

General exceptions

This Agreement shall not preclude prohibitions or restrictions on imports, exports or goods in transit justified on grounds of public morality, public policy or public security; the protection of health and life of humans, animals or plants; the protection of the environment; the protection of national treasures possessing artistic, historic or archaeological value; the protection of intellectual property; laws and regulations relating to precious stones and metals. Such prohibitions or restrictions shall not however, constitute means of arbitrary discriminations or a disguised restriction on trade between the Parties.

Article 9

State monopolies

1. The Parties shall ensure that any state monopoly of commercial character be adjusted, so that no discrimination regarding the conditions under which goods are procured and marketed will exist between nationals of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. These goods shall be procured and marketed in accordance with commercial considerations.

2. This Article shall apply to the institutions through which the competent authorities of the Parties, in law or in fact, either directly or indirectly supervise, determine or appreciably influence imports or exports between the Parties. These provisions shall likewise apply to monopolies delegated by the state to others.

Article 10

National treatment

The goods originating from the territory of one Party imported into the territory of any other Party shall be accorded treatment no less favorable than that accorded to like goods of national origin in respect of all laws, regulations and requirements affecting their internal sale, offering for sale, purchase, transportation, distribution or use.

Article 11

Internal taxation

1. The Parties shall refrain from any measure or practice of an internal fiscal nature establishing, whether directly or indirectly, discrimination between the products originating in one Party and like products originating in the one of the other Parties.

2. Products exported to the territory of one of the Parties may not benefit from repayment of internal taxation in excess of the amount of direct or indirect taxation imposed on them.

Article 12

Payments

1. Payments relating to trade and the transfer to such payments to the territory of the Party where the creditor resides shall be free from any restrictions.
2. The Parties shall refrain from administrative restrictions on the grant, repayment or acceptance of short-term and medium-term credits covering commercial transactions.
3. Payments are effected on the basis of the Agreements between the Bank of Estonia, the Bank of Latvia and the Bank of Lithuania.

Article 13

Public procurement

The Parties consider the effective liberalization of their respective public procurement markets as an integral objective of this Agreement.

Article 14

The legal protection of intellectual property

1. To achieve the objectives of this Agreement, the Parties shall guarantee adequate, effective and non-discriminatory legal protection of intellectual property rights. With the establishment of this legal protection, especially against counterfeiting and piracy, they will adopt and apply adequate, effective and non-discriminatory measures.
2. The Parties shall take all necessary measures after the entry into force of this Agreement to comply with the substantive provisions of international conventions in the field of protection of intellectual property rights.
3. In the field of intellectual property, the Parties shall not grant treatment less favorable to each other's nationals than that accorded to nationals of a third state.
4. The Parties may apply, using their national laws and regulations, legal protection which exceeds the provisions of this Article provided that this legal protection is not in contradiction with the provisions of this Agreement.
5. If one of the Parties considers that one of the other Parties has failed to fulfil the obligations under this Article, Article 26 (Fulfilment of obligations), paragraph 2 shall apply.
6. The Parties shall agree upon appropriate modalities for technical assistance and cooperation of their respective authorities.

Article 15

Rules of competition concerning undertakings