

VII PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

ARTICLE 54

Protection of Intellectual Property

1. The Parties shall grant and ensure adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights, and provide for measures for the enforcement of such rights against infringement thereof, counterfeiting and piracy, in accordance with the provisions of this Article, Annex XII and the international agreements referred to therein.
2. The Parties shall accord to each other's nationals treatment no less favourable than that they accord to their own nationals. Exemptions from this obligation must be in accordance with the substantive provisions of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (hereinafter referred to as "the TRIPS Agreement"), in particular Articles 3 and 5 thereof.
3. The Parties shall accord to each other's nationals treatment no less favourable than that they accord to nationals of any other State. Exemptions from this obligation must be in accordance with the substantive provisions of the TRIPS Agreement, in particular Articles 4 and 5 thereof.
4. The Parties agree, upon request of any Party to the Joint Committee and subject to its consensus, to review the provisions on the protection of intellectual property rights contained in the present Article and in Annex XII, with a view to further improving the levels of protection and to avoiding or remedying trade distortions caused by actual levels of protection of intellectual property rights.

VIII INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 55

The Joint Committee

1. The Parties hereby establish the EFTA-Singapore Joint Committee comprising representatives of each Party. It shall be co-chaired by Ministers or by senior officials delegated by them for this purpose.¹³
2. The Joint Committee shall:
 - (a) supervise the implementation of this Agreement;

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Rules of procedure were adopted by Joint Committee Decision No. 1 of 2004 (26 May 2004).

- (b) keep under review the possibility of further removal of barriers to trade and other restrictive measures concerning commerce between the EFTA States and Singapore;
- (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 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.

6. The Joint Committee shall meet whenever necessary but normally once every two years. The regular meetings of the Joint Committee shall be chaired jointly by one of the EFTA States and Singapore. 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 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 fulfillment 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 Singapore 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.