

PART EIGHT

TRADE RELATIONS AMONG MEMBER STATES AND WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

Article 27

PREFERENTIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS

1. Member States may maintain preferential trade and other trade related arrangements existing at the time of entry into force of this Protocol;
2. Member States may enter into new preferential trade arrangements between themselves, provided that such arrangements are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Protocol.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, Member States party to any existing preferential trade arrangements and other trade related arrangements undertake to review the further application of such preferential trade arrangements, with a view to attaining the objectives of this Protocol.

Article 28

MOST FAVOURED NATION TREATMENT

1. Member States shall accord Most Favoured Nation Treatment to one another.
2. Nothing in this Protocol shall prevent a Member State from granting or maintaining preferential trade arrangements with third countries, provided such trade arrangements do not impede or frustrate the objectives of this Protocol and that any advantage, concession, privilege or power granted to a third country under such arrangements is extended to other Member States.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, a Member State shall not be obliged to extend preferences of another trading bloc of which that Member State was a member at the time of entry into force of this Protocol.

Article 29

CO-ORDINATION OF TRADE POLICIES

Member States shall, to their best endeavour, co-ordinate their trade policies and negotiating positions in respect of relations with third countries or groups of third countries and international organisations as provided for in Article 24 of the Treaty, to facilitate and accelerate the achievement of the objectives of this Protocol.

Article 30

COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES OR GROUPS OF THIRD COUNTRIES

Member States shall develop cooperation and conclude agreements with third countries or groups of third countries and international organisations as provided for in Article 24 of the Treaty, to facilitate and accelerate the achievement of the objectives of this Protocol.

PART NINE

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES

Article 31

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. The institutional mechanisms for the implementation of this protocol shall comprise the CMT, Committee of Senior Officials responsible for trade matters, the TNF and the Sector Coordinating Unit.
2. The Committee of Ministers shall be responsible for trade matters including the following:
 - a) supervision of the implementation of this Protocol;
 - b) appointment of panels of trade experts to resolve disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Protocol;
 - c) supervision of the work of any committee or sub-committee established under this Protocol;
3. The Committee of Senior Officials shall :
 - a) report to the CMT on matters relating to the implementation of the provisions contained in this Protocol;
 - b) supervise the work of the Sector Co-ordinating Unit;
 - c) clear the documents prepared by the Sector Co-ordinating Unit to be submitted to the CMT;
 - d) liaise closely with both the CMT and the Sector Co-ordinating Unit;
 - e) monitor the implementation of this Protocol;
 - f) supervise the work of the TNF.