitiveness.

- b) A permanent delegate from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- c) A permanent delegate from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
- d) The General Manager of the National Financial Corporation
- e) A delegate from the Ecuadorian Federation of Exporters – FEDEXPOR
- f) A delegate from the National Federation of Chambers of Industries
- g) A delegate from the National Federation of the Chambers of Commerce
- h) A delegate from the National Federation of the Chambers of Agriculture
- i) A delegate from the Federation of the Chambers of the Small Industry
- j) A delegate from the National Board for the Defence of the Artisan

- k) A delegate from the agriculture producers of products for exportation in the Coast and Galapagos
- l) A delegate from the agriculture producers of products for exportation in the Highlands and the Jungle
- m) A delegate from the National Chamber of Aquaculture and the National Chamber of Fishery. These sectors will take turns in the delegation.

Art. 20.- The policies, strategies and the administrative and financial guidelines for the Exports and Investments Promotion Corporation will be approved by its Board of Directors.

Art. 21.- The Exports and Investments Promotion Corporation - CORPEI, notwithstanding the attributions and duties assigned by its By-Laws, will primarily fulfill the following functions:

- a) To carry out the non-financial promotion of the exports within the country and abroad, to be understood as such, all the activities that together, and with co-financing of the national productive units, take place in the areas of information, training, technical assistance, market developments, external promotion and others whose objectives are the diversification and increase of the exportable offer and their promotion abroad.
- b) To support the efforts of private persons or legal entities –exporters- in the development of processes such as:
 - Diversification of markets, products and exporters
 - Increase of added value in the products and exported volumes
 - Identification of new products and services with exporting potential
 - Place the companies and Ecuadorian products in the international trade systems
- c) Guide and manage the promotion of direct investment in the country, to be understood as such, among other aspects, compliance with programs to spread the investment opportunities, to make the image of the country widely known abroad, the organization of investment missions, and other promotional events.
- d) To organize and manage an external net for the exports promotion and to capture direct investments to the country.
- e) To favour the formation of consortiums or grouping of exporters in order to obtain a more dynamic presence in the international markets.

Art. 22.- In order to fulfill its duties, the Exports and Investments Promotion Corporation - CORPEI, will count on the following resources:

- a) The contribution that according to the Political Constitution of the Republic and the Law, receives from the State.
- b) The non-reimbursable funds assigned for this purpose by international organizations or country-friends.
- c) The resources coming from contracts signed for the execution of sectorial programs for promotion.
- d) Legacies or donations legally accepted.
- e) (Added by Art. 1 of Law 24, O.R. 165, 2-X-97 and reformed by Art. 2 of Law 99-22, O.R. 156, 25-III-99) The 1.5 per thousand (one point five per thousand) redeemable quotas on the FOB value of the exports from the private sector except those of US\$3,333.00 (three thousand three hundred and thirty-three United States of America dollars) or less, which must contribute with US\$5.00 (five United States of America dollars); on the 0.50 per thousand (zero point fifty per thousand) of the FOB value on the oil exports and its by-products, and on the 0.25 per thousand (zero point twenty-five per thousand) on the FOB value of

every import except those less than US\$20.000,00 (twenty thousand United States of America dollars), which must contribute with US\$5.00 (five United States of America dollars). These redeemable quotas will be handed in by the exporters of goods and services at the moment of the purchase of currency and by the importers of merchandise and services at the moment of presentation of the sole importation document to the banks and financial entities in the country where said transactions are implemented, who will credit the corresponding amounts daily to the accounts that, to that effect, the Exports and Investments Promotion Corporation - CORPEI will open in said financial institutions.

The non-producers exporters, under no circumstances, may discount or transfer the amount of their contributions to CORPEI, to the manufacturers or producers of the goods exported.

As to the oil and by-products exports, the Central Bank of Ecuador will include in the distribution of the income from such exports, the redeemable quotas assigned to the Exports and Investments Promotion Corporation, and will immediately credit the corresponding amounts to the banking account indicated by CORPEI.

The contributors will receive a coupon for the amount of their redeemable quota, and once they accumulate the equivalent in sucres for US\$500 (five hundred American dollars), will be exchanged by the Exports and Investments Promotion Corporation into CORPEI contribution certificates, which will be issued by the Corporation in United States of America dollars and redeemed in ten years.

The redeemable quotas established in this paragraph, will be collected after the official announcement of the Executive Decree approving the By-Laws of the Exports and Investments Promotion Corporation - CORPEI.

The Foreign Trade and Investment Council - COMEXI, is authorized to decide on the reduction of the redeemable quota and on the conditions for its restitution, according to CORPEI's financial evolution and activities.

CORPEI will be compelled to present a report on the use of the resources coming from the oil and its by-products' exports and from public imports, to the State Comptroller General, every six months.

Note: The By-Laws for CORPEI were published under Agreement 0330 in the O.R. 231-S dated 11-XII-97

Art. 23.- The Trade Service is part of the Ecuadorian System for External Promotion established in this Law and is constituted by officials and representatives accredited before foreign trade multilateral organizations and specific nations of high commercial interest.

Said definition and the assignment of the aforementioned officials and representatives plus their transfer, belongs to the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery, upon consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who will proceed to accredit them before the foreign Governments or the corresponding foreign trade organizations, granting them their category as stated in Title IX of the Organic Law of Foreign Service.

Note: Art. 16 lit. i from the By Laws of the Juridical and Administrative Regime of the Executive Function changed the name of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization

and Fishery for Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization, Fishery and Competitiveness.

Art. 24.- In countries where members of the Trade Service are not accredited or where there are no CORPEI representatives, the non-financial promotion for the exports and investments will be in charge of the corresponding Diplomatic Mission under the guidance as to this matter from the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery and the instructions from the Foreign Secretariat.

Note: Art. 16 lit. i from the By Laws of the Juridical and Administrative Regime of the Executive Function changed the name of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization and Fishery for Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization, Fishery and Competitiveness.

Chapter II OF THE FINANCIAL PROMOTION FOR EXPORTS

Art. 25.- The Executive Function, by means of the corresponding organizations, will adopt the necessary measures to provide the mechanism to obtain an Insurance on Exports Credit, in order to cover risks for non-payment of the price of goods or services sold abroad.

Title V: LEGAL REFORMS

Note: This Title, which covers Articles 26 to 30, reformed the Organic Law for Customs, the Law for Exports Provision and Aquatic Transportation, the Law for Domestic Tax Regime, and the Law for the Creation of the INEN, texts which have already been incorporated.

FINAL DISPOSITIONS

Art. 31.- This Law is of special character and will prevail over all legal norms, general or special, that may be against it.

Final Article.- This Law will be in force as of its publication at the Official Register.

Given at San Francisco de Quito, Metropolitan District, in the Meeting Room of the National Congress of Ecuador, on the twenty-second day of May nineteen ninety-seven.

SOURCES FOR THIS EDITION OF THE LAW ON FOREIGN TRADE AND INVESTMENTS

1. Law 12 (Supplement of the Official Register 82, 9-VI-97)
2. Law 24 (Official Register 165, 2-X-97)
3. Law 99 (Official Register 359, 13-VII-98)
4. Law 99-22 (Official Register 156, 25-III-99)
5. List of errata (Supplement of the Official Register 168, 13-IV-99).