

(k) Establishment of basic rules governing the relations of the Association with other regional associations, international organizations or agencies.

Abstention shall not mean a negative vote. Absence at the time of voting shall be interpreted as abstention.

The Council may eliminate subjects from this list of exceptions by the affirmative vote of two thirds of the member countries, provided there is no negative vote.

CHAPTER VII

General provisions

Article 44

Any advantages, favourable treatments, franchises, immunities and privileges which member countries apply to products originating from or bound to any other member country or non-member country, pursuant to decisions or agreements not foreseen in the present Treaty or the Cartagena Agreement, shall be immediately and unconditionally extended to the other member countries.

Article 45

Any advantages, favourable treatments, franchises, immunities and privileges already granted or to be granted under agreements between member countries or between these and third countries to facilitate border traffic shall be exclusively applicable to the countries which sign or may have signed them.

Article 46

As regards taxes, charges and other internal duties, products originating from the territory of a member country shall be entitled within the territory of the other member countries to a treatment not less favourable than that applied to similar national products.

Member countries shall adopt such steps as may be required to comply with the preceding provision, in accordance with their respective national constitutions.

Article 47

In the case of products included in the regional tariff preference or in regional or partial scope agreements which are not produced or will not be produced in substantial quantities in its territory, each member country shall endeavour to avoid that taxes or other internal measures applied result in annulment or reduction of any concession or advantage obtained by any member country as a result of the respective negotiations.

If a member country considers itself at a disadvantage by the measures contained in the preceding paragraph, it may resort to the Committee so that the situation raised may be examined and pertinent recommendations issued.

Article 48

Within the territory of other member countries, capitals originating from member countries shall have the right to a treatment not less favourable than that granted to capitals coming from any other non-member country, notwithstanding the provisions set out in agreements which might be concluded on this matter by member countries under the terms of the present Treaty.

Article 49

Member countries may establish supplementary rules on trade policy regulating, among other matters, the application of non-tariff restrictions, a system of origin, the adoption of safeguard clauses, export promotion systems and border traffic.

Article 50

No provision under the present Treaty shall be interpreted as precluding the adoption and observance of measures regarding:

- (a) Protection of public morality;
- (b) Implementation of security laws and regulations;
- (c) Regulation of imports and exports of arms, munitions, and other war materials and, under exceptional circumstances, all other military equipment;
- (d) Protection of human, animal and plant life and health;
- (e) Imports and exports of gold and silver in bullion form;
- (f) Protection of national treasures of artistic, historical or archaeological value; and
- (g) Exportation, use and consumption of nuclear materials, radioactive products or any other material used for the development and exploitation of nuclear energy.

Article 51

Products imported and exported by any member country shall have the right to free transit throughout the territory of the other member countries, and be exclusively subject to payment of charges normally applicable for services rendered.

CHAPTER VIII

Legal status, immunities and privileges

Article 52

The Association shall be endowed of complete legal status and specially of the capacity:

- (a) To contract;
- (b) To acquire such movable and immovable property indispensable to carry out its objectives and to dispose of it;
- (c) To file suits; and
- (d) To keep funds in any currency and effect the necessary transfers.

Article 53

Representatives and other diplomatic officers of member countries accredited before the Association, as well as international officers and advisers of the Association, shall be endowed of diplomatic immunities and privileges and such other rights necessary for exercising their duties within the territory of member countries.

Member countries hereby pledge themselves to draw up within the shortest possible term an agreement aimed at regulating the contents of the preceding paragraph, wherein such privileges and immunities shall be defined.