

## **ARTICLE 24**

### **Balance of payments difficulties**

1. Where an EFTA State or Poland is in serious balance of payments difficulties, or under imminent threat thereof, the EFTA State or Poland, as the case may be, may, in accordance with the conditions established under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, adopt trade restrictive measures, which shall be of limited duration and may not go beyond what is necessary to remedy the balance of payments situation. The measures shall be progressively relaxed as balance of payments conditions improve and they shall be eliminated when conditions no longer justify this maintenance. The EFTA State or Poland, as the case may be, shall inform the other States Parties to this Agreement and the Joint Committee forthwith of their introduction and, whenever practicable, of a time schedule for their removal.
2. The States Parties to this Agreement shall, nevertheless, endeavour to avoid the imposition of restrictive measures for balance of payments purposes.

## **ARTICLE 25**

### **Procedure for the application of safeguard measures**

1. Before initiating the procedure for the application of safeguard measures set out in this Article, the States Parties to this Agreement shall endeavour to solve any differences between them through direct consultations, and inform the other States Parties to this Agreement thereof.
2. Without prejudice to paragraph 6 of this Article, a State Party to this Agreement which considers resorting to safeguard measures shall promptly notify the other States Parties to this Agreement and the Joint Committee thereof and supply all relevant information. Consultations between the States Parties to this Agreement shall take place without delay in the Joint Committee with a view to finding a commonly acceptable solution.
3.
  - (a) As regards Articles 18 and 19, the States Parties concerned shall give to the Joint Committee all the assistance required in order to examine the case and, where appropriate, eliminate the practice objected to. If the State Party in question fails to put an end to the practice objected to within the period fixed by the Joint Committee or if the Joint Committee fails to reach an agreement within three months of the matter being referred to it, the State Party concerned may adopt the appropriate measures to deal with the difficulties resulting from the practice in question.
  - (b) As regards Articles 20, 21 and 23, the Joint Committee shall examine the case or the situation and may take any decision needed to put an end to the difficulties notified by the State Party concerned. In the absence of such a decision within thirty days of the matter being referred to the Joint Committee, the State Party concerned may adopt the measures necessary in order to remedy the situation.
  - (c) As regards Article 31, the State Party concerned may take appropriate measures after the consultations have been concluded or a period of three months has elapsed from the date of notification.
4. The safeguard measures taken shall be notified immediately to the States Parties to this Agreement and to the Joint Committee. The measures shall be restricted with regard to their extent and to their