

meeting.

Article 98. The Member Countries commit themselves not to alter unilaterally the levies set in the various stages of the External Tariff. They also commit to hold the necessary consultations in the Commission before taking on obligations of a tariff nature with countries outside the Subregion. The Commission, at the General Secretariat's proposal and through a Decision, shall state its opinion regarding said consultations, and shall set the terms with which commitments of a tariff nature must comply.

Chapter VII: Agricultural Development Programs

Article 99. With the purpose of promoting common agricultural and agroindustrial development and attaining greater subregional food security, the Member Countries shall carry out an Agricultural and Agroindustrial Development Program, harmonize their policies, and coordinate their national plans in the sector, bearing in mind, among others, the following objectives:

- a. An improvement in the living standards of the rural population;
- b. Taking care of the food and nutritional requirements of the population on satisfactory terms, to achieve the lowest possible dependence on supplies coming from outside the Subregion;
- c. The appropriate and adequate supply of the subregional market and the protection against food shortage risks;
- d. An increase in the production of staple foods and in productivity levels;
- e. Subregional complementation and specialization of production with a view to improving the use of its inputs and to increase trade of agricultural and agroindustrial products; and
- f. Subregional substitution of imports and the diversification and growth of exports.

Article 100. To fulfill the objectives stated in the previous article, the Commission, at the proposal of the General Secretariat, shall take the following steps, among others:

- a. To create an Andean System and National Systems of Food Security;
- b. Joint policies for agricultural and agroindustrial development by products or groups of products;
- c. Joint programs for agricultural and agroindustrial technological development, including policies for research, training, and the transfer of technology;
- d. Promotion of intra-subregional agricultural and agroindustrial trade and entering into agreements for supplying agricultural products;
- e. Joint programs and policies regarding agricultural and agroindustrial trade with third countries;
- f. Common rules and programs about vegetable and animal health;
- g. Creation of subregional funding mechanisms for the agricultural and agroindustrial sector;
- h. Joint policies for the use and preservation of the natural resources of the sector; and
- i. Joint cooperative policies in the fields of research and transfer of technology in areas of common interest for the Member Countries, such as genetics, floriculture, fishing, forestry, and those that the Commission determines in the future.

Article 101. The Commission and the General Secretariat shall adopt the necessary steps to hasten the agricultural and agroindustrial development of Bolivia and Ecuador as well as their participation in the enlarged market.

Article 102. Any Member Country may apply, in a non-discriminatory, manner, to the trade of products incorporated in the list referred to Article 104, the following measures destined to:

- a. Restrict imports to what is necessary in order to cover internal production deficits; and
- b. To level the prices of the imported product with those of the national product.

For the application of such measures, when appropriate, the Member Countries shall carry out actions through the existing national agencies, destined to the supply of agricultural and agroindustrial food products.

Article 103. The country imposing the measures referred to in the previous article shall immediately notify the General Secretariat, enclosing a report on the underlying reasons for its action.

These measures shall be applied to Bolivia and Ecuador only in duly qualified cases and after the General Secretariat has confirmed that the damage arises essentially from their imports. The General Secretariat is required to express its views within fifteen days after receiving the report, and it may authorize application of the measures.

Any Member Country that considers itself affected by said measures may present its comments to the General Secretariat.

The General Secretariat shall study the case and propose to the Commission the positive measures that it deems advisable in the light of the objectives provided in Article 99.

The Commission shall decide with respect to the restrictions that were applied and the measures proposed by the General Secretariat.

Article 104. Before December 31, 1970, the Commission, at the proposal of the General Secretariat, shall determine the list of agricultural products for purposes of applying Articles 102 and 103. Such list may be modified by the Commission, at the proposal of the General Secretariat.

Chapter VIII: Competition

Article 105. Before December 31, 1971, the Commission, shall adopt, at the General Secretariat's proposal, the rules which are needed to guard against or correct practices which may distort competition within the Subregion, such as dumping, improper price manipulations, maneuvers made to upset the normal supply of raw materials and others with a like effect. In this respect, the Commission shall consider the problems that could derive from the imposition of levies and other restrictions on exports.

It shall be the General Secretariat's responsibility to ensure the application of those rules in the particular cases that are reported.

Article 106. The Member Countries may not adopt corrective measures without the General Secretariat's prior authorization. The Commission shall regulate the procedures for implementing the rules of this Chapter.

Chapter IX: Safeguard Clauses

Article 107. A Member Country, that has adopted measures to correct a disequilibrium in its overall balance of payments, may extend such measures, when previously authorized by the General Secretariat in a transitory and nondiscriminatory manner, to intrasubregional trade of products incorporated to the Tariff Reduction Program.

The Member Countries shall seek to ensure that the application of restrictions due to a balance of payments situation does not affect, within the Subregion, trade in products incorporated to the Tariff Reduction Program.

When the situation provided for in this Article requires an immediate response, the interested Member Country may apply, on an emergency basis, the foreseen measures, having in that regard to immediately notify them to the General Secretariat, which shall express its views within the following thirty days, either authorizing, modifying, or suspending them.

If the application of the measures provided for in this Article lasts more than one year, the General Secretariat, on its own initiative or upon the request of any of the Member Countries, shall propose