

The role of economic attachés in Algerian embassies in supporting Algerian exporters

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Summary:

The economic attaché at Algerian embassies and consulates plays a crucial role in enhancing Algeria's exports and supporting exporters abroad, thereby strengthening national economic security. This role includes promoting Algerian products to foreign consumers and economic operators through organizing meetings, exhibitions, and inviting exporters and investors to participate in international events. The attaché continuously collects and analyzes commercial and investment data to prepare studies on export opportunities and promising sectors in target markets. They also facilitate connections and partnerships between Algerian exporters and foreign importers and support visiting Algerian economic delegations.

Procedurally, the economic attaché assists exporters with trade procedures, customs, technical standards, and legal regulations in the host country, providing updated market, pricing, and competitor information. They intervene to resolve administrative and commercial obstacles faced by exporters. Additionally, the attaché promotes Algeria's investment climate to attract foreign investment and technology, aiming to support the national export sector. Finally, they monitor and evaluate market developments and economic trends in the host country, preparing regular reports for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in coordination with relevant economic ministries.

Keywords: Algerian Exports; Economic Attaché; Embassy; Export Promotion; Economic Reports

1- Introduction :

Although countries strive to achieve economic security through self-sufficiency across all sectors, this goal remains difficult to attain. Consequently, members of the international community seek to realize this security through economic integration and exchange in various fields such as international trade, foreign investments, and multinational enterprises. Economic diplomacy stands as a central pillar of this integration, contributing significantly to the maintenance of international security and peace.

Every nation possesses human and material economic resources and aims to establish international economic relations with other states and organizations within the global community. These relations are conducted through diplomatic channels, including official visits, embassies, and consulates. Within this framework, the role of the Economic Attaché emerges as crucial, tasked with advancing the economic interests of their home country by fostering economic ties with the host country.

The Economic Attaché functions as a coordinating link between economic stakeholders from both the home and host countries by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating economic information, as well as promoting it through seminars, academic forums, and international exhibitions. Ultimately, their efforts often culminate in official governmental visits and the signing of economic cooperation agreements between the two countries.

The coordination role between two states is by no means simple. The legal status of the Economic Attaché, whether as a diplomatic or quasi-diplomatic official, is sensitive. Accordingly, the Economic Attaché must adhere strictly to diplomatic protocols and conventions before undertaking their duties. Among these,

professional confidentiality and continuous coordination with the Security Attaché are paramount to prevent hostile breaches. Moreover, disciplined conduct in appearance and behavior is essential, as the Economic Attaché represents the Algerian state throughout their tenure in the host country.

Given the sensitivity of this position, the Economic Attaché operates in close coordination with the ambassador or consul and other embassy or consulate departments. This coordination extends to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Economic Attaché is subject to periodic evaluations regarding compliance with laws and regulations, initiative, and the outcomes of economic relations between Algeria and the host country. Based on these assessments, the Attaché may continue in their role or be replaced by another official.

This study seeks to explore the role of the Economic Attaché in developing economic relations between two countries through the expansion of exports. The proposed hypothesis emphasizes the pivotal role of the Economic Attaché in attracting foreign importers to the Algerian market and encouraging the growth of Algerian exporters, while promoting the Algerian product brand amid intense international market competition.

Regarding previous academic research on economic diplomacy, numerous studies exist across scientific contributions, articles, and books. However, focused academic research on the Economic Attaché as a diplomatic or quasi-diplomatic official is lacking despite the importance of this legal position in strengthening economic diplomacy. Therefore, this study relies on communication mechanisms, personal interviews, and analysis of legal texts regulating this position, alongside reviewing media interviews addressing the subject. The aim is to engage academic researchers and political actors in international economic relations to recognize the significance of the Economic Attaché's role in economic diplomacy and in achieving key political objectives such as export development and investment attraction.

This paper will highlight the concept of the Economic Attaché in the first section, outline the authorities of supporting bodies within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the second section, and dedicate the third section to the Attaché's duties with practical examples.

The methodologies employed in this research include an analytical approach to examine the legal frameworks governing the position of the Economic Attaché and economic departments within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A descriptive approach is used to detail the Attaché's

various activities inside and outside the embassy or consulate. Additionally, a comparative approach is applied to underscore the importance of distinguishing between the economic power of host countries and the ideal profile for the Economic Attaché position.

2. Concept of the Economic Attaché

The role of the economic attaché is closely linked to the field of economics, which (James, Magee, Scerri, & Steger, 2015) defines as "a social domain focusing on the practices, discourses, and material expressions related to the production, utilization, and management of resources." Similarly, legal scholar (Savy, 1979) defines it as "the law governing the intervention of public authorities in economic life, comprising a set of rules aimed, at a given time and within a particular society, at ensuring a balance between the interests of economic actors (whether under public or private law) and the broader public economic interest."

Ultimately, numerous academic definitions converge on the idea that economics deals with the inherent instability between the ever-growing human needs and desires in the sphere of consumption, and the limited availability of material resources. Consequently, national and international economic law exists to regulate these relationships with the goal of safeguarding economic security. From this perspective, economic law is understood as a body of general and abstract rules governing the behavior of individuals within society from an economic standpoint, regardless of the state's economic policy whether free-market, interventionist, or mixed.

Diplomatic activity carried out through ambassadors dates back to ancient civilizations such as the Egyptian, Babylonian, Persian, Roman, and Phoenician cultures. Historical evidence demonstrates that these civilizations utilized diplomatic missions as mechanisms for cooperation, alliance-building, and conflict avoidance. In this context, the term "ambassador" is very old, especially when compared to the term "economic attaché," which is relatively recent and emerged in the aftermath of World War II with the founding of the United Nations and the establishment of various economic institutions such as the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. The primary objective of creating these entities was to achieve global economic security through international cooperation.

Based on this conceptual framework, the following topics will be addressed:

- Definition of the Legal Status of the Economic Attaché
- Fundamental Requirements for the Position of Economic Attaché
- Authorities Responsible for Appointing the Economic Attaché
- Supporting Bodies for the Work of the Economic Attaché within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2.1. Legal Status of the Economic Attaché

In Arabic linguistic tradition (Almaany Arabic Dictionaries, 2025) the term "attaché" is defined in the context of political representation as an official assigned to an embassy to carry out a specific function or specialized task. For example, within the cultural domain, the official is referred to as a cultural attaché; similarly, there are military attachés and economic attachés. The economic attaché, in particular, is responsible for matters related to economic relations between the embassy's home country and the host nation.

Since an embassy serves as a diplomatic platform for cooperation and coordination between states to advance mutual interests, it is essential to incorporate specialized roles that address these interests, particularly in key areas such as security, culture, and economics in all its dimensions. Accordingly, the Economic Attaché constitutes both a legal entity and a natural person simultaneously. It represents a division, department, or office staffed by a group of appointed specialists in international economic affairs such as international trade, foreign investment, and global economics headed by an individual, often referred to as the Head of the Economic Attaché Office or simply the Economic Attaché, who coordinates these activities within the embassy or consulate.

Therefore, the legal status of the Economic Attaché at an embassy or consulate can be defined as follows: "The Economic Attaché is an official appointed through coordination between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the relevant national economic authorities, assigned to an embassy or consulate of a particular state to carry out economic duties in the host country aimed at serving the economic interests of their home country."

2.2. Essential Qualifications for the Position of Economic Attaché

An Economic Attaché is a diplomatic or quasi-diplomatic officer appointed to Algerian embassies and consulates, coordinating with various government sectors related to economic affairs such as finance, trade, and others. This implies that the individual was previously employed within an administrative body under the Algerian civil

service (Ordinance No 06-03, 2006) before being assigned to this diplomatic role, either for a fixed term or indefinitely. Consequently, the qualifications for this legal position are specialized and tied to the nature of the responsibilities and the proficiency required. Accordingly, the candidate must possess:

- A higher education degree in an economic discipline, such as commerce, business administration, finance and accounting, economics, or international economic law.
- Certification demonstrating advanced proficiency in information technology, particularly mastery of essential software for writing and statistics, along with a satisfactory foundational knowledge of artificial intelligence.
- Fluency in the official language of the host embassy or consulate, or at minimum, proficiency in a global language such as English.
- Relevant professional experience reflected in a curriculum vitae that distinguishes candidates through the breadth and quality of their academic and professional activities.
- Good conduct, evidenced by a clean criminal record and a security clearance issued by the competent security authorities.
- Successful completion of the internal recruitment examination for this position.

In addition to these prerequisites, this diplomatic role may require specialized diplomatic training under the supervision of designated bodies within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, due to the position's sensitivity from a security perspective and the critical importance of successfully executing economic tasks. These specialized bodies include: the Directorate for the Promotion and Support of Economic Exchanges within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Sub-directorate for Commercial Information Analysis and Management; the Sub-directorate for Monitoring Programs and Promoting Trade Exchanges of the same Ministry; as well as the Office for Information, Investment Promotion, and Export Development.

2.3. Authorities Responsible for Appointing the Economic Attaché

The entities involved in appointing the Economic Attaché are inherently economic in nature and are governed by regulatory provisions linked to the economic departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, given the paramount importance of the Economic Attaché's office or division, direct appointment alone is insufficient to fully ensure this significance. Rather, an internal competitive selection process is necessary to uphold these standards.

The sectors eligible to participate in this competition are those encompassing departments, directorates, or units with an economic focus, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Investment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Higher Education, as well as other economically oriented bodies like the Export Agency and the Economic and Social Council. These entities are responsible for shaping the country's economic policy, which researcher (Najib & Others, 1990) defines as "a set of governmental measures that outline the economic environment within which economic units operate." Similarly, (Aayeb, 2010) describes economic policy as "the state's implementation of measures and actions aimed at achieving economic and social objectives. Accordingly, the economic policy pursued must maximize efficiency in utilizing available resources to accomplish these goals, or in other words, to achieve the greatest possible objectives with the least amount of resources."

Following the appointment of the Economic Attaché's office or division, the designated personnel commence their economic duties in accordance with the internal regulations of the Algerian embassy pertaining to economic affairs and the organizational framework of the Directorate of Economic and International Affairs within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Regarding employment status, they remain subject to the jurisdiction of the General Directorate of Public Service.

2.4. Supporting Bodies for the Work of the Economic Attaché within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In addition to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' authority over international economic relations, which supports the role of the administrative attaché in embassies and consulates, there are other administrative bodies and departments within the ministry that assist the economic attaché. These entities contribute to implementing the economic security strategy by promoting export growth both in quantity and quality, particularly beyond the scope of oil rent dependency.

These supporting bodies and departments include:

- The Directorate for the Promotion and Support of Economic Exchanges within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Sub-Directorate for Trade Information Analysis and Management
- The Sub-Directorate for Program Monitoring and Promotion of Trade Exchanges
- The Office for Investment and Export Promotion
- Ambassadors

- Consuls

The following section will highlight the supportive competencies of these bodies in facilitating the economic attaché's duties at the host country's embassy or consulate, as governed by the relevant subsidiary legislation.

3. Authority of Supporting Bodies for the Work of the Economic Attaché within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a sovereign institution representing the state in interactions with members of the international community, including other states and international organizations. It maintains permanent relations with the United Nations through its UN envoy, as well as diplomatic relations based on cooperation and mutual interests with countries via embassies and consulates. Each of these diplomatic missions houses an Economic Attaché office. To facilitate the Economic Attaché's execution of economic duties, assistance is provided by the ambassador or consul of the host country. Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports the Economic Attaché through several specialized departments: the Directorate for the Promotion and Support of Economic Exchanges, the Sub-directorate for Monitoring Programs and Promoting Trade Exchanges, the Sub-directorate for Commercial Information Analysis and Management, and the Office for Investment and Export Promotion located within the ministry's headquarters. This section will clarify the respective authorities of each.

3.1. The Ministry's Economic Competences

There are no specific economic legal frameworks directed solely at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs proposed by members of the Algerian Parliament, nor are there any economic-related legislative bills submitted by the Ministry itself. On this basis, Algerian legislation (Presidential Decree No 02-403, 2002) grants the Ministry general regulatory competencies in the economic domain under Article 14 of Presidential Decree No. 02-403 dated November 26, 2002, which include:

- Constantly striving to establish and sustain economic cooperation with other countries.
- Coordinating, preparing, and implementing all activities of mutual interest with states and governmental organizations.
- Participating in the promotion of economic, financial, commercial, and scientific cooperation with foreign governments.
- Engaging in the advancement of scientific cooperation with foreign governments.

- Seeking partnerships with foreign economic actors.
- Encouraging foreign investments in Algeria.
- Monitoring and following up on economic activities.
- Evaluating the outcomes of economic activities within the framework of governmental coordination.

3.2. Authorities of the Directorate for the Promotion and Support of Economic Exchanges at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Following the shift in Algeria's fiscal and monetary policy in 2019 towards a strategy aimed at reducing dependence on oil revenues by increasing both the volume and diversity of exports and expanding international economic partnerships, the state's economic policy prioritized the completion and amendment of numerous economic laws. These include legislation related to finance, agriculture, fisheries, domestic and international trade, customs, taxation, investment, and emerging enterprises, among others. Within this strategic framework, the Algerian legislator (Presidential Decree No 19-244, 2019) granted specific authorities to the Directorate for the Promotion and Support of Economic Exchanges under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, pursuant to Article 14 of Presidential Decree No. 19-244 dated September 11, 2019.

This legislative provision reflects the legislator's vision of the Directorate as a critical link between external markets and all economic stakeholders, whether in the public or private sectors, aiming to contribute to the implementation of Algeria's economic security strategy. This strategy is fundamentally dependent on achieving independence from oil rent through export diversification. Accordingly, the Directorate's role centers on the collection and analysis of foreign economic data to enhance export diversification and ultimately to prepare international trade briefs directed at all relevant economic actors.

To fulfill this mandate, the legislator established two subsidiary directorates within the Directorate General: the Sub-directorate for the Analysis and Management of Trade Information and the Sub-directorate for Monitoring Programs and Promoting Trade Exchanges.

3.3. Authorities of the Sub-directorate for the Analysis and Management of Trade Information

The Sub-directorate for the Analysis and Management of Trade Information at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs focuses on the statistical and

informational aspects of foreign markets, providing scientific analysis of emerging changes affecting the overall landscape of international economic relations, particularly in production, export activity, and competitive dynamics across various global trade markets. Regarding information gathering, the Sub-directorate prioritizes the accuracy of data before analysis, subsequently distributing it electronically to economically relevant sectors via the internet, functioning as a comprehensive information database. Additionally, it manages an electronic portal dedicated to foreign trade, integrating the aforementioned data analyses. The Sub-directorate also maintains active communication with stakeholders involved in international economic relations.

3.4. Authority of the Sub-Directorate for Program Monitoring and Promotion of Trade Exchanges

The Sub-Directorate for Program Monitoring and Promotion of Trade Exchanges complements the mandate of the Sub-Directorate for Commercial Information Analysis and Management. Its focus lies on engaging both natural and legal persons within Algeria and abroad who have interests in international economic relations. This is achieved by incentivizing and activating their participation in developing exports beyond the hydrocarbon sector, in close coordination with the economic departments of Algerian embassies and consulates. The core objective centers on supporting all Algerian exporting enterprises.

3.5. Authority of the Office for Information, Investment Promotion, and Export Development

The Office for Information, Investment Promotion, and Export Development is situated at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria, n.d.). It operates under the Directorate for the Promotion and Support of Economic Exchanges within the Ministry. The office's mission is to assist economic operators, both domestic and foreign, in accessing foreign markets. Its responsibilities include providing comprehensive information and analyses on international tenders, partnerships, and global trade fairs.

Additionally, the office organizes international trade missions, forums, and training sessions in the fields of investment and export. These initiatives aim to enhance the professional capabilities of economic operators and improve export quality standards, including the reputation of the Algerian product brand.

Regarding direct communication and detailed information gathering related to the economic

relations of a specific country in terms of exports and imports, the Office for Information, Investment Promotion, and Export Development connects interested parties with the Economic Attaché's office at the relevant embassy or consulate of the target country. Furthermore, this office coordinates with other domestic sectors involved in promoting investments and exports, such as the Customs Authority, Ministry of Investment, Ministry of Commerce, and Export Promotion Agency, among others.

3.6. Powers of Ambassadors in the Economic Sphere

The Algerian legislator (Presidential Decree No 02-406, 2002) has established the powers of ambassadors in the economic domain pursuant to Articles 3 and 9 of Presidential Decree No. 02-406 dated November 26, 2002. These provisions underscore the ambassador's pivotal role in the economic field within the host country, encompassing two primary functions: assistance and development. The assistance function is flexible and involves supporting and aiding all Algerian natural and legal persons from both the public and private sectors in their economic relations with foreign partners. The development function extends to the promotion of trade exchanges and economic partnerships by all available means, including organizing seminars and exhibitions, encouraging the establishment of economic forums with local stakeholders in the host country, as well as coordinating with all Algerian public sectors that have an economic orientation.

3.7. Powers of Consuls in the Economic Sphere

The Algerian legislator (Presidential Decree No 02-407, 2002) has defined the powers of consulate heads in the economic field under Articles 15 and 16 of Presidential Decree No. 02-407 dated November 26, 2002. Their role focuses on developing economic relations between Algeria and individuals within the consulate's jurisdiction in the host country by fostering partnerships between economic operators from both countries. In this context, the consul oversees the updating of electronic communications with foreign economic operators to encourage their participation in economic events and exhibitions organized in Algeria.

4. Responsibilities of the Economic Attaché

Building on the previously discussed significance of Economic Attachés within embassies and consulates, many countries worldwide have, since the end of World War II, appointed these officials

to their diplomatic missions to contribute to internal economic security by strengthening their presence across various international economic relations. Conversely, some countries have only recognized this importance within the past decade; for instance, Lebanon appointed Economic Attachés to certain embassies as recently as 2019, following their participation in training programs (Abdenour, 2022). Lebanon benefited from successful international experiences in this field. However, a notable disparity remains among countries regarding the adoption of either a substantive or nominal role for Economic Attachés within the framework of economic diplomacy, which is crucial for achieving an effective economic security strategy.

Algeria, a major economic power among Arab nations since independence, has nonetheless suffered from the so-called "resource curse" related to oil impacting its economic security (Letrache, 2021), a condition persisting until 2019. Prior to that year, Algeria's economy was almost entirely dependent on oil rents, with all developmental strategies and programs across sectors being largely superficial. Corruption permeated all levels of the state, to the extent that some economic legislation was enacted to serve private interests rather than the public good. Starting in 2019, a reform process began targeting corrupt laws and regulations (Law No. 06-01, 2006), including those affecting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and economic diplomacy. Despite a number of laws and regulations governing the external departments of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as administrative guidelines for Economic Attachés, no distinct legislation exclusively regulating the role of the Economic Attaché within embassies currently exists.

Nonetheless, by examining the relevant legislation and regulations, combined with the practical flexibility of this legal position, and by comparing the role of Economic Attachés in foreign embassies, it is evident that the core responsibilities of the Economic Attaché include:

4.1. Coordinative Responsibilities of the Economic Attaché

The Economic Attaché holds mandatory vertical coordination duties in communication with their direct supervisory authority, represented by the Ambassador or Consul. This involves executing tasks assigned by this authority and submitting corresponding reports prepared by the Economic Attaché. Additionally, the role requires horizontal coordination to ensure integration of efforts with other embassy departments, such as the Secretary-General, Security Attaché, and Cultural Attaché. Coordination responsibilities also encompass responding to correspondence received from the

economic departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or from other ministerial sectors with economic mandates, which are routed through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the embassy in the host country.

Furthermore, the Economic Attaché is responsible for preparing periodic coordination reports submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs via the Ambassador or Consul. These reports play a crucial role in evaluating the staff within the Economic Attaché's office, providing an overview of the host country's economy, identifying opportunities for cooperation and partnership, and primarily supporting the diversification of exports towards that country.

4.2. Core Functions of the Economic Attaché

The Economic Attaché serves as the central figure in fostering economic relations between Algeria and the host country of the embassy or consulate to which they are assigned. Recognizing that the most significant aspects of international relations among states rest on three pillars security, culture, and economy strong nations are distinguished by their economic security and sovereignty. Accordingly, states prioritize the development of their economies and the establishment of robust international economic relations. Within this context, the Economic Attaché plays a vital role through a variety of fundamental functions, including:

- Adherence to executing tasks directly assigned by the ambassador or consul.
- Commitment to carrying out tasks delegated by the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Ministry's departments.
- Compliance with assignments issued by Algerian ministerial sectors with an economic focus.
- Dedication to enhancing scientific and professional capacities through participation in training and refresher courses supervised by the ambassador or consul, especially in response to technological advancements such as artificial intelligence and evolving international economic dynamics.
- Ensuring the development of trade and investment relations between Algeria and the host country of the embassy or consulate by performing assigned duties with quality and initiative, both within and beyond the diplomatic mission.
- Collecting and analyzing economic information within the host country.

- Regularly transmitting economic data to the economic departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Analyzing the host country's fiscal and monetary policies.
- Identifying potential areas for economic cooperation between the two countries.
- Reporting on challenges faced by foreign investors in the host country.
- Collaborating with business forums representing both foreign and Algerian entrepreneurs.
- Continuous monitoring of Algerian companies seeking to export to the host country.
- Preparing reports on consumption patterns within the society of the host country.
- Ensuring the attraction of foreign investments.
- Collaborating with governmental economic bodies, including various administrative departments and ministerial sectors.
- Representing Algeria in various forums and exhibitions held in the host country through the embassy or consulate.
- Facilitating the economic groundwork for establishing economic cooperation agreements between Algeria and the host country.
- Overseeing the implementation of bilateral agreements between the two countries and preparing reports in case of any difficulties.
- Promoting exports by encouraging relevant ministerial sectors particularly those with an economic focus, such as agriculture, trade, fisheries, and startups to organize export-promoting exhibitions, and urging these sectors to internationally publicize these events through both national and foreign media channels.

4.3. The Media Responsibilities of the Economic Attaché

Many scholars argue that politics and economics are two sides of the same coin. Domestic economic stability fundamentally depends on the integration of fiscal and monetary policies. This interplay extends to the integration of political and economic diplomacy, where the Economic Attaché at the embassy or consulate serves as the pivotal figure in economic diplomacy. Success in this role depends largely on mastering the media-related functions specific to the position, which can be summarized as follows:

- Promoting the national economy within the host country through all available social media channels and by developing specialized online platforms and pages aimed at exerting a subtle influence on foreign consumer behavior.
- Establishing networks with foreign journalists and media professionals specializing in economics to facilitate the collection and updating of information.
- Participating in foreign media programs broadcast, televised, and digital by delivering media interventions to advertise the quality of the Algerian product brand and highlight the importance of cooperation with Algerian investors. This also includes promoting the attraction of foreign investments through showcasing incentive-driven investment legislation, regulatory frameworks, and encouraging productive factors.
- Strategically engaging foreign economic journalists and media specialists to promote Algerian products.
- Media promotion of enhanced cooperation between Algerian and foreign business leaders by encouraging the creation of mixed international forums and motivating the exchange of visits.
- Collaborating with specialists to produce promotional videos advertising the Algerian product brand.
- Preparing informational bulletins describing the business environment in both the host country and Algeria.
- Monitoring foreign media perceptions of the Algerian economy, acknowledging positive coverage when it serves the country's interests, and providing scientifically grounded corrective responses when misinformation is detected.
- Tracking foreign public opinion through media regarding Algerian products.
- Coordinating media coverage with foreign media outlets for official visits or events significant to the Algerian economy.
- Liaising with the media department at the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure consistent communication and media strategy.

4.4 Duties in Resolving Commercial Disputes

It is rare for commercial contracts between economic operators from two countries to be concluded without including penalty clauses within the contract documents, which serve as a reference in the event one party breaches the terms. However, disputes sometimes arise between contracting parties that can only be resolved

through amicable settlement, mediation, international arbitration as a quasi-judicial resolution, or agreed-upon litigation, whether domestic or foreign. All these methods constitute mandatory regulatory provisions within the contract, serving as the governing framework agreed upon by the parties.

When the parties opt for amicable resolution, the economic attaché plays a supportive role by leveraging their relationships with various economic stakeholders in the host country's public and private sectors related to the disputing parties. In cases where arbitration is chosen as the method of dispute resolution, the economic attaché facilitates the international arbitration process on behalf of the Algerian party's arbitrator by providing all necessary information, documents, and relevant foreign regulations if available, as well as advising on procedural gaps to be exploited for a favorable ruling.

In the final scenario, where foreign judicial proceedings are selected, the economic attaché contributes to securing a favorable outcome by assisting in the careful selection of legal counsel and supplying the lawyer with necessary evidence either directly or indirectly through the Algerian party involved in the dispute.

4.5 Practical Example of the Role of the Algerian Economic Attaché in France

Historically, the Algerian economy has been closely linked to that of France during the colonial period from 1830 to 1962, a time marked by the exploitation of the country's resources. Historical records show that these economic ties date back centuries before colonization. After Algeria gained independence, economic cooperation continued, albeit under unstable economic conditions driven by political factors, causing trade exchanges to fluctuate over time. Nonetheless, beyond politics, economic cooperation between peoples and nations remains essential. In this context, the key responsibilities entrusted to the Algerian Economic Attaché in France to support Algeria's economic security include:

- Overseeing the development of trade and investment relations between Algeria and France.
- Collecting economic data related to French imports, exports, and products.
- Gathering information on the competitive landscape of exports to France, particularly as France is a member of the World Trade Organization, unlike Algeria, and regularly transmitting these insights to the economic departments of Algeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Identifying potential areas for economic cooperation between France and Algeria.

- Promoting Algerian natural and processed food products in the French market through organizing promotional exhibitions in France, such as dates and olive oil.
- Submitting reports on challenges faced by Algerian exporters to France.
- Enhancing cooperation between Algerian and French business forums.
- Providing continuous support and monitoring of Algerian companies seeking to export to France.
- Reporting on the quality of Algerian brands in France and consumer demand levels for these products.
- Preparing reports on the consumption patterns of the Algerian, Arab, and Islamic communities in France to target them for exports exceeding the domestic consumption capacity in Algeria, particularly within the food industry sector.
- Ensuring the attraction of French investments, especially following amendments to the investment law and related regulations, by focusing on French strengths and Algerian weaknesses in economic sectors such as renewable energy.
- Promoting the advantages of Algeria's investment climate through collaboration with French media outlets to highlight profitability factors and the various incentives available in Algeria.
- Supporting Algerian investors and businesspeople in France, particularly those specializing in import activities.
- Organizing meetings both inside and outside the embassy with French importers to communicate their concerns to Algerian economic authorities, while facilitating encounters with Algerian exporters.
- Facilitating the registration of Algerian brands according to European quality standards to enable future export expansion to other European Union countries.
- Collaborating with French economic organizations to resolve various obstacles hindering Algerian exports, such as customs procedures or licensing issues.
- Representing Algeria in various economic forums and trade exhibitions organized in France.
- Laying the groundwork for economic cooperation between Algeria and France aimed at establishing agreements based on mutual trust and shared interests.
- Overseeing the implementation of bilateral agreements between Algeria and France ratified by both countries, submitting periodic reports to the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs in cases of delays or difficulties, which then coordinates with the relevant economic ministries.

4.6 Practical Example of the Role of the Algerian Economic Attaché in China

In the case of China, for instance, it is essential that the Algerian embassy includes a dedicated Economic Attaché division with specialized offices such as Trade, Investment, and Economic Media. The head of this division should possess a high level of academic expertise in economics.

The Algerian Economic Attaché in China plays a pivotal role in strengthening and advancing economic relations between the two countries. This role is manifested through several precise scientific dimensions that demonstrate the Attaché's effective influence on economic rapprochement:

- Collecting accurate statistical data on the Chinese consumer market and analyzing it to identify opportunities available to Algerian exporters and to develop strategic cooperation plans.
- Fostering cooperative relationships between Algerian and Chinese economic operators.
- Coordinating with Chinese government bodies involved in economic affairs to facilitate partnership agreements aimed at expanding bilateral trade relations.
- Establishing collaborative links between emerging Algerian enterprises and their Chinese counterparts to benefit from expertise in production and marketing.
- Advising Algerian investors intending to procure production chains from China to ensure the quality standards of their products, given China's global reputation for exporting goods ranging from lower to high quality.
- Collecting and analyzing information on Chinese investments to identify opportunities that align with the Algerian economy.
- Working to enhance Algeria's export capacity to China beyond the hydrocarbons sector, particularly given that China has the largest consumer market in the world, with a population exceeding one and a half billion.
- Coordinating with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce to increase the volume of Algerian exports to China, aiming both to diversify export destinations and to engage with a country that respects established agreements.

- Leveraging Chinese expertise in areas such as renewable energy, mining, agriculture, fisheries, and food industries.
- Promoting the quality of Algeria's business climate through media outreach, highlighting procedural and legislative reforms following significant amendments to the Investment Law and related regulations, including customs and corporate profit repatriation.
- Assisting Algerian economic policymakers in their engagement with China by providing a series of recommendations developed by the economic attaché.

6- Conclusion:

The personal name of the Economic Attaché is often more widely recognized among economic actors in the host country than that of the ambassador or consul, due to differences in the frequency, nature, and flexibility of communication, as well as the speed with which objectives are achieved whether related to establishing new international economic relationships, developing existing ones, or resolving disputes arising from them.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the pivotal role of the Economic Attaché in embassies and consulates in addressing international economic crises depends not only on fulfilling the tasks assigned by contractual provisions or the legal framework governing the corps of Economic Attachés, but fundamentally on the governance and quality of thought of the individual in that position. This is where the critical difference lies in effectively leveraging economic information from the host country, which constitutes a valuable contribution to the economy of the Attaché's home country.

Moreover, the governance and intellectual capacity of the Economic Attaché significantly influence the quality of bilateral agreements they help establish, as well as the caliber of economic negotiations between the two countries. Beyond this, the Attaché plays a central role in strengthening economic relations aimed at safeguarding the economic interests of their home state.

Ultimately, the Economic Attaché holds a key role in resolving international economic disputes, provided that governance and quality prevail in all forms of dispute resolution, whether amicable or judicial. The Attaché also balances the political economy objectives of their home country with its fiscal and monetary policies, analyzing and deriving conclusions from the economic data gathered to fulfill the primary purpose of their

appointment or engagement: fostering the development of the local economy.

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