

CHAPTER 10

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 10

Joint Committee

1. The Parties hereby establish the EFTA-Ecuador Joint Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Joint Committee”) comprising representatives of each Party.
2. The Joint Committee shall:
 - (a) supervise and review the implementation of this Agreement;
 - (b) keep under review the possibility of further removal of barriers to trade and other restrictive measures concerning trade between the Parties;
 - (c) oversee any further elaboration of this Agreement;
 - (d) supervise the work of all sub-committees and working groups established under this Agreement;
 - (e) endeavour to resolve disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement; and
 - (f) consider any other matter that may affect the operation of this Agreement.
3. The Joint Committee may establish subcommittees and working groups in order to assist it in the performance of its tasks. Except where otherwise provided for in this Agreement, the Joint Committee shall determine their composition and mandate.
4. The Joint Committee may take decisions as provided for in this Agreement. On other matters the Joint Committee may make recommendations.
5. The Joint Committee shall take decisions and make recommendations by consensus. The Joint Committee may adopt decisions and make recommendations regarding issues related to only one or several EFTA states and Ecuador. Consensus shall only involve, and the decision or recommendation shall only apply to, those Parties.
6. The Joint Committee shall meet within one year of the entry into force of this Agreement. Thereafter, it shall meet whenever necessary but normally every two years. Its meetings shall be chaired jointly by one of the EFTA States and Ecuador.
7. Each Party may request at any time, through a notice in writing to the other Parties, that a special meeting of the Joint Committee be held. Such a meeting shall take place within 30 days from the receipt of the request, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

8. If a representative of a Party in the Joint Committee has accepted a decision subject to the fulfilment of domestic legal requirements, the decision shall enter into force on the date that the last Party notifies that its internal requirements have been fulfilled, unless otherwise agreed. The Joint Committee may decide that the decision enters into force for those Parties that have fulfilled their internal requirements, provided that Ecuador is one of those Parties.

9. The Joint Committee shall establish its rules of procedure.