

CHAPTER VII ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

ARTICLE 29

1. The Parties declare their readiness to foster economic co-operation, in accordance with national policy objectives, noting that particular attention should be given to sectors facing difficulties in Lebanon's process of structural adjustment to the liberalisation of its economy.

2. In order to facilitate the implementation of this Agreement the Parties shall agree upon appropriate modalities for technical assistance and co-operation between their respective authorities, in particular in the field of intellectual property, customs matters, technical regulations, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, including standardisation and certification in the food industry. To this end, they shall coordinate efforts with relevant international organisations. The Parties shall establish guidelines for the implementation of this paragraph.

CHAPTER VIII INSTITUTIONAL AND PROCEDURAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 30

The Joint Committee

1. The implementation of this Agreement shall be supervised and administered by a Joint Committee. Each Party shall be represented in the Joint Committee.

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 Lebanon.

3. The Joint Committee may take decisions in the cases provided for in this Agreement. On other matters, the Joint Committee may make recommendations.

ARTICLE 31

Procedures of the Joint Committee

1. For the proper implementation of this Agreement, the Joint Committee shall, upon request of any Party, meet whenever necessary but at least once every two years.
2. The Joint Committee shall act by common agreement.
3. If a representative of a Party in the Joint Committee has accepted a decision subject to the fulfilment of constitutional requirements, the decision shall enter into force, if no later date is contained therein, on the date the lifting of the reservation is notified.
4. For the purpose of this Agreement, the Joint Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure which shall, inter alia, contain provisions for convening meetings and for the designation of the Chairman and his/her term of office.
5. The Joint Committee may decide to set up such sub-committees and working parties as it considers necessary to assist it in accomplishing its tasks.

ARTICLE 32

Fulfilment of obligations and consultations

1. The Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the fulfilment of their obligations under this Agreement. Should any divergency with respect to the interpretation and application of this Agreement arise, the Parties shall make every attempt through co-operation and consultations to arrive at a mutually satisfactory resolution.
2. Any Party may request in writing consultations with any other Party regarding any actual or proposed measure or any other matter that it considers might affect the operation of this Agreement. The Party requesting consultations shall at the same time notify the other Parties in writing thereof and supply all relevant information.
3. The consultations shall take place in the Joint Committee if any of the Parties so requests within 20 days from the receipt of the notification referred to in paragraph 2, with a view to finding a commonly acceptable solution.

ARTICLE 33

Provisional measures

If an EFTA State considers that Lebanon has, or if Lebanon considers that an EFTA State has failed to fulfil an obligation under this Agreement and the Joint Committee has failed to arrive at a commonly acceptable solution within 90 days, the Party concerned may take such provisional rebalancing measures as are appropriate and strictly necessary to remedy the imbalance. Priority shall be given to such measures as will least disturb the functioning of the Agreement. The measures taken shall be notified immediately to the Parties and to the Joint Committee, which shall hold regular consultations with a view to their abolition. The measures shall be abolished when conditions no longer justify their maintenance, or, if the dispute is submitted to arbitration, when an arbitral award has been rendered and complied with.

ARTICLE 34

Arbitration

1. Disputes between the Parties, relating to the interpretation of rights and obligations of the Parties, which have not been settled, pursuant to Article 32 of this Agreement, through direct consultations or in the Joint Committee within 90 days from the date of the receipt of the written request for consultations, may be referred to arbitration by one or more Parties to the dispute by means of a written notification addressed to the Party complained against. A copy of this notification shall be communicated to all Parties.

2. In case of the reference of the matter to arbitration, each Party shall, within 30 days from the date of receipt of notification, nominate an arbitrator and the two arbitrators shall, within 30 days from the date of last nomination, appoint a third arbitrator who will be the Chairman of the arbitral tribunal. The Chairman shall not be a national of either party to the dispute, nor permanently reside in the territory of either Party. If more than one EFTA State is party to a dispute, these States shall jointly nominate one arbitrator.

3. In case either Party fails to nominate its arbitrator or the nominated arbitrators fail to agree on a third member within the period specified in paragraph 2, each Party may request the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to appoint the arbitrator of the refusing Party or the third member, as the case may be.

4. The arbitral tribunal shall settle the dispute in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and the customary rules of interpretation of public international law.