

Law n° 2016-8 dated 22 February 2016, relating to the staggering of debts of the tenants of agricultural State buildings ⁽¹⁾.

In the name of the People,

The People's Representatives Assembly having adopted,

The President of the Republic enacts the following law :

Article one - Subject to the provisions of law n° 95-21 dated 13 February 1995, relating to the agricultural state buildings and notably its article 11, of decree-law n° 2011-37 dated 14 May 2011, relating to temporary measures of support for the operators exercising in the agriculture and fishing sector to continue their activities and notably its article 7, and of law n° 2015-53 dated 25 December 2015, relating to the appropriations law for the year 2016 and notably its article 79,

⁽¹⁾ Preparatory works :

Discussion and adoption by the People's Representatives Assembly during its session held on 9 February 2016.

The companies of enhancement and agricultural development and the technicians graduated from the agricultural training establishments, the young farmers, the ex-cooperators of dissolved agricultural cooperatives and its permanent workers or those of the restructured State farms, wishing to extend the lease term, may benefit from the staggering of the principal and penalties of their debts to the State in respect of rents covering the agricultural seasons 2009-2010, 2010- 2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.

The staggering of the debt shall be done on two equal annual instalments for the companies of enhancement and agricultural development, and on five equal annual instalments for the other beneficiaries, provided that paying an advance of 20% of the debt totality at the time of signature of the staggering contract for the companies of enhancement and agricultural development and of 10% for the other beneficiaries.

It is proceeded to the cancellation of the penalties, in the event of payment of the debts due to the title of the rents of agricultural seasons above mentioned at once, and this, within six months as from the date of entry into force of the law herein.

Art. 2 - To benefit from the staggering of their debts, tenants mentioned in article one of the law herein, shall present a written and justified application for this purpose, within six months as from the date of entry into force of the law herein, to the relevant receiver of finances, accompanied by the following documents :

1 -The agreement in principle of the Ministry of State Properties and land Affairs for the extension of the lease term.

2 -An attesting document in proof of the realization of the program of enhancement and development of the rented building.

3 -An investment program for the period of extension of the lease term, approved by the ministers in charge of agriculture and the State properties.

4 -An attesting document in proof of the payment of the rents in respect of the agricultural seasons preceding those concerned by the staggering, mentioned in article one of the law herein.

Art. 3 - Rents due under the terms of the subsequent agricultural seasons to the agricultural season 2013-2014, remain payable at their respective term.

Art. 4 - Are suspended the prosecution procedures for each debtor who commits himself paying the installments due on their respective term.

The non-payment of each installment due, involves the resumption of legal proceedings for its recovery. In this case, the debtor loses the benefit from the staggering provisions, and the administration reserves the right to proceed to the application of the procedures of forfeiture, in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

The law herein shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Tunisia and implemented as law of the State.

Tunis, 22 February 2016.

The President of the Republic
Mohamed Béji Caïd Essebsi