

CHAPTER VII TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

ARTICLE 34

Objectives and scope

1. The EFTA States declare their readiness to provide technical and financial assistance to Egypt, in accordance with their national policy objectives, in order to:
 - (a) facilitate the implementation of the overall objectives of this Agreement, in particular to enhance trading and investment opportunities arising from this Agreement; and
 - (b) support Egypt's own efforts to achieve sustainable economic and social development.
2. Assistance shall focus on sectors affected by the process of liberalisation and restructuring of the Egyptian economy as well as on sectors likely to bring the economies of the EFTA States and Egypt closer together, particularly those generating growth and employment.

ARTICLE 35

Methods and means

1. Assistance to Egypt shall be provided bilaterally or through EFTA programmes or a combination of the two.
2. Parties shall co-operate with the objective of identifying and employing the most effective methods and means for the implementation of this Chapter, including by taking into consideration efforts of relevant international organisations.
3. With a view to fostering sustainable development efforts, Parties shall also cooperate, through the implementation of this Chapter, on methods and means of assistance, to agree on environmental aspects that could be taken into consideration.
4. Means of assistance may include:
 - (a) exchange of information, transfer of expertise and training;
 - (b) grants, preferential loans, development funds or other financial means;
 - (c) implementation of joint actions such as seminars and workshops; and
 - (d) technical and administrative assistance.

ARTICLE 36

Fields of co-operation

Assistance may cover any field jointly identified by the Parties that may serve to enhance Egypt's capacities to benefit from increased international trade and investment, including in particular:

- (a) trade promotion, trade facilitation, and promotion of market opportunities;
- (b) customs and origin matters;
- (c) fish and aquaculture;
- (d) technical regulations and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, including standardisation and certification;
- (e) trade and investment statistics;
- (f) regulatory assistance and implementation of laws in areas such as intellectual property and public procurement; and
- (g) local enterprise development.

CHAPTER VIII INSTITUTIONAL AND PROCEDURAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 37

The Joint Committee

1. The implementation of this Agreement shall be supervised and administered by a Joint Committee, which is hereby established. Each Party shall be represented in the Joint Committee by its competent authority.
2. For the purpose of the proper implementation of this Agreement, the Parties shall exchange information and, at the request of any Party, shall hold consultations within the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee shall keep under review the possibility of further removal of the obstacles to trade between the EFTA States and Egypt.
3. The Joint Committee may take decisions in the cases provided for in this Agreement. On other matters the Joint Committee may make recommendations.
4. The Joint Committee shall meet upon request of any Party whenever necessary, but at least every two years.