

- (a) serious injury to domestic producers of like or directly competitive products in the territory of the importing State Party to this Agreement, or
- (b) serious disturbances in any sector of the economy or difficulties which could bring about serious deterioration in the economic situation of a region,

the State Party concerned may take appropriate measures under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 25.

ARTICLE 22

Structural adjustment

1. Exceptional measures of limited duration which derogate from the provisions of Article 4 may be taken by Romania in the form of increased customs duties.
2. These measures may only concern infant industries, or certain sectors undergoing restructuring or facing serious difficulties, particularly where these difficulties produce important social problems.
3. Customs duties on imports applicable in Romania to products originating in the EFTA States introduced by these measures may not exceed 25 per cent ad valorem and shall maintain an element of preference for products originating in the EFTA States. The total value of imports of the products which are subject to these measures may not exceed 15 per cent of total imports of industrial products from the EFTA States, as defined in Article 2, during the last year for which statistics are available.
4. These measures shall be applied for a period not exceeding five years unless a longer duration is authorized by the Joint Committee. They shall cease to apply at the latest at the expiration of the transitional period.
5. No such measures can be introduced in respect of a product if more than three years have elapsed since the elimination of all duties and quantitative restrictions or charges or measures having an equivalent effect concerning that product.
6. Romania shall inform the Joint Committee of any exceptional measures it intends to take and, at the request of the EFTA States, consultations shall be held in the Joint Committee on such measures and the sectors to which they apply before they are applied. When taking such measures Romania shall provide the Joint Committee with a schedule for the elimination of the customs duties introduced under this Article. This schedule shall provide for a phasing out of these duties starting at the latest two years after their introduction, at equal annual rates. The Joint Committee may decide on a different schedule.