The Impact of Digitization on Attracting Foreign Investment in the Field of Renewable Energies (in Accordance with the Algerian Investment Law No.22-18)

أثر الرقمنة على جلب الاستثمار الأجنبي في مجال الطاقات المتجددة (وفق قانون الاستثمار الجزائري 22-18)



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Abstract:

Through its economic policy, Algeria seeks to attract foreign investment, especially in renewable energy. This strategic focus has prompted the country to swiftly adapt its legislative framework to align with economic transformations that enhance the national economy. To facilitate this objective, the digitization mechanism was implemented under Law No. 22-18 concerning investment as a critical measure to promote transparency. This initiative encompasses the transition from traditional administration to electronic governance, aiming to embed transparency, improve the overall investment climate, leverage Algeria's abundant renewable energy resources, and restore the confidence of foreign investors.

Key words: digitization; foreign investment; renewable energies; transparency; economic development.

الملخص:

تسعى الجزائر من خلال سياستها الاقتصادية إلى جلب الاستثمار الأجنبي في المجالات الحيوية و لعل من أهمها مجال الطاقات المتجددة، هذا ما دفع الجزائر إلى المسارعة لتكييف قوانينها لتواكب التحولات الاقتصادية بما يعود بالمنفعة على الاقتصاد الوطني، و ذلك من خلال استحداث آلية الرقمنة بموجب القانون 22-18 المتعلق بالاستثمار كإجراء حتمي لإضفاء الشفافية، و الانتقال من الإدارة التقليدية إلى الإدارة الالكترونية من أجل تكريس مبدأ الشفافية لتحسين واقع الاستثمار بشكل عام و استغلال الطاقات المتجددة الهائلة التي تزخر بها الجزائر، و كذا استرجاع ثقة المستثمرين الأجانب.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الرقمنة، الاستثمار الأجنبي، الطاقات المتجددة، الشفافية، النمو الاقتصادي.

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Introduction:

Algeria seeks to keep pace with technological advancements by digitizing the economic sector in general and the investment field in particular. With the issuance of Law No. 22-18, the Algerian legislature has introduced digitization as a necessary measure to enhance transparency, confront various forms of bureaucracy, and reduce administrative procrastination. The initiative aims to revive investors' trust and encourage engagement in the investment process.

Digitizing investment-related procedures represents a solid approach to monitoring and supporting investment projects. This process also facilitates the efficient handling of investors' files, which ensures the timely implementation of investments. Furthermore, it serves as a key mechanism for achieving economic development by creating a more conducive investment environment. Given the rapid global developments across various sectors, the current phase heavily relies on the internet to address challenges posed by modern technology and transition towards a digital world.

As one of the fastest-developing countries, Algeria is focusing on attracting direct foreign investment across all sectors, especially renewable energy. Energy, considered a fundamental need, has broad applications in daily life. Investing in renewable energy is crucial for Algeria to diversify its energy sources and leverage its significant capabilities, particularly in solar radiation.

By introducing this mechanism, the legislature intends to address the obstacles investors may face when seeking a favorable investment environment. This strategy also strengthens communication between the economic administration and investors, which is vital for ensuring procedural transparency and attracting more investorsboth domestic and foreign ultimately contributing to the national economy's development.

The importance of this topic stems from Algeria's potential in the field of renewable energy, particularly solar energy. The country's solar radiation lasts for around 3,000 hours per year, the highest level of sunshine in the world. These indicators suggest that Algeria could effectively invest in renewable energy, ensuring that European countries remain dependent on Algerian energy while contributing to economic growth, achieving energy security, and combating global warming. Consequently, Algeria is working to attract foreign investments by providing all necessary information and simplifying procedures.

Based on the preceding discussion, the following questions arise: **To what extent is the digitization mechanism effective in attracting foreign investment in the renewable energy sector? Does it enhance transparency to improve the investment environment in this field?**

To answer these questions, we have adopted an analytical approach due to the subject's nature, which requires analyzing certain legal articles and emphasizing their origins. Additionally, we employed a descriptive approach to illustrate the concepts related to the subject, such as digitization, foreign investment, renewable energy, and transparency.

The first topic of this research paper is entitled "The Introduction of the Digitization Mechanism in Law 22-18," where we discuss the conceptual framework, as the first requirement, and the objectives of the digital platform, as the second. The second topic is titled "The Impact of Digitization on the Field of Investment in Renewable Energies." The first requirement of this topic addresses the tasks assigned to the digital platform, while the second requirement discusses the implications of digitization on investment in the renewable energy sector.

The First Topic: The Introduction of the Digitization Mechanism in law 22-18

The adoption of the digitization mechanism in the investment sector marks a continuation of Algeria's efforts to encourage investment and combat bureaucracy that has hindered the national economy. Moreover, direct foreign investment in the renewable energy sector plays a critical role in the country's economic growth. The legislature's decision to establish a digital platform for investors is a commendable step toward achieving several objectives related to both investors and investment authorities.

The First Requirement: The Conceptual Framework (Digitization - Direct Foreign Investment - Renewable Energies)

The Algerian legislature has placed significant emphasis on the investment sector due to its crucial role in economic development, particularly through Law No. 22-18[1] concerning investment. Through this law, the Algerian legislature has introduced digitization, especially in sectors like renewable energy. This procedure was introduced in Article 23 of Law 22-18, which was not included in Law 16-09[2] or Order 03-01.[3]

First Section: Definition of Digitization

The digitization system, operating within the framework of all competent and supervisory bodies in Algeria that interact with investors via an electronic system, is one of the new systems introduced in Investment Law No. 22-18. At the core of this

[1]Law No. 22-18 concerning investment, dated on July 24, 2022, Official Gazette, Issue No. 50, issued on July 28, 2022.

[2]Law No. 16-09 concerning investment promotion, dated on August 3, 2016, Official Gazette, No. 46, issued on August 3, 2016.

[3]Order No. 01-03 concerning investment development, dated on August 20, 2001, Official Gazette, Issue No. 47, issued on August 22, 2001.

system is the state's novel approach to engaging with the general public or citizens by embracing the concept of scientific and technical advancement. This is achieved by interacting over the internet as a central mechanism, replacing the old, cumbersome, and time-consuming methods with remote engagement and electronic technologies.[1]

A modern concept, digitization emerged alongside the development of information and communication technology. This shift has led to a departure from traditional methods of transferring information and knowledge, moving instead toward the use of digital formats through the application of modern technology.[2]

In essence, digitization refers to the use of digital technologies to transform a business model and create new opportunities for revenue generation and value production. It also involves the transition to a fully digital business model.[3]

As a process, digitization involves converting data, images, sounds, and documents into digital formats for processing by computers. Through this transformation, materials such as printed documents, images, and audio recordings are encoded into a computer-readable format. The process provides the ability to encode, store, transfer, retrieve, modify, and even replicate these materials as digital assets. Information is encoded into binary digits (0, 1), with each letter and word represented by corresponding numerical values.[4]

Thus, digitization can be defined as the conversion of physical information such as that written on paper into an electronic format. This conversion facilitates the easier access and processing of information through computer technologies.

Second Section: Definition of Foreign Direct Investment

According to definitions provided by the IMF and OECD, direct investment is aimed at obtaining a lasting interest by a resident entity of one economy (the direct investor) in an enterprise located in another economy (the direct investment enterprise)[5]. Foreign direct investment (FDI) serves as a key driver of international economic integration[6] and is highly valued by developing countries for the assets

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[1] See AL KAHINA Erzil, A Look at the New Investment Law of 2022, Critical Journal of Law and Political Science, Vol17, Issue 02, 2022, pp 62-63.

[2]ALI Hamidouche, HAMIDA Bouzida, Business Economics Based on Digitization: Requirements and Returns, International Experiences, Lessons and Learned, The Scientific Journal of the Economic Future, Vol 08, Issue 01, 2020, p. 44.

[3]SHADRACK Katuu, introduction to digitization, presentaion,University of South Africa, 2020, p5. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/345343474/consult on 10/06/2024.

[4]MALIKA Madkour, The Ethical Challenges of Digitization, Academy of Social and Human Studies, Vol 14, Issue 2, 2022, p158.

[5]MAITENA Duce, Banco de Espana, Definitions of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), a methodological note, Final draft, 2003, p2.

[6]OECD Benchmark, Definition of Foreign Direct Investment, edition 4, 2008, p3https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264045743-en/consult on 28/06/2024.

brought by multinational enterprises (MNEs) with their investments[1]. With the right policy framework, FDI can foster financial stability, promote economic development, and enhance societal well-being.[2]

The World Trade Organization (WTO) defines FDI as a process in which an investor from one country (the home country) uses their assets in other countries (host countries) with the intent to manage them.[3]

The most important advantage of foreign direct investment is the economic growth. The creation of jobs is the most obvious advantage of FDI, one of the most important reasons why a nation (especially a developing one) would seek to attract foreign direct investment. FDI boosts the manufacturing and services sector which results in the creation of jobs and helps to reduce unemployment rates in the country. Increased employment leads to higher incomes and equips the population with greater purchasing powers, which boosts the overall economy of a country.[4]

Algeria is considered one of the countries focused on attracting foreign investors in strategic sectors, particularly renewable energy, by offering various incentives and facilitation measures.

Furthermore, foreign direct investment is regarded as one of the most effective means for promoting economic growth. By bringing in foreign capital and investing it, along with acquiring technology from investing countries especially those in the West, which are leaders in renewable energy technology FDI can greatly benefit Algeria's economic development.

Third Section: Definition of Renewable Energies

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) provides the following statutory definition, which was ratified by 108 members (107 states and the European Union) in February 2013: "Renewable energies include all forms of energy produced from renewable sources in a sustainable manner, including bioenergy, geothermal energy, hydropower, ocean energy, solar energy, and wind energy."[5]

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[1]MANUEL R. Agoin and RICARDO Mayer, Foreign investment in developing countries, No 146, Department of Economics, University of Chile, Santiago, 2000, p4https://www.researchgate.net/publication/23694136_Foreign_Investment_in_Developing_Countries_Does_It_Crowd_in_Domestic_Investment/consult on 27/06/2024.

[2]OECD Benchmark, op cit, p3.

[3]OMAR Yahyaoui, Features of the Investment Climate in Algeria: Attractive Factors and Repulsive Factors, Dar Ilya for Publishing and Distribution, Algeria, 2024, p 88

[4]STEFAN Calimanu, 16 Advantages and Disadvantages of Foreign Direct Investment,2021https://researchfdi.com/resources/articles/foreign-direct-investment-advantages-disadvantages/consult on 15/05/2024.

[5]Globaltrackingframework,chapter4,renewableenergy,p194https://www.seforall.org/system/files/2019-04/SE4ALL_Global-Tracking-Framework-2013_report-red.pdf/consult on 07/06/2024.

Similarly, the International Energy Agency (IEA) defines renewable energy as: "Renewable energy is derived from the regular processes of nature, such as sunlight and wind, which are replenished in nature at a faster rate than their consumption."[1]

In Algeria, the legislator defines renewable energy in Article 3, paragraph 1 of Law 04-09[2] as: "Forms of electrical, kinetic, thermal, or gaseous energies obtained from the transformation of solar radiation, wind power, geothermal heat, organic waste, hydropower, and biomass utilization technologies." The second paragraph of the same article further states that the concept of renewable energies also includes all methods that enable significant energy savings through bio-climatic engineering in construction processes.

One of the primary advantages of renewable energy is that it is clean and safe. It contributes to environmental protection, helps diversify energy sources, and fosters stability in economic sectors, benefiting other areas as well.

The Second Requirement: Objectives of the Digital Platform

Article 23 of Law 22-18 related to investment states: "A digital platform for investors shall be established and managed by the agency." In this context, the agency refers to the Algerian Agency for Investment Promotion. This agency was renamed, pursuant to Article 18 of Law No. 22-18, after previously being referred to under Article 06 of Order 01/03 as the "National Agency for Investment Development."

As noted in Article 18, the agency is tasked with overseeing the management of the digital platform for investors. This responsibility is further reinforced by Article 4 of Executive Decree No. 22-298[3] , which addresses the facilitation of investment processes.

Under Article 23 of Law No. 22-18, the Algerian legislator has assigned the task of managing the newly established digital platform to the Algerian Agency for Investment Promotion. The platform is intended to meet the objectives outlined in Article 28 of Executive Decree No. 22-298.

First Section: Objectives Related to the Investor

Article 28 of Executive Decree No. 22-298 outlines several objectives related to the investor. These objectives focus on improving communication between investors

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[1]AHLAM Zwawiya, The Role of Renewable Energy Economics in Achieving Sustainable Economic Development in the Maghreb Countries, Al-Wafa Legal Library, 1st ed, Alexandria, Egypt. 2014**,** pp 122-123.

[2]Law No.04-09 concerning the promotion of renewable energies within the framework of sustainable development, dated on August 14, 2004, Official Gazette, Issue No. 52, issued on August 18, 2004.

[3]Executive Decree No. 22-298 concerning the organization and operation of the Algerian Agency for Investment Promotion, dated on September 8, 2022, Official Gazette, Issue No. 60, issued on September 18, 2022.

and the economic administration, ensuring transparency in the required procedures, and specifying how the investor's files are examined and processed.

Additionally, the platform allows investors to monitor the progress of their files online. All of these efforts serve a common goal: to provide investors, especially foreign ones, with a seamless experience through transparent procedures, thereby fostering their interest in the investment process.

This digital platform enables foreign investors to quickly obtain information related to the investment process. As a result, they can make informed decisions while being fully aware of the requirements for investing in the renewable energy sector, which Algeria has prioritized as a vital area for development.

Given Algeria's rich potential in renewable energies and the need to preserve its fossil resources, the Algerian legislator has designed these goals to streamline procedures for investors, particularly foreign ones, who are interested in exploring investment opportunities in Algeria.

Second Section: Objectives Related to Investment Agencies

Article 28 of Executive Decree No. 22-298 also outlines objectives aimed at improving the performance of investment agencies. These objectives include facilitating and simplifying the establishment of companies and investments, as well as expediting the processing and examination of investor files by the relevant administrations. Furthermore, the platform aims to enhance public services in terms of scheduling, employee productivity, and the quality of services offered. It also seeks to improve the performance of public facilities, making them more accessible and available to investors. This is achieved by fostering effective cooperation between departments involved in the investment process and enabling direct and immediate exchange of information among employees within these agencies.

Through these steps, Algeria has made a significant move toward digital administration, which not only provides better service in less time but also simplifies interactions with various public institutions.

By meeting these objectives, the digital platform enables investors to better control the investment process, minimizing potential disputes. In addition, it raises awareness about their rights and responsibilities within the context of their investment projects.

The Second Topic: The Impact of Digitization on the Sector of Investment in Renewable Energies

Through Law No. 22-18, the legislator seeks to improve Algeria's investment climate and attract more local and foreign investors, aiming for economic growth that aligns with the country's material and human resources. The introduction of the digital platform is expected to play a key role in achieving this goal. This shift has

been driven by modern technology, with digitization now targeted across all sectors, particularly in renewable energy. The Algerian legislator has prioritized this sector because it holds the potential to transform the country's economic landscape by providing an attractive investment environment, especially for foreign investors with experience in renewable energy. This priority has made digitization essential, ensuring the transparency and efficiency required for processing various investment files, especially those involving foreign investors.

The First Requirement: The Tasks Assigned to the Digital Platform

The digital platform carries out tasks specified by the legislator in Article 23 of Law No. 22-18 and Article 27 of Executive Decree No. 22-298. These tasks are outlined as follows:

First Section: Providing Investors with Investment-Related Information

The first paragraph of Article 23 of Law No. 22-18 states: "A digital platform for investors shall be established and managed by the agency. It shall provide all necessary information, including those related to investment opportunities in Algeria, real estate offers, incentives, and benefits associated with investment, as well as related procedures."

Through the digital platform, investors can access a wealth of information regarding investments whether related to opportunities, available real estate offers, or the incentives and benefits provided to them. This access includes information about the required procedures for investing in Algeria.

The platform removes a significant barrier for investors by offering them prior knowledge about available properties for investment. This includes details about the types of properties industrial or agricultural and their geographical locations, given the vastness of Algeria’s territory, extending from the north to the south and from the west to the east.[1]

Second Section: Eliminating the Physical Materials

In the second paragraph of Article 23 of Law No. 22-18 concerning investment, the legislator explicitly mandates that all investment-related procedures be conducted via the internet. Consequently, all operations related to investment are processed through the newly established digital platform[2]. This requirement is further

[1]The content of the second paragraph of Article 23 of the Law No.22-18 regarding investment: “This digital platform, which is directly connected to the information systems of the bodies and administrations responsible for the investment process, allows for eliminating the physical material of all procedures and conducting the procedures related to investment via the Internet.”

[2]The second paragraph of Article 27 of the Executive Decree regulating the Algerian Agency for Investment Promotion and its operation stipulates that it ensures the elimination of the physical material of allprocedures.

This is in addition to the completion of all procedures related to investmentvia theInternet and allowing the adaptation of the procedures to be followed according to the type of investment and the type of request.

emphasized in the second paragraph of Article 27 of Executive Decree No. 22-298, which governs the operations of the Algerian Agency for Investment Promotion. From registration to completion and monitoring, all procedures are carried out via the digital platform, with adaptations made based on the type of investment and the specific requests, ensuring that the required procedures are tailored accordingly.[1]

Therefore, it is clear that the legislator intends to eliminate the traditional, paper-based system for handling investment transactions. This shift reflects a concerted effort to ease the burden of excessive paperwork on investors, which was a major issue under the previous administrative system.

Third Section: Guiding and Supporting Investments

The digital platform for investors serves as an essential tool for guiding, supporting, and monitoring investments throughout both the registration and utilization phases. This is stipulated in Article 23, paragraph 3 of Law No. 22-18, which states: "The digital platform also represents a tool for guiding, supporting, and monitoring investments from their registration through to their utilization."

Similarly, the first paragraph of Article 27 of Executive Decree No. 22-298 reiterates the provisions of Article 23/1 of Law No. 22-18, stating: "The digital platform for investors is the electronic tool for guiding, supporting, and monitoring investments from registration through to utilization." It is important to note that Article 27/1 of the Executive Decree No. 22-298 essentially repeats the text of Article 23/3 of Law No. 22-18, with the exception of the addition of the word "electronic" in Article 27/1.

The Second Requirement: Impacts of Digitization on the Reality of Investing in Renewable Energies

In the field of investing in renewable energies, digitization plays a crucial role in enhancing transparency throughout the entire transaction process. By doing so, it helps reduce bureaucratic obstacles and combat administrative corruption, which have historically been significant deterrents for investors. The fear of losing funds or having their rights violated often causes investors to hesitate or refrain from engaging in investment activities. However, digitization, particularly in the renewable energy sector, has the potential to attract foreign investors by providing a more transparent and efficient system. This is especially important considering Algeria’s rich natural resources, particularly solar energy, which positions the country to achieve exceptional results in the renewable energy sector.

[1]It is considered a main desired result and goal of creating a digital platform for the investor, in the condition that it is managed in a way that achieves the goals assigned to it.

First Section: Algeria's Capacities in the Field of Renewable Energies

Global fluctuations and the instability of oil prices have prompted many to seriously consider the need for utilizing solar energy, wind energy, hydropower, and other renewable sources. However, the reality is quite the opposite. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), renewable energies are actually more cost-effective than fossil fuels (oil, coal, and gas)[1].

Investment in renewable energies is one of the flourishing sectors in Algeria. Thanks to its geographical location, the country is home to some of the largest solar fields and mines in the world. The total sunshine duration across the entire national territory exceeds 2,000 hours per year, and in some regions, such as the high plateaus and desert, it can reach up to 3,900 hours. The daily available energy per square meter is about 5 kilowatt-hours in most parts of the country. This translates to approximately 1,700 kWh/m² per year in the north and 2,263 kWh/m² per year in the south.[2]

Investing in renewable energies would inevitably lead to diversification of energy sources by exploiting the vast capabilities Algeria has, especially regarding solar radiation. This positions the country to produce large quantities of energy at the lowest cost in a safe manner, preserving fossil fuels for the long term and ensuring resources for future generations. Moreover, investing in renewable energies is a key avenue for achieving sustainable development and reducing energy dependency.

Nevertheless, the investment climate in Algeria may not always be conducive to foreign investors, who may be hesitant to risk their funds without the assurance of a suitable investment environment characterized by transparency, fair treatment, and equal opportunities for both foreign and local investors. This is where the digitization mechanism could play a crucial role in overcoming such obstacles, encouraging foreign investment, and promoting national economic development.

Second Section: Advantages of Digitization in the Sector of Renewable Energy Investment

The Algerian legislator seeks to attract foreign investment, particularly in vital sectors such as renewable energies, to benefit from foreign expertise and enhance the national economy. As a result, the digitization mechanism was introduced to reduce the barriers that often deter foreign investors.

Firstly: Combating Bureaucracy and Attaining Transparency:

The term "transparency" has been defined in various ways. Some definitions emphasize the availability of information to the public about policies, instructions,

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[1]SOBHI Ahmed Al-Dulaimi, Mona Ali Duaij Al-Kanani, Renewable Energy, Its concept, Sources, Importance, Ibsar Publishers and Distributors, 1st ed., Amman, Jordan, 2021, p 265.

[2]HICHEM Hriz, The Role of Renewable Energy Production in Restructuring the Energy Market, Al-Wafa Legal Library, 1st ed., Alexandria, Egypt, 2014, p 205.

laws, and government decisions [1]. Transparency, however, is a multidimensional concept that, although inversely related to corruption, also touches on a wide range of good governance factors. Despite its broad recognition, little attention has been given to the core elements of good governance that not only combat corruption but also advance effective public management.[2]

The principle of transparency is considered one of the fundamental principles in law, emerging from the social and economic developments that societies have undergone. It stresses the importance of controlling transactions within society and ensuring the accessibility of documents, as well as publicizing the decision- making processes. From this perspective, transparency refers to the right to access documents and publicize the procedures involved in decision-making and deliberation.[3].

As such, many legislations have sought to incorporate this principle into their laws, recognizing it as a critical guarantee to combat various forms of corruption and establish a rule of law and justice. The Algerian legislator officially adopted this principle through the establishment of the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Fight Against Corruption, as stipulated in the 2020[4] constitutional constitutional amendment and Law No. 22-08[5].

Transparency is one of the major principles advocated by international organizations across various sectors, particularly in investment. In this context, transparency in investments is viewed as a fundamental guarantee for ensuring fair and equitable treatment of investors throughout all stages of the investment process, even in cases of dispute resolution through international commercial arbitration.[6]

The Algerian legislator has reinforced the principle of transparency through Law No. 22-18 in several provisions. This principle is clearly stated in Article 3[7] of the

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[1]FARIS Ben Aloush Ben Badi Al-Subaie, The Role of Transparency and Accountability in Reducing Administrative Corruption in Government Sectors, PhD Thesis in Security Sciences, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2010, p 14.

[2]ROBERTO Cruz Romero, Defining Transparency: A Functional Approach, journal of democracy JeDEM, Issue 15(1),2023, p 219.

[3] DE NANTEUIL Arnaud, the transparency in international law: reflections on the exigence in the core, published by Française de droit international, CNRSEditions, Paris,2015, P810https://www.persee.fr/doc/afdi_0066-3085_2015_num_61_1_4963/consulton 28/03/2024.

[4]Presidential Decree No. 20-244 concerning the issuance of the constitutional amendment, dated on December 30, 2020, Official Gazette, Issue No. 82, issued on December 30, 2020.

[5]Law No.22-08 determiningthe High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Fight Against Corruption, dated on May 5, 2022, Official Gazette, No. 32, issued on May 14, 2022.

[6] DE NANTEUIL Arnaud, op cit, P810.

[7]Content of Article 3 of the Law No.22-18 on Investment: "This law establishes the following principles:

- Freedom of investment: Every moral or physical person, whether national or foreign, resident or non-resident, who wishes to invest is free to choose his/her investment, in compliance with the legislation and regulations in force

law and is operationalized through the creation of a digital platform for investors. This platform provides all the necessary information related to investment procedures, as outlined in Article 23 of Law No. 22-18. Furthermore, paragraph 2 of Article 18 mandates the Algerian Agency for Investment Promotion to keep investors informed and provide them with digital platforms for all procedures related to their investment activities.

This principle is further emphasized by the implementing texts of Law No. 22-18, particularly in Article 27 of Executive Decree No. 22-298. This decree highlights the platform's key tasks, with the primary objective of providing comprehensive information to investors and eliminating physical barriers to access. Additionally, Article 28 of the same decree outlines the platform's objectives, including enhancing public services to facilitate investor access to the platform and providing relevant information for their investment activities. Article 4 also plays a significant role by streamlining and informing investors about the agency's practices and their responsibilities.

Secondly: Attracting Foreign Investors and providing them with Fair Treatment

The digitization mechanism enables foreign investors to access the digital platform allocated for investors and benefit from their rights on a shoestring with local investors. This increases their confidence in the investment process in Algeria and encourages them to use their funds to invest in renewable energies. Despite the fact that investment in this sector may not achieve profits in a short period but typically requires medium to long periods of time, a secure investment climate that is characterized by fair treatment motivates them to proceed with their investment projects in Algeria.

Foreign investment is treated with full equality. At the same time, interests are completely taken into account in order to maximize attraction [1]. Fair treatment is also considered a strong guarantee in the field of renewable energy investment as digitization facilitates the access to the digital platform and the completion of all procedures from the stage of registration to exploitation. As a result, it ensures equality between local and foreign investors and combats all forms of discrimination, which is what we conclude from Article 5[2] of Law 22-18 of Law 22-18 that is related to investment.

-Transparency and equality in dealing with investments.

[1]MOHSEN Al-Khodairi, Foreign Direct Investment, Dar Al-Fajr for Publishing and Distribution, 1st ed., Cairo, Egypt, 2021, p 146.

[2]The content of the first paragraph of Article 5 of the Law No.22-18 concerning investment refers to the following:

An investor: is any moral or physical person, whether national or foreign, resident or non-resident who, as defined by the foreign exchange regulations, undertakes an investment in accordance with the provisions of this law.

Employers' organizations have confirmed that over 100 foreign investment applications are currently under review by the Algerian government, while 1,200 foreign investors have expressed interest in investing in Algeria. The Algerian Agency for the Promotion of Investment, in its latest report, revealed that more than 1,694 investment projects have been registered, with a total value exceeding 845 billion Algerian dinars (6.3 billion dollars), since the implementation of the new Law 22-18. This data covers the period from early November 2022 to March 31, 2023[1].

In spite of this, digitization alone is not sufficient to attract investors, hence, the Algerian legislator has provided the necessary protection for investment projects through the guarantees granted to investors.[2]

Conclusion:

Digitization has become a matter of interest in all sectors, such as the economic sector, most notably in the field of investment in renewable energies. It is regarded as a fundamental element that contributes to the development of investment by adding transparency to the procedures in all stages starting from registration to monitoring.

Add to that, digitization plays a major role in facilitating the access to information and the continuous interaction among investment corporations in order to expedite processing, managing, and monitoring the files. It also enables investors to promptly obtain their necessary information so that they make their decisions regarding investment.

Given its vast potential in the field of renewable energies, Algeria has adopted a new approach that has offered it significant investment opportunities in light of relatively stable legal conditions and an appropriate investment climate. The primary aim of this is to attract foreign investment in order to advance this vital sector and achieve sustainable development. Moreover, the adoption of digitalization by the Algerian legislator serves as an encouraging tool that ensures foreign investors' interest as it provides them with the important facilities that motivate them to enter this sector without fear of any risks. This is in addition to ensuring the economic seriousness of investment projects.

At the End of This Study, Several Conclusions Were Drawn, Which Were Followed by a Series of Suggestions.

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[1] HARFOUSH Madani, KRIBISH Nabil, Digitalization as a Mechanism for Developing Investment in Algeria: The Digital Platform as a Model, Journal of Legal and Economic Research, Vol 06, Special Issue, 2023, p 16.

[2]SOFIANE Remaznia, Examining the role of National Judicial Systems and Arbitration Panels in Resolving Investment Disputes within the Framework of Algeria’s, Journal of Science and Knowledge Horizons, vol 4, Issue 56, 2024, p 95.

First : The Results

- Within the framework of its modern economic policy, Algeria aims to prioritize investors, particularly foreign ones, by facilitating access to information related to investment operations in the renewable energy sector. This is due to the significant investment opportunities in Algeria, driven by its vast natural resources, which position the country to generate substantial profits. Such an environment encourages investors, providing them with comprehensive knowledge of the process and procedures in a timely manner.
- Digitization in the investment sector is a positive development that supports Algeria's goal of attracting more foreign investors. By offering detailed information on investment operations, it enhances communication between investors and the economic administration—something that was lacking under previous investment laws. Furthermore, the digital platform speeds up file processing and allows investors to track the progress of their applications.
- The digitization process also streamlines foreign investors' access to the platform, enabling them to easily obtain the information they need. Additionally, it improves the effciency of public facilities by facilitating the direct and immediate exchange of information between administrative officers and investment organizations.
- The introduction of digitization in the investment field is a significant step, credited to the Algerian legislator, who entrusted its implementation to the Algerian Agency for Investment Promotion.
- By providing both foreign and local investors with the necessary information to make informed decisions, the digitization process enhances their confidence in investing in Algeria. These amendments to the investment law are designed to attract a larger number of investors, contributing to the growth of the national economy.
- The digitization of the investment sector reflects the Algerian legislator’s efforts to promote transparency in the investment process and ensure fair treatment of all investors. This fosters a favorable environment for both foreign and local investors, ultimately driving real economic development.

Second : The Suggestions

- It is necessary to expedite the issuance of the decree that specifies the methods of managing this platform, as referenced in the final paragraph of Article 23 of Law No. 22-18.
- It is crucial to appoint qualified agents to manage this platform to ensure the provision of high-quality services, enabling investors to confidently and conveniently engage in the investment process.
- It is essential to activate the Algerian legislator's efforts to ensure equal treatment

between foreign and local investors in practice, in order to restore the confidence of foreign investors and guarantee their willingness to invest in renewable energy projects within Algeria.

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