

life of humans, animals or plants and the environment; the protection of national treasures possessing artistic, historic or archaeological value; the protection of intellectual property; rules relating to gold or silver; or the conservation of exhaustible natural resources, if such measures are made effective in conjunction with restrictions on domestic production or consumption. Such prohibitions or restrictions shall not, however, constitute a means of arbitrary discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade between the States Parties to this Agreement.

## ARTICLE 11

### State monopolies

1. The States Parties to this Agreement shall ensure that any state monopoly of a commercial character be adjusted, subject to the provisions laid down in Protocol D, so that no discrimination regarding the conditions under which goods are procured and marketed will exist between nationals of the EFTA States and of Romania.
2. The provisions of this Article shall apply to any body through which the competent authorities of the States Parties to this Agreement, in law or in fact, either directly or indirectly supervise, determine or appreciably influence imports or exports between the States Parties to this Agreement. These provisions shall likewise apply to monopolies delegated by the State to others.

## ARTICLE 12

### Information procedure on draft technical regulations

1. The EFTA States and Romania shall notify each other, at the earliest practicable stage and in accordance with the provisions laid down in Annex X, of draft technical regulations and draft amendments thereto, which they intend to issue.
2. The States Parties to this Agreement shall endeavour to implement this procedure within two years from the entry into force of the Agreement. If this does not turn out to be fully possible, the Joint Committee shall prolong this period.

## ARTICLE 13

### Trade in agricultural products

1. The States Parties to this Agreement declare their readiness to foster, in so far as their agricultural policies allow, harmonious development of trade in agricultural products.
2. In pursuance of this objective each individual EFTA State and Romania shall conclude a bilateral arrangement providing for measures to facilitate trade in agricultural products.

3. The States Parties to this Agreement shall apply their regulations in veterinary, plant health and health matters in a non-discriminatory fashion and shall not introduce any new measures that have the effect of unduly obstructing trade.

#### ARTICLE 14

##### Internal taxation

1. The States Parties to this Agreement shall refrain from any measure or practice of an internal fiscal nature establishing, whether directly or indirectly, discrimination between the products originating in an EFTA State and like products originating in Romania.

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

#### ARTICLE 15

##### Payments

1. Payments relating to trade between an EFTA State and Romania and the transfer of such payments to the territory of the State Party to this Agreement where the creditor resides shall be free from any restrictions.

2. The States Parties to this Agreement shall refrain from any exchange or administrative restrictions on the grant, repayment or acceptance of short and medium-term credits covering commercial transactions in which a resident participates.

3. Until a full convertibility of the Romanian currency in the meaning of Article VIII of the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund is introduced, Romania reserves the right to apply exchange restrictions connected with the granting or taking up of short and medium-term credits to the extent permitted according to Romania's status under the IMF, provided that these restrictions are applied in a non-discriminatory manner. They shall be applied in such a manner as to cause the least possible disruption to this Agreement. Romania shall inform the Joint committee promptly of the introduction of such measures and of any changes therein.

#### ARTICLE 16

##### Public procurement

1. The States Parties to this Agreement consider the effective liberalization of their respective public procurement markets as a desirable and important objective of this Agreement.

2. As of the entry into force of this Agreement, the EFTA States shall grant companies from Romania access to contract award procedures on their