

3. The Parties shall grant to each others' nationals treatment not less favourable than that accorded to nationals of any other State. Exemptions from this obligation shall be in accordance with the substantive provisions of the TRIPS Agreement, in particular Articles 4 and 5 thereof.

4. Upon request of any Party, the Joint Committee shall hold consultations on issues concerning the protection of intellectual property rights, with a view to reaching mutually satisfactory solutions to difficulties that may arise in this context. For the purposes of this paragraph, "protection" shall include matters affecting the availability, acquisition, scope, maintenance and enforcement of intellectual property rights as well as those matters affecting the use of intellectual property rights.

VII INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 70

The Joint Committee

1. The Parties hereby establish the EFTA-Mexico Joint Committee comprising of representatives of each Party.

2. The Joint Committee shall:

- (a) supervise the implementation of this Agreement;
- (b) keep under review the possibility of further removal of barriers to trade and other restrictive regulations of commerce between the EFTA States and Mexico;
- (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 specifically 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 in this Agreement. On other matters the Joint Committee may make recommendations.

5. The Joint Committee shall take decisions by consensus.

6. The Joint Committee shall normally convene once a year in a regular meeting. The regular meetings of the Joint Committee shall be chaired jointly by one of the EFTA Parties and Mexico. The Joint Committee shall establish its rules of procedure.

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 of receipt of the request, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

8. The Joint Committee may decide to amend the Annexes and the Appendices to this Agreement. Subject to paragraph 9, it may set a date for the entry into force of such decisions.

9. 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 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 Mexico is one of those Parties. A Party may apply a decision of the Joint Committee provisionally until such decision enters into force, subject to its constitutional requirements.

VIII DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

ARTICLE 71

Scope

1. The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to any matter arising from this Agreement, unless otherwise specified in this Agreement.

2. The provisions on arbitration shall not apply to Articles 9 to 13, 16, 26, 48, 50, 51 to 55 and 69.

ARTICLE 72

Consultations

1. The Parties shall at all times endeavour to agree on the interpretation and application of this Agreement, and shall make every attempt through co-operation and consultations to arrive at a mutually satisfactory resolution of any matter that might affect its operation.