

Reform Update for Kuwait for DB2017 report

Index	Reform	Impact of reform	Date of Entry into force
Starting a Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministerial Decision No. 161 of 2016 dated 20th of April 2016, regarding the establishment of a single One Stop Shop (OSS) in Kuwait as a department under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry directly, The Decision mandated that eight government entities will be represented in the single OSS that include: Department of Real Estate Registration & Authentication (Ministry of Justice), Kuwait Municipality, and Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), Ministry of Interior, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), and the National Fund for SME Development. - The Ministerial Decision clearly indicated that within this OSS a one account manager will be dedicated to deal with all the needed procedures for each application submitted to the OSS, among other service delivery means. OSS is expected to fully utilize e-transactions and e-links, and harmonize procedures. 	Streamlining starting a business in Kuwait through establishing the One Stop Shop aimed at improving service delivery, enhancing transparency in informing the public, facilitating procedures, and speeding up the duration for establishing a company, including Limited Liability companies, and the issuance of commercial licences.	29th of May 2016
	-Ministerial Decision No. 135 of the year 2016 dated April 3rd 2016, regarding the classification of commercial activities in Kuwait in accordance with ISIC Rev. 4 (6 DIGITS) in harmonization of the agreed classification within the GCC.	This Decision repealed the Ministerial Decision No.339 of 2015 regarding establishing a committee for classifying commercial activities as it is intended to adopt the best international practices in accordance with the United Nations Statistical Division and to harmonize with other GCC countries in which Kuwait is a member and is part of the GCC customs union.	1st of May 2016
	Law No.13 of 2016 on the regulation of Commercial agencies in Kuwait. This new Law adopted more transparent practices that curtails anti-trust and protect rights of agents.	Enhance the competitive nature in the Kuwaiti market and better regulate the commercial agencies registry, protecting the agents rights, reflecting the evolving practices in a more transparent manner, avoiding monopolies, and fostering competitiveness.	13th of March 2016

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Dealing with Construction Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administrative Decision No. 42 of 2016 issued by the Director General of Kuwait Municipality regarding the formulation of a task group for the development of the municipality E -systems to improve and facilitate the provision of all potential services at all levels and in all the governorates in the country in full coordination with all concerned divines and departments in the Municipality. 	According to Law No. 20 of 2014 regarding e-transactions , it improving the utilization of E- services towards a paperless and transparent government in Kuwait	22 nd of March2016
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council of Ministers Decision (No. 1286) taken in its meeting (No. 43/2015) held on the 14th of September 2014 regarding establishing the GIS system in Kuwait. - Minister of State for Municipal Affairs official letter dated 23rd of November 2014 (Ref.2451) regarding the approval of the proposed mechanism for land allocation utilizing the Geographic Information System (GIS) in coordination with Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT); as well as instructing all ministries and related parties to cooperate and provide regularly accurate and timely data and geographic information in full coordination between both Kuwait Municipality and CAIT to facilitate land allocation by launching a project catering for the development and modernization of (GIS) in Kuwait Municipality. 	Establishing an integrated system and a specialized updated database utilizing IT and GIS applications to save/exchange all the related data for real estate in Kuwait to reduce procedures, eliminate duplication, and to obtain a unified and modern topographic map for Kuwait.	The project contract signed 19th of January 2016 for implementation for a duration of 15 months.
Registering Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -An official letter from the Director General of the Kuwait Municipality to the Head of the Real Estate Registry and Documentation Department at the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), dated 22nd of March 2016, regarding the E-links for transactions of the Cadastral Description Certificate, and Plot Land Use between both parties requesting the (MOJ) input to continuously upgrade the E-Link during the current pilot stage. In this regard, the response from the Manager of the Real Estate Registry Department at the MOJ dated the 10th of April 2016 confirmed the functionality of the E-links between both parties, but suggested to add a specific field called (category) to cater for various categories next to the description field (Commercial, Residential, or Investment purposes) adding also a field for other detailed remarks concerning the plot 		

of relevance. In addition to the above, The Municipality is making available other E-Transactions and services

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Registering Property	<p>Including, an online inquiry on activities allowed for various commercial and investment plots (refer to screenshot of this inquiry attached). Furthermore, The Municipality signed two contracts to convert all its archive into E-Archiving System (to become a paperless municipality). The first contract was signed on 1st of September 2014, the second was signed on the 3rd of November 2014. Kuwait Municipality has also launched a link on its website for online assistance to the public for identifying the needed documents for completing the procedures, and a table for the relevant fees for each service at https://www.baladia.gov.kw/main-web/electronic.htm.</p>	<p>Streamlining transactions related to obtaining construction permits by utilizing E-Links and E-Transactions for various services offered by the municipality to the public. The impact of paperless Municipality will cover scanning more than 40 million papers and automating 50 procedures and services offered by the Municipality through the internal and external networks.</p>	<p>The first project contract was signed 19th of January 2016 for duration of 15 months, and the other project is ongoing.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administrative Decision (No. 19/2016) dated the 26th of January 2016 issued by the Director of the Real Estate Registration Department at the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) requesting that all the departments' staff in all the branches of MOJ commit to the motto "Prompt Justice" requiring them to optimally perform their tasks in the shortest possible time. As well as adopting the concept of (Universal Staff) which necessitates that each staff member is capable of handling and is fully aware of all the tasks performed by the various sections in these departments . - Internal Decision 106/2015 dated 30th of July 2015 by the Assistant Undersecretary for Real Estate Registration & Documentation at MOJ approving opening a Real Estate Registration Office at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare. 	<p>Training and qualifying staff to ensure speedy, efficient, and transparent completion of transactions and procedures.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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Getting Electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council of Ministers Decision (No. 1286) taken in its meeting (No. 43/2015) held on the 14th of September 2014 regarding establishing the GIS system in Kuwait. - Minister of State for Municipal Affairs official letter dated 23rd of November 2014 (Ref.2451) regarding the approval of the proposed mechanism for land allocation utilizing the Geographic Information System (GIS) in coordination with Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT); as well as instructing all ministries and related parties to cooperate and provide regularly accurate and timely data and geographic information in full coordination between both Kuwait Municipality and CAIT to facilitate land allocation by launching a project catering for the development and modernization of (GIS) in Kuwait Municipality. 	<p>Establishing an integrated system and a specialized updated database utilizing IT and GIS applications to save/exchange all the related data for real estate in Kuwait to reduce procedures, eliminate duplication, and to obtain a unified and modern topographic map for Kuwait.</p>	<p>The project contract signed 19th of January 2016 for implementation for a duration of 15 months.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministerial Decision (No. 78/2014) dated 26th of June 2014 approving installation of new electricity connection through the E-Link between the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) and Kuwait Municipality as well as the qualified engineering and consulting offices in accordance with the procedures stated in the executive regulations attached to this decision. 	<p>Reduction of the duration and the number of procedures for the installation of new electricity connection, increasing transparency, and lessening paperwork and interference.</p>	<p>6th of July 2014</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administrative Decision (No. 75/2016) issued on the 26th of January 2016, regarding facilitating electricity connection to new premises (residential and non-residential) with a minimum 340 KW electric load, using E-Transactions (portal.mew.gov.kw) to complete the procedures for connecting electricity to residential and non-residential premises with less than 340 KW electrical needs. 	<p>Phasing out paper transactions for connecting electricity within 3 months of issuance of this resolution, and entry into force in accordance with the executive regulations of this decision; such that all engineering firms, air conditioning firms, and electricity supervisors will follow the new procedures.</p> <p>Reduction of the duration and the number of procedures for the installation of new electricity connection, increasing transparency, and lessening paperwork and human interference.</p>	<p>7th February 2016</p>

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Paying Taxes	- Internal Memo by the Assistant Undersecretary for Financial & Tax Affairs at the Ministry of Finance (MOF) indicating launching the implementation of e-communications and e-signature.	Reduction in the duration and the number of procedures in paying taxes.	3rd of April 2016
Getting Credit	- Administrative Decision 621/2016 dated 16th of March 2016 issued by the Ministry of Justice Undersecretary whereby 4 officers in charge of documentation were designated to work at credit bureaus in 4 local banks to facilitate real estate registration and documentation at these bank's premises.	Facilitating servicing customers in getting credit.	16 March 2016
Trading Across Borders	- Customs instructions (No. 87) of 2015 issued by the Director General of Customs regarding the exchange of information electronically and establishing e-Link to serve all the handling companies to facilitate customs clearance procedures.	Facilitating the customs clearance by the handling companies and facilitating the door to door system by receiving all information needed electronically abiding by the regulations and decisions implemented by the Customs Administration.	31st of August 2015
	- Council of Ministers Decision (No. 73/2015) dated 19th of January 2015 taken in its meeting (No. 4/2015) regarding the request of the General Administration for Custom's that all relevant government entities be at the customs centres (various access borders :sea, land, and air). to ensure fast clearance of merchandise at these centres. The Decision stated that representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Public Authority for Environment, MOCI, Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Information, Kuwait Municipality, Public Authority for Industry, Public Authority for Agriculture & Fisheries should be at the customs centres at the border points to ensure the fast release of merchandise in these customs centres and border points and utilize all needed e-links.	The relevant nine government entities are coordinating to ensure their representatives are present at the customs centres at all border points and using e-links needed to facilitate the clearance of merchandise from customs and utilizing direct coordination with e-Links for this purpose.	Ongoing

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Trading Across Borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council of Ministers Decision (No. 178) taken in its meeting No. 7/2016 held on the 8th of February 2016 regarding developing mechanisms and procedures to enhance cooperation between the Public Administration for Customs and the Public Ports Authority to eliminate backlogs and expedite merchandise clearance. - The Decision assigned to both the Ministry of Communications and MOCI to coordinate with all related government entities to take action resolving any existing problems resulting from the overlapping between the Kuwait Ports Authority and Kuwait Free Trade Zone and reporting back to the Council of Ministers on their Findings. 	The Decision entailed that within 10 days of its issuance, the mechanisms of (door to door) should be activated as stated in the Council of Ministers Decision (No. 890) taken in its meeting (No. 28/2015) regarding handling of the traffic congestion and customs procedures that act as barriers in Shauwaikh Port as well as starting the needed work to implement the security fence for all the customs area and completed within 1 year of date of Decision	8 February 2016
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Customs Instructions (No. 88) of 2015 dated 6th of September 2015 issued by the General Administration of Customs regarding organizing trucks crossing from one customs centre/outlet to another inside the country. 	The movement of trucks and merchandise from one part of the country to the other is mandated according to this Customs Instructions not exceed 4 hours and if this is violated the responsible party will be fined according to item 6 of article 31 of the executive regulation of the Unified Customs Law No. 10 of 2003.	6th of September 2015
