capital relating to direct investments in Tunisia in companies formed in accordance with current laws can move freely and that the yield from such investments and any profit stemming therefrom can be liquidated and repatriated.

ARTICLE 29

Balance of payments difficulties

Where one or more EFTA States or Tunisia is in serious balance of payments difficulties, or under threat thereof, the EFTA States or Tunisia, as the case may be, may, in accordance with the conditions established under the GATT 1994 and Articles VIII and XIV of the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund, adopt restrictions on current transactions which shall be of limited duration and may not go beyond what is strictly necessary to remedy the balance of payments situation. The EFTA States or Tunisia, as the case may be, shall inform the other Parties forthwith and shall submit to them as soon as possible a timetable for the elimination of the measures concerned.

CHAPTER VII GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

ARTICLE 30

Government procurement

1. The Parties shall set as their objective a reciprocal and gradual liberalisation of public procurement markets.

2. If a Party grants to a non-Party access to its procurement markets, it shall be prepared to enter into consultations in the Joint Committee with a view to addressing this matter in light of the objective set out in paragraph 1.

CHAPTER VIII ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

ARTICLE 31

Objectives and Scope

1. The EFTA States declare their readiness to engage in economic co-operation and provide technical assistance to Tunisia, in accordance with their national policy objectives, in order to:

(a) facilitate the implementation of the overall objectives of this Agreement, in particular to enhance trading and investment opportunities arising from this Agreement;

(b) support Tunisia's own efforts to achieve sustainable economic and social development.

2. Co-operation and assistance shall focus on sectors suffering from internal difficulties or affected by the process of liberalisation of the Tunisian economy as well as sectors likely to bring the economies of the EFTA States and Tunisia closer together, particularly those generating growth and employment.

ARTICLE 32

Methods and means

1. Co-operation and assistance shall be carried out, bilaterally or through EFTA programmes or a combination of the two.

2. Parties shall co-operate with the objective of identifying and employing the most effective methods and means for the implementation of this Chapter. To this end they may coordinate efforts with relevant international organisations.

3. Conservation of the environment shall be taken into account in the implementation of assistance in the various sectors to which it is relevant.

4. Means of co-operation and assistance may include:

(a) exchange of information, transfer of technology and training;

(b) implementation of joint actions such as seminars and workshops;

(c) technical and administrative assistance;

(d) financial co-operation, such as preferential loans and development funds.

ARTICLE 33

Fields of co-operation

Co-operation and assistance may cover any fields jointly identified by the Parties that may serve to enhance Tunisia's capacities to benefit from increased international trade and investment, including in particular:

(a) trade promotion, trade facilitation, and promotion of market opportunities;