

CHAPTER 11
INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 11.1

Joint Committee

1. The Parties hereby establish the EFTA-Central America Joint Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Joint Committee”) comprising representatives of each Party at the ministerial level with responsibility for trade-related matters, in accordance with the Parties' respective legal frames, their designees or at a senior official level selected for this purpose.
2. The Joint Committee shall:
 - (a) supervise and review the implementation of this Agreement;
 - (b) keep under review the possibility of further removal of barriers to trade and other restrictive measures concerning trade between the EFTA States and the Central American States;
 - (c) oversee the further elaboration of this Agreement;
 - (d) supervise the work of all sub-committees and working groups established under this Agreement;
 - (e) seek to resolve disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement;
 - (f) establish its own rules of procedure; and
 - (g) consider any other matter that may affect the operation of this Agreement.
3. The Joint Committee may:
 - (a) modify, in fulfilment of the Agreement's objectives: Appendices 1-5 to Annex I, Annexes III, IV, V, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, Annexes XV, XVI, XVIII, and Annex XX;
 - (b) modify Annexes I, VII and VIII subject to the fulfilment of the internal legal requirements of each Party; and
 - (c) except as otherwise provided for in this Article, consider and propose to the Parties any amendments to the rights and obligations under this Agreement, including new annexes and appendices to all Chapters of this Agreement, subject to the fulfilment of the internal legal requirements of each Party.

4. Each Party shall implement, in accordance with its applicable legal procedures, any modification referred to in paragraph 3(a) within such period as the Joint Committee decides.¹²

5. The Joint Committee may decide to set up such sub-committees and working groups as it considers necessary to assist it in accomplishing its tasks. Except where otherwise provided for in this Agreement, the sub-committees and working groups shall work under a mandate established by the Joint Committee.

6. The Joint Committee may take decisions as provided for in this Agreement. On other matters the Joint Committee may make recommendations.

7. The Joint Committee shall take decisions and make recommendations by consensus. The Joint Committee can also adopt decisions and make recommendations regarding issues related only to one or more Central American States and one or more EFTA States. The vote shall in such cases only be taken among the Parties concerned. Decisions or recommendations adopted by the Joint Committee in accordance with this paragraph, shall only apply to those Parties that adopted the decision or recommendation.

8. The Joint Committee shall meet within one year of the entry into force of this Agreement. Thereafter, it shall meet whenever necessary but normally every two years. Its meetings shall be chaired jointly by one of the EFTA States and by one of the Central American States. Unless otherwise decided by the Parties, sessions of the Joint Committee shall be held alternatively in the territory of an EFTA State and a Central American State, or by any technological means available.

9. Each Party may request at any time, through a notice in writing to the other Parties, that a special meeting of the Joint Committee be held. Such a meeting shall take place within 30 days of receipt of the request, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

10. The Joint Committee shall establish in its decisions the appropriate provisions for its entry into force. If the domestic legislation of a Party so permits and if decided by the Joint Committee, said Party may apply a decision of the Joint Committee provisionally until such decision enters into force for that Party.

ARTICLE 11.2

Contact Points

1. Each Party shall designate, within 60 days of the date of entry into force of this Agreement, a contact point to facilitate communication between the Parties.

2. On the request of the other Party, the contact point shall identify the office or official responsible for the matter and assist, as necessary, in facilitating communication with the requesting Party.

¹² In the case of Costa Rica, Annex XXI applies.