

CHAPTER NINE

SIMPLIFICATION AND HARMONISATION OF TRADE DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 69

Trade Documents and Procedures

The Member States agree to simplify and harmonize their trade documents and procedures in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter so as to facilitate trade in goods and services within the Common Market by:

- (a) reducing to a minimum the number of trade documents and copies thereof;
- (b) reducing to a minimum the number of national bodies required to handle documents referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph; and
- (c) harmonizing the nature of the information to be contained in documents referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph.

ARTICLE 70

Trade Facilitation

The Member States undertake to initiate trade facilitation programmes aimed at:

- (a) reducing the cost of documents and the volume of paper work required in respect of trade among the Member States;
- (b) ensuring that the nature and volume of information required in respect of trade within the Common Market does not adversely affect the economic development of, or trade among the Member States;
- (c) adopting common standards of trade procedures within the Common Market where international requirements do not suit the conditions prevailing among the Member States;
- (d) ensuring adequate co-ordination between trade and transport facilitation within the Common Market;
- (e) keeping under review the procedures adopted in international trade and transport with a view to simplifying and adopting them for use by the Member States;

- (f) collecting and disseminating information on trade facilitation and documents;
- (g) promoting the development and adoption of common solutions to problems in trade facilitation among the Member States; and
- (h) initiating or promoting the establishment of joint programmes for the training of personnel engaged in trade facilitation among the Member States.

ARTICLE 71

Standardisation of Trade Documents and Information

1. The Member States undertake, where appropriate, to design and standardise their trade documents and the information required to be contained in such documents in accordance with internationally accepted standards, practices and guidelines, and taking into account their possible use in computer and other automatic data programming systems.
2. The simplification, harmonisation and standardisation of customs regulations, documents and procedures and their computerisation will be facilitated by the regional Automated System for Customs Data Centre at the Headquarters of the Common Market.

3. For the purpose of implementing the provisions of this Chapter, the Member States agree to establish national trade facilitation bodies.