

- (c) As regards Article 26 (Fulfilment of obligations) the party concerned shall supply the Joint Committee with all relevant information required for a thorough examination of the situation with a view to seeking a mutually acceptable solution. If the Joint Committee fails to reach such a solution or if a period of three months has elapsed from the date of notification, the party concerned may take appropriate measures.

3. The safeguard measures taken shall be notified immediately to other Parties. They shall be restricted with regard to their extent and to their duration to what is strictly necessary in order to rectify the situation giving rise to their application and shall not be in excess of the injury caused by the practice or the difficulty in question. Priority shall be given to such measures as will least disturb the functioning of this Agreement.

4. The safeguard measures taken shall be the object of regular consultations with a view to their relaxation, substitution or abolition as soon as possible.

5. Where exceptional circumstances requiring immediate action make prior examination impossible, the Party concerned may, in the cases of Articles 16 (State aid), 17 (Dumping), 18 (Emergency action on imports of a particular product) and 20 (Re-exports and serious shortage) apply forthwith the precautionary and provisional measures strictly necessary to deal with the situation. The measures shall be notified to the Joint Committee without delay and consultations between the Parties shall take place as soon as possible.

Article 23

Security exceptions

Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent a Party to this Agreement from taking any measures which it considers necessary:

- (a) to prevent the disclosure of information contrary to its essential security interests;

- (b) for the protection of its essential security interest or for the implementation of international obligations or national policies:

- (i) relating to the traffic in arms, ammunition and implements of war, provided that such measures do not impair the conditioned of competition in respect of products not intended for specifically military purposes, and to such traffic in other goods, materials and services as is carried on directly or indirectly for the purpose of supplying a military establishment; or

- (ii) relating to the non-proliferation of biological and chemical weapons, nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices; or

- (iii) taken in time of war other serious international tension.

Article 24

The Joint Committee

1. A Joint Committee is hereby established, which shall be responsible for the administration of this Agreement and shall review its implementation. For this purpose it shall follow closely the development of the trade and economic cooperation between the Parties and take any corresponding measure to improve and further develop those relations. The decisions of the Joint Committee shall be put into effect by the Parties in accordance with their own laws.
2. For the purpose of the power implementation of this Agreement the Parties shall exchange information, and at the request of any Party, shall hold consultations within the Joint Committee.
3. The Joint Committee shall consist of representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
4. The Joint Committee shall act by mutual consensus.
5. Each Party shall preside alternately over the Joint Committee.
6. The meetings of the Joint Committee shall be held at least once a year in order to review the general functioning of this Agreement. The Joint Committee shall, in addition, meet whenever special circumstances so require at the request of any Party.
7. The Joint Committee may decide to set up any working groups that can assist it in carrying out its duties.
8. The Joint Committee may take independent decisions concerning the application of this Agreement. The Joint Committee shall make recommendations and decisions on the amendments in accordance with the formal procedure of each Party.

Article 25

Evolutionary clause

The Parties shall recognize the growing importance of such areas as services, investments and the implementation of joint projects. Where a Party considers that it would be useful in the interests of the economies of the Parties to develop and deepen the relations established by this Agreement by extending them to fields not covered thereby, it shall submit a reasoned request to the other Parties. The Parties may instruct the Joint Committee to examine this request and, where appropriate, to make recommendations to them, particularly with a view of opening up negotiations.