

the competent authorities in the same country, in accordance with the Protocol on Rules of Origin specific to this Agreement.

3. The Committee of Foreign Trade Ministers shall monitor on a continual basis any modifications which may be required to this Protocol, with a view to the sound application of the Rules of Origin.

Section 3: Accompanying arrangements for liberalization

Article 7: Fixing of customs duties, and duties and taxes having equivalent effect, and rules for their calculation

1. By customs duties is meant those duties laid down in the Customs Tariff according to the rates applied in Member Countries on 31/12/1997, and other duties and taxes of similar effect on goods traded between the Member Countries at the above date imposed by one of the Member Countries on imported goods, which are not imposed on products of the Member Country itself.
2. No new customs duties, nor any duties or taxes of equivalent effect, may be imposed on goods traded between the Member Countries, after the entry into effect of this Agreement.
3. If any reductions are effected in the customs duties, and other duties and taxes of similar effect, at the time of, or after, the entry into force of this Agreement, such reduced rates of duties or taxes shall replace those specified in para. 1 of this Article.
4. Member Countries shall follow the harmonized schedule (HS) Customs tariff in the classification of products traded between them.
5. Upon signature of this Agreement Member Countries shall exchange documents concerning the setting of Customs duties, and duties and taxes having equivalent effect, as of the date referred to in Para. 1, in accordance with the schedule of tariffs mentioned in Para. 4 of this Article.

Article 8: Non-customs restrictions

The Member Countries engage themselves to remove immediately all non-customs restrictions, including arrangements and procedures which might be adopted by Member countries to control imports. Such restrictions may specifically include quantitative, currency, administrative and technical restrictions which might be imposed on importations. No new non-customs restrictions may be imposed, this being in accordance with the specific rules of the World Trade Organisation, and the agreement for facilitation and development of commercial exchanges between the Arab states, and the arrangements of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area.

Article 9: Customs valuation

For the purposes of customs valuation of imported goods, the Member Countries will apply the provisions of the World Trade Organisation Agreement related to customs valuation.

Article 10: National treatment

Goods traded between the Member Countries having the origin and source of those countries will be accorded the treatment of national goods.

Article 11: Government procurement

The provisions of this Agreement shall be adhered to as regards customs duties and taxes actually imposed in the comparison of offers related to international tenders for the supply of goods in each Member Country, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and in a manner not conflicting with the operative laws and procedures as regards preferential treatment in each Member Country.

Article 12: Value added tax and sales tax

Levels of VAT or sales tax on imported products benefiting from exemption from or reductions of customs duties shall be set taking account of the customs duties and other duties and taxes having equivalent effect in accordance with the proportional value of the exemptions and reductions specified in Articles 3 and 4 of this Agreement.

Article 13: Financial transactions

Settlement of financial transactions in the context of commercial exchanges between the Member Countries shall be made in a freely traded currency, in accordance with the rules and laws in force in each one of them, without infringing any agreements or arrangements which may be in force between the Member Countries.

Article 14: Exhibitions

Each Member Country shall work to participate in exhibitions and international fairs being held in the other Member Countries, and shall allow the organization of temporary or permanent exhibitions in its national territory, and shall offer all necessary facilities for this purpose in accordance with the rules and procedures applicable in each Member Country.

Section 4: Procedures

Article 15: Defensive procedures

Each Member Country shall have the right to initiate defensive procedures as specified in the agreement establishing the World Trade Organization. Such procedures shall only be applied in relation to products which any party shall determine have been imported into its territory from another Member Country in increasing quantities, either in absolute terms, or proportionally in relation to local production, in such a manner as to cause, or to threaten to cause, substantial damage to local industry or agriculture producing similar products, or