

CHAPTER 12

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 12

Joint Committee

1. The Parties hereby establish the EFTA-Philippines Joint Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Joint Committee”) comprising of representatives of each Party. The Parties shall be represented by senior officials delegated by them for this purpose.
2. The Joint Committee shall:
 - (a) oversee 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 Philippines;
 - (c) oversee the further elaboration of this Agreement;
 - (d) set-up sub-committees and working groups as it considers necessary to assist it in accomplishing its tasks;
 - (e) supervise the work of all sub-committees and working groups;
 - (f) endeavour to resolve disputes regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement;
 - (g) consider and adopt amendments as provided for in this Agreement; and
 - (h) consider any other matter that may affect the operation of this Agreement.
3. The Joint Committee may take decisions as provided for in this Agreement. On other matters, the Joint Committee may make recommendations. The Joint Committee shall take decisions and make recommendations by consensus.
4. Where this Agreement foresees that a provision relates only to the Philippines and one or several EFTA States, consensus shall only involve the Parties concerned, and the decision or recommendation shall apply only to those Parties.
5. 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 otherwise specified by the decision.
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 co-chaired by one of the EFTA States and the Philippines. The Joint Committee shall establish its rules of procedure. 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.