



NATIONAL NETWORK
For The Right
Of Access To Information

PRIVATE SECTOR

Why should you support the law on Access to Information?

- Your support for this law will demonstrate a commitment to advance economic development and the overall investment climate in Lebanon.
- This law promotes stable economic markets and socioeconomic justice.
- This law ensures an equitable right to access public information on a timely basis, which helps businesses be more profitable.
- This law will build confidence in the business sector.
- This law will increase the levels of transparency and accountability in business relationships between companies and the government, and of the government as regulator of the business sector.

How can this law help you as a business owner?

- Adoption of this law will yield information related to regulations, decisions by government organizations and agencies (such as procurement plans, statistics, and market data), and other important trade information that most often only the government can generate.
- This law will help defend against potential lawsuits and administrative claims filed by the government against companies.
- This law will help provide data related to regulations, contracts, license concessions, and potential subsidies.
- This law will promote the disclosure of the government's plan (as it relates to taxation, public contracting, and customs for instance), which can positively affect business profitability.

How will this help advance the economy and investment climate in Lebanon?

- Open government will reduce corruption and generate more investment security and regulatory discipline.
- Exercising your right to know promotes economic development as it enables business to better plan activities, favors legitimate competition, and reduces barriers to entry through better flow of information, all of which is beneficial to the country.
- Markets are perceived as dependable and trustworthy when rules, regulation, and enforcement are transparent and when anyone can access public information.
- This law will empower businessmen to monitor government programs designed to bolster investment, strengthen all forms of companies in the private sector, thus leading to increased national and international trust in Lebanon's systems of governance.

How does this law help your business be more competitive?

- This law favors a climate of open tendering, thus helping businesses compete for governmental bids and contracts.
- Exercising the right to access public information allows companies to better define their business strategies and minimize business risks.
- Consumer data and statistics, price indexes and demographic growth information provided by the government are useful for updating costs and determining strategy.
- The active participation of the private sector in promoting and lobbying for citizens' right to access information will lead to increased transparency, accountability and healthier competition in the market.

The National Network for the Right of Access to Information ("Network"), a multi-sectoral group comprising parliamentarians, ministries, private sector associations, professional syndicates and non-governmental organizations, seeks to enhance transparency and accountability and to strengthen the rule of law and civic participation in Lebanon through access to information and protection for individuals who report corruption ("whistleblower protection"). The Network was formed on April 11, 2008 upon the initiative of the Lebanese Parliamentarians against Corruption (LebPAC), the Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA), and Association pour la Défense des Droits et des Libertés (ADDL), in collaboration with the American Bar Association (ABA) Rule of Law Initiative in Lebanon.

For more information, see www.a2ilebanon.net, www.khabrouna.net.