Micro-Importation under the Self-Entrepreneur Status: A Legal and Analytical Study

الاستيراد المصغّر ضمن نظام المقاول الذاتي: دراسة قانونية تحليلية

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الملخص:

تتناول هذه الدراسة الاستيراد المصغّر في الجزائر كأحد أنشطة المقاول الذاتي وكآلية تنظيمية مستحدثة بموجب المرسوم التنفيذي رقم 25–170 الصادر في 28 جوان 2025، استنادا إلى القانون الأساسي للمقاول الذاتي رقم 22–23، تهدف إلى توسيع نطاق المقاولاتية الفردية من خلال تمكين المقاولين الذاتيين من ممارسة نشاط اقتصادي عبر قنوات رسمية وآليات رقمية مبسطة تضمن الشفافية والرقابة القانونية.

وتسعى الدراسة إلى تقييم فعالية هذا الإطار التنظيمي في الموازنة بين التبسيط والتحفيز والرقابة وبيان قدرته على تحويل الاستيراد المصغّر إلى أداة استراتيجية لتعزيز المقاولاتية والتنمية الاقتصادية والاجتماعية، وتشير النتائج إلى أن نجاح هذا النظام يتطلب مرافقة مؤسسية مستمرة وتنسيقا فعالا بين الهيئات المعنية وتحديثا دوريا للضوابط القانونية؛ لضمان استدامته في تنويع الاقتصاد والحد من التجارة الموازية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الاستيراد المصغر؛ المقاول الذاتي؛ المقاولاتية.

Abstract:

This study examines micro-importation in Algeria as an activity of the self-entrepreneur and a new regulatory mechanism under Executive Decree No. 25–170 of 28 June 2025, pursuant to Law No. 22–23 on the Self-Entrepreneur, It aims to expand individual entrepreneurship by enabling self-entrepreneurs to conduct economic activities through formal channels and simplified digital procedures ensuring transparency and legal oversight**.**

The study assesses the framework's effectiveness in balancing simplification incentives, and oversight, and its potential to transform micro-importation into a strategic tool for promoting entrepreneurship and socio-economic development, The findings indicate that its success requires institutional support, coordination among authorities, and periodic legal updates, ensuring sustainability in economic diversification and limiting parallel trade**.**

Key words: Micro-importation; Self-Entrepreneur; Entrepreneurship.

Introduction:

In recent years, the Algerian economy has witnessed a broad reformist momentum aimed at restructuring informal individual economic activities within organized legal frameworks, in line with the requirements of a modern economy based on initiative and innovation, In this context, public authorities have increasingly focused on entrepreneurship as a fundamental pillar of sustainable development, by establishing legal and institutional mechanisms that enable youth and idea holders to formalize and operationalize their economic projects.

This approach culminated with the enactment of Law No. 22–23 on the Self-Employed Entrepreneur, dated 18 December 2022, which established a novel legal framework for individual economic activity based on flexibility, digitalization, and transparency, The law clearly defines the status, rights, and obligations of the self-employed entrepreneur and grants them fiscal, social, and procedural advantages that encourage formal participation in the economy.

A notable development within this framework is the expansion of permissible activities for self-employed entrepreneurs to include the micro-import business, which had long operated informally, This activity was formally regulated by Executive Decree 25–170 dated 28 June 2025, which sets financial thresholds and administrative and technical conditions, aiming to transform it from an informal practice into a legally structured economic activity.

Integrating micro-import activities within the self-employed entrepreneurship system reflects a comprehensive economic vision that seeks to balance individual initiative with national market protection, This is achieved through oversight mechanisms and legal safeguards that ensure transparency and curb tax evasion and unfair competition, aligning with broader national policies aimed at combating the parallel economy, expanding the tax base, and promoting productive individual entrepreneurship.

The study of the legal provisions governing this activity is of dual importance: it allows for a deep understanding of the legal and regulatory foundations of micro-imports while highlighting their economic and social dimensions in the context of Algeria's ongoing efforts to diversify income sources and strengthen small-scale entrepreneurship.

The central issue of this study revolves around the effectiveness of the legal framework in formalizing micro-import activities, safeguarding the rights and privileges of self-employed entrepreneurs, facilitating procedural compliance, and, ultimately, achieving economic and social development objectives.

To address this issue, the study employs a dual approach combining legal analysis with practical assessment, through the examination of applicable legal and regulatory texts and the evaluation of their implementation in practice, with a focus on their effectiveness in organizing the activity and fulfilling the intended objectives.

The study is structured around two main axes:

1- Substantive rules governing the practice of micro-import activities.

2- Procedural aspects of conducting micro-import activities.

1- Substantive rules governing the practice of micro-import activities

Recent economic and social transformations in Algeria have created a need to develop diversified mechanisms for integrating individuals into the formal economy, enabling them to carry out business activities in a structured and simplified manner.

In this context, Law No. 22-23 of 18 December 2022 [1], which establishes the legal framework for self-employed entrepreneurs, introduced a flexible system allowing individuals to engage in legitimate economic activities under their own responsibility [2].

Building on this legislative foundation, Executive Decree No. 25-170 of 28 June 2025[3] was issued to regulate micro-import activities as a modern form of individual entrepreneurship, This decree constitutes a significant step in formalizing an activity that was long conducted informally, thereby integrating it into the formal economic cycle.

This section analyzes the legal and regulatory foundations of micro-import activities and highlights their essential features and objectives, focusing on:

- The legal and regulatory framework governing micro-import activities.
- The main features and objectives of the micro-import system.

1.1- The legal and regulatory framework governing micro-import activities

The legal framework for micro-import activities constitutes the fundamental pillar that ensures this activity is conducted within the boundaries of the law and under the supervision of competent authorities, This framework can be understood through two main dimensions:

1.1.1- Legislative and Regulatory Basis of the Activity

The legality of micro-import activities is derived from Article 2 of Law No. 22–23, which defines the self-employed entrepreneur [4] and delegates the determination of eligible activities under the legal framework of self-employment to regulatory instruments.

Pursuant to this provision, Executive Decree No. 23-197 of 25 May 2023 was issued to establish the list of activities eligible under the self-employed entrepreneur framework and to set out the procedures for registration in the National Register of Self-Employed Entrepreneurs [5], This was subsequently complemented by Executive Decree No. 25–170, which specifies the conditions and procedures for engaging in micro-import activities, including the legal definition of the activity, financial ceilings, oversight mechanisms, and the authorities competent to issue the relevant licenses.

The combination of Law No. 22–23 and its executive decrees (particularly Decree No. 25–170) establishes a dual legal framework: the law defines the general rules and conditions applicable to self-employment across eligible fields, while the decree provides detailed substantive and procedural provisions specific to micro-import activities, This integration reflects the principle of legislative flexibility that characterizes Algeria's modern economic policy, aiming to enable self-employed entrepreneurs to enter the market with clear and simplified legal instruments.

1.1.2 – Legal Definition and Nature of Micro-Import Activities

Micro-import activity constitutes a legal mechanism designed to formalize a form of individual entrepreneurship linked to foreign trade within precise financial and personal

limits, It is not commercial in the traditional sense but allows individuals to contribute to economic activity without engaging in the complexities of formal investment or official import procedures, while remaining subject to administrative and technical oversight to ensure transparency and the activity's limited developmental objectives.

To consolidate this approach, Article 2 of Executive Decree No. 25–170 provides a clear and precise definition of micro-import activities, describing them as: "**operations carried out individually by natural persons during their travel abroad for the purpose of importing goods for resale in their original condition, with limited quantities not exceeding 1,800,000 DZD per trip, within a maximum of two trips per month**".

The final paragraph clarifies that this ceiling does not include the annual travel allowance.

From this definition, several direct legal implications emerge, highlighting the structural characteristics of micro-import activities as set out in Article 2 of Decree No. 25–170, These implications delineate the nature, limits, and economic function of the activity and form the basis for understanding its legal framework:

- Individual and personal nature of the activity: Micro-import activity is strictly individual and must be conducted by natural persons (self-employed entrepreneurs) without involving legal entities such as companies or commercial institutions, The import operations must be carried out directly by the individual during their travel abroad, without intermediaries or delegation, emphasizing the entrepreneur's personal responsibility, This approach reflects the legislator's intent to support small individual initiatives while ensuring transparency and preventing misuse of the framework for unregulated or illegal commercial activities.

- Sale of goods in their original condition: Imported goods must be sold as they are, without industrial modification or new packaging, This prevents the activity from transforming into unauthorized manufacturing or commercial recycling and reinforces its simple retail nature rather than industrial processing or redistribution.

- Simple and limited commercial nature: Micro-imports are strictly intended for retail purposes, with limitations on the type of goods and transaction volumes, The law requires goods to be sold in their original condition and sets a financial ceiling of 1,800,000 DZD per trip, with a maximum of two trips per month, These combined restrictions reflect the legislator's intent to confine the activity to small-scale individual initiatives and prevent its expansion into wholesale trade or broader economic activities beyond the legal framework for self-employed entrepreneurs.

- Clear separation from personal travel benefits: The legislation explicitly excludes the annual travel allowance from the permitted import value, highlighting a deliberate distinction between personal travel purposes (tourism) and commercial activity, This prevents the exploitation of individual benefits to conduct business outside the legislative intent.

1.2- Characteristics and Objectives of the Micro-Import System

Understanding the true purpose of formalizing micro-import activities requires an analysis of their legal characteristics on one hand, and the objectives that the legislator seeks to achieve on the other.

1.2.1 – Core Features of the Micro-Import System

The micro-import system is characterized by a set of legal and regulatory features that reflect the legislator's overarching goal of establishing a mechanism that is simple in form yet robust in substance, These features illustrate how the system has been designed to facilitate individual entrepreneurial initiatives by self-employed persons while maintaining a rigorous legal framework that balances administrative facilitation with effective oversight.

This balance aims to regulate a limited-scope import activity outside the framework of traditional investment or import procedures, within a flexible legal structure in terms of procedures, yet precise in terms of financial and administrative compliance, thereby ensuring transparency and preserving the individual and monitored nature of the activity.

The most prominent features can be summarized as follows:

- **Individual nature of the activity:** The micro-import activity is practiced exclusively on an individual basis and may not be delegated or conducted by another party, reflecting its direct link to the self-employed entrepreneur.

- **Specific legal framework for practice:** Micro-import activities are subject to a dedicated legal and regulatory framework, Participants are not considered traders under commercial law and are not required to register in the commercial register [6] Instead, the activity is conducted within a distinct framework governed by an executive decree, specifically targeting self-employed persons outside the scope of traditional investment or import operations.

  In line with this special status, the legislator requires participants to hold a self-entrepreneur card issued by the National Agency for Self-Entrepreneurs (ANAE) [7] This card constitutes the sole legal instrument authorizing the holder to engage in the activity, ensuring that operations remain within a regulated administrative mechanism and preventing unauthorized or irregular practices.

- **Exemption from prior import licenses:** Under Executive Decree No. 25-170 [8] micro-import activities are exempt from the conventional system of prior import licenses,
  Instead, a general license issued by the Ministry of Foreign Trade suffices to authorize the activity for self-employed entrepreneurs, with a short issuance timeframe[9].

- **Sale of goods in original condition:** Imported goods must be sold in their original state, without industrial modification or repackaging, thereby preserving the limited commercial nature of the activity and preventing its conversion into manufacturing or commercial recycling operations.

- Financial and quantitative limits: The import ceiling is set at 1,800,000 DZD per trip, with a maximum of two trips per month, These limits regulate the scale of the activity and prevent its expansion beyond the intended scope.

- Institutional digital oversight mechanism: Micro-import activities are subject to dual institutional supervision by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Export Promotion and the Customs Administration, given their specific nature and overlap with the informal sector, Oversight is facilitated through a unified digital platform connecting all relevant administrations, allowing transparent and traceable declarations for each import operation, thereby ensuring effective control and minimizing violations or abuses.

1.2.2 – Economic and Social Objectives of the Micro-Import System

The micro-import system embodies a legislative approach aimed at formalizing a form of individual entrepreneurship linked to foreign trade, within a legal framework that is simultaneously simplified and robust, The objectives pursued by the legislator reflect a comprehensive vision seeking to transform informal individual activities into a legal instrument for development and a means to support self-employment, rather than allowing them to remain parallel practices outside regulatory and fiscal oversight.

Through this system, the legislator aims to achieve a set of intertwined economic and social objectives, which can be summarized as follows:

- Integration of the informal sector into the formal economy: The micro-import system primarily targets the formalization of the so-called “kaba” trade, which for years represented a significant aspect of the informal economy, By transforming it into a legal and organized activity subject to precise customs and fiscal control, the system enables the state to monitor goods movement and regulate their flow, This framework provides an effective mechanism for collecting public revenues and contributes to curbing illicit commercial practices, thereby enhancing state oversight over a substantial portion of previously unregulated individual economic activities.

- Diversification of commercial supply and stimulation of domestic consumption in an organized manner: The system facilitates the introduction of a variety of consumer goods into the national market, particularly products not readily available through traditional import channels or domestic production, This diversification directly addresses consumer needs, fosters market competition, improves the quality of available goods, and mitigates monopolistic tendencies.

- Enhancement of transparency and combating smuggling: The micro-import system enforces financial transparency through mandatory pre-financing via banks and compulsory digital reporting for all operations through a unified electronic platform, This mechanism enables precise tracking of foreign currency flows, monitoring of supply and financing channels, and contributes to disrupting smuggling and informal economic practices, Moreover, digitalization enhances citizen-

administration interactions by reducing direct bureaucratic friction and promoting a culture of transparent institutional engagement.

- Generation of additional fiscal revenues for the state: Despite certain exemptions, micro-import activities remain subject to defined customs duties and taxes collected from self-employed entrepreneurs, thereby contributing to state revenues.

- Promotion of self-employment and expansion of social protection coverage: The system provides a practical framework for young people and low-income individuals to establish a legal and organized source of income without requiring significant capital or adherence to traditional investment conditions, Beneficiaries are also automatically included in the national social security system for non-salaried workers (CASNOS), ensuring basic social coverage including retirement and health insurance This framework fosters a culture of independent work within a clear legal environment and allows a broad segment of individuals previously engaged in the informal economy to access social rights.

2- Procedural aspects of conducting micro-import activities

The regulation of the conditions and modalities for conducting micro-import activities constitutes a fundamental pillar established by Executive Decree No. 25-170 of 28 June 2025 This decree serves as the regulatory framework implementing the provisions of Law 22-23 on self-entrepreneurs, translating its general principles into enforceable and practical rules.

While Law No. 22-23 laid down the general foundations for engaging in individual economic activities under the self-employment scheme, the Executive Decree precisely defines who is entitled to practice micro-import activities, how these activities should be conducted, and the financial, customs, and regulatory controls associated with them.

Accordingly, this section examines the legal and regulatory framework of micro-import activities through the following subdivisions:

- Legal requirements for conducting micro-import activities

-Practical modalities for organizing and supervising the activity.

2.1- Legal requirements for conducting micro-import activities

The legal requirements established by Executive Decree No. 25-170 aim to regulate the practice of micro-import activities within a precise legal framework, ensuring that the activity does not become a channel for customs or financial evasion, or a means of exploiting the status of “self-employed entrepreneur” for purposes other than those legally authorized.

These requirements constitute the fundamental legal framework that the self-employed entrepreneur must comply with before engaging in the activity, They can be classified into two categories: conditions related to the legal and administrative qualification for practicing micro-import activities, and conditions concerning the nature of the goods and the import operations themselves, which are directly linked to the subject of the activity.

2.1.1 – Legal and Administrative Qualifications for Practicing Micro-Import Activities

Micro-import activities may only be practiced by a specific category of natural persons, namely those officially registered as self-entrepreneurs [10] with the National Agency for Self-Employed Entrepreneurs (ANAE), In this regard, Article 3 of Executive Decree No. 25-170 stipulates: "**Micro-import activities shall be practiced exclusively and personally by natural persons holding the status of self-employed entrepreneur in accordance with legislative and regulatory provisions**"[11].

The legal and administrative qualifications include the following:

- Attainment of the legal working age.

- Being an Algerian national and legally residing in Algeria.

- Not engaging in any other income-generating activity, whether as an employee, trader, or professional.

- Mandatory enrollment in the social protection system under the National Fund for Non-Salaried Workers (CASNOS), given the independent economic nature of the activity.

- Opening a foreign currency account with the Bank of Algeria.

- Compliance with the tax regime applicable to self-employed entrepreneurs, including obtaining a Tax Identification Number (NIF), thereby benefiting from simplified accounting and a preferential tax system [12].

- Possession of a valid self-entrepreneur card [13], issued upon registration via the digital platform of the ANAE, with the activity declared on the card corresponding to the nature of micro-import activity [14].

- Obtaining a general license to conduct import activities, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

These mandatory requirements constitute a legal guarantee of the beneficiary's identity and eligibility to participate in the system, They aim to distinguish micro-import activities from traditional commercial importation by subjecting them to personal and objective controls that emphasize the individual and organized nature of the activity Compliance ensures that the activity is conducted directly by the self-employed entrepreneur, within a framework subject to fiscal and social oversight, while respecting financial and logistical limits that reflect its small-scale nature, thereby promoting transparency in dealings with the administration and preserving the balance of the domestic market.

Nevertheless, it is important to point out that this framework may represent a source of legal and financial difficulties for small-scale importers, as it lacks the necessary protection mechanisms and safeguards required for international trade, This deficiency could open the door to illegal practices such as smuggling, or place small importers in situations where they are unable to meet their legal and financial responsibilities [15].

2.1.2 – Conditions Related to the Subject Matter of the Activity

Executive Decree No. 25-170 imposes a set of conditions that act as constraints on the subject of micro-import activities, ensuring that the activity aligns with the State's economic and customs policies, The main conditions are as follows:

- **Direct Personal Importation:** The activity must be carried out personally by the self-employed entrepreneur during travel, without delegation or representation, reflecting the personal nature of the activity.

- **Permissible Goods for Importation:** Prohibited goods such as weapons, ammunition, explosives, sensitive materials, and other restricted equipment specified in Executive Decree No. 09-410 are excluded, Additionally, pharmaceutical products, goods requiring special import licenses, and items affecting public security, order, or morals are not allowed [16].

- **Minimum Shelf Life of Imported Goods:** Imported goods must have a remaining shelf life of at least half of the total defined consumption period at the time of importation.

- **Financial and Quantity Limits:** The value of goods imported per trip must not exceed 1,800,000 DZD, with a maximum of two trips per month, The self-employed entrepreneur must fund the activity using their own foreign currency, The activity is limited to the importation of goods intended for direct retail sale in their original condition, prohibiting large quantities or goods intended for wide-scale commercial distribution.

Together, these conditions reflect the legislator's intent to frame micro-import activities within a controlled and limited scope, consistent with the nature of self-employment, and to prevent the activity from evolving into unregulated commercial importation.

2.2- Practical Procedures for Organizing and Monitoring Micro-Import Activities

In addition to establishing the legal conditions for conducting micro-import activities, Executive Decree No. 25-170 has put in place a comprehensive organizational framework to regulate the activity from a practical perspective, This framework addresses both the operational procedures for carrying out the activity and the administrative and financial oversight mechanisms, The activity is not conducted spontaneously or informally; rather, it follows a precise procedural pathway supported by a unified digital system and accompanied by multi-party institutional supervision, ensuring transparency and enhancing the effectiveness of monitoring and accountability.

Accordingly, the organizational procedures can be classified into: administrative procedures for conducting the activity, and institutional mechanisms for monitoring and tracking the activity.

2.2.1 – Administrative Procedures for Conducting the Activity

Micro-import activities are conducted according to a structured procedural pathway that ensures transparency and enshrines the principle of prior oversight for all operations, This is achieved through the use of unified digital tools, following the sequence below:

- Request for Prior Authorization to Conduct the Activity: Actual engagement in micro-import activities is contingent upon the self-employed entrepreneur obtaining a general license issued by the Ministry of Trade and Export Promotion within a maximum period of five (5) days from the date of the digital submission of the application, The license is personal, non-transferable, valid for one year, and renewable [17].

- Declaration Controls and Labeling of Goods: Before each import operation, the micro-importer must declare the goods to be imported via a dedicated digital platform established within the Ministry of Startups and linked electronically to all relevant administrative bodies, including customs authorities, To ensure traceability, the micro-importer is required to label the goods with appropriate stickers and prepare simplified delivery notes that must include: the full name and surname of the micro-importer, their address, precise identification of the goods, and the country of origin or source The delivery note must also indicate quantity, weight, or volume as applicable, ensuring transparency and facilitating customs and administrative oversight upon entry [18].

- Periodic Tax Declaration: The micro-importer is required to declare their activities and revenues through the Self-Employed Entrepreneur digital portal, allowing the tax administration to monitor the activity without resorting to complex procedures.

This sequence demonstrates that the legislator has established a fully integrated digital system that standardizes the relationship between the self-employed entrepreneur and the administration, representing a structural transformation in the management of small-scale commercial activities in Algeria.

2.2.2 – Monitoring and Tracking Mechanisms

The aforementioned Executive Decree establishes a precise supervisory system designed to ensure that self-employed entrepreneurs comply with legal requirements, The system is implemented by several intervening authorities, primarily:

- Ministry of Trade and Export Promotion: Responsible for issuing licenses and monitoring periodic activity declarations through the digital platform.

- General Customs Administration: Oversees import and export operations, verifying that declared goods comply with the provisions of the decree.

- Tax Administration: Ensures payment of unified contributions and verifies that financial declarations are consistent with the volume of operations.

- External Bank of Algeria: Ensures transparency in foreign currency transfers and verifies the sources and intended uses of funding.

It is noteworthy that Article 15 of Executive Decree No. 25-170 stipulates the removal of a micro-importer from the National Register of Self-Employed Entrepreneurs under the circumstances defined by law and regulation, This includes violations related to consumer

protection, national security, false or incomplete declarations regarding imported goods, misuse of the self-employed entrepreneur card for purposes other than those for which it was issued, and, more generally, any breach of the provisions of the decree.

This multi-layered supervision embodies the principle of economic governance, based on coordination among various sectors to ensure effective enforcement of laws and the protection of the national market from illegal practices.

Conclusion:

The analysis of the legal framework governing micro-import activities in Algeria, particularly under Executive Decree No. 25–170, reveals a clear legislative trend aimed at integrating the informal economy into the formal legal system, This integration links micro-import activities to the self-employed entrepreneur regime established under Basic Law No. 22–23, reflecting a shift in legislative philosophy from exclusionary oversight to regulatory guidance and facilitation, The legal framework provides tax, customs, and digital mechanisms that enable individuals to engage in independent economic activity within a transparent and organized environment.

Despite the numerous advantages introduced by this system, its success in practice depends on the capacity of relevant authorities to address a range of legal and administrative challenges, Chief among these is the need for effective coordination among the various ministries involved—start-ups, trade, finance, digitalization, vocational training, higher education, and labor—alongside comprehensive implementation of national digital platforms These platforms constitute the essential infrastructure for enforcing the system, monitoring transactions, and tracking the flow of goods and financial transfers efficiently and transparently.

Practical implementation will inevitably reveal organizational gaps and shortcomings that require adjustment and adaptation, especially given the rapid economic transformations and the growth of cross-border e-commerce, This reality necessitates continuous legislative and institutional development to keep pace with the dynamic national economy.

In this context, it can be asserted that the micro-import system, as established by Executive Decree No. 25–170, is not merely a temporary regulatory measure, Rather, it represents a structural shift in Algeria’s economic vision toward an open and transparent economy based on individual initiative, While the legal framework lays the foundation for this transformation, the real challenge lies in its practical application and in transforming the system into an effective and sustainable tool to empower self-employed entrepreneurs and contribute to building a diversified and equitable national economy that promotes both economic and social development.

Results :

1. **Integration of Informal Economy**: The micro-import system is legally linked to the self-employed entrepreneur framework, reflecting a clear legislative effort to formalize informal economic activities.
2. **Shift in Legislative Approach**: The legal framework demonstrates a transition from strict oversight to facilitation, emphasizing support for individual initiatives and entrepreneurial freedom.
3. **Infrastructural and Institutional Gaps**: Despite the legal progress, the framework currently lacks detailed implementing measures, particularly regarding eligible goods, transaction procedures, and inter-ministerial coordination.
4. **Dependency on Digital Platforms**: The effectiveness of the micro-import system is closely tied to the successful rollout of national digital platforms, which are essential for monitoring transactions and ensuring transparency.
5. **Potential for Economic Inclusion**: The system presents a new opportunity for unemployed individuals, especially youth, to enter the formal economy through independent trade activities.
6. **Need for Capacity Building**: Effective implementation requires not just legal tools, but also technical and institutional support, including training and guidance for new entrepreneurs.
7. **Challenges in Practical Application**: The system is expected to face real-world administrative, legal, and logistical challenges, particularly in adapting to evolving e-commerce and cross-border trade dynamics.
8. **Long-Term Economic Vision**: The micro-import system is part of a broader structural reform aiming to build a diversified, transparent, and inclusive economy based on individual entrepreneurship.

Recommendations :

1. **Formally integrate** micro-import activities into the list of economic activities eligible under the self-employed entrepreneur regime via ministerial decision, thereby providing the necessary legal legitimacy.
2. **Supplement Executive Decree No. 25–170** with implementing provisions specifying the goods eligible for import and the procedures for foreign currency transactions.
3. **Establish permanent institutional coordination** among all authorities concerned with self-employed entrepreneurs to ensure legislative and regulatory coherence and avoid procedural duplication.
4. **Simplify banking and customs procedures** for micro-import operations, particularly for small financial transfers, by implementing fast and secure digital channels.
5. **Expand tax incentives** to include longer exemption periods during the initial years of activity, supporting the sustainability of emerging projects.
6. **Develop training and capacity-building programs** in accounting, taxation, and customs procedures through partnerships between the National Agency for Self-Employed Entrepreneurs, the General Customs Administration, and specialized institutes.

7. **Strengthen monitoring mechanisms** (both field and digital) to prevent misuse of the system for smuggling or fraud, while applying proportionate sanctions that do not discourage initiative.
8. **Implement a periodic evaluation mechanism** through annual reports from the Ministry of Foreign Trade, including performance indicators and data on micro-importers and transactions.
9. **Encourage transition to local production** by offering support and incentives to micro-importers who wish to invest in manufacturing or processing projects in the future.

Citations:

1- Law No. 22-23, December 18, 2022, includes the basic law for the self-Entrepreneur Official Journal, No. 85, on December 19, 2022, P. 5.

2- For more details on the discussion of this draft law, refer to: the minutes of the public session held on November 8, 2022, published in the Official Gazette of Debates during the Ninth Legislative Term, the Ordinary Parliamentary Session 2022-2023, in issues No. 100 and 101 issued on November 20, 2022, available on the official website of the People's National Assembly: https://www.apn.dz/documentations-jod (accessed July 29, 2025, at 11:45).

3- Executive Decree No. 25-170 Of June 28, 2025, defines the conditions and procedures for practicing micro-import activities by self-entrepreneurs, Official Journal, No. 40, on June 29, 2025, p. 7.

4- The word 'entrepreneur' comes from the French entre meaning 'between', The root of the verb entreprendre can be traced back to around 1200. By 1500, a noun form appeared and soon thereafter both the verb and noun entered the English language, Already in 1730, 'entrepreneur' was used to mean a self-Entrepreneur person with a tolerance for risk, Already here there exists confusion between the concept of 'middle man' or intermediary (the 'between' part) on one hand and, on the other hand, the concept of an innovative businessperson using superior managerial ability, new and improved methods, etc, to achieve commercial growth. Review : Robert Mellor Refer to Mellor et al, Entrepreneurship for Everyone, 1st published, SAGE Publications, London, California, New Delhi, Singapore, 2009,P.22.

5- Article 4 of Executive Decree No. 23-197 Of May 25, 2023, defines the list of activities eligible for benefiting from the Basic Law for the Self-Entrepreneur and the procedures for registration in the National Register of Self-Entrepreneurs, Official Journal, No. 37, on June 4, 2023, P. 9.

6- According to the law, registration in the commercial register is a fundamental obligation imposed on anyone engaging in commercial activity, including those conducting non-permanent or irregular commercial operations, However, under the Self-Employed Entrepreneur Law, the legislator departed from this general principle by introducing an explicit exception, which constitutes one of the privileges granted to self-employed entrepreneurs: exemption from the obligation to register in the commercial register, even in cases where the activity, under the general rules of the Commercial Code, is considered commercial in nature. Refer to:

- Articles 2, 3, and 20 of Ordinance No. 75-59, Of September 26, 1975, which includes the Commercial Code, Official Journal No. 10 on December 19, 1975, p. 1306, (Amended and supplemented).
- Article 9 of Law No. 22-23 on the Self-Entrepreneur, previously cited.
- Article 4, paragraph 2 of Executive Decree No. 25-170, previously cited.

7- The National Agency for the Self-Employed Entrepreneur is a public administrative institution with legal personality and financial autonomy, It operates under the supervision of the Minister in charge of start-ups, The Agency is headquartered in Algiers, and branches may be established across the national territory by joint decree issued by the Minister in charge of

start-ups, the Minister of Finance, and the authority responsible for the civil service, Refer to Articles 2, 3, and 4 of Executive Decree No. 23-196 Of May 25, 2023, defining the organization and functioning of the National Agency for the Self-Entrepreneur, Official Journal, No. 37, on June 4, 2023, p. 7, as supplemented.

8- Article 4, paragraph 3 of Executive Decree No. 25-170, previously cited.

9- Exempting small-scale importers from previous licensing requirements can be seen as an important and necessary step that aligns with modern economic trends aimed at facilitating self-employment and supporting the private sector, This decision reflects the legislator's recognition of the unique nature of this type of business compared to others. Refer to : Iglouli Ould Rabah Safia and Iglouli Mohamed, The Legal Framework for Micro-Import Activity in Light of Executive Decree No. 25-170, Annals of Algiers University 1, Vol:39, N°. 3, 2025, P. 141.

10- In France, the self- entrepreneur (Auto-Entrepreneur) scheme created in 2009 was renamed the micro-entrepreneur regime in 2016. For more details on the topic, refer to: Gilles Daïd, Pascal Nguyên, The practical guide for micro-entrepreneur, 8th edition Eyrolles, Paris, 2016.

11- According to Article 2 of Law No. 22-23, the self-employed entrepreneur is defined as: "Any natural person who carries out a profit-generating activity individually, within the list of activities eligible to benefit from the provisions of the Basic Law for the Self-Entrepreneur, without exceeding the annual turnover threshold established by the applicable legislation", For further details and a deeper understanding of the legislative and regulatory provisions related to self-employed entrepreneurs, refer to:

- Law No. 22-23 dated December 18, 2022, previously cited.
- Executive Decree No. 23-196 dated May 25, 2023, previously cited.
- Executive Decree No. 23-197 dated May 25, 2023, previously cited.
- Executive Decree No. 23-198 of May 25, 2023, establishing the model self-entrepreneur card, Official Journal, No. 37, on June 4, 2023, p. 12.
- Decision of June 6, 2023, specifying the technical characteristics of the self-employed entrepreneur card, Official Journal, No. 50, on August 3, 2023, p. 26.
- Joint Ministerial Order of September 3, 2023, defining the internal organization of the National Agency for the Self-Entrepreneur, Official Journal, No. 83, on December 24, 2023, p. 32.

12- Refer to Articles 9 and 10 of Law No. 22-23 on the Self-Employed Entrepreneur, previously cited. See also:

- Article 4 of Executive Decree No. 25-170, previously cited.
- Article 51 of Law No. 22-24 of December 25, 2022, on the Finance Law for the year 2023, Official Journal, No. 89, on December 29, 2022, p. 3.
- Article 16 of Law No. 23-22 of December 24, 2023, on the Finance Law for the year 2024, Official Journal, No. 86, on December 31, 2023, p. 3.
- Article 29 of Law No. 24-08 of November 24, 2024, on the Finance Law for the year 2025, Official Journal, No. 84, on December 26, 2024, p. 3.

13- Article 6 of the Law No. 22-23 provides for the issuance of the self-entrepreneur card to applicants whose requests are accepted. It further states that the model of the card shall be

determined by regulation, In application of this article, Executive Decree No. 23-198 was issued (previously cited), followed by the Order of June 6, 2023, previously cited.

14- Article 6 of Executive Decree No. 25-170, previously cited.

15- Iglouli Ould Rabah Safia and Iglouli Mohamed, Op. cit, P. 133.

16- Refer to Article 9 of Executive Decree No. 25-170, previously cited, For further details, see: Executive Decree No. 09-410 of December 10, 2009, establishing the security rules applicable to activities involving sensitive equipment, Official Journal, No. 73, on December 13, 2009, p. 4, as amended and supplemented.

17- Articles 11 and 12 of Executive Decree No. 25-170, previously cited.

18- Ibid, Articles 13 and 14.