

BANQUE DU LIBAN

Basic Circular 151 Addressed to Banks

Attached is a copy of Basic Decision 13221 of 21 April 2020, relating to Exceptional Measures for Cash Withdrawals from Foreign-Currency Accounts.

Beirut, 21 April 2020

The Governor of Banque du Liban

Riad Toufic Salamé

Basic Decision 13221

Exceptional Measures for Cash Withdrawals from Foreign-Currency Accounts

The Governor of Banque du Liban,

Pursuant to the Code of Money and Credit, particularly Articles 70 and 174 thereof;

In order to preserve public interest under the exceptional circumstances prevailing in the country; and

Pursuant to the powers vested in the Governor to ensure the smooth running of Banque du Liban, based on the principle of the continued functioning of public utilities,

Decides the following:

Article 1¹: Without prejudice to the substance of Basic Decision No. 13217 of 9 April 2020, in case customers request to perform cash withdrawals or cash transactions from their accounts or receivables in US dollars or in other foreign currencies, banks operating in Lebanon shall, provided they obtain the approval of the concerned customer, settle the equivalent of the requested amount in Lebanese pound at the market rate applied on the Electronic Platform for Exchange Operations, and in accordance with the measures and limits adopted by the concerned bank.

Article 2²:

Article 3: The concerned bank must sell to Banque du Liban the foreign currencies resulting from the operations mentioned in Article 1 above.

Article 4: All other operations performed by banks with their customers in US Dollar shall remain subject to the exchange rate set by Banque du Liban for its operations with banks.

Article 5: This Decision shall come into force upon its issuance date and shall remain effective until 31 January 2022³.

Article 6: This Decision shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Beirut, 21 April 2020

The Governor of Banque du Liban

Riad Toufic Salamé

¹- This Article was amended by Article 1 of Intermediate Decision 13282 of 9 October 2020 (Intermediate Circular 572).

²- This Article, repealed by Article 4 of Intermediate Decision 13253 of 4 August 2020 (Intermediate Circular 565), read initially: "Each bank must announce the market rate it applies on a daily basis".

³- This Decision, which was to be enforced for six months as of its issuance date, shall remain effective till 31 January 2022, pursuant to Intermediate Decision 13368 of 29 September 2021 (Intermediate Circular 596).