

CHAPTER 15

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 15.1

Joint Committee

1. The Parties hereby establish a Joint Committee (Joint Committee) comprising senior representatives of each Party.
2. The Joint Committee shall:
 - (a) supervise and review the implementation and operation of this Agreement;
 - (b) keep under review the possibility of further removal of barriers to trade and other restrictive measures concerning trade between the Parties;
 - (c) oversee and monitor the implementation of objectives relating to advancing women's economic empowerment in accordance with this Agreement;
 - (d) oversee any further development of this Agreement;
 - (e) supervise the work of all sub-committees and working groups established under this Agreement. Except where otherwise provided for in this Agreement, sub-committees and working groups shall work under a mandate agreed by the Joint Committee;
 - (f) endeavour to solve problems and resolve disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement; and
 - (g) consider any other matter that may affect the operation of this Agreement.
3. The Joint Committee may:
 - (a) consider amending this Agreement in the event of developments in the relations between the EEA EFTA States and the United Kingdom as well as between each of them and third parties relevant to this Agreement, in order where appropriate to align it with the relevant developments;
 - (b) decide to set up sub-committees and working groups to assist it in carrying out its tasks, and merge or dissolve any such sub-committees or working groups;

- (c) recommend to the Parties any amendments to this Agreement or adopt decisions to amend this Agreement, as provided for in this Agreement; and
 - (d) adopt interpretations of the provisions of this Agreement, which shall be binding on the Parties and all subsidiary bodies established by the Joint Committee, including panels established under Chapter 16: (Dispute Settlement).
- 4. The Joint Committee may take decisions as provided for in this Agreement. On other matters the Joint Committee may make recommendations. The decisions taken shall be binding on the Parties. Each Party shall take the measures necessary to implement the decisions taken.
- 5. The Joint Committee shall take decisions and make recommendations by consensus and may adopt these either by meeting in person or in writing. The Joint Committee may adopt decisions and make recommendations regarding issues related to only one or several EEA EFTA States and the United Kingdom. In this case, consensus shall only involve, and the decision or recommendation shall only apply to, those Parties.
- 6. The Joint Committee shall meet within one year of the entry into force of this Agreement. Thereafter, it shall meet whenever necessary but normally once a year. Its meetings shall be chaired jointly by one of the EEA EFTA States and the United Kingdom. The Joint Committee may meet in person or by other means, as agreed by the Parties.
- 7. Each Party may request at any time, through a notice in writing to the other Parties, that a special meeting of the Joint Committee be held. Such a meeting shall take place within 30 days from the receipt of the request, unless the Parties agree otherwise.
- 8. If a representative of a Party in the Joint Committee has accepted a decision subject to the fulfilment of domestic legal requirements, the decision shall enter into force on the date that the last Party notifies that its internal requirements have been fulfilled, unless otherwise agreed. The Joint Committee may decide that the decision enters into force for those Parties that have fulfilled their internal requirements, provided that the United Kingdom is one of those Parties.
- 9. The Joint Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
- 10. The following sub-committees are established under this Agreement:
 - (a) Sub-Committee on Trade in Goods;
 - (b) Sub-Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade ;
 - (c) Sub-Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures;

- (d) Sub-Committee on Services and Investment; and
- (e) Sub-Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development.

They shall act by consensus.