

Article 10: National treatment

Goods traded between the Member Countries having the origin and source of those countries will be accorded the treatment of national goods.

Article 11: Government procurement

The provisions of this Agreement shall be adhered to as regards customs duties and taxes actually imposed in the comparison of offers related to international tenders for the supply of goods in each Member Country, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and in a manner not conflicting with the operative laws and procedures as regards preferential treatment in each Member Country.

Article 12: Value added tax and sales tax

Levels of VAT or sales tax on imported products benefiting from exemption from or reductions of customs duties shall be set taking account of the customs duties and other duties and taxes having equivalent effect in accordance with the proportional value of the exemptions and reductions specified in Articles 3 and 4 of this Agreement.

Article 13: Financial transactions

Settlement of financial transactions in the context of commercial exchanges between the Member Countries shall be made in a freely traded currency, in accordance with the rules and laws in force in each one of them, without infringing any agreements or arrangements which may be in force between the Member Countries.

Article 14: Exhibitions

Each Member Country shall work to participate in exhibitions and international fairs being held in the other Member Countries, and shall allow the organization of temporary or permanent exhibitions in its national territory, and shall offer all necessary facilities for this purpose in accordance with the rules and procedures applicable in each Member Country.

Section 4: Procedures

Article 15: Defensive procedures

Each Member Country shall have the right to initiate defensive procedures as specified in the agreement establishing the World Trade Organization. Such procedures shall only be applied in relation to products which any party shall determine have been imported into its territory from another Member Country in increasing quantities, either in absolute terms, or proportionally in relation to local production, in such a manner as to cause, or to threaten to cause, substantial damage to local industry or agriculture producing similar products, or

products directly competing with the products imported from the other Member Country. Such procedures shall be in accordance with the applicable laws and rules in each of the Members Countries of this Agreement.

Article 16: Infant industries

- Each Member Country may take measures of limited duration, during the period of progressive dismantlement of customs duties and duties and taxes of similar effect, as an exception to the provisions of Articles 3 and 4 of this Agreement, in the form of increased customs duties, or the re-introduction of customs duties and duties and taxes of equivalent effect, having effect in relation to infant industries or sectors undergoing restructuring or facing serious difficulties.
- Each Member country shall inform the other parties of any exceptional measure which it intends to take, and of the time-table for the removal of such customs duties and other taxes of equivalent effect imposed in accordance with this Article.
- The Foreign Trade Ministers' Committee shall study the measures proposed by each concerned Member Country, and such measures shall not be implemented until such time as this Committee has given its agreement.
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Article 17: Support measures and dumping

In the event of any Member Country facing a case of subsidies or dumping as regards its imports from the other parties, it may take appropriate measures to deal with such cases in accordance with the agreements on subsidies and compensatory duties, and on anti-dumping measures annexed to the agreement setting up the World Trade Organisation, in accordance with the applicable laws and rules in each of the countries party to this Agreement.

Article 18: Disequilibrium in the balance of payments

In the event of one of the Member Countries facing dangers, difficulties or disequilibrium in relation to its balance of payments, or the threat of such, it may take appropriate measures in accordance with the provisions of the World Trade Organisation agreement. The Member Country suffering such a situation shall inform the Committee of Foreign Trade Ministers of these measures, and shall specify the timetable for their removal.

Article 19: Goods not subject to the provisions of this Agreement

The provisions of this agreement shall not apply to goods specified in the lists approved by the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League, which are excluded from the facilities granted under the implementation programme of the agreement for the facilitation and development of commercial exchanges between Arab states, for religious, health, security or environmental reasons.

Article 20: Protection of public order

All goods traded between the Member Countries shall be subject to security and health legislation, and laws related to the protection of morals and public order, and of national historical, archaeological and artistic heritage, and environmental protection in force in each Member Country.

Article 21: Sanitary and phyto-sanitary procedures

The Member Countries shall put in place sanitary and phytosanitary procedures for the purpose of protecting the health and life of persons and animals, and for the protection of plants, provided that such procedures are not in contravention with the provisions of this Agreement. Goods traded between the Member Countries shall, upon importation, be subject to the Laws of Agricultural and Veterinary Quarantine applicable in each country. Such rules and procedures shall not be used as a non-customs barrier to trade between the parties, in accordance with the agreements on technical barriers to trade and plant health (SPS?) annexed to the World Trade Organisation Agreement, and with other relevant international agreements.

Article 22: Intellectual property

The Member Countries undertake to protect intellectual property rights, including authors' rights, patents, trade marks, industrial logos, geographical product names, and names giving indication as to origin. Similarly protection will be provided for literary and artistic works and computer programs. Such protection will be provided without prejudice to the Member Countries' commitments in the context of World trade Organisation agreements, and to the laws and applicable procedures in each of the countries party to this Agreement.

The Foreign Trade Ministers' Committee will have responsibility to monitor all questions relating to intellectual property rights.

Article 23: Standards and norms

Member countries will work to co-ordinate their technical legislation, norms and standards, in accordance with international practices.

In the case of any member country taking steps which would create, or might tend to create, technical barriers to trade, the Member Countries will immediately initiate consultations with a view to finding the appropriate solution.

All Member Country will give priority to working on signature of agreements in the area of mutual recognition of conformity assessment.

Section 5: Institutional requirements

Article 24: Institutions of the Agreement

1. The Foreign Ministers' Committee

- a) A committee of foreign ministers of the Member Countries of the agreement shall be instituted, which shall be concerned with defining the policy measures need to drive forward and expand the Agadir process amongst the Arab Mediterranean countries, and between them and the European Union.
- b) The Foreign Ministers' Committee will meet annually, or as often as necessary, at the initiative of any of the Member Countries, in accordance with the Committee's internal rules of procedure, which it shall establish in accordance with paragraph (d) of this Article.
- c) The presidency of this committee shall be assumed in rotation between the Member Countries, in alphabetical order, and the provisions of the committee's internal rules of procedure.
- d) The Foreign Minister's Committee may set up a committee at the level of senior officials to present its recommendations to the ministerial committee.
- e) The Foreign Minister's Committee shall, upon its establishment, approve its internal rules of procedure, and those of the Senior Officials' Committee.

2. The Committee of Foreign Trade Ministers

- a) A ministerial committee shall be set up at the level of ministers responsible for foreign trade, and shall meet at least annually, or whenever the circumstances require, at the initiative of any one the Member Countries, in accordance with the Committee's internal rules of procedure.
- b) The committee shall be concerned with for supervising the implementation of the Agreement, and with overcoming and difficulties impeding progress, and with defining ways of deepening co-operation and integration between the parties to the Agreement. The committee shall study general questions relating to the Agreement, and any other aspects of joint concern, and shall have power of decision in this respect.
- c) The presidency of this committee shall be assumed in rotation between the Member Countries, in alphabetical order, and the provisions of the committee's internal rules of procedure as specified in paragraph (f) of this Article.
- d) The committee's decisions shall be considered binding for all the Member Countries who may be required to take steps to ensure their implementation.
- e) The Ministerial Committee shall form a technical committee charged with follow-up on the implementation of the agreement, which shall submit its recommendations to the Ministerial Committee. The Ministerial Committee may decide to delegate a part of its responsibilities to the technical committee.
- f) The Ministerial Committee shall adopt its internal rules of procedure, and those of the technical committee.