

CHAPTER 11

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 11

Joint Committee

1. The Parties hereby establish the EFTA-Georgia Joint Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Joint Committee”) comprising representatives of each Party. The Parties shall be represented by senior officials designated by them 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 Parties;
 - (c) oversee the further elaboration of this Agreement;
 - (d) supervise the work of all sub-committees and working groups established under this Agreement;
 - (e) endeavour to resolve disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement; and
 - (f) consider any other matter that may affect the operation of this Agreement.
3. 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.
4. The Joint Committee may take decisions as provided for in this Agreement. On other matters the Joint Committee may make recommendations.
5. The Joint Committee shall take decisions and make recommendations by consensus. Where this Agreement foresees that a provision only concerns certain Parties, the Joint Committee may adopt decisions and make recommendations regarding issues related only to one or several EFTA States and Georgia. The vote shall in such cases only be taken among the Parties concerned and the decisions or recommendations shall only apply to those Parties.
6. 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 Georgia.

7. 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 from the receipt of the request, unless the Parties agree otherwise.
8. The Joint Committee may decide to amend the Annexes and Appendices to this Agreement and, subject to paragraph 9, set forth the date on which such decisions enter into force.
9. If a representative of a Party in the Joint Committee has accepted a decision subject to the fulfilment of domestic legal requirements, the decision shall enter into force on the date that the last Party notifies that its internal requirements have been fulfilled, unless the decision itself specifies a later date. The Joint Committee may decide that the decision shall enter into force for those Parties that have fulfilled their internal requirements, provided that Georgia is one of those Parties. A Party may apply a decision of the Joint Committee provisionally until such decision enters into force for it, subject to its legal requirements.
10. The Joint Committee shall establish its rules of procedure.