

1. Any aid granted by a State Party to this Agreement or through State resources in any form whatsoever, distorting or threatening to distort competition by favouring certain undertakings or the production of certain goods shall be incompatible with the proper functioning of this Agreement, insofar as it may affect trade between the Parties.
2. The Joint Committee shall set out the basic criteria to verify any practices contrary to paragraph 1, and the rules of their application.
3. The Parties shall ensure transparency of state aid measures; they will submit each year a report to the Joint Committee on the whole volume of the state aid and its distribution and will provide, on the other Party's request, information on the aid schemes in specific cases.
4. If a State Party to this Agreement considers that a given practice is incompatible with the provisions of paragraph 1, it may take appropriate measures against this practice, which shall not be in excess of the injury caused, under the conditions and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 25.

Article 18

Public procurement

1. The Parties consider the liberalization of their respective public procurement markets as an objective of this Agreement.
2. The Parties shall progressively develop the rules governing the public procurement, in order to ensure mutual access to contract award procedures, based on auctions on their respective public procurement markets.
3. The Joint Committee shall examine the development of regulations in this field, in order to fulfil the objective of this Article, and may recommend specific modalities to fulfil its provisions.

Article 19

Protection of intellectual property

1. The States Parties to this Agreement shall grant and ensure adequate, effective and non-discriminatory protection of intellectual property rights, including measures for the enforcement of such rights against infringement, counterfeiting and piracy.
2. For the purposes of this Agreement, the protection of intellectual property rights includes mainly the protection of copyright, computer programs, data bases and related rights, trademarks, geographical indications, industrial projects, patents, integrated circuits and drawings, as well as unpublished know-how information.
3. The Parties shall co-operate in intellectual property rights protection matters and, at the request of the other Party, consultations at expert level regarding these problems shall be held, mainly in areas dealing with the existing and future international treaties on harmonization, administration and enforcement of intellectual property rights and international specialized organizations' activities.

Article 20

Dumping