

CHAPTER 14

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 14

Joint Committee

1. The Parties hereby establish the EFTA-MERCOSUR Joint Committee. The Joint Committee shall be composed of representatives of each State Party at senior official level or as otherwise designated by the State Parties in accordance with their internal arrangements.
2. The Joint Committee shall:
 - (a) supervise and review the implementation of this Agreement;
 - (b) review the possibility of further removal of barriers to trade and other restrictive measures concerning trade between the Parties;
 - (c) oversee any further elaboration of this Agreement;
 - (d) supervise the work of all sub-committees and working groups established under this Agreement;
 - (e) endeavour to resolve disagreements that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement; and
 - (f) consider any other matter that may affect the operation of this Agreement.
3. The Joint Committee may decide to set up sub-committees and working groups to assist it in accomplishing its tasks. Except where otherwise provided for in this Agreement, the sub-committees and working groups shall work under a mandate established by the Joint Committee.
4. The Joint Committee may take decisions as provided for in this Agreement.¹ On other matters the Joint Committee may make recommendations.
5. The Joint Committee may:
 - (a) consider and recommend to the Parties amendments to this Agreement; and
 - (b) decide to amend any Annexes or Appendices to this Agreement.

¹ In case the Joint Committee takes binding decisions that are not amendments to this Agreement, the Joint Committee shall specify whether such decision shall be subject to Chapter 15 (Dispute Settlement).

6. The Joint Committee shall take decisions and make recommendations by consensus among all State Parties. The Joint Committee may adopt decisions and make recommendations regarding issues related to only one or several EFTA States on the one side and one or several MERCOSUR States on the other side. In this case, consensus shall only involve and the decision or recommendation shall only apply to those State Parties.

7. The Joint Committee shall meet within one year of the entry into force of this Agreement. Thereafter, it shall meet whenever necessary but normally every two years. Its meetings shall be chaired jointly by one of the EFTA States and one of the MERCOSUR States. If the State Parties agree, a meeting of the Joint Committee may be held by electronic means.

8. Each State Party may request at any time, through a notice in writing to the other State 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 State Parties agree otherwise.

9. If a State 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 State 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 at least one EFTA State and one MERCOSUR State are one of those Parties.

10. The Joint Committee shall establish its rules of procedure.