

REVISED TREATY OF CHAGUARAMAS ESTABLISHING THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY INCLUDING THE CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY

The States Parties to the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community and Common Market signed at Chaguaramas on 4 July 1973,

Recalling the Declaration of Grand Anse and other decisions of the Conference of Heads of Government, in particular the commitment to deepening regional economic integration through the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) in order to achieve sustained economic development based on international competitiveness, co-ordinated economic and foreign policies, functional co-operation and enhanced trade and economic relations with third States;

Recognising that globalisation and liberalisation have important implications for international competitiveness;

Determined to enhance the effectiveness of the decision-making and implementation processes of the Community;

Desirous of restructuring the Organs and Institutions of the Caribbean Community and Common Market and redefining their functional relationships so as to enhance the participation of their peoples, and in particular the social partners, in the integration movement;

Conscious of the need to promote in the Community the highest level of efficiency in the production of goods and services especially with a view to maximising foreign exchange earnings on the basis of international competitiveness, attaining food security, achieving structural diversification and improving the standard of living of their peoples;

Aware that optimal production by economic enterprises in the Community requires the structured integration of production in the Region, and particularly, the unrestricted movement of capital, labour and technology;

Resolved to establish conditions which would facilitate access by their nationals to the collective resources of the Region on a non-discriminatory basis;

Convinced that market-driven industrial development in the production of goods and services is essential for the economic and social development of the peoples of the Community;

Cognisant that a fully integrated and liberalised internal market will create favourable conditions for sustained, market-led production of goods and services on an internationally competitive basis;

Desirous further of establishing and maintaining a sound and stable macro-economic environment that is conducive to investment, including cross-border investments, and the competitive production of goods and services in the Community;

Believing that differences in resource endowment and in the levels of economic development of Member States, may affect the implementation of the Community industrial Policy;

Recognising also the potential of micro, small, and medium enterprise development to contribute to the expansion and viability of national economies of the Community and the importance of large enterprises for achieving economies of scale in the production process;

Mindful that co-operation and joint action in developing trade relations with third States and in establishing appropriate regulatory and administrative procedures and services are essential for the development of the international and intraregional trade of Member States;

Determined further to effect a fundamental transformation of the agricultural sector of the Community by diversifying agricultural production, intensifying agro-industrial development, expanding agri-business, strengthening the linkages between the agricultural sector and other sectors of the CSME and generally conducting agricultural production on a market-oriented, internationally competitive and environmentally sound basis;

Acknowledging the vital importance of land, air and maritime transportation for maintaining economic, social and cultural

linkages as well as facilitating emergency assistance among the Member States of the Community;

Recognising further the importance of the establishment and structured development of transport links with third States for the accelerated and sustained development of the CSME;

Conscious also of the importance of promoting adequate air and maritime transport services for the continued viability of the tourism industry and of reducing the vulnerability of the CARICOM Region resulting from its reliance on extra-regional carriers;

Convinced also that a viable transport policy for the Community will make a significant contribution in satisfying the demands for the intra-regional movement of people and Products in the CSME;

Acknowledging further that some Member States, particularly the Less Developed Countries, are entering the CSME at a disadvantage by reason of the size, structure and vulnerability of their economies; and

Believing further that the persistence of disadvantage, however arising, may impact adversely on the economic and social cohesion in the Community;

Conscious further that disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors will require a transitional period to facilitate adjustment to competition in the CSME;

Committed to establish effective measures, programmes and mechanisms to assist disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors of the Community;

Mindful further that the benefits expected from the establishment of the CSME are not frustrated by anti-competitive business conduct whose object or effect is to prevent, restrict, or distort competition;

Convinced further that the application and convergence of national competition Policies and the cooperation of competition authorities in the Community will promote the objectives of the CSME;

Affirming that the employment of internationally accepted modes of disputes settlement in the Community will facilitate achievement of the objectives of the Treaty;

Considering that an efficient, transparent, and authoritative system of disputes settlement in the Community will enhance the economic, social and other forms of activity in the CSME leading to confidence in the investment climate and further economic growth and development in the CSME;

Affirming also that the original jurisdiction of the Caribbean Court of Justice is essential for the successful operation of the CSME;

Recalling further the Charter of Civil Society adopted by the Conference of Heads of Government on 19 February 1997 reaffirming the human rights of their peoples,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. Use of Terms

In this Treaty, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Agreement" means the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice;

"anti-competitive business conduct" has the meaning assigned to it in Article 173;

"Budget Committee" means the Body of the Community established by paragraph 1 of Article 18;

"business" means any activity carried on for gain or reward or in the course of which goods or services are produced, manufactured or supplied as the case may be;

"Commission" means the Competition Commission established by Article 167;

"Committee of Central Bank Governors" means the Body of the Community referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 18;

"Community" means the Caribbean Community established by Article 2 and includes the CSME established by the provisions of this Treaty;

"Community Council of Ministers" or "the Community Council" means the Organ of the Community so named in paragraph 1(b) of Article 10;

"Community origin" means origin which complies with the Rules of Origin set out in Article 78;

"Community treatment" means the access accorded to goods which are of Community origin to the markets of Member States without the application of import duties or quantitative restrictions;

"competent authority" means the authority legally authorised to perform a function and for the purpose of Chapter Five means the Minister of Government so designated by a Member State;

"Conference of Heads of Government" or "the Conference" means the Organ so named in paragraph 1(a) of Article 10;

"Contracting Party" means a party to the Agreement;

"Council for Human and Social Development" or "COHSOD" means the Organ of the Community so named in paragraph 2 of Article 10;

"Council for Finance and Planning" or "COFAP" means the Organ of the Community so named in paragraph 2(a) of Article 10;

"Council for Foreign and Community Relations" or "COFCO" means the Organ so named in paragraph 2(c) of Article 10;

"Council for Trade and Economic Development" or "COTED" means the Organ of the Community so named in paragraph 2(b) of Article 10;

"Court" means the Caribbean Court of Justice established by the Agreement;

"the CSME" means the regime established by the provisions of this Treaty replacing Chapters Three through Seven of the Annex to the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community and Common Market signed at Chaguaramas on 4 July 1973;

"disadvantaged countries" means:

(a) the Less Developed Countries within the meaning of Article 4; or

(b) Member States that may require special support measures of a transitional or temporary nature by reason of:

(i) impairment of resources resulting from natural disasters; or

(ii) the adverse impact of the operation of the CSME on their economies; or

(iii) temporary low levels of economic development; or

(iv) being a Highly-indebted Poor Country designated as such by the competent inter-governmental organisation;

"disadvantaged regions" means:

(a) regions within Member States experiencing economic dislocation from the operation of the CSME; or

(b) regions that may require special support measures of a transitional or temporary nature by reason of:

(i) impairment of resources resulting from natural disasters; or

(ii) temporary low levels of economic development;

"disadvantaged sectors" means:

(a) sectors of the economies of Member States in which economic enterprises experience dislocation from the operation of the CSME; or

(b) sectors that may require special support measures of a transitional or temporary nature by reason of natural disasters, whereby the loss in the sector causes social and economic disorder;

"dispute" means a dispute within the meaning of Article 183;

"economic enterprises" means economic enterprises within the meaning of Paragraph 5(b) of Article 32;

"enterprise" means any person or type of organisation, other than a non-profit organisation, involved in the production of or the trade in goods, or the provision of services;

"goods" means all kinds of property other than real property, money, securities or choses in action;

"import duties" means any tax or surtax of customs and any other charges of equivalent effect whether fiscal, monetary or exchange, which are levied on imports except those notified under Article 85 and other charges which fall within that Article;

"Legal Affairs Committee" means the Body established by paragraph 1 of Article 18;

"Member State" means a Member State of the Community excluding an Associate Member within the meaning of Article 231;

"Ministerial Councils" means COFAP, COFCOR, COHSOD and COTED;

"national" means a national within the meaning of paragraph 5(a) of Article 32;

"President" means the President of the Court;

"recommended practice" means any specification for physical characteristics, configuration, material, performance, personnel or procedure, the uniform application of which is regionally or generally recognised in the international community as desirable for the efficient delivery of transport services;

"rules of competition" includes the rules set out in sub-paragraph (a)(i) of paragraph 1 of Article 166 and Articles 176, 177, 178 and 179;

"Secretariat" means the Secretariat of the Community referred to in Article 23;

"Secretary-General" means the Secretary-General of the Community;

"services" means services provided against remuneration other than wages in an approved sector and

"the provision of services" means the supply of services:

(a) from the territory of one Member State into the territory of another Member State;

(b) in the territory of one Member State to a service consumer of another Member State;

(c) by a service supplier of one Member State through commercial presence in the territory of another Member State; and

(d) by a service supplier of one Member State through the presence of natural persons of a Member State in the territory of another Member State;

"standard" means any specification for physical characteristics, configuration, material, performance, personnel or procedure, the uniform application of which is regionally or generally recognised in the international community as necessary for the efficient delivery of transport services;

"subsidies" includes the subsidies set out in Schedule V and shall apply only in relation to goods;

"trade" includes any business, industry, profession or occupation relating to the supply or acquisition of goods or services;

"WTO Agreement" means the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994.

Chapter ONE. Principles

Article 2. Establishment of the Community

The Community is hereby established and recognised in the Protocol hereto as successor to the Caribbean Community and Common Market.

Article 3. Membership

1. Members of the Community consist of:

(a) Antigua and Barbuda

(b) The Bahamas

(c) Barbados

- (d) Belize
- (e) Dominica
- (f) Grenada
- (g) Guyana
- (h) Jamaica
- (i) Montserrat
- (j) St. Kitts and Nevis
- (k) Saint Lucia
- (l) St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- (m) Suriname
- (n) Trinidad and Tobago.

2. Membership of the Community shall be open to any other State or Territory of the Caribbean Region that is, in the opinion of the Conference, able and willing to exercise the rights and assume the obligations of membership.

Article 4. Less Developed Countries and More Developed Countries

For the purpose of this Treaty the States specified in sub-paragraphs 1(b), (c), (g), (h), (m) and (n) of Article 3 shall be more developed countries and the remainder listed in the said Paragraph shall be less developed countries.

Article 5. Modification of the Status of Member States

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 4 and paragraph 17 of Article 28, the Conference may, by majority decision, modify the status of a Member State.

Article 6. Objectives of the Community

The Community shall have the following objectives:

- (a) improved standards of living and work;
- (b) full employment of labour and other factors of production;
- (c) accelerated, co-ordinated and sustained economic development and convergence;
- (d) expansion of trade and economic relations with third States;
- (e) enhanced levels of international competitiveness;
- (f) organisation for increased production and productivity;
- (g) the achievement of a greater measure of economic leverage and effectiveness of Member States in dealing with third States, groups of States and entities of any description;
- (h) enhanced co-ordination of Member States' foreign and [foreign] economic Policies; and
- (i) enhanced functional co-operation, including -
 - (i) more efficient operation of common services and activities for the benefit of its peoples;
 - (ii) accelerated promotion of greater understanding among its peoples and the advancement of their social, cultural and technological development;
 - (iii) intensified activities in areas such as health, education, transportation, telecommunications.

Article 7. Non-discrimination

1. Within the scope of application of this Treaty and without prejudice to any special Provisions contained therein, any discrimination on grounds of nationality only shall be prohibited.

2. The Community Council shall, after consultation with the competent Organs, establish rules to prohibit any such discrimination.

Article 8. Most Favoured Nation Treatment

Subject to the provisions of this Treaty, each Member State shall, with respect to any rights covered by this Treaty, accord to another Member State treatment no less favourable than that accorded to:

(a) a third Member State; or

(b) third States.

Article 9. General Undertaking on Implementation

Member States shall take all appropriate measures, whether general or particular, to ensure the carrying out of obligations arising out of this Treaty or resulting from decisions taken by the Organs and Bodies of the Community. They shall facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the Community. They shall abstain from any measures which could jeopardise the attainment of the objectives of this Treaty.

Chapter TWO. Institutional Arrangements

Article 10. Organs of the Community

1. The principal Organs of the Community are:

(a) the Conference of Heads of Government; and

(b) the Community Council of Ministers which shall be the second highest organ.

2. In the performance of their functions, the principal Organs shall be assisted by the following Organs: (a) the Council for Finance and Planning; (b) the Council for Trade and Economic Development; (c) the Council for Foreign and Community Relations, and (d) the Council for Human and Social Development.

Article 11. Composition of the Conference

1. The Conference of Heads of Government shall consist of the Heads of Government of the Member States.

2. Any Head of Government may designate a Minister or other person to represent him or her at any Meeting of the Conference.

Article 12. Functions and Powers of the Conference

1. The Conference shall be the supreme Organ of the Community.

2. The Conference shall determine and provide policy direction for the Community.

3. Save as otherwise provided in this Treaty, the Conference shall be the final authority for the conclusion of treaties on behalf of the Community and for entering into relationships between the Community and international organisations and States.

4. The Conference may take decisions for the purpose of establishing the financial arrangements necessary to defray the expenses of the Community and shall be the final authority on questions arising in relation to the financial affairs of the Community.

5. Subject to the relevant provisions of this Treaty, the Conference shall exercise such Powers as may be conferred on it by or under any instrument elaborated by or under the auspices of the Community.

6. The Conference may establish such Organs or Bodies as it considers necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Community.

7. The Conference may issue policy directives of a general or special character to other Organs and Bodies of the Community concerning the policies to be pursued for the achievement of the objectives of the Community and effect shall be given to such directives.
8. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Treaty, the Conference may consider and resolve disputes between Member States.
9. The Conference may consult with entities within the Caribbean Region or with other organisations and for this purpose may establish such machinery as it considers necessary.
10. Subject to the provisions of this Chapter, the Conference shall regulate its own Procedure and may decide to admit at its deliberations as observers representatives of non-Member States of the Community and other entities.
11. The Bureau, consisting of the current Chairman and the immediately outgoing and incoming Chairmen of the Conference, shall perform the following functions:
 - (a) initiating proposals for development and approval by the Ministerial Councils as it considers necessary;
 - (b) updating the consensus of the Member States on issues falling to be determined by the Conference;
 - (c) facilitating implementation of Community decisions, both at the regional and local levels, in an expeditious and informed manner;
 - (d) Providing guidance to the Secretariat on policy issues.

Article 13. The Community Council of Ministers

1. The Community Council shall consist of Ministers responsible for Community Affairs and any other Minister designated by the Member States in their absolute discretion.
2. The Community Council shall, in accordance with the policy directions established by the Conference, have primary responsibility for the development of Community strategic planning and co-ordination in the areas of economic integration, functional co-operation and external relations.
3. In pursuance of paragraph 2, the Community Council shall:
 - (a) approve the programmes of the Community on the basis, inter alia, of proposals emanating from other Community Organs;
 - (b) subject to paragraph 5 of Article 20, amend proposals developed by the Ministerial Councils or request them to develop proposals for the achievement of Community objectives, and have responsibility for promoting and monitoring the implementation of Community decisions in the Member States.
4. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, the Community Council shall:
 - (a) subject to paragraph 4 of Article 12, examine and approve the Community budget;
 - (b) mobilise and allocate resources for the implementation of Community plans and programmes;
 - (c) establish, subject to the provisions of Article 26, a system of regional and national consultations in order to enhance the decision-making and implementation processes of the Community;
 - (d) promote, enhance, monitor and evaluate regional and national implementation processes and, to this end, establish a regional technical assistance service;
 - (e) function as a preparatory body for meetings of the Conference;
 - (f) ensure the efficient operation and orderly development of the CSME, particularly by seeking to resolve problems arising out of its functioning, taking into account the work and decisions of COTED;
 - (g) receive and consider allegations of breaches of obligations arising under this Treaty, including disputes between Organs of the Community;
 - (h) on the instructions of the Conference, issue directives to Organs and to the Secretariat aimed at ensuring the timely implementation of Community decisions;
 - (i) undertake any additional functions remitted to it by the Conference, arising under this Treaty

Article 14. The Council for Finance and Planning

1. the Council for Finance and Planning Shall Consist of Ministers Designated by Themember States. Each Member State Shail Be Entitled to Designate Alternates to Represent It on COFAP.
2. Subject to the relevant provisions of Article 12, COFAP shall have primary responsibility for economic policy co-ordination and financial and monetary integration of Member States and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, shall:
 - (a) establish and promote measures for the co-ordination and convergence of national macro-economic policies of the Member States and for the execution of a harmonised policy on foreign investment;
 - (b) promote and facilitate the adoption of measures for fiscal and monetary co- operation among the Member States, including the establishment of mechanisms for payment arrangements;
 - (co) recommend measures to achieve and maintain fiscal discipline by the Governments of the Member States;
 - (d) pending the establishment of a monetary union in the Community, recommend arrangements for the free convertibility of the currencies of the Member States on a reciprocal basis;
 - (e) promote the establishment and integration of capital markets in the Community, and
 - (f) undertake any additional functions remitted to it by the Conference arising under this Treaty.
3. Under the direction of COFAP, the Committee of Central Bank Governors shall assist in the performance of the functions mentioned in paragraph 2 of this Article.

Article 15. The Council for Trade and Economic Development

1. The Council for Trade and Economic Development shall consist of Ministers designated by the Member States. Each Member State shall be entitled to designate alternates to represent it on COTED.
2. Subject to the provisions of Article 12, COTED shall be responsible for the promotion of trade and economic development of the Community. In particular, COTED shall:
 - (a) promote the development and oversee the operation of the CSME;
 - (b) evaluate, promote and establish measures to enhance production, quality control and marketing of industrial and agricultural commodities so as to ensure their international competitiveness;
 - (c) establish and promote measures to accelerate structural diversification of industrial and agricultural production on a sustainable and regionally- integrated basis;
 - (d) determine and promote measures for the accelerated development and marketing of services;
 - (e) promote and develop policies and programmes to facilitate the transportation of people and goods;
 - (f) promote measures for the development of energy and natural resources on a sustainable basis;
 - (g) establish and promote measures for the accelerated development of science and technology;
 - (h) promote and develop policies for the protection of and preservation of the environment and for sustainable development;
 - (i) Promote and develop, in collaboration with the Council for Foreign and Community Relations, co-ordinated policies for the enhancement of external economic and trade relations of the Community, and
 - (j) undertake any additional functions remitted to it by the Conference, arising under this Treaty.

Article 16. The Council for Foreign and Community Relations

1. The Council for Foreign and Community Relations shall consist of Ministers Responsible for the Foreign Affairs of Member States. Each Member State shall be entitled to designate an alternate to represent it on COFCOR.
2. Subject to the provisions of Article 12, COFCOR shall be responsible for determining relations between the Community and international organisations and Third States.

3. Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph 2, COFCOR shall:

- (a) promote the development of friendly and mutually beneficial relations among the Member States;
- (b) establish measures to co-ordinate the foreign policies of the Member States of the Community, including proposals for joint representation, and seek to ensure, as far as practicable, the adoption of Community positions on major hemispheric and international issues;
- (c) co-ordinate the positions of the Member States in inter-governmental organisations in whose activities such States participate;
- (d) collaborate with COTED in promoting and developing co-ordinated policies for the enhancement of external economic and trade relations of the Community;
- (e) co-ordinate, in close consultation with the Member States, Community policy on international issues with the policies of States in the wider Caribbean Region in order to arrive at common positions in relation to Third States, groups of States and relevant inter-governmental organisations, and
- (f) undertake any additional functions remitted to it by the Conference, arising under this Treaty.

4. Only Member States possessing the necessary competence with respect to the matters under consideration from time to time may take part in the deliberations of COFCOR.

Article 17. The Council for Human and Social Development

1. The Council for Human and Social Development shall consist of Ministers designated by the Member States. Each Member State shall be entitled to designate alternates to represent it on COHSOD.

2. Subject to the provisions of Article 12, COHSOD shall be responsible for the promotion of human and social development in the Community. In particular, COHSOD shall:

- (a) promote the improvement of health, including the development and organisation of efficient and affordable health services in the Community;
- (b) promote the development of education through the efficient organisation of educational and training facilities in the Community, including elementary and advanced vocational training and technical facilities;
- (c) promote and develop co-ordinated policies and programmes to improve the living and working conditions of workers and take appropriate measures to facilitate the organisation and development of harmonious labour and industrial relations in the Community;
- (d) establish policies and programmes to promote the development of youth and women in the Community with a view to encouraging and enhancing their Participation in social, cultural, political and economic activities;
- (e) promote and establish programmes for the development of culture and sports in the Community;
- (f) promote the development of special focus programmes supportive of the establishment and maintenance of a healthy human environment in the Community, and
- (g) undertake any additional functions remitted to it by the Conference, arising under this Treaty.

3. Without prejudice to the requirements of any other provision of this Treaty, COHSOD shall promote co-operation among the Member States in the areas set out in the schedule hereto in furtherance of the objectives set out in Article 5.

Article 18. Bodies of the Community

1. There Are Hereby Established as Bodies of the Community:

- (a) the Legal Affairs Committee; and
- (b) the Budget Committee.

2. the Council of Central Bank Governors Shall Be Redesignated the "committee Ofcentral Bank Governors" and recognised as a Body of the Community.

3. The Organs of the Community may establish, as they deem necessary, other Bodies of the Community.

Article 19. Composition and Functions of Bodies of the Community

1. The Legal Affairs Committee shall consist of the Ministers responsible for Legal Affairs or Attorneys-General of the Member States, or both, and shall be responsible for providing the Organs and Bodies, either on request or on its own initiative, with advice on treaties, international legal issues, the harmonisation of laws of the Community and other legal matters.
2. The Budget Committee shall consist of senior officials of the Member States who shall perform their functions in a professional capacity. It shall examine the draft budget and work Programme of the Community prepared by the Secretariat and submit recommendations to the Community Council.
3. The Committee of Central Bank Governors shall consist of the Governors or Heads of the Central Banks of the Member States or their nominees. The Committee shall make recommendations to COFAP on matters relating to monetary co-operation, payments arrangements, free movement of capital, integration of capital markets, monetary union and any other related matters referred to it by the Organs of the Community.
4. The procedures of Bodies shall be regulated, mutatis mutandis, by the relevant Provisions of Articles 27 and 29.

Article 20. Co-operation by Community Organs

1. Community Organs shall co-operate with each other for the achievement of Community objectives.
2. The Bureau and the Community Council may initiate proposals for development by the Ministerial Councils within their respective areas of competence.
3. Where a Community Organ proposes to develop a proposal which is likely to impact importantly on activities within the sphere of competence of another Community Organ, the first-mentioned Community Organ shall transmit such proposal to other interested Community Organs for their consideration and reaction before reaching a final decision on the proposal.
4. Proposals approved by the Ministerial Councils shall be transmitted to the Community Council for prioritisation and resource allocation for their implementation.
5. Proposals approved by the Ministerial Councils and transmitted to the Community Council for prioritisation and resource allocation for implementation may be returned by the Community Council to the originating Organ for modification. The Community Council may modify the proposal to the extent and in the manner agreed with the originating Organ.
6. The Secretariat shall monitor the development and implementation of proposals for the achievement of Community objectives and keep the Community Council informed accordingly.

Article 21. Institutions of the Community

The following entities established by or under the auspices of the Community shall be recognised as Institutions of the Community:

- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA);
- Caribbean Meteorological Institute (CMI);
- Caribbean Meteorological Organisation (CMO);
- Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEH);
- Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI);
- Caribbean Regional Centre for the Education and Training of Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health Assistants (REPAHA);
- Assembly of Caribbean Community Parliamentarians (ACCP); or Caribbean Centre For Developmental Administration (CARICAD);
- Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI),

and such other entities as may be designated by the Conference.

Article 22. Associate Institutions of the Community

The following entities with which the Community enjoys important functional relationships which contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Community shall be recognised as Associate Institutions of the Community:

- Caribbean Development Bank (CDB);
- University of Guyana (UG);

-University of the West Indies (UWI);
-Caribbean Law Institute / Caribbean Law Institute Centre (CLI/CLIC);
-the Secretariat of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States;
and such other entities as may be designated by the Conference.

Article 23. The Secretariat

1. The Secretariat shall be the principal administrative organ of the Community. The headquarters of the Community shall be located in Georgetown, Guyana.
2. The Secretariat shall comprise a Secretary-General and such other staff as the Community may require. In the recruitment of such staff, consideration shall be given to securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, bearing in mind the principle of equitable geographical distribution.
3. The Secretary-General shall, in addition to the powers conferred by or under the Treaty, be the Chief Executive Officer of the Community and shall act in that capacity at all meetings of Community Organs and Bodies. He shall make an annual report to the Conference on the work of the Community.
4. In the performance of their duties the Secretary-General and staff shall neither seek nor receive instructions from any Government of the Member States or from any other authority external to the Community. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect adversely on their position as officials of the Community and shall be responsible only to the Community.
5. Member States undertake to respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and staff and shall not seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities.
6. The Conference shall approve the Staff Regulations governing the operations of the Secretariat.
7. The Community Council shall approve the financial regulations governing the operations of the Secretariat.
8. The Secretary-General shall establish Staff Rules for the operation of the Secretariat.

Article 24. The Secretary-general

1. The Secretary-General shall be appointed by the Conference, on the recommendation of the Community Council, for a term not exceeding five years and may be reappointed by the Conference.
2. The Secretary-General shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Community and shall, subject to the determinations of competent Organs of the Community and in accordance with the financial and other regulations, perform the following functions:
 - (a) represent the Community;
 - (b) develop, as mandated, decisions of competent Organs of the Community into implementable proposals;
 - (c) identify and mobilise, as required, external resources to implement decisions at the regional level and undertake studies and develop decisions on relevant issues into implementable proposals;
 - (d) implement, as mandated, decisions at the regional level for the achievement of Community objectives;
 - (e) implement, with the consent of the Member State concerned, Community decisions which do not require legislative or administrative action by national authorities;
 - (f) monitor and report on, as mandated, implementation of Community decisions;
 - (g) initiate or develop proposals for consideration and decision by competent Organs in order to achieve Community objectives, and
 - (h) such other functions assigned by the Conference or other competent Organs.

Article 25. Functions of the Secretariat

In addition to any functions which may be assigned to it by Organs of the Community, the Secretariat shall:

- (a) service meetings of the Organs and Bodies of the Community and take appropriate follow up action on determinations issuing from such meetings;
- (b) initiate, organise and conduct studies on issues for the achievement of the objectives of the Community;
- (c) Provide, on request, services to the Member States of the Community on matters relating to the achievement of its objectives;

- (d) collect, store and disseminate to the Member States of the Community information relevant for the achievement of its objectives;
- (e) assist Community Organs in the development and implementation of Proposals and programmes for the achievement of objectives of the Community;
- (f) co-ordinate in relation to the Community the activities of donor agencies, international, regional and national institutions for the achievement of objectives of the Community;
- (g) prepare the draft budget of the Community for examination by the Budget Committee;
- (h) provide, on request, technical assistance to national authorities to facilitate implementation of Community decisions;
- (i) conduct, as mandated, fact-finding assignments in the Member States, and
- (j) initiate or develop proposals for consideration and decision by competent Organs in order to achieve Community objectives.

Article 26. The Consultative Process

1. In order to enhance the decision-making process in the Community, the Community Council, assisted by the Secretary-General, shall, in collaboration with competent authorities of the Member States, establish and maintain an efficient system of consultations at the national and regional levels.
2. The system of consultations shall be structured to ensure that determinations of Community Organs and the Legal Affairs Committee are adequately informed by relevant information inputs and are reinforced by consultations undertaken at successively lower levels of the decision-making process.

Article 27. Common Voting Procedures In Community Organs and Bodies

1. Subject to paragraph 2 of this Article, each Member State represented on Community Organs and Bodies shall have one vote. A simple majority of Member States shall constitute a quorum.
2. Member States, whose contributions to the regular budget of the Community are in arrears for more than two years, shall not have the right to vote except on matters relating to the CSME, but may otherwise participate in the deliberations of Community Organs and Bodies. The Conference may, nevertheless, permit such Member States to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to contribute is due to conditions beyond their control.
3. Decisions on procedural issues in Community Organs shall be reached by a simple majority of Member States.
4. Subject to the agreement of the Conference, a Member State may opt out of obligations arising from the decisions of competent Organs provided that the fundamental objectives of the Community, as laid down in the Treaty, are not prejudiced thereby.
5. Prior to taking decisions on any issue falling to be determined by Community Organs, the Secretariat shall bring to the attention of the meeting the financial implications of such decisions and any other matters which may be relevant.
6. Recommendations of Community Organs shall be made by a two-thirds majority of Member States and shall not be legally binding. Member States omitting to comply with recommendations shall inform the Secretariat in writing within six months stating the reasons for their non-compliance.
7. Subject to the relevant provisions of this Treaty, Community Organs and Bodies shall establish their rules of procedure.

Article 28. Voting In the Conference

1. Save as otherwise provided in this Treaty and subject to paragraph 2 of this Article and the relevant provisions of Article 27, the Conference shall take decisions by an affirmative vote of all its members and such decisions shall be binding.
2. For the purpose of this Article abstentions shall not be construed as impairing the validity of decisions of the Conference provided that the Member States constituting three-quarters of the membership of the Community, vote in favour of such decisions.
3. Omission by a Member State to participate in the vote shall be deemed an abstention within the meaning of paragraph 2 of this Article.
4. Parties to a dispute or against which sanctions are being considered shall not have the right to vote on the issue falling to be determined.

Article 29. Voting In the Community Council and Ministerial Councils

1. save as otherwise provided in this treaty and subject to the provisions of this Article and Article 27, the Ministerial Councils shall take decisions by a qualified majority vote and such decisions shall be binding.
2. For the purposes of paragraph 1 of this Article a qualified majority vote means an affirmative vote of the Member States comprising no less than three-quarters of the membership of the Community.
3. Where issues have been determined to be of critical importance to the national well-being of a Member State, in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Article, such decisions shall be reached by an affirmative vote of all Member States.
4. Decisions that an issue is of critical importance to the national well-being of a Member State shall be reached by a two-thirds majority of the Member States.
5. For the purposes of paragraph 3 of this Article abstentions shall not be construed as impairing the validity of decisions required to be reached by unanimity provided that Member States constituting not less than three-quarters of the membership of the Community vote in favour of such decisions.

Chapter Three . Establishment, Services, Capital and Movement of Community Nationals

Article 30. Scope of Application

1. Save as otherwise provided in this Article and Article 31, the provisions of this Chapter shall apply to the right of establishment, the right to provide services and the right to move capital in the Community.
2. Activities in a Member State involving the exercise of governmental authority shall, in so far as that Member State is concerned, be excluded from the operation of this Chapter.
3. For the purposes of this Chapter, "activities involving the exercise of governmental authority" means activities conducted neither on a commercial basis nor in competition with one or more economic enterprises, and includes:
 - (a) activities conducted by a central bank or monetary authority or any other public entity, in pursuit of monetary or exchange rate policies;
 - (b) activities forming part of a statutory system of social security or public retirement plans; (c) activities forming part of a system of national security or for the establishmentor maintenance of public order; and
 - (d) other activities conducted by a public entity for the account of or with the guarantee or using financial resources of the government.

Article 31. Treatment of Monopolies

1. The Member States may determine that the public interest requires the exclusion or restriction of the right of establishment in any industry or in a particular sector of an industry.
2. Where such a determination has been made:
 - (a) if the determination results in the continuation or establishment of a government monopoly, the Member State shall adopt appropriate measures to ensure that the monopoly does not discriminate between nationals of Member States, save as otherwise provided in this Treaty, and is subject to the agreed rules of competition established for Community economic enterprises;
 - (b) if the determination results in the continuation or establishment of a private sector monopoly, the Member State shall, subject to the provisions of this Treaty, adopt appropriate measures to ensure that national treatment is accorded to nationals of other Member States in terms of participating in its operations.

Article 32. Prohibition of New Restrictions on the Right of Establishment

1. The Member States shall not introduce in their territories any new restrictions relating to the right of establishment of nationals of other Member States save as otherwise provided in this Treaty.
2. The Member States shall notify COTED of existing restrictions on the right of establishment in respect of nationals of

other Member States.

3. (1) The right of establishment within the meaning of this Chapter shall include the right to: (a) engage in any non-wage-earning activities of a commercial, industrial, agricultural, professional or artisanal nature;

(b) create and manage economic enterprises referred to in paragraph 5(b) of this Article.

(2) For the purposes of this Chapter "non-wage earning activities" means activities undertaken by self-employed persons.

4. The Community Council may, with the approval of the Conference and upon the recommendation of COTED or COFAP, as the case may be, enlarge the body of rights provided in Paragraph 3 of this Article. The competent Organ shall establish basic criteria for Member States in order to safeguard against manipulation or abuse of such rights so as to gain an unfair advantage against other Member States, for example, in the areas of nationality criteria and in the operation of companies.

5. For the purposes of this Chapter:

(a) a person shall be regarded as a national of a Member State if such person -

(i) is a citizen of that State;

(ii) has a connection with that State of a kind which entitles him to be regarded as belonging to or, if it be so expressed, as being a native or resident of the State for the purposes of the laws thereof relating to immigration; or

(iii) is a company or other legal entity constituted in the Member State in conformity with the laws thereof and which that State regards as belonging to it, provided that such company or other legal entity has been formed for gainful purposes and has its registered office and central administration, and carries on substantial activity, within the Community and which is substantially owned and effectively controlled by persons mentioned in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) of this Paragraph;

(b) "economic enterprises" includes any type of organisation for the production of or trade in goods or the provision of services (other than a non-profit organisation) owned or controlled by any person or entity mentioned in sub- Paragraph (a) of this paragraph;

(c) a company or other legal entity is:

(i) substantially owned if more than 50 per cent of the equity interest therein is beneficially owned by nationals mentioned in sub- Paragraph (a) (i) or (ii) of this paragraph;

(ii) effectively controlled if nationals mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph have the power to name a majority of its directors or otherwise legally to direct its actions.

Article 33. Removal of Restrictions on the Right of Establishment

1. Subject to the provisions of Article 221 and Article 222, the Member States shall remove restrictions on the right of establishment of nationals of a Member State in the territory of another Member State.

2. The removal of restrictions on the right of establishment mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article shall also apply to restrictions on the setting up of agencies, branches or subsidiaries by nationals of a Member State in the territory of another Member State.

3. Subject to the approval of the Conference, COTED, in consultation with COHSOD and COFAP, shall, within one year from the entry into force of this Treaty, establish a programme providing for the removal of restrictions on the right of establishment of nationals of a Member State in the territory of another Member State. The programme shall, *inter alia*:

(a) identify the activities in respect of which the right of establishment shall not apply;

(b) establish the conditions under which the right of establishment is to be achieved; and

(c) set out the conditions, stages and time-frames for the removal of restrictions on the right of establishment.

4. The Community Council may authorise a Member State whose nationals have been aggrieved by the violation of obligations set out in this Article, Article 32, Article 36 and Article 37 to take such measures as may be provided for in this Treaty.

Article 34. Management of Removal of Restrictions on the Right of Establishment

In performing its tasks set out in Article 33, COTED shall, *inter alia*:

(a) accord priority to the removal of restrictions on activities in respect of which the right of establishment encourages the development of:

(i) the production of trade in goods;

(ii) the provision of services,

which generate foreign exchange earnings;

(b) require the Member States to remove administrative practices and procedures, the maintenance of which impede the exercise of the right of establishment:

(c) require the Member States to remove all restrictions on the movement of managerial, technical and supervisory staff of economic enterprises and on establishing agencies, branches and subsidiaries of companies and other entities established in the Community;

(d) establish measures to ensure the removal of restrictions on the right of establishment in respect of activities accorded priority treatment pursuant to paragraph (a) of this Article as they relate to:

(i) the establishment, in the territories of the Member States, of agencies, branches or subsidiaries belonging to an economic enterprise; and

(ii) the conditions governing the entry of managerial, technical or supervisory personnel employed in such agencies, branches and subsidiaries, including the spouses and immediate dependent family members of such personnel;

(e) take appropriate measures to ensure close collaboration among competent national authorities in order to improve their knowledge of the particular situation regarding the relevant activities within the Community;

(f) require the Member States to ensure that nationals of one Member State may have access to land, buildings and other property situated in the territory of another Member State, other than for speculative purposes or for a purpose potentially destabilising to the economy, on a non-discriminatory basis, bearing in mind the importance of agriculture for many national economies;

(g) ensure concordance in the Member States regarding the protection afforded the interests of partners, members and other persons with financial interests in companies and other entities.

Article 35. Acceptance of Diplomas, Certificates, and other Evidence of Qualifications

1. COHSOD, in consultation with the competent Organ, shall establish common standards and measures for accreditation or when necessary for the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of qualifications of the nationals of the Member States in order to facilitate access to, and engagement in, employment and non-wage-earning activities in the Community.

2. The Member States shall establish or employ, as the case may be, appropriate mechanisms to establish common standards to determine equivalency or accord accreditation to diplomas, certificates and other evidence of qualifications secured by nationals of other Member States.

3. COHSOD shall also establish measures for the co-ordination of legislative and administrative requirements of the Member States for the participation of Community nationals in employment and for the conduct of non-wage-earning activities in the Community.

Article 36. Prohibition of New Restrictions on the Provision of Services

1. The Member States shall not introduce any new restrictions on the provision of services in the Community by nationals of other Member States except as otherwise provided in this Treaty.

2. Without prejudice to the provisions relating to the right of establishment, persons Providing services may, in order to provide such services, temporarily engage in approved activities in the Member State where the services are to be provided under the same conditions enjoyed by nationals of that Member State.

3. The Member States shall notify COTED of existing restrictions on the provision of services in respect of nationals of other Member States.

4. For the purposes of this Chapter, "services" means services provided against remuneration other than wages in any approved sector and "the provision of services" means the supply of services:

(a) from the territory of one Member State into the territory of another Member State;

(b) in the territory of one Member State to the service consumer of another Member State;

(c) by a service supplier of one Member State through commercial presence in the territory of another Member State; and

(d) by a service supplier of one Member State through the presence of natural persons of a Member State in the territory of another Member State.

Article 37. Removal of Restrictions on Provision of Services

1. Subject to the provisions of this Treaty, Member States shall abolish discriminatory restrictions on the provision of services within the Community in respect of Community nationals.

2. Subject to the approval of the Conference, COTED, in consultation with other competent Organs, shall, within one year from the entry into force of this Treaty, establish a Programme for the removal of restrictions on the provision of such services in the Community by Community nationals.

3. In establishing the programme mentioned in paragraph 2 of this Article, COTED shall:

(a) accord priority to services which directly affect production costs or facilitate the trade in goods and services which generate foreign exchange earnings;

(b) require the Member States to remove administrative practices and procedures, the maintenance of which impede the exercise of the right to Provide services;

(c) establish measures to ensure the abolition of restrictions on the right to provide services in respect of activities accorded priority treatment in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph, both in terms of conditions for the provision of services in the territories of Member States as well as the conditions governing the entry of personnel, including their spouses and immediate dependent family members, for the provision of services;

(d) take appropriate measures to ensure close collaboration among competent national authorities in order to improve their knowledge of the conditions regarding relevant activities within the Community, and

(e) require the Member States to ensure that nationals of one Member State have on a non-discriminatory basis, access to land, buildings and other property situated in the territory of another Member State for purposes directly related to the provision of services, bearing in mind the importance of agriculture for many national economies.

Article 38. Removal of Restrictions on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Services

1. Subject to the provisions of this Chapter, the Member States shall remove discriminatory restrictions on banking, insurance and other financial services.

2. Subject to the approval of the Conference, COFAP, in consultation with other competent Organs of the Community, may exclude certain financial services from the operation of the Provisions of this Article.

Article 39. Prohibition of New Restrictions on Movement of Capital and Current Transactions

The Member States shall not introduce any new restrictions on the movement of capital and payments connected with such movement and on current payments and transfers, nor render more restrictive existing regulations except as provided in Article 43 and Article 46.

Article 40. Removal of Restrictions on Movement of Capital and Current Transactions

1. The Member States shall, in order to ensure the proper functioning of the CSME, remove among themselves:

(a) restrictions on the movement of capital payments;

(b) restrictions on all current payments including payments for goods and services and other current transfers.

2. COFAP, subject to the approval of the Conference, shall establish in collaboration with the Committee of Central Bank Governors a programme for the removal of the restrictions mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article.

3. For the purpose of this Article, capital and related payments and transfers include: (a) equity and portfolio investments; (b) short-term bank and credit transactions; (c) payment of interest on loans and amortization; (d) dividends and other income on investments after taxes; (e) repatriation of proceeds from the sale of assets; and (f) other transfers and payments relating to investment flows.

Article 41. Authorisation to Facilitate Movement of Capital

1. The Member States shall, where necessary and subject to paragraph 2 of this Article, grant the authorisations required for the movement of capital mentioned in Article 40 on a non-discriminatory basis.
2. A loan intended for State purposes may require prior notification to the State in which it is being issued or placed.

Article 42. Co-ordination of Foreign Exchange Policies and Exchange of Information

1. The Member States shall take such measures as are necessary to coordinate their foreign exchange policies in respect of the movement of capital between them and third States.
2. The Member States shall keep the competent authorities in other Member States informed of significant unusual movements of capital within their knowledge to and from third States.

Article 43. Restrictions to Safeguard Balance-of-payments

1. In the event of serious balance-of-payments and external financial difficulties or threat thereof, a Member State may, consistently with its international obligations and subject to paragraph 5 of this Article, adopt or maintain restrictions to address such difficulties.
2. The restrictions which may be adopted or maintained pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article may include quantitative restrictions on imports, restrictions on the right of establishment, restrictions on the right to provide services, restrictions on the right to move capital or on payments and transfers for transactions connected therewith. However, such restrictions:
 - (a) shall, subject to the provisions of this Treaty, not discriminate among Member States or against Member States in favour of third States;
 - (b) shall at all times seek to minimise damage to the commercial, economic or financial interests of any other Member State;
 - (c) shall not exceed those necessary to deal with the circumstances described in paragraph 1 of this Article; and
 - (d) shall be temporary but in any event not longer than a period of eighteen (18) months and be phased out progressively as the situation described in Paragraph 1 improves.
3. In determining the incidence of such restrictions, the Member State concerned may accord priority to activities which are essential to its economic stability. Such restrictions shall not be adopted or maintained for the purpose of protecting a particular sector in contravention of the relevant Provisions of this Treaty, due regard being paid in either case to any special factors which may be affecting the reserves of such Member State or its need for reserves.
4. Restrictions adopted or maintained pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article, or any changes therein, shall be promptly notified within three (3) working days to COFAP and to COTED, and, in any event, the Member State concerned shall immediately consult with the competent Organ if and when requested.
5. COFAP shall establish procedures for periodic consultations including, where possible and desirable, prior consultations with the objective of making recommendations to the Member State concerned for the removal of the restrictions.
6. The consultations referred to in paragraph 5 of this Article shall:
 - (a) be designed to assist the Member State concerned to overcome its balance-of-payments and external financial difficulties;
 - (b) assess the balance-of-payments situation of the Member State concerned and the restrictions adopted or maintained under this Article, taking into account, inter alia:
 - @ the nature and extent of the balance-of-payments and the external financial difficulties; i the external economic and trading environment of the Member Stateapplying the restrictions; and a) alternative corrective measures which may be available.
7. The consultations shall address the compliance of any restrictions with paragraph 2 of this Article and, in particular, the progressive phase-out of restrictions in accordance with paragraph 2(d).
8. In such consultations, all findings of statistical and other facts presented by the Committee of Central Bank Governors

relating to foreign exchange, monetary reserves and balance-of- payments, shall be accepted and conclusions shall be based on the assessment by the Committee of the balance-of-payments and the external financial situation of the Member State concerned.

Article 44. Measures to Facilitate Establishment, Provision of Services and Movement of Capital

1. In order to facilitate the exercise of the rights provided for in this Chapter, COTED and COFAP shall, subject to the approval of the Conference, adopt appropriate measures for:

- (a) the establishment of market intelligence and information systems in the Community;
- (b) harmonised legal and administrative requirements for the operation of Partnerships, companies, or other entities;
- (c) abolition of exchange controls in the Community, and free convertibility of the currencies of the Member States;
- (d) the establishment of an integrated capital market in the Community;
- (e) convergence of macro-economic performance and policies through the co- ordination or harmonisation of monetary and fiscal policies, including, in Particular, policies relating to interest rates, exchange rates, tax structures and national budgetary deficits;
- (f) the establishment of economical and efficient land, sea and air transport services throughout the Community, and
- (g) the establishment of efficient communication services.

2. COFAP and COTED shall establish a comprehensive set of rules in respect of the areas listed in paragraph 1 of this Article for approval by the Conference.

Article 45. Movement of Community Nationals

Member States commit themselves to the goal of free movement of their nationals within the Community.

Article 46. Movement of Skilled Community Nationals

1. Without prejudice to the rights recognised and agreed to be accorded by Member States in Articles 32, 33, 37, 38 and 40 among themselves and to Community nationals, Member States have agreed, and undertake as a first step towards achieving the goal set out in Article 45, to accord to the following categories of Community nationals the right to seek employment in their jurisdictions:

- (a) University graduates;
- (b) media workers;
- (c) sportspersons;
- (d) artistes; and
- (e) musicians,

recognised as such by the competent authorities of the receiving Member States.

2. Member States shall establish appropriate legislative, administrative and procedural arrangements to:

- (a) facilitate the movement of skills within the contemplation of this Article;
- (b) Provide for movement of Community nationals into and within their jurisdictions without harassment or the imposition of impediments, including:
 - (i) the elimination of the requirement for passports for Community nationals travelling to their jurisdictions;
 - (ii) the elimination of the requirement for work permits for Community nationals seeking approved employment in their jurisdictions;
 - (iii) establishment of mechanisms for certifying and establishing equivalency of degrees and for accrediting institutions;
 - (iv) harmonisation and transferability of social security benefits.

3. Nothing in this Treaty shall be construed as inhibiting Member States from according Community nationals unrestricted

access to, and movement within, their jurisdictions subject to such conditions as the public interest may require.

4. The Conference shall keep the provisions of this Article under review in order to:

- (a) enlarge, as appropriate, the classes of persons entitled to move and work freely in the Community; and
- (b) monitor and secure compliance therewith.

Article 47. Restrictions to Resolve Difficulties or Hardships Arising from the Exercise of Rights

1. Where the exercise of rights granted under this Chapter creates serious difficulties in any sector of the economy of a Member State or occasions economic hardships in a region of the Community, a Member State adversely affected thereby may, subject to the provisions of this Article, apply such restrictions on the exercise of the rights as it considers appropriate in order to resolve the difficulties or alleviate the hardships.

2. Where a Member State:

(a) intends to apply restrictions in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article, it shall, prior to applying those restrictions, notify the competent Organ of that intention and the nature of the restrictions;

(b) is unable to comply with sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph, it shall, upon applying the restrictions in accordance with paragraph 1, immediately notify the competent Organ of the application and nature of the restrictions.

3. The Member State shall, at the time of application of the restrictions mentioned in Paragraph 1, submit to COTED or COFAP, as the case may require, a programme setting out the measures to be taken by that Member State to resolve the difficulties or to alleviate the hardships.

4. The competent Organ shall give its earliest consideration to the programme, and:

(a) make a determination in respect of the appropriateness of the restrictions and whether they shall be continued; and

(b) where it decides that the restrictions shall be continued, determine: (a) the adequacy of the programme; and (b) the period for which the restrictions should continue.

The competent Organ, in making a determination under sub-paragraph (b) of this paragraph, may impose such conditions as it considers necessary.

5. Restrictions applied by a Member State pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article shall be confined to those necessary: (a) to resolve the difficulties in the affected sectors; (b) to alleviate economic hardships in a particular region. 6. In applying restrictions mentioned in paragraph 5, Member States shall: (a) minimise damage to the commercial or economic interests of any other Member State; or

(b) prevent the unreasonable exercise of rights granted under this Chapter, the exclusion of which could impair the development of the CSME.

7. The Member States, in applying restrictions pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article, shall not discriminate and:

(a) shall progressively relax them as relevant conditions improve;

(b) may maintain them only to the extent that conditions mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article continue to justify their application.

8. If COTED or COFAP, as the case may require, is not satisfied that Member States applying restrictions are acting in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 of this Article, it may recommend to the Member States adversely affected thereby alternative arrangements to the same end.

Article 48. Waiver of Obligations to Grant Rights

1. Notwithstanding any provision in this Chapter, a Member State may apply to the Community Council for a waiver of the requirement to grant any of the rights mentioned in paragraph 1 of Article 30 in respect of any industry, sector or enterprise.

2. An application for a waiver within the meaning of paragraph 1 of this Article shall:

(a) be made prior to the establishment of the relevant programme for the removal of restrictions on the rights mentioned in

paragraph 1;

(b) identify the rights in respect of which the waiver is required;

(c) set out the circumstances justifying the grant of the waiver; and

(d) indicate the period for which the waiver is required.

3. The Community Council may require the applicant to furnish such additional information as the Council may specify.

4. Where the Community Council is satisfied that the waiver should be granted, it shall grant a waiver for a period not exceeding five years, subject to such terms and conditions as the Community Council may determine.

5. A Member State which has been granted a waiver within the meaning of paragraph 1 of this Article:

(a) shall not, while the waiver is in force, be entitled to espouse a claim on behalf of its nationals against another Member State in respect of the rights for which the waiver was granted;

(b) shall:

(i) at the termination of the period of the waiver, remove the restrictions and notify the Community Council; or

(ii) where the Member State removes the restrictions before the end of the period of the waiver, notify the Community Council accordingly.

Article 49. Special Provisions for Less Developed Countries

Where in this Chapter, the Member States or competent Organs are required to remove restrictions on the exercise of the rights mentioned in paragraph 1 of Article 30 the special needs and circumstances of the Less Developed Countries shall be taken into account.

Article 50. Accelerated Implementation

Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as precluding the Member States from adopting measures to remove restrictions on the right of establishment, the right to provide services or the right to move capital within the Community earlier than is required by these provisions.

Chapter Four . Policies for Sectoral Development

Part ONE . INDUSTRIAL POLICY

Article 51. Objectives of the Community Industrial Policy

1. The goal of the Community Industrial Policy shall be market-led, internationally competitive and sustainable production of goods and services for the promotion of the Region's economic and social development.

2. In fulfilment of the goal set out in paragraph 1 of this Article, the Community shall Pursue the following objectives:

(a) cross-border employment of natural resources, human resources, capital, technology and management capabilities for the production of goods and Services on a sustainable basis;

(b) linkages among economic sectors and enterprises within and among the Member States of the CSME;

(c) promotion of regional economic enterprises capable of achieving scales of production to facilitate successful competition in domestic and extra-regional markets;

(d) establishment of a viable micro and small economic enterprise sector;

(e) enhanced and diversified production of goods and services for both export and domestic markets;

(f) sustained public and private sector collaboration in order to secure market- led production of goods and services;

(g) enhanced industrial production on an environmentally sustainable basis;

(h) balanced economic and social development in the CSME bearing in mind the special needs of disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors within the meaning of Article I; and

(i) stable industrial relations.

Article 52. Implementation of Community Industrial Policy

1. In order to achieve the objectives of its industrial policy, the Community shall promote, *inter alia*:

(a) the co-ordination of national industrial policies of the Member States;

(b) the establishment and maintenance of an investment-friendly environment, including a facilitative administrative process;

(c) the diversification of the products and markets for goods and services with a view to increasing the range and value of exports;

(d) the organisation and development of product and factor markets;

(e) the development of required institutional, legal, technical, financial, administrative and other support for the establishment or development of micro and small economic enterprises throughout the Community; and

(f) in collaboration with the social partners, the advancement of production integration.

2. The Community shall establish a special regime for disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors.

3. COTED shall, in collaboration with competent organs and bodies of the Community and the private sector, establish criteria for according special consideration to particular industries and sectors. Such criteria shall include, in particular, arrangements relating to the prospects of the industry for successful production integration.

4. COTED shall collaborate with competent agencies to assist the Member States in designing appropriate policy instruments to support industries, which may include effective export promotion policies, financing policies, incentives and technology policies.

5. In implementing the Community industrial Policy, COTED shall have regard to the Provisions of this Treaty relating to environmental protection.

6. The Member States undertake to establish and maintain appropriate macro-economic Policies supportive of efficient production in the Community. In addition, they shall undertake to put in place arrangements for, *inter alia*:

(a) effective payment mechanisms;

(b) the avoidance of double taxation;

(c) harmonised legislation in relevant areas;

(d) the elimination of bureaucratic impediments to deployment of investments in industrial enterprises;

(e) the improvement of infrastructure and co-operation in the areas of air and maritime transport; a communications systems.

7. In order to facilitate the implementation of the Community Industrial Policy, COTED shall, in collaboration with competent organs and agencies:

(a) develop strategies for the development and dissemination of market information and appropriate mechanisms to facilitate acquisition, storage and retrieval of such information;

(b) promote the establishment and development of capital markets in the Member States; and

(c) encourage the Member States to establish and develop export markets, especially in non-traditional sectors, through the development of sector- Specific incentives and appropriate policy instruments.

8. For the purpose of this Article, "production integration" includes:

(a) the direct organisation of production in more than one Member State by a single economic enterprise;

(b) complementary production involving collaboration among several economic enterprises operating in one or more Member States to produce and use required inputs in the production chain; and

(c) co-operation among economic enterprises in areas such as purchasing, marketing, and research and development.

Article 53. Micro and Small Economic Enterprise Development

1. The Community shall adopt appropriate policy measures to encourage the development of competitive micro and small economic enterprises in the Member States.
2. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the competent Organ shall encourage policy initiatives and the establishment of effective programmes to foster a facilitative legal, economic, and administrative framework in the Member States to enhance micro and small economic enterprise development, and shall promote:
 - (a) the development of the capacities of national and regional support agencies for micro and small economic enterprises, including the creation of entrepreneurial centres, by organising technical assistance inclusive of Planning, delivery and evaluation of support services to the sector,
 - (b) access to, improvement in the quality of, and opportunities for training and education in areas such as technical skills, entrepreneurial competence and business management for micro and small entrepreneurs;
 - (c) access by micro and small economic enterprises to the technical assistance provided by the support agencies;
 - (d) the establishment, development or modernising, as the case may require, of financial institutions to provide, to micro and small economic enterprises, services by way of appropriate and innovative instruments;
 - (e) innovation within the micro and small enterprise sector; and
 - (f) the creation of, and access to, trade and technology information networks.
3. For the purposes of this Article, micro and small economic enterprises shall be economic enterprises within the meaning of Article 32 that satisfy such other criteria as may be determined by the competent authorities.

Article 54. Development of the Services Sector

1. COTED shall, in collaboration with the appropriate Councils, promote the development of the services sector in the Community in order to stimulate economic complementarities among, and accelerate economic development in, the Member States. In Particular, COTED shall promote measures to achieve:
 - (a) increased investment in services;
 - (b) increased volume, value and range of trade in services within the Community and with third States;
 - (c) competitiveness in the modes of delivering services; and
 - (d) enhanced enterprise and infrastructural development, including that of micro and small service enterprises.
2. In order to achieve the objectives set out in paragraph 1, the Member States shall, through the appropriate Councils, collaborate in:
 - (a) designing programmes for the development of human resources to achieve competitiveness in the provision of services;
 - (b) establishing a regime of incentives for the development of and trade in services; and
 - (c) adopting measures to promote the establishment of an appropriate institutional and administrative framework and, in collaboration with the Legal Affairs Committee, promote the establishment of the appropriate legal framework to support the services sector in the Community.
3. In the establishment of programmes and policies of the Community for the development of the services sector, the relevant Councils shall give priority to:
 - (a) the efficient provision of infrastructural services, including telecommunications, road, air, maritime and riverain transportation, Statistical data generation and financial services;
 - (b) the development of capacity-enhancing services including education services, research and development services;
 - (c) the development of services which enhance cross-sector competitiveness;
 - (d) the facilitation of cross-border provision of services which enhance the competitiveness of the services sector; and
 - (e) the development of informatics and other knowledge-based services.

Article 55. Sustainable Tourism Development

1. The Community shall, in collaboration with competent international organisations, formulate proposals for sustainable tourism development. These proposals shall recognise the importance of the tourism sub-sector to the economic development of the Region, and the need to conserve its cultural and natural resources and to maintain a balance between a healthy ecology and economic development.

2. The programme for sustainable tourism development shall have the following objectives:

- (a) an enhanced image for the Region as a tourist destination;
- (b) a diversified tourism product of a consistently high quality;
- (c) an expanded market-base;
- (d) education programmes designed to ensure that appropriate practices are pursued by service-providers;
- (e) linkages with other sectors in the economy;
- (f) conservation of the natural and cultural resources of the Region through proper management; and
- (g) appropriate infrastructure and other services in support of tourism, considering the natural and social carrying-capacity of the Member States.

Part TWO. AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Article 56. The Community Agricultural Policy

1. The goal of the Community Agricultural Policy shall be:

- (a) the fundamental transformation of the agricultural sector towards market- oriented, internationally competitive and environmentally sound production of agricultural products;
- (b) improved income and employment opportunities, food and nutrition security, and poverty alleviation in the Community;
- (c) the efficient cultivation and production of traditional and non-traditional Primary agricultural products;
- (d) increased production and diversification of processed agricultural products;
- (e) an enlarged share of world markets for primary and processed agricultural Products; and
- (f) the efficient management and sustainable exploitation of the Region's natural resources, including its forests and the living resources of the exclusive economic zone, bearing in mind the differences in resource endowment and economic development of the Member States.

Article 57. Implementation of the Community Agricultural Policy

1. For the achievement of the goal set out in Article 56, the Community shall, through competent Community Organs and Bodies, promote and support:

- (a) the production, diversification, processing and marketing of agricultural products;
- (b) the establishment of effective agricultural financing systems, including insurance, bearing in mind the special needs of artisanal fishers, small farmers, foresters and agro-processors;
- (c) the establishment of linkages among the Member States with complementary natural resources, industries, agricultural skills and technical abilities;
- (d) the development of human resources and delivery systems responsive to the requirements of the agricultural sector;
- (e) the development of appropriate policies for the use of land and marine space with a view to increased agricultural production;
- (f) appropriate land tenure systems to provide the farmer with security of tenure;
- (g) the establishment of effective information and market intelligence services;

- (h) research and development with a view to the adaptation, dissemination and application of appropriate technologies at all levels of the sector and all stages of production;
- (i) the adoption of effective measures for rural enterprise development,
- (j) public education to enhance the economic and social profiles of agriculture, Particularly among the youth;
- (k) the establishment of an effective regime of sanitary and phytosanitary measures;
- (l) the establishment of a policy environment designed to attract investment to the agricultural sector; and
- (m) technical co-operation and the dissemination of knowledge in agriculture.

2. For the purpose of assisting the Member States to implement the agricultural policy set out in paragraph 1, COTED shall establish effective support measures including:

(a) strengthening the relevant administrative and institutional framework to modernise and enhance the competitiveness of agriculture by:

(i) improving the capability of the Member States to undertake policy analysis, formulation, planning, execution and resource mobilisation for the development of the sector;

(ii) investigating and analysing developments in the agri-food sector; and

(iii) improvement of the collection, analysis and dissemination of empirical data and other relevant information;

(b) upgrading of national and regional capabilities in the areas of sustainable natural resources management;

(c) enhancement of the capabilities of the Member States in the areas of agricultural trade analysis and negotiations; and

(d) promotion of a mechanism for the collaboration of farmers, fishers, foresters and the social partners in agricultural development.

3. The Community shall:

(a) promote collaboration among the Member States and competent regional organisations in the areas of policy formulation and implementation of regional agricultural policies; and

(b) establish an effective regime to protect regional agricultural production from dumping, subsidisation and other unfair trading practices.

4. The Community shall, as a matter of priority, and in collaboration with national, regional and international agencies and organisations, promote and adopt measures relating, inter alia, to:

(a) the provision of appropriate inputs; and

(b) the development of infrastructure, such as port facilities, drainage, irrigation, access roads, post-harvest handling and marketing facilities.

Article 58. Natural Resource Management

1. The Community shall adopt effective measures to assist the Member States in the management of their natural resources in support of the transformation and sustainable development of the agricultural sector.

2. Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph 1 and to obligations of Member States under existing international agreements, the Community shall adopt measures for:

(a) the effective management of the soil, air and all water resources, the exclusive economic zone and all other maritime areas under the national jurisdiction of the Member States; and

(b) the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources of the Member States, especially those of important medicinal and traditional value.

Article 59. Marketing of Agricultural Products

1. The Community shall, in collaboration with competent national, regional and international organisations, promote the

development of effective agricultural marketing systems in order to respond to, influence and generate market demand for agricultural products of the Member States.

2. In effecting the promotion referred to in paragraph 1, the Community shall pay particular attention to:

- (a) market information, intelligence and planning;
- (b) improved post-harvest technology;
- (c) risk insurance; and
- (d) efficient distribution services.

3. In order to accomplish the objectives referred to in paragraph 1, the Community shall adopt measures to promote:

- (a) the establishment of a regional market information system;
- (b) the improvement of production and market information systems of the Member States in order to facilitate, inter alia, the efficient co-ordination of marketing strategies and systems;
- (c) institutional arrangements including producer associations and joint venture marketing enterprises in order to respond to existing and changing market conditions;
- (d) niche marketing;
- (e) linkages between agriculture and other sectors in particular, the tourism sector;
- (f) the identification and utilisation of sources of low cost alternative inputs;
- (g) the establishment and adoption of regional standards and specifications compatible with international standards for products being traded;
- (h) enhanced productivity and food quality;
- (i) insurance coverage for primary agricultural products; and @ the development of efficient distribution services to facilitate intra-regional and extra-regional marketing.

4. In pursuance of the need to generate market demand for agricultural products of the Member States and to promote the agricultural development of the Less Developed Countries, the Member States shall agree to the arrangements for marketing oils and fats set out in Schedule III.

Article 60. Fisheries Management and Development

1. The Community, in collaboration with competent national, regional and international agencies and organisations, shall promote the development, management and conservation of the fisheries resources in and among the Member States on a sustainable basis.

2. The Community shall effect the promotion and facilitation referred to in paragraph 1 by:

- (a) enhancing the institutional capabilities of the Member States in areas such as policy formulation, registration and management systems, resource monitoring and assessment, and harvesting and post-harvesting technologies;
- (b) establishing mechanisms to provide assistance in:
 - (i) the development, management and conservation of the fisheries resources;
 - (ii) the discharge of obligations relating to fisheries resources arising under Articles 62, 63 and 64 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982).
- (c) effective regional representation at international fora;
- (d) establishing development programmes for aquaculture;
- (e) encouraging the establishment of protected aquatic habitats and associated terrestrial areas and fish populations for the sustainable development of fisheries resources of the Member States; and
- (f) establishing, facilitating and strengthening research and human resource development at the professional, technical and vocational levels.

3. The Community shall collaborate with the Member States in:

- (a) the management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks;

(b) ongoing surveillance of their exclusive economic zones;

(c) the delimitation of maritime boundaries; and

(d) safeguarding their marine environment from pollutants and hazardous wastes.

4. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 56, COFCOR shall promote the establishment of a regime for the effective management, conservation and utilisation of the living resources of the exclusive economic zones of the Member States.

5. For the purpose of this Article, "fisheries resources" includes all the fishable resources, natural and cultured, in the inland and internal waters, territorial seas and the exclusive economic zones of the Member States.

Article 61. Forest Management and Development

1. The Community shall, in collaboration with competent national, regional and international agencies and organisations, promote the development, management and conservation of the forest resources in the Member States on a sustainable basis.

2. The Community shall effect the promotion and facilitation referred to in paragraph 1 by formulating policies and programmes for:

(a) the management of its forest resources;

(b) the integration of forest development in rural communities;

(c) enhancing the institutional capabilities of the Member States to design and implement forest management systems;

(d) establishing, facilitating and strengthening programmes for research and for human resource development at the professional, technical and vocational levels;

(e) encouraging public and private sector participation in the development and application of technology;

(f) Providing incentives for forestry development to stimulate domestic, regional and foreign investment in the forestry sub-sector;

(g) harmonising standards for quality assurance, compatible with international specifications;

(h) Promoting commercialisation of natural forest products in a sustainable manner; and

(i) undertaking national forest inventories.

3. For the purposes of this Article, "forest resources" are those natural assets of forest lands, including timber and other forest products, biological diversity, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness, flora and fauna, air, water and soil.

Article 62. Saving

The provisions of this Chapter are without prejudice to obligations of the Member States under existing international agreements.

Part THREE. Common Supportive Measures

Article 63. Human Resources Development

1. Without prejudice to any other provision of this Treaty relating to human resources development, the COTED shall, in collaboration with the COHSOD, adopt measures to develop the Community's human resources which shall, inter alia, support its thrust toward international competitiveness in the development, production and delivery of goods and services.

2. The measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be designed to address the economic, social and cultural aspects of human resources development, and shall include the following:

(a) development of programmes that will assist Community nationals in engendering the attitudes and acquiring the competence to function effectively;

(b) development of the skills and attitudes required to foster a culture of entrepreneurship;

- (c) establishing and strengthening educational and training institutions for formal and informal modes of delivery and alternative modes for distance education;
- (d) development of industry-oriented curricula designed to improve the competitiveness of regional industries; and
- (e) promotion of multi-lingual skills at all levels for general education, with Particular emphasis on the needs of the services sector.

3. The Community shall, in particular and on a continuing basis, adopt effective measures for the development of human resources to satisfy the requirements for cadres of skilled agricultural personnel at all levels in the Member States.

4. For the purposes of paragraph 3, provision shall be made to:

- (a) monitor and evaluate, on an on-going basis, the demand for, and appropriateness of agricultural education and training;
 - (b) establish training programmes in the agricultural sector, (o) develop effective delivery of in-field training for farmers, foresters and fishers; and (d) improve the facilities and strengthen the capabilities of regional training institutions and national administrations in support of agricultural development.
5. In performing the functions referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article, the Community

shall collaborate with education and training institutions and relevant regional and international organisations in developing harmonised agricultural syllabuses, training materials and case studies in key areas of farming, fisheries and forestry utilising distance education technology where appropriate.

Article 64. Research and Development

1. COTED shall promote market-led research, technological development and adaptation of technology in the Community in order to support the production, on a sustainable basis, of goods and services in the Member States with a view to diversifying such production and enhancing its international competitiveness.

2. In the discharge of its mandate set out in paragraph 1 of this Article, COTED shall adopt measures to encourage, inter alia, inventions and innovation, and acquisition, transfer, assimilation, adaptation and diffusion of technologies in the Community. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, COTED shall:

- (a) encourage public and private sector agencies, research establishments and tertiary institutions in their research and technological development activities and assist in identifying sources of funding for such activities;
- (b) promote co-operation in research and technological development among the Member States and with third States and competent international organisations;
- (c) facilitate co-operation:
 - (i) in training;
 - (ii) in the exchange of scientific and technical information among competent institutions;
 - (iii) in the free movement of researchers in the Community;
 - (iv) among private sector enterprises to integrate the results of research and development in the production process;
- (d) develop and implement technological policies and strategies, having due regard for the importance of technology management and protection of intellectual property rights;
- (e) facilitate access by Community nationals to technological and research facilities of Member States; and
- (f) promote the development of technology extension services.

3. In particular, COTED shall promote and encourage research and development, and the adaptation, diffusion and transfer of appropriate technologies in order to achieve increased agricultural production and productivity, bearing in mind the need to protect the independence and human rights of the farming community.

4. COTED shall, in collaboration with competent public and private sector research and development institutions, encourage and assist Member States:

- (a) to facilitate access to and use of new and appropriate technologies in the agricultural sector;

(b) to develop:

(i) efficient systems for the generation and transfer of appropriate technologies; and

(ii) technological and institutional capabilities in the public and private sectors, compatible with competitive and sustainable agricultural production.

5. In the pursuit of its functions under this Article, COTED shall encourage the private sector to play a vital role in:

(a) the development, adaptation and transfer of appropriate technologies in the agricultural sector; and

(b) the development of producer associations as a basis for autonomous action and intra-regional transfer of technologies and research findings.

6. COTED shall co-operate with the Member States and competent organisations to devise means of protecting, developing and commercialising local knowledge about the value and use of the Region's biodiversity for the benefit of their populations, especially their indigenous peoples.

Article 65. Environmental Protection

1. The policies of the Community shall be implemented in a manner that ensures the prudent and rational management of the resources of the Member States. In particular, the Community shall promote measures to ensure:

(a) the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment;

(b) the protection of the life and health of humans, animals and plants; and

(c) the adoption of initiatives at the Community level to address regional environmental problems.

2. In formulating measures in relation to the environment, the Community shall take account of:

(a) available and accessible scientific and technical data;

(b) environmental conditions in the Member States;

(c) the potential costs and benefits of action or inaction;

(d) the economic and social development of the Community as a whole and the balanced development of the Member States;

(e) the precautionary principle and those principles relating to preventive action, rectification of environmental damage at source and the principle that the polluter pays; and

(f) the need to protect the Region from the harmful effects of hazardous materials transported, generated, disposed of or shipped through or within the Community.

3. In performing its functions under this Treaty, COTED shall ensure a balance between the requirements of industrial development and the protection and preservation of the environment.

4. In giving effect to this Article, the Community and the Member States shall, within their respective spheres of competence, co-operate with third States and competent environmental organisations.

Article 66. Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

COTED shall promote the protection of intellectual property rights within the Community by, *inter alia*:

(a) the strengthening of regimes for the protection of intellectual property rights and the simplification of registration procedures in the Member States;

(b) the establishment of a regional administration for intellectual property rights except copyright;

(c) the identification and establishment, by the Member States of mechanisms to ensure:

(i) the use of protected works for the enhanced benefit of the Member States;

(ii) the preservation of indigenous Caribbean culture; and

- (iii) the legal protection of the expressions of folklore, other traditional knowledge and national heritage, particularly of indigenous populations in the Community;
- (d) increased dissemination and use of patent documentation as a source of technological information;
- (e) public education;
- (f) measures to prevent the abuse of intellectual property rights by rights- holders or the resort to practices which unreasonably restrain trade or adversely affect the international transfer of technology; and
- (g) Participation by the Member States in international regimes for the protection of intellectual property rights.

Article 67. Standards and Technical Regulations

1. COTED shall, in collaboration with competent agencies, develop a standardisation programme in furtherance of the objectives of this Chapter and consistent with the international obligations of the Member States.
2. In implementing the programme, the Member States shall not use standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures as barriers to trade.
3. The programme shall have the following objectives:
 - (a) trade facilitation;
 - (b) enhanced efficiency in the production and delivery of goods and services;
 - (c) improved quality of goods and services traded within the Community and with third States; and
 - (d) consumer and environmental protection.
4. The programme shall include the following elements:
 - (a) harmonisation of standards and technical regulations, and transparency in the development and promulgation of standards and technical regulations;
 - (b) recognition of conformity assessment procedures through mutual recognition agreements or other means;
 - (c) facilitation of standards infrastructure development at the national and regional levels;
 - (d) facilitation of metrology infrastructure development; and arrangements for the exchange of information with respect to development
 - (e) and implementation of standards and technical regulations among the Parties to this Treaty.
5. The Community shall promote the establishment of a regional standards body which shall, inter alia:
 - (a) facilitate implementation of the standardisation programme;
 - (b) assist the Member States in understanding and fulfilling their obligations under this Treaty and other international agreements;
 - (c) Promote the development of national standards bodies in the Member States; and
 - (d) facilitate access to technical assistance available in the Member States and in third States.
6. For the purposes of this Article, the following definitions apply:
 - (a) "technical regulations" means regulations which lay down product characteristics or their related processes and production methods, including the applicable administrative provisions, with which compliance is mandatory. The term may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method.
 - (b) "standard" means a guideline approved by a recognised body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods, with which compliance is not mandatory. The term may also include or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product, process or production method.

(o) "conformity assessment procedures" includes any procedure used, directly or indirectly, to determine that relevant requirements in technical regulations or standards are fulfilled.

Article 68. Community Investment Policy

COTED in collaboration with COFAP and COHSOD shall establish a Community Investment Policy which shall include sound national macro-economic policies, a harmonised system of investment incentives, stable industrial relations, appropriate financial institutions and arrangements, supportive legal and social infrastructure and modernisation of the role of public authorities.

Article 69. Harmonisation of Investment Incentives

1. The Member States shall harmonise national incentives to investments in the industrial, agricultural and services sectors.
2. COFAP shall, consistently with relevant international agreements, formulate proposals for the establishment of regimes for the granting of incentives to enterprises in the sectors mentioned in paragraph 1. In particular, such proposals shall accord support for industries considered to be of strategic interest to the Community.
3. In formulating the proposals mentioned in paragraph 2, COFAP shall give due consideration to the peculiarities of the industries concerned and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, may provide for the following:
 - (a) national incentives to investment designed to promote sustainable, export-led industrial and service-oriented development;
 - (b) investment facilitation through the removal of bureaucratic impediments; and
 - (c) non-discrimination in the granting of incentives among Community nationals.

Article 70. Macro-economic Policies

1. COFAP shall formulate proposals and adopt appropriate measures to promote a sound macro-economic environment in the Member States, consistent with their obligations under this Treaty and applicable international agreements.
2. COFAP shall, in collaboration with other competent Organs, promote economic development in the Member States through the development and application of convergent macro-economic policies to ensure fiscal discipline, favourable balance-of-payments, stable currencies and moderate prices without prejudice to securing high levels of employment.
3. COFAP shall collaborate with COFCOR and COTED in co-ordinating: (a) the economic policies of the Member States; and (b) the positions and presentations of the Member States in all international economic, financial and trade meetings at which they are represented.
4. In support of the development of macro-economic policies, the Community shall provide for harmonisation of the output of the statistical services of the Member States.

Article 71. Financial Infrastructure

COFAP shall adopt proposals for the establishment of financial infrastructure supportive of investments in the Community. In particular, COFAP shall assist the Member States in establishing capital markets, financial institutions and appropriate financial instruments to facilitate capital investment on a sustainable basis.

Article 72. Double Taxation Agreements

1. The Member States shall conclude among themselves an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation in order to facilitate the free movement of capital in the Community.
2. The Member States shall conclude their double taxation agreements with third States on the basis of mutually agreed principles which shall be determined by COFAP.

Article 73. Industrial Relations

COHSOD shall, in consultation with COTED, formulate proposals and adopt appropriate measures for the promotion of

harmonious, stable and enlightened industrial relations in the Community. In formulating such measures and proposals, COHSOD shall, inter alia, promote:

(a) the objectives of full employment, improved living and working conditions; adequate social security policies and programmes; tripartite consultations among governments, workers' and employers' organisations; and cross-border mobility of labour;

(b) recognition of the principle of non-discriminatory treatment among Community workers in the pursuit of employment within the Community;

(c) the establishment and maintenance of effective mechanisms for the enhancement of industrial relations, particularly that of collective bargaining; and

(d) awareness among Community workers and employers that international competitiveness is essential for social and economic development of Member States and requires collaboration of employers and workers for increased production and productivity in Community enterprises.

Article 74. Legal Infrastructure

1. The Legal Affairs Committee shall co-operate with competent Organs of the Community to advise the Member States on the legal infrastructure required to promote investments in the Member States, including cross-border investments, bearing in mind the provisions of Article 68.

2. The Member States shall harmonise their laws and administrative practices in respect of, inter alia:

(a) companies or other legal entities;

(b) intellectual property rights;

(c) standards and technical regulations;

(d) labelling of food and drugs;

(e) sanitary and phytosanitary measures;

(f) a competition policy;

(g) dumping;

(h) subsidies and countervailing measures; and

(i) commercial arbitration.

Article 75. Development of Social Infrastructure

1. In establishing its industrial policy, the Community shall promote appropriate

measures for the establishment of adequate social infrastructure, the alleviation of poverty, and securing social stability in the Member States.

2. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Community shall promote in the Member States:

(a) the establishment and improvement of health, education, sports and social security institutions and facilities;

(b) conclusion of reciprocal social security agreements among Member States in order to facilitate the movement of skills; and

(c) training and retraining of workers, mobility of instructors and trainees, co-operation among educational and training institutions, and the development of distance education.

3. The Member States shall engender an understanding and appreciation of the Community through effective public relations, educational, cultural and youth exchange programmes.

Article 76. Role of Public Authorities and the Community shall Promote the Modernisation of Government Bureaucracies by, Inter Alia:

(a) encouraging the development of closer contacts between public sector administrations, industry and other stakeholders to ensure that challenges presented by the global environment are understood and co-operative solutions developed;

(b) removing impediments and improving the regulatory framework for economic enterprises at national and regional levels;

(o) encouraging cost-effectiveness in the delivery of services to the public; and

(d) Proposing adequate arrangements to address the changes in the business environment and future challenges to industry.

Article 77. Special Provisions for Less Developed Countries where In this Chapter Member States or Competent Organs Are Required to Adopt

measures for the achievement of the Community Industrial Policy, the special needs and circumstances of the Less Developed Countries shall be taken into account.

Chapter FIVE. Trade Policy

Part ONE. PRELIMINARY

Article 78. Objectives of the Community Trade Policy

1. The goal of the Community Trade Policy shall be the sustained growth of intra- Community and international trade and mutually beneficial exchange of goods and services among the Member States and between the Community and third States.

2. In fulfilment of the goal set out in paragraph 1 of this Article the Community shall Pursue the following objectives:

(a) full integration of the national markets of all Member States of the Community into a single unified and open market area;

(b) the widening of the market area of the Community;

(c) the active promotion of export of internationally competitive goods and services originating within the Community;

(d) the securing of the most favourable terms of trade for Community goods and services exported to third States and groups of States.

3. In order to achieve the objectives of its Trade Policy, the Community shall:

(a) undertake:

(i) the establishment of common instruments, common services and the joint regulation, operation and efficient administration of the internal and external commerce of the CSME;

(ii) where possible, the employment of common negotiating strategies in the development of mutually beneficial trade agreements with third States and groups of States;

(iii) Participation and joint representation as appropriate in international and regional organisations which negotiate, establish and apply disciplines governing international and regional trade;

(b) Prohibit the imposition by the Member States of new restrictions on imports and exports of products of Community origin.

4. Member States shall eliminate existing restrictions on imports and exports of goods of Community origin, other than those authorised by this Treaty.

Article 79. General Provisions on Trade Liberalisation

1. The Member States shall establish and maintain a regime for the free movement of goods and services within the CSME.

2. Each Member State shall refrain from trade policies and practices, the object or effect of which is to distort competition, frustrate free movement of goods and services, or otherwise nullify or impair benefits to which other Member States are entitled under this Treaty.

3. The Member States shall not introduce in their territories any new restrictions on imports or exports of Community origin save as otherwise provided in this Treaty.

Article 80. Co-ordination of External Trade Policy

1. the member states shall co-ordinate their trade policies with third states or groups of third states.
2. the community shall pursue the negotiation of external trade and economic agreements on a joint basis in accordance with principles and mechanisms established by the Conference.
3. Bilateral agreements to be negotiated by Member States in pursuance of their national strategic interests shall: (a) be without prejudice to their obligations under the Treaty; and (b) Prior to their conclusion, be subject to certification by the CARICOM Secretariat that the agreements do not prejudice or place at a disadvantage the position of other CARICOM States vis-a-vis the Treaty.
4. Where trade agreements involving tariff concessions are being negotiated, the prior approval of COTED shall be required.
5. Nothing in this Treaty shall preclude Belize from concluding arrangements with neighbouring economic groupings provided that treatment not less favourable than that accorded to third States within such groupings shall be accorded to the Member States of the Community, and that the arrangements make adequate provision to guard against the deflection of trade into the rest of CARICOM from the countries of such groupings through Belize.

Article 81. Deposit of Agreements with Third Countries

The Member States shall deposit with the Secretariat, agreements relating to trade or aid concluded by them with third countries.

Part TWO. TRADE LIBERALISATION

Article 82. Establishment of Common External Tariff

The Member States shall establish and maintain a common external tariff in respect of all goods which do not qualify for Community treatment in accordance with plans and schedules set out in relevant determinations of COTED.

Article 83. Operation of the Common External Tariff

1. any alteration or suspension of the common external tariff on any item shall be decided by COTED.
2. where:
 - (a) a product is not being produced in the community;
 - (b) the quantity of the product being produced in the Community does not satisfy the demand of the Community; or
 - (c) the quality of the product being produced in the Community is below the Community standard or a standard the use of which is authorised by COTED, COTED may decide to authorise the reduction or suspension of the Common External Tariff in respect of imports of that product subject to such terms and conditions as it may decide, provided that in no case shall the product imported from third States be accorded more favourable treatment than similar products produced in the Member States.
3. The authority referred to in paragraph 2 to suspend the Common External Tariff may be exercised by the Secretary-General on behalf of COTED during any period between meetings of COTED. Any exercise of such authority by the Secretary-General shall be reported to the next meeting of COTED.
4. Each Member State shall, for the purpose of administering the Common External Tariff, appoint a competent authority which shall be notified to COTED.
5. COTED shall continuously review the Common External Tariff, in whole or in part, to assess its impact on production and trade, as well as to secure its uniform implementation throughout the Community, in particular, by reducing the need for discretionary application in the day to day administration of the Tariff.

Article 84. Community Rules of Origin

1. Subject to the provisions of this Article, goods that have been consigned from one Member State to a consignee in

another Member State shall be treated as being of Community origin, where the goods:

(a) have been wholly produced within the Community; or

(b) have been produced within the Community wholly or partly from materials imported from outside the Community or from materials of undetermined origin by a process which effects a substantial transformation characterised:

(i) by the goods being classified in a tariff heading different from that in which any of those materials is classified; or

(ii) in the case of the goods set out in the List in Schedule I to this Treaty (hereinafter referred to as "the List"), only by satisfying the conditions therefor specified.

2. Goods that have been consigned from one Member State to a consignee in another Member State for repair, renovation or improvement shall, on their return to the Member State from which they were exported, be treated for the purpose of re-importation only, in like manner as goods which are of Community origin, provided that the goods are reconsigned directly to that Member State from which they were exported and the value of materials imported from outside the Community or of undetermined origin which have been used in the process of repair, renovation or improvement does not exceed:

(a) in the case where the goods have undergone the process of repair, renovation or improvement in a More Developed Country, 65 per cent of the cost of repair, renovation or improvement;

(b) in the case where the goods have undergone the process of repair, renovation or improvement in a Less Developed Country, 80 per cent of the cost of repair, renovation or improvement.

3. Where there is an interruption or inadequacy of supplies of regional materials and the manufacturer of goods, for which the qualifying condition for Community origin is that of "wholly produced" or "produced from regional materials", is unable by reason of circumstances beyond his control to obtain supplies of the regional materials, he shall so inform the competent authority.

4. The competent authority shall:

(a) after receipt of information from the manufacturer, cause investigations to be made into the matter, and if he is satisfied that the representation from the manufacturer is justified, submit to the Secretary-General in the Prescribed instrument an application for a certificate provided for in this Article;

(b) at the time of making the application, inform the other Member States of the inability of the manufacturer to obtain the supplies of the required materials from within the Community with respect to quantities and specifications of the materials sought and the period during which the materials are required.

5. The Secretary-General shall, on receipt of the application from the competent authority:

(a) forthwith make the relevant enquiries by the quickest possible means from the competent authorities in the other Member States as to their ability to supply the materials required by the manufacturer, and

(b) request a reply to the enquiry from each competent authority within seven calendar days of the despatch of his enquiry.

6. A competent authority shall reply to the enquiry referred to in paragraph 5 within the time specified.

7. Where the Secretary-General, on the basis of his investigations, is satisfied that the application received from the competent authority justifies favourable consideration, he shall, notwithstanding that he may not have received a reply to his enquiry from one or more Member States, within fourteen calendar days after the receipt of the application from the competent authority, issue, on behalf of COTED, a certificate to the competent authority authorising the use of like materials from outside the Community, subject to such conditions as he may think fit to impose.

8. The Secretary-General shall inform the Member States of the issue of his certificate, including any conditions attaching thereto and that notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Provisions of this Article, goods manufactured from like materials imported from outside the Community shall be deemed to be of Community origin.

9. A Member State may treat as of Community origin any imports consigned from another Member State, provided that the like imports consigned from any other Member State are accorded the same treatment. Member States concerned shall promptly inform COTED of any trading arrangements concluded pursuant to this paragraph and COTED may, as it thinks fit, recommend to the Member States concerned the adoption of alternative trading arrangements.

10. The provisions of Schedule I shall apply to and have effect for the purposes of this Article. COTED shall keep the Schedule and, in particular, the List under continuous review, and may amend the Schedule in order to ensure the

achievement of the objectives of the Community.

11. The issue of a certificate in accordance with paragraph 7 shall be reported by the Secretary-General to COTED at the Meeting of COTED next following the date of issue thereof.

Article 85. Export Promotion

1. COTED shall adopt appropriate measures for the promotion and export of goods and services.
2. In the implementation of measures to promote exports, COTED shall give consideration to:
 - (a) the establishment and maintenance of effective trade information systems and services;
 - (b) the design and implementation of trade facilitation programmes including the conduct of market research and the organisation of trade missions;
 - (c) the co-ordination and support of the active participation of the Member States in international trade promotion fora, including trade fairs and exhibitions.

Article 86. Freedom of Transit

1. The Member States shall grant freedom of transit within the Community with respect to goods and vessels and other vehicles transporting those goods.
2. For the purpose of paragraph 1 of this Article, transit means the passage of goods and of vessels and aircraft and vehicles transporting those goods: (a) through or across the frontier of a Member State; (b) with or without transhipment, warehousing, breaking bulk or change of mode of transport, where the passage is only a portion of a journey beginning and terminating beyond its frontier.
3. In granting freedom of transit within the meaning of paragraph 2, the Member States:
 - (a) shall ensure that there are no unnecessary delays or restrictions and that goods, vessels, aircraft and vehicles transporting those goods are subject only to charges for transport, handling, and other services rendered;
 - (b) shall not discriminate based on the flag of vessels, place of origin, departure, entry, exit or destination or any circumstance relating to the ownership of goods, vessels, or aircraft or vehicles;
 - (c) shall, with respect to regulations, formalities, fees and other service charges in connection with the transit, ensure that treatment extended to any Member State is on terms no less favourable than those extended to all other Member States.

Article 87. Import Duties

1. Save as otherwise provided in this Treaty, Member States shall not impose import duties on goods of Community origin.
2. Nothing in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be construed to extend to the imposition of non-discriminatory internal charges on any products or a substitute not produced in the importing Member State.
3. This Article does not apply to fees and similar charges commensurate with the cost of services rendered.
4. Nothing in paragraph 3 of this Article shall be construed to exclude from the application of paragraph 1 of this Article any tax or surtax of customs on any product or a substitute not produced in the importing State.

Article 88. Prohibition of Export Duties

1. The Member States shall not apply any export duties on goods of Community origin traded within the Community.
2. Nothing in this Article shall prevent a Member State from taking such measures as are necessary to prevent evasion of export duties which are applied to products destined for export outside of the Community where such products are re-exported through another Member State.
3. For the purposes of this Article, "export duties" means any duties or charges with equivalent effect imposed on or in connection with the exportation of goods.

Article 89. Export Drawback

1. A Member State may refuse to treat as of Community origin goods which benefit from export drawback allowed by other Member States. In applying this paragraph, a Member State shall accord the same treatment to such goods consigned from all other Member States.
 2. Whenever a Member State intends to apply an export drawback within the meaning of paragraph 6, it shall notify COTED.
 3. The Member State shall, at the time of notification, set out the circumstances which justify the need to apply an export drawback, the products which will benefit therefrom, the nature and proposed duration of the measures, and such other information as COTED may prescribe from time to time.
 4. COTED shall give its earliest consideration to the notification referred to in paragraph 3 and make a determination of the appropriateness of the measures and, if it is not satisfied, may recommend that the Member State which intends to apply an export drawback, modify the programme.
 5. COTED shall review annually all export drawback programmes maintained by Member States.
 6. For the purposes of this Article - (a) "export drawback" means any arrangement for the refund or remission, wholly or in part, of import duties applicable to imported materials: provided that the arrangement, expressly or in effect, allows refund or remission if certain goods or materials are exported, but not if they are retained for home use;
- (b) "remission" includes exemption for materials brought into free ports and other places which have similar customs privileges;
- (c) "duties" means:
- (i) all charges on or in connection with importation, except fiscal charges to which Article 80 applies; and
 - (ii) any protective element in such fiscal charges;
- (d) "materials" shall have the meaning assigned to it in Rule | of Schedule | to this Treaty.

Article 90. Internal Taxes and other Fiscal Charges

1. Save as otherwise provided in this Treaty, Member States shall not: (a) apply directly or indirectly to imported goods of Community origin any fiscal charges in excess of those applied directly or indirectly to like domestic goods, or otherwise apply such charges so as to protect like domestic goods; or
 - (b) apply fiscal charges to imported goods of Community origin of a kind which they do not produce, or which they do not produce in substantial quantities, in such a way as to protect the domestic production of substitutes which enter into direct competition with them and which do not bear, directly or indirectly, in the country of importation, fiscal charges of equivalent incidence.
2. A Member State shall notify COTED of all fiscal charges applied by it where, although the rates of charge, or the conditions governing the imposition or collection of the charge, are not identical in relation to the imported goods and to the like domestic goods, the Member State applying the charge considers that the charge is, or has been made, consistently with sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 1 of this Article. A Member State shall, at the request of any other Member State, supply information about the application of paragraph 1 of this Article.
 3. For the purposes of this Article "fiscal charges" means internal taxes and other internal charges with equivalent effect on goods.

Article 91. Quantitative Restrictions

1. Save as otherwise provided in this Treaty, and in particular Articles 88, 89 and 90, and in Schedules II, III and IV, a Member State shall not apply any quantitative restrictions on the importation of goods which are of Community origin.
2. Except as otherwise provided in this Treaty, and particularly in Articles 89 and 90, and in Schedule III, a Member State shall not apply any quantitative restrictions on exports to any other Member State.
3. This Article shall not prevent any Member State from taking such measures as are necessary to prevent evasion of any prohibitions or restrictions which it applies to imports from or exports to third States provided that less favourable treatment is not granted to Member States than to countries outside the Community.
4. "Quantitative restrictions" means prohibitions or restrictions on imports into, or exports from, any other Member State,

as the case may be, whether made effective through quotas, import licences or other measures with equivalent effect, including administrative measures and requirements restricting imports or exports.

Article 92. Difficulties Occasioned by Particular Imports

1. Subject to Article 150, wherever imports of any product, including any primary agricultural product, into a Member State cause serious injury or the threat of serious injury to domestic producers of like or directly competitive products in any industry or specific sector of any industry, the importing Member State shall be free to impose restrictions in respect of such product

(a) the import of the product in question results in a substantial decrease in demand for the like or directly competitive product produced within its jurisdiction; and

(b) the decrease in demand is directly linked to an increase in imports consigned from another Member State.

2. Where a Member State decides to exercise its rights under paragraph 1, it may provisionally, until a determination by COTED is made:

(a) limit imports of the product of Community origin by means of quantitative restrictions at a rate not less than the rate of such imports during any period of 12 months which ended 12 months before the date on which the restrictions entered into force;

(b) take such other measures either instead of or in addition to quantitative restrictions in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) as COTED may authorise.

3. In applying the restrictions in accordance with paragraph 2, a Member State shall not discriminate among the sources of supply or the nationality of suppliers, and shall give consideration to the proportionate share of the market previously enjoyed by each Member State.

4. Where a Member State:

(a) intends to act in accordance with paragraph 2, it shall, prior to taking such action, enter into consultations with affected Member States and notify COTED of that intention and the nature of the action;

(b) is unable to comply with sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph, it shall, in taking the action, immediately notify COTED of the application and the nature of the action.

The Member State at the time of taking such action in accordance with paragraph

2 shall submit to COTED:

(a) such information as is reasonably available, including:

(i) the identity of the producers and the length of time during which the producers of the like or directly competitive product have been in production;

(ii) a complete description of the product and the annual volume of production;

(iii) an estimate of the size by volume of the domestic market, the share by volume in the domestic market of the domestic product, imports from other Member States and from third States;

(iv) information on changes in the level of sales and employment for the periods comparable to the periods during which imports have increased; and

(v) any other information as COTED may from time to time prescribe;

(b) a programme setting out the measures to be taken to assist the domestic producers to alleviate the difficulties they face and to restore their position in the domestic market.

6. COTED shall give its earliest consideration to the submission made under paragraph 5, and:

(a) make a determination of the appropriateness of the restrictions and whether they shall be continued;

(b) where it decides that the restrictions shall be continued, determine the adequacy of the programme and the period for which the restrictions shall continue.

7. Restrictions applied by a Member State pursuant to paragraph 2 shall be confined to those necessary to forestall a threat

of serious injury or otherwise eliminate injury.

8. The Member States in applying restrictions pursuant to paragraph 2 shall not discriminate and:

(a) shall progressively relax them as the relevant conditions improve;

(b) may maintain them only to the extent that the conditions mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article continue to justify their application.

9. If a Member State has demonstrated that the imposition of measures by another Member State under paragraph 2 has caused injury or the threat of serious injury to domestic producers in its jurisdiction, then the first mentioned Member State may request consultation with the Member State maintaining the restrictions and notify COTED accordingly.

10. Where the consultations do not result in a mutually agreed solution, the matter may be referred to COTED for a determination

11. If COTED is not satisfied that the Member States applying restrictions are acting in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 7, it may recommend to the Member State adversely affected thereby, alternative arrangements to the same end.

Article 93. Government Assistance to Economic Development

1. Except as Otherwise Provided In this Treaty, a Member State Shall Not Maintain or Introduce:

(a) the Forms of Assistance to Export of Goods to Any other Part of Thecommunity Which Are Described In Schedule V; or
(b) any other forms of assistance, the main purpose or effect of which is to frustrate the benefits expected from such removal or absence of duties and quantitative restrictions as is required by this Treaty.

2. if the application of any type of assistance by a Member State, although not contrary to paragraph 1(b) of this Article, nevertheless frustrates the benefits expected from such removal or absence of duties and quantitative restrictions as is required by this Treaty, COTED may authorise any Member State to suspend, in relation to the Member State which is applying the assistance, the application of such obligations under this Treaty as the COTED considers appropriate.

3. COTED may amend the provisions of Schedule V.

Article 94. Public Undertakings

1. Except as otherwise provided in this Treaty, Member States shall ensure the elimination in the practices of public undertakings of :

(a) measures the effect of which is to afford protection to domestic production and which would be inconsistent with this Treaty if achieved by means of a duty or charge with equivalent effect or quantitative restrictions or Government assistance; or

(b) trade discrimination on grounds of territorial origin in so far as it frustrates the benefits expected from the removal or absence of such charges, duties and quantitative restrictions as is required by this Treaty.

2. In so far as Article 92 is relevant to the activities of public undertakings, that Article shall apply to them in the same way as it applies to other enterprises.

3. Where a public undertaking has introduced a measure or practice which:

(a) is inconsistent with paragraph 1; or

(b) in law or in effect, results in limiting access to any market, distorts competition or fair trade, or otherwise nullifies or impairs benefits expected from the establishment of the CSME, then, in such a case, the aggrieved Member State may request consultations with the offending Member State and promptly notify COTED of the request.

4. The Member State alleged to have introduced a measure or practice within the meaning of paragraph 3 shall give favourable consideration to a request for consultations by the aggrieved Member State with a view to resolving their differences and arriving at a mutually acceptable solution.

5. if no mutually acceptable solution is reached within 30 days of the date of request for consultations, the aggrieved Member State may refer the matter to COTED, which shall cause an investigation to be carried out into the circumstance giving rise to the complaint; the investigation is to be completed within 60 days of the date of receipt of the complaint by COTED.

6. COTED shall, upon receipt of the report arising from the investigation, make available the report to the Member States concerned to facilitate consultations and to permit them to reach a mutually acceptable solution.
7. if no mutually acceptable solution is reached at the end of 15 days starting from the date of submission of the report by COTED to the parties concerned and COTED is satisfied that the rights of the aggrieved Member States under paragraph 1 have been unreasonably denied, then COTED shall request the offending Member State to withdraw the measure or practice, as the case may be.
8. If the offending Member State referred to in paragraph 7 fails to comply with the request of COTED within 60 days of the date thereof, then COTED may authorise the Member States to suspend, in relation to the Member State which is applying the measure or practice, the application of such provisions of this Treaty as COTED may decide.
9. The Member States shall ensure that new practices of the kind described in Paragraph 3 of this Article are not introduced.
10. For the purposes of this Article, "public undertakings" means central, regional, or local government authorities, public enterprises and any other organisation by means of which a Member State by law or in practice controls or appreciably influences imports from, or exports to any other part of the Community.

Article 95. Co-operation In Customs Administration

1. The Member States shall co-operate with each other to ensure that their interpretation and application of Articles 82, 83, 84, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 93 and Schedule are effectively and harmoniously applied, particularly with respect to provisions relating to:
 - (a) effective customs systems and procedures governing the movement of goods, people and conveyances across customs borders;
 - (b) maximising the effectiveness of co-operation among customs administrations and with international agencies to combat customs and other cross-border offences.
2. The Member States undertake to establish harmonised customs legislation and customs procedures in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.
3. COTED shall establish procedures for co-operation in customs administration as described in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Part THREE. Subsidies

Article 96. Determination of a Subsidy

- For the purpose of this Part, a subsidy shall be deemed to exist if there is a financial contribution by a Government or any public body within the territory of a Member State (hereinafter referred to as "government") where:
- (a) a government practice involves direct transfer of funds (e.g., grants, loans and equity infusion) or potential direct transfer of funds or liabilities (e.g., loan guarantees);
 - (b) government revenue that is otherwise due is foregone or not collected (e.g., fiscal incentives, such as tax credits);
 - (c) a government purchases goods or provides goods or services other than general infrastructure;
 - (d) a government makes payments to a funding mechanism, or directs or entrusts to a private body the conduct of activities mentioned in sub- Paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) which are normally conducted by governments;
 - (e) there is any form of income or price support, and a benefit is thereby conferred.

Article 97. Types of Subsidies

1. A subsidy within the meaning of Article 96 shall be categorised as follows:
 - (a) a prohibited subsidy;
 - (b) a subsidy which:
 - (i) causes injury to a domestic industry; or
 - (ii) results in nullification or impairment of benefits accruing directly or indirectly to any Member State; or

(iii) seriously prejudices the interests of any Member State; or (co) a subsidy which causes serious adverse effects to a domestic industry of any Member State such as to cause damage which would be difficult to repair:

Provided that the subsidy is specific to an enterprise or industry or group of enterprises or industries within the jurisdiction of the granting Member State.

2. For the purpose of this Chapter a determination of whether a subsidy as defined in Article 92 is specific shall be governed by the following:

(a) in order to determine whether a subsidy referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is specific to an enterprise or industry or group of enterprises or industries (referred to in this Part as "certain enterprises") within the jurisdiction of the granting authority, the following criteria shall apply:

(i) where the granting authority, or the legislation pursuant to which the granting authority operates, explicitly limits access to a subsidy to certain enterprises, such a subsidy shall be specific;

(ii) where the granting authority, or the legislation pursuant to which the granting authority operates, establishes objective criteria or conditions governing the eligibility for, and the amount of, a subsidy, specificity shall not exist, provided that the eligibility is automatic and that such criteria and conditions are strictly adhered to. The criteria or conditions must be clearly spelled out in law, regulation, or other official document, so as to be capable of verification;

(iii) if, notwithstanding any appearance of non-specificity resulting from the application of the principles laid down in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii), there are reasons to believe that the subsidy may in fact be specific, other factors may be considered. Such factors are: use of a subsidy programme by a limited number of certain enterprises, predominant use of certain enterprises, the granting of disproportionately large amounts of subsidy to certain enterprises, and the manner in which discretion has been exercised by the granting authority in the decision to grant a subsidy. In applying this sub-paragraph, account shall be taken of the extent of diversification of economic activities within the jurisdiction of the granting authority, as well as of the length of time during which the subsidy programme has been in operation;

(b) a subsidy which is limited to certain enterprises located within a designated geographical region within the jurisdiction of the granting authority shall be specific. It is understood that the setting or change of generally applicable tax rates by all levels of government entitled to do so shall not be deemed to be a specific subsidy for the purposes of this Part;

(c) any subsidy falling under the provisions of Article 99 shall be deemed to be specific;

(d) any determination of specificity under the provisions of this Article shall be clearly substantiated on the basis of positive evidence.

Article 98. Entitlement to Take Action Against Subsidised Products

1. a Member State May Take Action Against Subsidised Products Where:

(a) the products have benefited from a prohibited subsidy;

(b) the subsidy is specific and has caused any of the effects referred to in Article 112; and

(c) the subsidy is specific and does not conform to the provisions of Article 108.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, a Member State shall not take definitive action against products which are believed to be benefiting from subsidies referred to in Article 97 if the Member State aggrieved thereby has not:

(a) promulgated legislation to permit the introduction of counter measures or countervailing duties against subsidised imports;

(b) consulted with the Member State which is alleged to have introduced or to be maintaining subsidies identified in Article 97;

(c) notified COTED of the alleged subsidisation based on preliminary investigations and failure of consultations; and

(d) received authorisation from COTED to introduce countervailing duties or countermeasures as a result of a definitive determination of the existence of prohibited subsidies which cause nullification, impairment, serious Prejudice or adverse effects caused by subsidisation.

3. Consultations for the purposes of this Part shall follow the procedures set out in Annex II. ARTICLE 99 Prohibited Subsidies

1. Subject to this Treaty, a Member State shall neither grant nor maintain subsidies referred to in paragraph 2.

2. The following subsidies within the meaning of Article 96 shall be prohibited:

(a) subsidies contingent, in law or in fact, whether solely or as one of several

other conditions, upon export performance, including those listed in Schedule V; and

(b) subsidies contingent, whether solely or as one of several other conditions, upon the use of domestic over imported goods.

3. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as applying to agricultural commodities produced in the Community.

Article 100. Preliminary Investigation of Prohibited Subsidies

1. An application for an investigation may be made in writing by or on behalf of a domestic industry to the competent authority where the industry has reason to believe that a Prohibited subsidy referred to in Article 99 has been granted or maintained by another Member State. The authority shall examine the application and determine, on the basis of the facts available, whether to initiate an investigation.

2. An investigation initiated pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article shall be deemed to be a preliminary investigation. The authority shall give public notice of the preliminary investigation to inform the concerned Member State, other Member States and the interested parties all of whom shall be afforded adequate time to submit information required and to make comments.

3. The authority shall make a preliminary determination whether a prohibited subsidy has been granted or maintained and, where the determination is affirmative, invite the concerned Member States and interested parties to defend their interests.

4. A request for investigation by the domestic industry under this Article or under Article 106 or 112 shall be accompanied by information set out in the Illustrative List at Annex 111 (a).

5. Wherever the term "domestic industry" is used in this Chapter, it shall mean domestic industry as defined in Annex I.

Article 101. Request for Consultations Relating to Prohibited Subsidies

1. Whenever a Member State has reason to believe, pursuant to Article 99 that a Prohibited subsidy has been granted or is maintained by a Member State, the aggrieved or any other Member State may request consultations with the Member State believed to be granting or maintaining the subsidy. The aggrieved Member State shall notify COTED of the request for consultations. A request for consultations shall include a statement of the available evidence with regard to the existence and nature of the alleged prohibited subsidy.

2. Upon receipt of a request for consultations under paragraph 1, the Member State believed to be granting or maintaining the subsidy shall reply within 10 days and shall furnish the relevant information requested and shall promptly enter into consultations which shall be concluded within 30 days of the date of request for such consultations unless the parties agree to extend the consultations to a mutually agreed date. The purpose of the consultations shall be to clarify the facts relating to the existence and type of the alleged subsidy and to arrive at a mutually agreed solution.

Article 102. Reference to Coted to Investigate Prohibited Subsidies

1. If no mutually agreed solution is reached at the completion of 30 days from the date of the request for the consultations referred to in Article 101, or at such time as the parties agree, or if the Member State believed to be granting or maintaining the subsidy refuses to co-operate, the Member State requesting consultations or any other Member State interested in such consultations may refer the matter to COTED which shall carry out an investigation to establish whether the subsidy in question is a prohibited subsidy.

2. The referral of the matter to COTED for an investigation shall not prevent the aggrieved Member State from taking, on a provisional basis, which shall not be sooner than 60 days from the date of initiation of investigations under paragraph 1 of Article 103 counter-measures to forestall injury or to prevent further injury to its domestic industry.

Article 103. Investigation by Coted of Prohibited Subsidies

1. Whenever COTED decides to carry out an investigation pursuant to Article 102, such an investigation by COTED shall proceed as expeditiously as possible. COTED may appoint competent experts to advise whether the subsidy falls to be classified as a prohibited subsidy, in which case COTED shall set a time limit for the examination of the evidence by the competent experts. COTED shall make its determination and issue its report which shall, unless extenuating circumstances arise, not exceed 90 days from the date of receipt of request for the investigation.

2. The results of an investigation carried out pursuant to Article 102 shall be made available to all Member States for information and to afford the concerned Member States an opportunity to arrive at a mutually agreed solution within 30 days from the date of issue of the report failing which COTED shall adopt the recommendations of the report.

3. If COTED is satisfied, based on the results of the investigation, that the subsidy in question is a prohibited subsidy and that the concerned Member States cannot reach a mutually agreed solution, it shall, subject to Article 104, require the offending Member State to withdraw the subsidy within a specified time-frame. Where the offending Member State fails to comply, COTED shall authorise the aggrieved Member State to take counter-measures on the products which benefit from such a subsidy.

Article 104. Withdrawal of Prohibited Subsidies

1. Notwithstanding the investigation confirming the existence of a prohibited subsidy in paragraph 3 of Article 103, COTED shall not impose a requirement for the Member States to withdraw such a subsidy sooner than specified in this paragraph as follows:

(a) with respect to subsidies contingent upon export performance:

(i) the Member States with per capita GNP of less than one thousand United States dollars shall be allowed to maintain such subsidies; and

(ii) other Member States shall be allowed to maintain such subsidies until 1 January 2003;

(b) with respect to subsidies contingent upon the use of domestic over imported inputs, the Member States with per capita GNP of less than one thousand United States dollars shall be allowed to maintain such subsidies until 2003.

2. Whenever the results of an investigation by COTED prove that the alleged subsidy is not a prohibited subsidy, any provisional countervailing measures which might have been imposed shall be promptly withdrawn and any bond or deposit which might have been effected, released or refunded, as the case may be. If the provisional measures referred to in this paragraph have materially retarded the exports of the Member State which was wrongfully alleged to have introduced or maintained prohibited subsidies, COTED shall, upon application from such a Member State, assess the effects of the provisionally applied measures and determine the nature and extent of compensation which is warranted and recommend compensation in accordance with its assessment.

3. From the date of entry into force of this Treaty until the expiration of the dates mentioned in paragraph 1, no provisional measures shall be imposed where it has been determined by preliminary investigations that prohibited subsidies are maintained.

Article 105. Subsidies Causing Injury, Nullification, Impairment or Serious Prejudice

A Member State may take action against subsidised imports from any other Member State where it can be established, based on an investigation, that the effect of the subsidy has been:

(a) injury to its domestic industry;

(b) nullification or impairment of benefits which it expects under this Treaty; or

(c) serious prejudice to its interests.

2. Serious prejudice shall be deemed to exist in the case where:

(a) the total ad valorem subsidisation of a product exceeds 5 per cent;

(b) subsidies cover operating losses sustained by an industry;

(c) subsidies cover operating losses sustained by an enterprise, other than one-time measures which are non-recurrent and cannot be repeated for that enterprise and which are given merely to provide time for the development of long-term solutions and to avoid acute social problems; or

(d) subsidies are granted in the form of forgiveness of government-held debt and government grants to cover debt repayment.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article, serious prejudice shall not be found if the Member State granting the subsidy in question demonstrates that the effect of the subsidy has not been:

(a) to displace or impede the imports of like products from the Member State exporting to the Member State which has

introduced or maintains the subsidy;

(b) to displace or impede the exports of a like product from the affected exporting Member State into the market of a third Member State;

(c) a significant price undercutting by the subsidised product as compared with the price of a like product of another Member State in the same market or a significant price suppression or price depression;

(d) lost sales of another Member State in the same market; or

(e) an increase in its market share within the CSME.

4. The provisions of this Article shall not apply to Part Three.

Article 106. Preliminary Investigation of Subsidies Causing Injury, Nullification, Impairment or Serious Prejudice

1. an application for an investigation may be made in writing by or on behalf of a domestic industry to the national authority where the industry has reason to believe that a subsidy referred to in Article 105 has been granted or is maintained by another Member State and has caused injury, or resulted in nullification, impairment or serious prejudice to its interests.

2. An application under paragraph 1 shall include sufficient information about the existence of a subsidy and, if possible, its amount, injury and a causal link between the subsidised products and the alleged injury.

3. An application to initiate an investigation shall be considered to have been made by or on behalf of a domestic industry if it is supported by those domestic producers whose collective output constitutes more than 50 per cent of the total production of the like product by that proportion of the domestic industry expressing support for or opposition to the application. The investigation shall not be initiated where the domestic producers expressly supporting the application account for less than 25 per cent of the total production of the like product produced by the domestic industry.

4. Upon receipt of a request for such an investigation, the authority shall examine the application and determine, on the basis of the facts available, whether to initiate an investigation. If the authority decides to initiate an investigation, it shall issue a public notice to that effect, invite the concerned Member State, other interested Member States and interested parties to submit required information and comments.

5. An investigation initiated pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be deemed to be a preliminary investigation. The authority shall inform the concerned Member State and all interested parties of the results of the investigation.

6. For the purpose of this Part, "like product" shall be interpreted to mean a product which is identical, i.e., alike in all respects to the product under consideration, or in the absence of such a product, another product, which, although not alike in all respects, has characteristics closely resembling those of the product under consideration.

Article 107. Request for Consultations Relating to Subsidies Causing Injury, Nullification, Impairment or Serious Prejudice

1. Whenever a Member State has reason to believe that a subsidy within the meaning of Article 96 has been granted or is maintained by another Member State, and that imports from such a Member State have resulted in any of the effects mentioned in paragraph 1(b) of Article 97, the first-mentioned Member State may approach the Member State believed to be granting a subsidy with a request for consultations.

2. A request for consultations shall include a statement of available evidence with regard to

(a) the existence and nature of the subsidy; and

(b) the injury caused to the domestic industry; or

(c) the impairment or nullification of benefits of exporting to other Member States in the Community; or

(d) serious prejudice to its interests.

3. Upon receipt of a request for consultations under paragraph 1, the Member State believed to be granting or maintaining the subsidy shall reply within 10 days, and shall furnish relevant information and enter into consultations within 30 days of the date of the request. The purpose of the consultations shall be to clarify the facts relating to the existence, type and effect of the alleged subsidy and to arrive at a mutually agreed solution.

Article 108. Reference to Coted to Investigate Subsidies Causing Injury, Nullification, Impairment or Serious Prejudice

1. If no mutually agreed solution is reached at the completion of 60 days from the date of request for consultations, or on a date mutually agreed, the Member State requesting consultations may refer the matter to COTED which shall initiate an investigation, make a determination to resolve the dispute and issue a report within 120 days of the date of the request for an investigation by the aggrieved Member State.

2. A decision by COTED to initiate an investigation shall not prevent the aggrieved Member State from taking, on a provisional basis, countermeasures which shall not be sooner than 60 days from the date of initiation of a preliminary investigation by the national authority to forestall or prevent further adverse effects.

Article 109. Investigation by Coted of Subsidies Causing Injury, Nullification, Impairment or Serious Prejudice

1. In order to arrive at a determination of the existence, degree and effect of subsidisation, and remedial action which may be taken pursuant to the referral of a complaint of alleged subsidisation mentioned in Article 108, COTED shall -

(a) carry out an investigation into the circumstances relating to the alleged grant or maintenance of the subsidy by the offending Member State; the investigation is to be completed within 120 days of the date of receipt of a complaint regarding alleged subsidisation by an offending Member State; and

(b) upon receipt of the report arising from the investigation, promptly make available the report to the concerned Member States to facilitate consultation and to permit the Member states concerned to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution.

Article 110. Consequences of Failure to Remove Subsidies Causing Injury, Nullification, Impairment or Serious Prejudice

1. if no mutually acceptable solution is reached within 30 days of the date of issue of the report by COTED, and COTED is satisfied:

(a) of the existence of a subsidy within the meaning of Article 105; and

(b) that the subsidy has caused injury to the enterprise in the aggrieved Member State; or

(c) that the subsidy has impaired or nullified benefits expected of the aggrieved Member State with respect to its exports to the Community; or

(d) that the effect of the subsidy was to seriously prejudice the interests of the Member State,

then in such a case, COTED shall request the Member State which has granted or maintained the subsidy to take appropriate steps to remedy the effects of the subsidy within six months of the date of the issue of the report by COTED.

2. If, at the end of the period of six months allowed by COTED to the Member State granting or maintaining the subsidy to remedy the effects of the subsidy, the Member State fails to comply and in the absence of agreement on compensation COTED shall authorise the aggrieved Member State to impose countervailing duties at a rate equivalent to the amount of subsidisation for such time and under such conditions as COTED may prescribe.

Article 111. Types of Subsidies Causing Serious Adverse Effects

1. The Member States shall not ordinarily impose or introduce countervailing duties or take countermeasures on products which benefit from:

(a) subsidies which are not specific within the meaning of Article 97; or

(b) subsidies which are specific within the meaning of Article 97 but which satisfy all of the conditions set out in this subparagraph hereunder:

(i) subsidies granted for research activities conducted by enterprises or by higher education or research establishments on a contract basis with firms if the assistance covers not more than 75 per cent of the costs of industrial research or 50 per cent of the costs of pre- competitive development activity and provided that such assistance is limited exclusively to:

(aa) _ costs of personnel (researchers, technicians and other supporting staff employed exclusively in the research activity);

(bb) costs of instruments, equipment, land and buildings used exclusively and permanently (except when disposed of on a

commercial basis) for the research activity;

(cc) costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the research activity, including bought-in research, technical knowledge, patents, etc. ;

(dd) additional overhead costs incurred directly as a result of the research activity;

(ee) other running costs (such as those of materials, supplies and the like), incurred directly as a result of the research activity.

(c) subsidies granted to assist disadvantaged regions within the territory of a Member State given pursuant to a general framework of regional development and that are non-specific within eligible regions provided that:

(i) each disadvantaged region must be a clearly designated contiguous geographical area with a definable economic and administrative identity;

(ii) the Region is considered as disadvantaged on the basis of neutral and objective criteria, indicating that the region's difficulties arise out of more than temporary circumstances; such criteria must be clearly spelled out in law, regulation, or other official document, so as to be capable of verification;

(iii) the criteria shall include a measurement of economic development which shall be based on at least one of the following factors:

(aa) one of either income per capita or household income per capita, or GDP per capita, which must not be above 85 per cent of the average for the territory concerned;

(bb) unemployment rate, which must be at least 110 per cent of the average for the territory concerned;

(d) subsidies granted to assist entities in the adaptation of existing facilities to new environmental requirements imposed by law and/or regulations which result in greater constraints and financial burden on enterprises provided that the subsidies -

(i) are a one-time non-recurring measure; and

(ii) are limited to 20 per cent of the cost of adaptation; and

a) do not cover the cost of replacing and operating the assisted investment, which must be fully borne by firms; and

(iv) are directly linked to and proportionate to a firm's planned reduction of nuisances and pollution, and do not cover any manufacturing cost savings which may be achieved; and

(v) are available to all firms which can adopt the new equipment and/or production processes.

(e) subsidies granted to assist enterprises to undertake training or retraining of employees, whether or not the enterprise is new, and the upgrading of existing facilities to facilitate transition to competitive status within the Community, provided that such subsidies are not specific.

2. The Member States shall notify COTED of any subsidy mentioned in paragraph 1. Any Member State may request further information regarding a notified subsidy programme and COTED shall review annually all notified subsidies referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 112. Preliminary Investigation of Subsidies Causing Serious Adverse Effects

1. A domestic industry may submit to the competent authority an application for an investigation to verify that serious adverse effects have been caused by imports which benefit from subsidies referred to in Article 111.

2. Upon receipt of an application for an investigation to verify adverse effects, the authority shall examine the application, and, on the basis of the available facts, determine whether to initiate an investigation.

3. The investigation referred to in paragraph 2 shall be deemed a preliminary investigation. The authority shall give public notice of its decision to initiate a preliminary investigation and the concerned Member State, other interested Member States, and the interested persons shall all be invited to provide relevant information and make comments.

4. The results of the preliminary investigation shall be made available to the concerned Member State, other interested Member States and the interested persons to enable them to defend their interests.

Article 113. Request for Consultations Relating to Subsidies Causing Serious Adverse

Effects

1. Whenever a Member State has reason to believe that imports from another Member State benefited from subsidies within the meaning of Article 111 and such imports have resulted in serious adverse effects to a domestic industry so as to cause damage which would be difficult to repair, the Member State aggrieved may request consultations with the Member State granting or maintaining the subsidy.
2. The Member State alleged to be granting the subsidy which caused adverse effects shall reply within 10 days of the date of the request for consultations and shall enter into the consultations requested by the aggrieved Member State. If there is no mutual agreement within 60 days of the date of the request for such consultations or on a later date which was mutually agreed or if the Member State refuses to co-operate, the aggrieved Member State may refer the matter to COTED and request COTED to carry out an investigation.

Article 114. Investigation by Coted of Subsidies Causing Serious Adverse Effects

1. The referral of the matter to COTED for an investigation shall not prevent the aggrieved Member State from imposing on a provisional basis not sooner than 60 days from the date of initiation of the preliminary investigation referred to in Article 106, countermeasures to forestall or prevent further adverse effects.
2. If COTED is satisfied that the investigation requested is justified, COTED shall carry out the investigation, make a determination and issue a report within 120 days from the date when the request was referred.
3. Where the results of the investigation carried out by COTED demonstrate that the subsidised imports caused serious adverse effects to the domestic industry of the aggrieved Member State requesting the investigation, COTED shall recommend that the offending Member State modify the programme of subsidies in such a way as to remove the adverse effects complained of.

Article 115. Consequences of Failure to Eliminate or Establish Adverse Effects of Subsidies

1. If the offending Member State fails to implement the recommendations of COTED within 6 months of the date of issue of the report referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 114, COTED shall authorise the aggrieved Member State to impose appropriate countervailing duties commensurate with the nature and degree of serious adverse effects determined to exist.
2. Whenever the results of an investigation by COTED prove that serious adverse effects have not been caused by subsidised imports referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 111, the Member State alleging that its domestic industry has suffered serious adverse effects shall promptly refund any duties which might have been provisionally imposed and where such provisional duties had materially retarded the exports of the Member State complained against, COTED shall, upon application from such State, assess the effects of the provisionally applied duties and determine the nature and extent of compensation which is warranted and require compensation in accordance with its assessment.

Article 116. Imposition of Provisional Measures and Countervailing Duties

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Chapter, a Member State aggrieved by the application or maintenance of prohibited subsidies or by subsidies which cause injury, or result in nullification, impairment, or serious prejudice, or cause serious adverse effects, as the case may be, shall introduce provisional measures only on the basis of the following rules:
 - (a) Provisional measures may be applied only if -
 - (i) a preliminary investigation has been initiated in accordance with the Provisions of this Chapter, a public notice has been given to that effect and interested persons have been given adequate opportunities to submit information and make comments;
 - (ii) an affirmative preliminary determination has been made of the existence of a prohibited subsidy, or a subsidy causing injury, nullification, impairment, serious prejudice, or a subsidy causing serious adverse effects, as the case may be;
 - (iii) consultations were requested and undertaken, COTED was notified and requested to investigate and the authorities concerned judge such measures necessary to prevent injury being caused during the investigation;
 - (b) Provisional measures may take the form of provisional countervailing duties guaranteed by cash deposits or bonds equal to the amount of the subsidisation calculated on a provisional basis;

(c) Provisional measures shall not be applied sooner than 60 days from the date of initiation of the preliminary investigation;

(d) The application of provisional measures shall be limited to as short a period as possible, not exceeding 120 days.

2. Where investigations by COTED continue beyond the period allowed for the maintenance of provisional measures under sub-paragraph 1(d), the Member State imposing the measures may continue with such measures until a definitive determination is made by COTED.

3. The Member States which are parties to an investigation to verify the existence and the effect of alleged subsidisation, may seek or accept, as the case may be, undertakings from the Member State alleged to have granted or to be maintaining a subsidy. Undertakings may take the form of:

(a) withdrawal, or limiting the amount of, the subsidy to such an extent that injury, nullification, impairment, serious prejudice or serious adverse effects, as the case may be, are eliminated; or

(b) a guarantee from the exporter benefiting from the subsidy to raise his price to such an extent that the injurious effect is eliminated.

4. If a Member State accepts a voluntary guarantee pursuant to sub-paragraph 3(b), then the accepting Member State shall notify COTED and promptly suspend proceedings, and any Provisional measures which may have been imposed shall be withdrawn with immediate effect.

5. In the event that investigations to determine subsidisation have been concluded and the evidence proves injury, nullification, impairment or serious prejudice, or serious adverse effects, as the case may be, a Member State may impose countervailing duties retroactively to account for the entire period during which provisional measures have been in force. Such retroactively applied duties shall take into account the definitively assessed countervailing duties and the amount guaranteed by cash deposit or bond and:

(a) where the definitive countervailing duties are higher than the provisional duties, the difference shall not be collected;

(b) where the definitive countervailing duties are lower than the provisional duties, the excess of the deposit shall be refunded or the bond released promptly.

6. No Member State shall impose countervailing duties other than provisional

countervailing duties without prior authorisation from COTED and the determination and imposition of definitive countervailing duties shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

7. COTED shall keep under review all counter-measures imposed by the Member States and shall ensure that the Member States observe the conditions and timetable for review and withdrawal of counter-measures that it may have authorised.

8. The Member States undertake to co-operate in establishing harmonised legislation and procedures in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

Part FOUR. SUBSIDIES TO AGRICULTURE

Article 117. Definition

1. For the purpose of this Part, an agricultural subsidy means any form of domestic support, financial or otherwise, including revenue foregone, provided by government or any public agency in favour of the producers of a specific agricultural product or to the agricultural sector as a whole. This includes:

(a) assistance provided by government or any public agency to foster agricultural and rural development or to assist low income producers or Producers with deficient resources;

(b) financial concessions granted by government or a public agency to offset the cost of agricultural inputs or to encourage investments in agriculture;

(c) any other financial concession which has the effect of providing price or income support to producers of agricultural products which is administered either through direct payments to the producers or processors of an agricultural product or indirectly through government or other publicly funded programmes;

(d) payments in kind to agricultural producers.

2. "Agricultural products" refers to the products listed in Annex IV.

Article 118. Rights

Having regard to the general use of subsidies in Member States to encourage agricultural and rural development, to promote investments in agriculture generally and to assist low- income or resource-poor producers, Member States may grant subsidies to meet those objectives, consistently with their obligations under international agreements and subject to the provisions of this Part.

Article 119. Obligations

1. Notwithstanding the right to grant subsidies indicated in Article 118, a Member State shall not use such subsidies in a manner to distort the production of and intra-regional trade in the product or products benefiting from such subsidies.

1. Notwithstanding the right to grant subsidies indicated in Article 118, a Member State shall not use such subsidies in a manner to distort the production of and intra-regional trade in the product or products benefiting from such subsidies.

2. Accordingly, subsidies provided by a Member State to agriculture shall not involve transfers from consumers, or direct payments to producers or processors which would have the effect of providing price support to producers.

2. Accordingly, subsidies provided by a Member State to agriculture shall not involve transfers from consumers, or direct payments to producers or processors which would have the effect of providing price support to producers.

3. Subsidies provided by a Member State to agriculture shall be made through publicly funded programmes which benefit the agricultural sector generally, in areas such as research, training, extension and advisory services, pest and disease control, inspection services, marketing and promotion services and infrastructural services.

3. Subsidies provided by a Member State to agriculture shall be made through publicly funded programmes which benefit the agricultural sector generally, in areas such as research, training, extension and advisory services, pest and disease control, inspection services, marketing and promotion services and infrastructural services.

4. Where a Member State makes direct payments of a subsidy to agricultural producers or processors through such schemes as crop insurance, disaster relief, income safety-net programmes, regional assistance programmes and structural adjustment assistance programmes, the Member State shall ensure that these payments, whether financial or otherwise, have no or minimal production and trade distortion effect and do not constitute price support to producers of the Product or products benefitting from the use of such schemes.

4. Where a Member State makes direct payments of a subsidy to agricultural producers or processors through such schemes as crop insurance, disaster relief, income safety-net programmes, regional assistance programmes and structural adjustment assistance programmes, the Member State shall ensure that these payments, whether financial or otherwise, have no or minimal production and trade distortion effect and do not constitute price support to producers of the Product or products benefitting from the use of such schemes.

Article 120. Regulation

Article 120. Regulation

1. Any subsidy provided by a Member State in favour of the production of an agricultural product entering regional trade, except for the provision of general services programmes or direct payments satisfying the conditions stated in Article 119, shall not exceed 10 per cent of the total value of that Member State's annual production of such tradeable agricultural product in any one year.

1. Any subsidy provided by a Member State in favour of the production of an agricultural product entering regional trade, except for the provision of general services programmes or direct payments satisfying the conditions stated in Article 119, shall not exceed 10 per cent of the total value of that Member State's annual production of such tradeable agricultural product in any one year.

2. Any subsidy provided by a Member State in favour of agricultural producers or processors in general, except for the provision of general services programmes or direct payments satisfying the conditions stated in Article 119, shall not exceed 10 per cent of the total value of that Member State's annual total agricultural output, in any one year.

2. Any subsidy provided by a Member State in favour of agricultural producers or processors in general, except for the

provision of general services programmes or direct payments satisfying the conditions stated in Article 119, shall not exceed 10 per cent of the total value of that Member State's annual total agricultural output, in any one year.

3. Where a Member State provides a subsidy, except for the provision of general services programmes or direct payments satisfying the conditions stated in Article 119, in excess of the levels prescribed in paragraphs 1 and 2, such a subsidy shall be considered as a subsidy causing injury, nullification, impairment or serious prejudice.

3. Where a Member State provides a subsidy, except for the provision of general services programmes or direct payments satisfying the conditions stated in Article 119, in excess of the levels prescribed in paragraphs 1 and 2, such a subsidy shall be considered as a subsidy causing injury, nullification, impairment or serious prejudice.

Article 121. Discipline

Article 121. Discipline

1. Each Member State shall ensure that any subsidy in favour of agricultural producers conforms with the provisions of Article 119 and Article 120.

1. Each Member State shall ensure that any subsidy in favour of agricultural producers conforms with the provisions of Article 119 and Article 120.

2. Any subsidy in favour of agricultural producers that cannot be shown to satisfy the Provisions in Article 119 and Article 120, shall be subject to the provisions of Article 106 to Article 110 inclusive.

2. Any subsidy in favour of agricultural producers that cannot be shown to satisfy the Provisions in Article 119 and Article 120, shall be subject to the provisions of Article 106 to Article 110 inclusive.

3. A subsidies programme undertaken in conformity with the provisions of this Part shall be subject to action based on Article 106 to 110 inclusive where a determination of injury or threat thereof is made in accordance with the provisions of this Part.

3. A subsidies programme undertaken in conformity with the provisions of this Part shall be subject to action based on Article 106 to 110 inclusive where a determination of injury or threat thereof is made in accordance with the provisions of this Part.

4. In the determination of a threat of injury, the investigating authorities shall consider, inter alia, such factors as:

4. In the determination of a threat of injury, the investigating authorities shall consider, inter alia, such factors as:

(i) the nature of the subsidy or subsidies in question and the trade effects likely to arise therefrom;

(i) the nature of the subsidy or subsidies in question and the trade effects likely to arise therefrom;

(ii) a significant rate of increase of subsidised imports into the domestic market indicating the likelihood of substantially increased importations;

(ii) a significant rate of increase of subsidised imports into the domestic market indicating the likelihood of substantially increased importations;

(iii) sufficient freely disposable or an imminent, substantial increase in capacity of the exporter indicating the likelihood of substantially increased subsidised exports to the importing country's market, taking into account the availability of other export markets to absorb any additional exports;

(iii) sufficient freely disposable or an imminent, substantial increase in capacity of the exporter indicating the likelihood of substantially increased subsidised exports to the importing country's market, taking into account the availability of other export markets to absorb any additional exports;

(iv) whether imports are entering at prices that will have a significant depressing or suppressing effect on domestic prices, and are likely to increase demand for further imports;

(iv) whether imports are entering at prices that will have a significant depressing or suppressing effect on domestic prices, and are likely to increase demand for further imports;

(v) inventories of the product being investigated.

(v) inventories of the product being investigated.

Article 122. Due Restraint

Article 122. Due Restraint

where it has been determined that a subsidy causes injury or threatens to cause such injury, in accordance with the provisions of this Part, the aggrieved Member State shall exercise due restraint in initiating any action in retaliation.

where it has been determined that a subsidy causes injury or threatens to cause such injury, in accordance with the provisions of this Part, the aggrieved Member State shall exercise due restraint in initiating any action in retaliation.

Article 123. Notification

Article 123. Notification

1. The Member States shall notify COTED of any subsidy programme pursuant to Article 117 prior to implementation.

1. The Member States shall notify COTED of any subsidy programme pursuant to Article 117 prior to implementation.

2. In addition to the notification to be submitted under this Article, any new subsidy or Modification of an existing measure shall be notified promptly. This notification shall contain details of the new or modified subsidy and its conformity with the agreed criteria as set out in Article 116 and Article 120.

2. In addition to the notification to be submitted under this Article, any new subsidy or Modification of an existing measure shall be notified promptly. This notification shall contain details of the new or modified subsidy and its conformity with the agreed criteria as set out in Article 116 and Article 120.

3. Any Member State may bring to the attention of COTED any measure which it considers ought to have been notified by another Member State.

3. Any Member State may bring to the attention of COTED any measure which it considers ought to have been notified by another Member State.

Article 124. Review

Article 124. Review

COTED shall undertake a review of the implementation of the provisions on subsidies to agriculture on the basis of notifications of the subsidies programmes submitted by the Member States, as well as on the basis of any other documentation which the COTED may request to be Prepared to facilitate its review.

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Part FIVE. Dumping

Part FIVE. Dumping

Article 125. Action Against Dumping

Article 125. Action Against Dumping

A Member State may take action against dumped imports if such imports cause injury or pose a serious threat of injury to a domestic industry.

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Article 126. Determination of Dumping

Article 126. Determination of Dumping

1. For the purpose of this Part, a product is to be considered to be a dumped import where it is introduced into the commerce of another country at less than its normal value if the export Price of the product exported from one Member state to another Member State is less than the comparable price, in the ordinary course of trade, for the like product when destined for consumption in the exporting Member State.

1. For the purpose of this Part, a product is to be considered to be a dumped import where it is introduced into the commerce of another country at less than its normal value if the export Price of the product exported from one Member state to another Member State is less than the comparable price, in the ordinary course of trade, for the like product when destined for consumption in the exporting Member State.

2. When there are no Sales of the like product in the ordinary course of trade in the domestic market of the exporting country or when, because of the particular market situation or the low volume of the sales in the domestic market of the exporting country, such sales do not permit a Proper comparison, the margin of dumping shall be determined by comparison with a comparable Price of the like product when exported to an appropriate third country, provided that this price is representative, or with the cost of production in the country of origin plus a reasonable amount for administrative, selling and general costs and for profits.

2. When there are no Sales of the like product in the ordinary course of trade in the domestic market of the exporting country or when, because of the particular market situation or the low volume of the sales in the domestic market of the exporting country, such sales do not permit a Proper comparison, the margin of dumping shall be determined by comparison with a comparable Price of the like product when exported to an appropriate third country, provided that this price is representative, or with the cost of production in the country of origin plus a reasonable amount for administrative, selling and general costs and for profits.

3. In cases where there is no export price or where it appears to the authorities concerned that the export price is unreliable because of association or a compensatory arrangement between the exporter and importer or a third party, the export price may be constructed on the basis of the price at which the imported products are first resold to an independent buyer, or if the products are not resold to an independent buyer, or not resold in the condition as imported, on such reasonable basis as the authorities may determine.

3. In cases where there is no export price or where it appears to the authorities concerned that the export price is unreliable because of association or a compensatory arrangement between the exporter and importer or a third party, the export price may be constructed on the basis of the price at which the imported products are first resold to an independent buyer, or if the products are not resold to an independent buyer, or not resold in the condition as imported, on such reasonable basis as the authorities may determine.

4. A fair comparison shall be made between the export price and the normal value. This comparison shall be made at the same level of trade, normally at the ex-factory level, and in respect of sales made at as nearly as possible the same time. Due allowance shall be made in each case, on its merits, for differences which affect price comparability, including differences in conditions and terms of sale, taxation, levels of trade, quantities, physical characteristics, and any other differences which are also demonstrated to affect price comparability. In the cases referred to in paragraph 3, allowances for costs, including duties and taxes incurred between importation and resale, and for profits accruing, should also be made. If in these cases price comparability has been affected, the authorities shall establish the normal value at a level of trade equivalent to the level of trade of the constructed export price, or shall make due allowance as warranted under this paragraph. The authorities shall indicate to the parties in question what information is necessary to ensure a fair comparison and shall not impose an unreasonable burden of proof on those parties.

4. A fair comparison shall be made between the export price and the normal value. This comparison shall be made at the same level of trade, normally at the ex-factory level, and in respect of sales made at as nearly as possible the same time. Due allowance shall be made in each case, on its merits, for differences which affect price comparability, including differences in conditions and terms of sale, taxation, levels of trade, quantities, physical characteristics, and any other differences which are also demonstrated to affect price comparability. In the cases referred to in paragraph 3, allowances for costs, including duties and taxes incurred between importation and resale, and for profits accruing, should also be made. If in these cases price comparability has been affected, the authorities shall establish the normal value at a level of trade equivalent to the level of trade of the constructed export price, or shall make due allowance as warranted under this paragraph. The authorities shall indicate to the parties in question what information is necessary to ensure a fair comparison and shall not impose an unreasonable burden of proof on those parties.

5. In the case where products are not imported directly from the country of origin but are exported to the importing

Member from an intermediate country, the price at which the products are sold from the country of export to the importing Member shall normally be compared with the comparable price in the country of export. However, comparison may be made with the price in the country of origin, if, for example, the products are merely transshipped through the country of export, or such products are not produced in the country of export, or there is no comparable price for them in the country of export.

5. In the case where products are not imported directly from the country of origin but are exported to the importing Member from an intermediate country, the price at which the products are sold from the country of export to the importing Member shall normally be compared with the comparable price in the country of export. However, comparison may be made with the price in the country of origin, if, for example, the products are merely transshipped through the country of export, or such products are not produced in the country of export, or there is no comparable price for them in the country of export.

6. For the purpose of this Part, "like product" shall be interpreted to mean a product which is identical, i.e., alike in all respects to the product under consideration, or in the absence of such a product, another product, which, although not alike in all respects, has characteristics closely resembling those of the product under consideration.

6. For the purpose of this Part, "like product" shall be interpreted to mean a product which is identical, i.e., alike in all respects to the product under consideration, or in the absence of such a product, another product, which, although not alike in all respects, has characteristics closely resembling those of the product under consideration.

Article 127. Determination of Injury

Article 127. Determination of Injury

1. For the purpose of this Part, injury shall, unless otherwise specified, be taken to mean material injury to a domestic industry, threat of material injury to a domestic industry or material retardation of the establishment of such an industry.

1. For the purpose of this Part, injury shall, unless otherwise specified, be taken to mean material injury to a domestic industry, threat of material injury to a domestic industry or material retardation of the establishment of such an industry.

2. A determination of injury within the meaning of paragraph | shall be based on positive evidence and involve an objective examination of:

2. A determination of injury within the meaning of paragraph | shall be based on positive evidence and involve an objective examination of:

(a) the volume of the dumped imports and the effect of such imports on prices in the domestic market for like products; and

(a) the volume of the dumped imports and the effect of such imports on prices in the domestic market for like products; and

(b) the consequent impact of the dumped imports on domestic producers of such products.

(b) the consequent impact of the dumped imports on domestic producers of such products.

3. In making a determination regarding the existence of a threat of material injury, the competent authorities shall consider, inter alia:

3. In making a determination regarding the existence of a threat of material injury, the competent authorities shall consider, inter alia:

(a) a significant rate of increase of dumped imports into the domestic market indicating the likelihood of substantially increased importation;

(a) a significant rate of increase of dumped imports into the domestic market indicating the likelihood of substantially increased importation;

(b) sufficient freely disposable, or an imminent, substantial increase in, capacity of the exporter indicating the likelihood of substantially increased dumped exports to the importing Member's market taking into account the availability of other export markets to absorb any additional exports;

(b) sufficient freely disposable, or an imminent, substantial increase in, capacity of the exporter indicating the likelihood of substantially increased dumped exports to the importing Member's market taking into account the availability of other export markets to absorb any additional exports;

(c) whether imports are entering at prices that will have a significant depressing or suppressing effect on domestic prices, and would likely increase demand for further imports; and

(c) whether imports are entering at prices that will have a significant depressing or suppressing effect on domestic prices, and would likely increase demand for further imports; and

(d) inventories of the product being investigated.

(d) inventories of the product being investigated.

Article 128. Definition of Domestic Industry

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For the purpose of this Part, the term "domestic industry" means "domestic industry" as defined in Annex I.

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Article 129. Initiation of Preliminary Investigations

Article 129. Initiation of Preliminary Investigations

1. If a domestic industry in a Member State has reason to believe that it is being injured or faces the threat of injury as a result of dumped imports, an application may be submitted in writing by the industry or on its behalf by an association representing the industry or by employees employed by the producers of the like product to the competent authority to initiate an investigation in order to verify the existence of dumped imports and injury caused or the existence of a serious threat of injury as the case may be.

1. If a domestic industry in a Member State has reason to believe that it is being injured or faces the threat of injury as a result of dumped imports, an application may be submitted in writing by the industry or on its behalf by an association representing the industry or by employees employed by the producers of the like product to the competent authority to initiate an investigation in order to verify the existence of dumped imports and injury caused or the existence of a serious threat of injury as the case may be.

2. The application shall be considered to have been made by or on behalf of the domestic industry if it is supported by those domestic producers whose collective output constitutes more than 50 per cent of the total production of the like product produced by that portion of the domestic industry expressing either support for or opposition to the request. However, no investigation shall be initiated when domestic producers expressly supporting the request account for less than 25 per cent of total production of the like product produced by the domestic industry.

2. The application shall be considered to have been made by or on behalf of the domestic industry if it is supported by those domestic producers whose collective output constitutes more than 50 per cent of the total production of the like product produced by that portion of the domestic industry expressing either support for or opposition to the request. However, no investigation shall be initiated when domestic producers expressly supporting the request account for less than 25 per cent of total production of the like product produced by the domestic industry.

3. The authority shall examine the application and determine if an investigation is justified and if it is satisfied, it shall issue a public notice to that effect and request the concerned Member State, other interested Member States and the interested parties, all of which may be requested to and shall be afforded an opportunity to provide required information and comments.

3. The authority shall examine the application and determine if an investigation is justified and if it is satisfied, it shall issue a public notice to that effect and request the concerned Member State, other interested Member States and the interested parties, all of which may be requested to and shall be afforded an opportunity to provide required information and comments.

4. A decision by the authority to initiate an investigation shall be considered a decision to initiate a preliminary investigation, the results of which shall be made available by a public notice.

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5. Where a preliminary investigation provides sufficient evidence that dumped imports have entered into the commerce of

the Member State and such imports seriously threaten or have injured a domestic industry, it may submit to the competent authority of the exporting Member State a request for consultations which shall be notified to COTED.

5. Where a preliminary investigation provides sufficient evidence that dumped imports have entered into the commerce of the Member State and such imports seriously threaten or have injured a domestic industry, it may submit to the competent authority of the exporting Member State a request for consultations which shall be notified to COTED.

6. The purpose of the request for consultations shall be to establish whether imports have been dumped and injury has been caused or there is a serious threat of injury and if the injury or the serious threat thereof is directly the result of dumped imports.

6. The purpose of the request for consultations shall be to establish whether imports have been dumped and injury has been caused or there is a serious threat of injury and if the injury or the serious threat thereof is directly the result of dumped imports.

7. Interested parties who have been requested to provide information shall be allowed 30 days from the date of submission of the application by or on behalf of a domestic industry under Paragraph 2 to reply unless the authorities concerned agree to a later date.

7. Interested parties who have been requested to provide information shall be allowed 30 days from the date of submission of the application by or on behalf of a domestic industry under Paragraph 2 to reply unless the authorities concerned agree to a later date.

8. For the purpose of this Part, "interested parties" shall include:

8. For the purpose of this Part, "interested parties" shall include:

(a) an exporter or foreign producer or the importer of a product subject to investigation, or a trade or business association, a majority of the members of which are producers, exporters or importers of such product;

(a) an exporter or foreign producer or the importer of a product subject to investigation, or a trade or business association, a majority of the members of which are producers, exporters or importers of such product;

(b) the government of the exporting Member State; and

(b) the government of the exporting Member State; and

(c) a producer of the like product in the importing Member State or a trade and business association, a majority of the members of which produce the like product in the territory of the importing Member State.

(c) a producer of the like product in the importing Member State or a trade and business association, a majority of the members of which produce the like product in the territory of the importing Member State.

9. A request for investigations to be undertaken by the competent authority of a Member State or by COTED shall include but shall not necessarily be limited to the information indicated in the Illustrative List set out in Annex III(b). If, however, an aggrieved Member State is satisfied that the offending party had not made satisfactory efforts to afford consultations, to provide requested information or otherwise unreasonably impede an investigation which has been initiated, the competent authority of the Member State aggrieved may impose on a provisional basis anti-dumping measures and may refer the request for investigation to COTED. A public notice of the imposition of Provisional anti-dumping measures shall be issued by the Member State which has imposed such measures.

9. A request for investigations to be undertaken by the competent authority of a Member State or by COTED shall include but shall not necessarily be limited to the information indicated in the Illustrative List set out in Annex III(b). If, however, an aggrieved Member State is satisfied that the offending party had not made satisfactory efforts to afford consultations, to provide requested information or otherwise unreasonably impede an investigation which has been initiated, the competent authority of the Member State aggrieved may impose on a provisional basis anti-dumping measures and may refer the request for investigation to COTED. A public notice of the imposition of Provisional anti-dumping measures shall be issued by the Member State which has imposed such measures.

Article 130. Provisional Measures

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1. Provisional measures may be applied only if -

1. Provisional measures may be applied only if -

(a) an investigation has been initiated in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 4 of Article 129, a public notice has been given to that effect and interested parties have been given adequate opportunities to submit information and make comments;

(a) an investigation has been initiated in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 4 of Article 129, a public notice has been given to that effect and interested parties have been given adequate opportunities to submit information and make comments;

(b) a preliminary affirmative determination has been made of dumping and consequent injury to a domestic industry; and

(b) a preliminary affirmative determination has been made of dumping and consequent injury to a domestic industry; and

(c) the authorities concerned judge such measures necessary to prevent injury being caused during the investigation.

(c) the authorities concerned judge such measures necessary to prevent injury being caused during the investigation.

2. Provisional measures may take the form of a provisional duty or preferably, a security - by cash deposit or bond - equal to the amount of the anti-dumping duty provisionally estimated, being not greater than the provisionally estimated margin of dumping. Withholding of appraisement is an appropriate provisional measure, provided that the normal duty and the estimated amount of the anti-dumping duty be indicated and as long as the withholding of appraisement is subject to the same conditions as other provisional measures.

2. Provisional measures may take the form of a provisional duty or preferably, a security - by cash deposit or bond - equal to the amount of the anti-dumping duty provisionally estimated, being not greater than the provisionally estimated margin of dumping. Withholding of appraisement is an appropriate provisional measure, provided that the normal duty and the estimated amount of the anti-dumping duty be indicated and as long as the withholding of appraisement is subject to the same conditions as other provisional measures.

3. Provisional measures shall not be applied sooner than 60 days from the date of initiation of the investigation by a competent authority.

3. Provisional measures shall not be applied sooner than 60 days from the date of initiation of the investigation by a competent authority.

4. The application of provisional measures shall be limited to as short a period as possible, not exceeding 120 days or, on decision of the authorities concerned, upon request by exporters representing a significant percentage of the trade involved, to a period not exceeding 180 days. When authorities, in the course of an investigation, examine whether a duty lower than the margin of dumping would be sufficient to remove injury, these periods may be 180 and 270 days, respectively.

4. The application of provisional measures shall be limited to as short a period as possible, not exceeding 120 days or, on decision of the authorities concerned, upon request by exporters representing a significant percentage of the trade involved, to a period not exceeding 180 days. When authorities, in the course of an investigation, examine whether a duty lower than the margin of dumping would be sufficient to remove injury, these periods may be 180 and 270 days, respectively.

Article 131. Conduct of Investigations Leading to Definitive Determination of Injury

Article 131. Conduct of Investigations Leading to Definitive Determination of Injury

1. Whenever COTED receives a request for investigation, referred to it under paragraph 9 of Article 126, COTED shall determine whether the information accompanying the request justifies the continuation of investigations and if it is satisfied, cause an investigation to be completed within 12 months but not longer than 18 months after the date of receipt of the request. If COTED is not Satisfied that there is sufficient justification to initiate an investigation, it shall inform the applicant in writing of its refusal to investigate.

1. Whenever COTED receives a request for investigation, referred to it under paragraph 9 of Article 126, COTED shall determine whether the information accompanying the request justifies the continuation of investigations and if it is satisfied, cause an investigation to be completed within 12 months but not longer than 18 months after the date of receipt of the request. If COTED is not Satisfied that there is sufficient justification to initiate an investigation, it shall inform the applicant in writing of its refusal to investigate.

2. Investigations initiated either by a competent authority of a Member State or undertaken by COTED shall be terminated promptly whenever:

2. Investigations initiated either by a competent authority of a Member State or undertaken by COTED shall be terminated promptly whenever:

(a) the margin of dumping is determined to be less than two per cent; and

(a) the margin of dumping is determined to be less than two per cent; and

(b) the volume of dumped imports from a particular country is less than three per cent of imports of the like product in the importing Member State, unless countries which individually account for less than three per cent of the imports of the like product into the importing Member State collectively account for more than seven per cent of the imports of the like product in the importing Member State, and a public notice of the termination of investigations under this paragraph shall be made by the Member State terminating investigations or by COTED, as the case may be.

(b) the volume of dumped imports from a particular country is less than three per cent of imports of the like product in the importing Member State, unless countries which individually account for less than three per cent of the imports of the like product into the importing Member State collectively account for more than seven per cent of the imports of the like product in the importing Member State, and a public notice of the termination of investigations under this paragraph shall be made by the Member State terminating investigations or by COTED, as the case may be.

3. The Member States recognise that an investigation into the circumstances of alleged dumping based on a request by another Member State on behalf of a domestic industry will require the full co-operation of the competent authority and the parties alleged to be responsible for dumped imports, in the Member State from which such imports originated, all of whom shall provide relevant information in the time specified in this Article.

3. The Member States recognise that an investigation into the circumstances of alleged dumping based on a request by another Member State on behalf of a domestic industry will require the full co-operation of the competent authority and the parties alleged to be responsible for dumped imports, in the Member State from which such imports originated, all of whom shall provide relevant information in the time specified in this Article.

4. In the conduct of an investigation to determine the existence and effect of dumped imports, competent authorities of the Member States and the parties concerned shall observe the rights of the parties providing information with regard to confidentiality of any information provided and shall not disclose any such information without the prior written approval of the parties providing the information.

4. In the conduct of an investigation to determine the existence and effect of dumped imports, competent authorities of the Member States and the parties concerned shall observe the rights of the parties providing information with regard to confidentiality of any information provided and shall not disclose any such information without the prior written approval of the parties providing the information.

5. Where an industry within the CSME has suffered injury or faces the threat of serious injury based on evidence of dumped imports by third States, the competent authority for requesting investigation on behalf of the affected industry shall be COTED.

5. Where an industry within the CSME has suffered injury or faces the threat of serious injury based on evidence of dumped imports by third States, the competent authority for requesting investigation on behalf of the affected industry shall be COTED.

6. Nothing in this Article shall be construed so as to prevent an injured party or a Member State from initiating and proceeding with an investigation into alleged dumping having regard to the rights of such parties under international agreements to which they are signatories.

6. Nothing in this Article shall be construed so as to prevent an injured party or a Member State from initiating and proceeding with an investigation into alleged dumping having regard to the rights of such parties under international agreements to which they are signatories.

Article 132. Co-operation by Competent Authorities and Interested Parties

Article 132. Co-operation by Competent Authorities and Interested Parties

1. Where an applicant for an investigation who receives information pursuant to dumping investigations requires

verification of the information, the competent authority and the parties alleged to be responsible for dumped imports shall co-operate in allowing the applicant to carry out verifications in the offending Member State.

1. Where an applicant for an investigation who receives information pursuant to dumping investigations requires verification of the information, the competent authority and the parties alleged to be responsible for dumped imports shall co-operate in allowing the applicant to carry out verifications in the offending Member State.

2. The results of any investigations carried out by a competent authority of a Member State aggrieved or by COTED shall be disclosed promptly to the competent authority and the parties alleged to be responsible for dumped imports in the offending Member State. A public notice of the conclusions of the investigations shall be issued by the Member State or by COTED, as the case may be.

2. The results of any investigations carried out by a competent authority of a Member State aggrieved or by COTED shall be disclosed promptly to the competent authority and the parties alleged to be responsible for dumped imports in the offending Member State. A public notice of the conclusions of the investigations shall be issued by the Member State or by COTED, as the case may be.

3. The purpose of the disclosure referred to in paragraph 2 shall be to present the facts of the case and to allow the parties alleged to be responsible for the dumped imports to defend their interests.

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Article 133. Imposition of Anti-dumping Measures

Article 133. Imposition of Anti-dumping Measures

1. COTED shall, after consideration of the available evidence and having been satisfied of the existence of dumped imports, injury caused by dumped imports or the threat of serious injury from dumped imports, authorise the Member State aggrieved to take anti-dumping action:

1. COTED shall, after consideration of the available evidence and having been satisfied of the existence of dumped imports, injury caused by dumped imports or the threat of serious injury from dumped imports, authorise the Member State aggrieved to take anti-dumping action:

(a) if the parties alleged to be responsible for dumped imports refuse to co-operate within the time specified so as to frustrate or otherwise impede an investigation;

(a) if the parties alleged to be responsible for dumped imports refuse to co-operate within the time specified so as to frustrate or otherwise impede an investigation;

(b) if there is a serious threat of injury or if injury has resulted.

(b) if there is a serious threat of injury or if injury has resulted.

2. In authorising the imposition of anti-dumping measures, COTED shall set the date, duration and conditions for the imposition of the measures as the case may require.

2. In authorising the imposition of anti-dumping measures, COTED shall set the date, duration and conditions for the imposition of the measures as the case may require.

3. Anti-dumping action taken pursuant to this Article, shall be based on the calculated margin of dumping and may be applied as follows:

3. Anti-dumping action taken pursuant to this Article, shall be based on the calculated margin of dumping and may be applied as follows:

(a) if the evidence arising from definitive investigations of dumping proves the existence of dumping and that injury was caused by dumping, a Member State may impose anti-dumping duties sufficient to eliminate the margin of dumping. COTED may authorise all affected Member States to impose similar anti-dumping duties for such time and under such conditions as COTED may prescribe;

(a) if the evidence arising from definitive investigations of dumping proves the existence of dumping and that injury was caused by dumping, a Member State may impose anti-dumping duties sufficient to eliminate the margin of dumping. COTED

may authorise all affected Member States to impose similar anti-dumping duties for such time and under such conditions as COTED may prescribe;

(b) in the imposition of anti-dumping duties, the Member States imposing the measure shall not discriminate among the sources of all dumped imports based on country of origin or nationality of the exporters;

(b) in the imposition of anti-dumping duties, the Member States imposing the measure shall not discriminate among the sources of all dumped imports based on country of origin or nationality of the exporters;

(c) an exporter whose exports are the subject of anti-dumping duties may request at any time the Member State imposing the duties to review the application of the duties against the relevant exports;

(c) an exporter whose exports are the subject of anti-dumping duties may request at any time the Member State imposing the duties to review the application of the duties against the relevant exports;

(d) if an applicant for review of anti-dumping duties applied to exports mentioned in sub-paragraph (c) is not satisfied that the competent authorities in the importing Member States have given adequate consideration to the request for review within 30 days of the receipt of the request, the applicant may refer the request to COTED which shall recommend to the Member State maintaining the anti-dumping duty to take the appropriate action if it is satisfied that the application for review is justified;

(d) if an applicant for review of anti-dumping duties applied to exports mentioned in sub-paragraph (c) is not satisfied that the competent authorities in the importing Member States have given adequate consideration to the request for review within 30 days of the receipt of the request, the applicant may refer the request to COTED which shall recommend to the Member State maintaining the anti-dumping duty to take the appropriate action if it is satisfied that the application for review is justified;

(e) in the event that investigations have been concluded and the evidence Proves that injury has been caused, a Member State may impose anti- dumping duties retroactively to account for the entire period during which Provisional anti-dumping duties have been in force preceding the date of imposition of definitive anti-dumping duties. If, however, the definitive anti-dumping duties are higher than the provisional duties paid or payable or the amount estimated for the purpose of security, the difference shall not be collected. if the definitive duties are lower than the provisional duties Payable, or the amount estimated for the purpose of security, the difference shall be reimbursed or the duties recalculated as the case may require;

(e) in the event that investigations have been concluded and the evidence Proves that injury has been caused, a Member State may impose anti- dumping duties retroactively to account for the entire period during which Provisional anti-dumping duties have been in force preceding the date of imposition of definitive anti-dumping duties. If, however, the definitive anti-dumping duties are higher than the provisional duties paid or payable or the amount estimated for the purpose of security, the difference shall not be collected. if the definitive duties are lower than the provisional duties Payable, or the amount estimated for the purpose of security, the difference shall be reimbursed or the duties recalculated as the case may require;

(f) if however the investigations reveal that injury was not caused by dumped imports as alleged, but the provisional measures have materially retarded exports of the Member State complained against, COTED shall, upon application by such State, assess the effects of the provisionally applied duties and determine the nature and extent of compensation which is warranted and require the Member State applying provisional measures to withdraw the measure and pay compensation in accordance with its assessment

(f) if however the investigations reveal that injury was not caused by dumped imports as alleged, but the provisional measures have materially retarded exports of the Member State complained against, COTED shall, upon application by such State, assess the effects of the provisionally applied duties and determine the nature and extent of compensation which is warranted and require the Member State applying provisional measures to withdraw the measure and pay compensation in accordance with its assessment

(g) a Member State may accept a voluntary price guarantee from an exporter who is believed to be exporting dumped products, to raise the price of the export sufficiently to forestall a serious threat of injury or to eliminate injury caused by dumped imports;

(g) a Member State may accept a voluntary price guarantee from an exporter who is believed to be exporting dumped products, to raise the price of the export sufficiently to forestall a serious threat of injury or to eliminate injury caused by dumped imports;

(h) if a Member State has initiated investigations based on evidence of dumped imports and the Member State had imposed provisional measures, the Member State may, upon the receipt of a voluntary guarantee from the exporter referred to in

sub-paragraph (g), promptly suspend the investigation and withdraw any provisional measures it may have imposed as appropriate.

(h) if a Member State has initiated investigations based on evidence of dumped imports and the Member State had imposed provisional measures, the Member State may, upon the receipt of a voluntary guarantee from the exporter referred to in sub-paragraph (g), promptly suspend the investigation and withdraw any provisional measures it may have imposed as appropriate.

4. COTED shall keep under review all anti-dumping measures imposed by the Member States and shall ensure that the Member States observe the conditions and the timetable for review and withdrawal of anti-dumping measures that it may have authorised.

4. COTED shall keep under review all anti-dumping measures imposed by the Member States and shall ensure that the Member States observe the conditions and the timetable for review and withdrawal of anti-dumping measures that it may have authorised.

5. The Member States undertake to co-operate in the establishment of harmonised anti-dumping legislation and procedures in accordance with the provisions of this Protocol.

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Chapter Chapter Six Transport Policy

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Article 134. Objectives of the Community Transport Policy

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1. The goal of the Community Transport Policy shall be the provision of adequate, safe and internationally competitive transport services for the development and consolidation of the CSME.

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2. In fulfilment of the goal set out in paragraph 1 of this Article, the Community shall Pursue the following objectives:

2. In fulfilment of the goal set out in paragraph 1 of this Article, the Community shall Pursue the following objectives:

(a) the organisation of efficient, reliable, affordable transport services throughout the Community;

(a) the organisation of efficient, reliable, affordable transport services throughout the Community;

(b) the development and expansion of air and maritime transport capabilities in the Community;

(b) the development and expansion of air and maritime transport capabilities in the Community;

(c) the promotion of co-operative arrangements for the provision of transport services;

(c) the promotion of co-operative arrangements for the provision of transport services;

(d) the development of efficient internationally competitive ancillary transport services;

(d) the development of efficient internationally competitive ancillary transport services;

(e) the development of human resources for employment in all areas and at all levels of the transport sector;

(e) the development of human resources for employment in all areas and at all levels of the transport sector;

(f) the implementation of standards for the development of safe road, riverine, Sea and air transport services.

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Article 135. Implementation of Community Transport Policy

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1. In order to achieve the objectives of the Community Transport Policy, COTED shall, in collaboration with other Organs of the Community as appropriate, promote, inter alia:

1. In order to achieve the objectives of the Community Transport Policy, COTED shall, in collaboration with other Organs of the Community as appropriate, promote, inter alia:

(a) co-ordination of the national transport policies of the Member States;

(a) co-ordination of the national transport policies of the Member States;

(b) the implementation of uniform regulations and procedures, consistent with standards and recommended practices, for the development of an efficient multi-modal transport system, particularly in respect of operations, safety, licensing and certification;

(c) the development of required institutional, legal, technical, financial and administrative support for the balanced, sustainable development of the transport sector;

(d) the establishment of measures:

(i) to ensure that the development of the transport sector does not impact adversely on the environment of the Member States and, in particular, the Caribbean Sea;

(b) the implementation of uniform regulations and procedures, consistent with standards and recommended practices, for the development of an efficient multi-modal transport system, particularly in respect of operations, safety, licensing and certification;

(c) the development of required institutional, legal, technical, financial and administrative support for the balanced, sustainable development of the transport sector;

(d) the establishment of measures:

(i) to ensure that the development of the transport sector does not impact adversely on the environment of the Member States and, in particular, the Caribbean Sea;

(ii) for the acquisition and transfer of technology in the transport sector; and

(iii) for human resources development in accordance with Article 63;

(ii) for the acquisition and transfer of technology in the transport sector; and

(iii) for human resources development in accordance with Article 63;

(e) investment in the transport sector, including ancillary services supportive of the sector through, for example, joint ventures;

(e) investment in the transport sector, including ancillary services supportive of the sector through, for example, joint ventures;

(f) the removal of obstacles to the provision of transport services by nationals of the Member States in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapter Three.

2. COTED shall develop programmes to facilitate the achievement of the objectives set out in Article 134.

3. The Member States shall co-ordinate their actions in order to secure the best terms and conditions for the provision of transport services by service providers.

Article 136. Search and Rescue

1. COTED shall promote co-operation in air and maritime search and rescue operations in the Community, bearing in mind such machinery as may exist for the overall co-ordination of search and rescue services.

2. The Member States shall notify COTED of air and maritime equipment and facilities available for use in search and rescue operations.

3. The Member States shall collaborate with third States and competent international organisations in search and rescue operations.

Article 137. Intra-Community Transport Services

1. The Member States shall adopt uniform standards and recommended practices for the provision of transport services.
2. The Member States shall notify COTED of legislative, regulatory or administrative measures affecting the provision of transport services within their domestic jurisdictions where such measures deviate from uniform standards and recommended practices.
3. The Member States adversely affected by such regulatory or administrative measures may notify COTED of such adverse effects, and shall have recourse to the disputes settlement procedures provided in the Treaty.

Article 138. Development of Air Transport Services

1. the member states shall co-operate in:
 - (a) the development of air transport services in the Community and towards this end may conclude among themselves air transport agreements designed to facilitate the provision of such services;
 - (b) establishing measures to ensure that the provision of international air transport services in the Community is undertaken by financially viable and technically qualified carriers and operators, and that the Community interest in Safety, security and economy of air travel is not prejudiced.
2. COTED shall promote co-operation among the Member States in the registration of aircraft and the enforcement of applicable standards in the air transport industry.
3. The Member States shall co-operate in ensuring uniformity in licensing and certification procedures and equivalencies within the Community for aviation personnel in conformity with international standards.
4. COTED shall promote co-operation among operators of air transport services of the Member States particularly in purchasing of equipment and supplies, the management of inventories, interline and inter-modal operations, code sharing, reservations, insurance, leasing and similar operations.

Article 139. Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation

1. The Member States undertake to conduct effective and comprehensive investigations into aircraft accidents and incidents with a view to enhancing the technical conditions for the safe delivery of air transport services.
2. The Member States shall, to the extent practicable, make available appropriate equipment, facilities and personnel to assist in the investigation of aircraft accidents or incidents which occur within the Community and take effective measures to protect the property of victims, relevant evidence and the crash site from interference and unauthorised entry.
3. The Member States shall collaborate with third States and competent international organisations in the conduct of aircraft accident investigations.

Article 140. Development of Maritime Transport Services

1. The Member States shall co-operate in the development of maritime transport services in the Community. In particular, the Member States shall co-operate in:
 - (a) enhancing flag and port State control activities in the Region;
 - (b) developing and providing expertise in the shipping industry, including the necessary services and infrastructure necessary for the growth of the shipping sector;
 - (c) protecting the marine environment from the effects of vessel source pollution and in combating the effects of such pollution; and
 - (d) taking any other action necessary for the sustainable development of the shipping sector.
2. The Community shall co-operate with competent national, regional and international organisations in establishing conditions for the provision of efficient and affordable maritime transport services among the Member States.
3. COTED shall promote co-operation among the Member States in the implementation of relevant international maritime instruments relating to maritime safety, marine environmental protection, maritime accident investigation and the facilitation of maritime traffic.

4. COTED shall promote and co-ordinate the development of maritime transport services in the Community through, *inter alia*:

- (a) the development of proposals for the establishment and upgrade of small vessel enterprises in the Community;
- (b) the establishment of a regime of incentives to encourage the development of shipping enterprises in the Community;
- (c) measures for the establishment, improvement and rationalisation of port facilities in the Community, to respond to the demands of containerisation, refrigeration and storage of agricultural commodities, nautical and cruise tourism and other special and dedicated services;
- (d) co-operation and regular interchange among administrations to promote a harmonised system for the development of maritime transport in the Community;
- (e) promotion of joint ventures among Community nationals and with extra- regional shipping enterprises to facilitate the transfer of appropriate technology and increase the participation of the Member States in international shipping;
- (f) the organisation and harmonisation of training programmes within the Community, the strengthening of the capabilities of training institutions and the ease of access of Community nationals to all aspects of training and development in the shipping industry; and
- (g) measures for the development of ancillary services in the shipping industry, including non-vessel operating common carriers, marine insurance, freight forwarding, transshipment and other services.

5. The Member States shall promote the development of maritime transport services in the Community through, *inter alia*:

- (a) the establishment and improvement of port facilities;
- (b) the establishment of effective maritime administrations for the regulation of shipping in the respective jurisdictions of maritime safety and marine environmental protection;
- (c) the implementation of relevant international maritime instruments related to the safety of shipping and the prevention of vessel source pollution; and
- (d) encouraging improved efficiency in ports and in related services to reduce maritime transportation costs.

Article 141. Special Status of the Caribbean Sea

The Member States shall co-operate in achieving international recognition for the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area requiring protection from the potentially harmful effects of the transit of nuclear and other hazardous wastes, dumping, pollution by oil or by any other substance carried by sea or wastes generated through the conduct of ship operations.

Chapter SEVEN. Disadvantaged Countries, Regions and Sectors

Part ONE. PRELIMINARY

Article 142. Scope of Application

1. The provisions of this Chapter shall have effect for the purpose of establishing a regime for disadvantaged countries, regions or sectors within the framework of the Treaty as well as a special regime for the Less Developed Countries in order to enhance their prospects for successful competition within the Community, and redress, to the extent possible, any negative impact of the establishment of the CSME.
2. As soon as practicable after the entry into force of this Treaty, the Conference shall, on the recommendation of the Community Council and in accordance with Article 1, designate disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors and may, from time to time, make such further designations or terminate such designations as circumstances warrant.
3. Wherever in this Treaty reference is made to disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors or to the Less Developed Countries, the Organs of the Community shall take the measures required to give effect to the spirit and intent of this Chapter.

Article 143. Objective of the Regimes

1. the objective of the regimes mentioned in article 142 is to assist the disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors towards becoming economically viable and competitive by appropriate interventions of a transitional or temporary nature.
2. The interventions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article may include:
 - (a) technical and financial assistance to address economic dislocation arising from the operation of the CSME;
 - (b) special measures to attract investment and industries;
 - (c) transitional or temporary arrangements to ameliorate or arrest adverse economic and social impact arising from the operation of the CSME;
 - (d) special measures to assist industries to become efficient and competitive;
 - (e) assistance intended to achieve structural diversification and infrastructural development;
 - (f) assistance to economic enterprises disadvantaged by the removal of intraregional barriers;
 - (g) the establishment of mechanisms to monitor, and assist in the discharge of, obligations assumed under the Treaty and other international trade agreements.

Article 144. Implementation of Measures

Subject to the authority of the Conference, COTED and COFAP., as appropriate, shall establish, administer and monitor the measures identified in Article 143.

Article 145. Review of Measures

1. The Community Council shall review, as appropriate, the effectiveness of measures taken pursuant to this Chapter and take such action as may be necessary to achieve the objective set out in Article 143, and shall submit a report thereon to the Conference.
2. The review shall include an examination of relevant programmes and support measures in order to determine their efficacy as a basis for their termination or modification as the case may be.

Part TWO. REGIME FOR DISADVANTAGED COUNTRIES, REGIONS AND SECTORS

Article 146. Measures to Redress Disadvantage Arising from Economic Dislocation

1. The Member States agree that where economic dislocation arising from the operation of the CSME occurs, and notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in this Treaty, COTED may, as the case may require on a temporary basis and subject to Article 144, adopt effective measures to arrest or mitigate adverse effects on economic activity. Such measures may include the grant of incentives to address the dislocation and shall be without prejudice to any incentives provided for in Articles 52 and 69.
2. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in this Treaty, the measures mentioned in this Article may, where necessary, provide for temporary derogations from rights and obligations set out in the Treaty.
3. COTED shall periodically examine the impact of the measures mentioned in Paragraph 2 with a view to determining their adequacy and establishing a time-frame for their discontinuance.
4. The Member States shall co-operate with the Community Organs in implementing the measures mentioned in paragraph 2 of this Article and shall take the action required to secure compliance therewith.

Article 147. Promotion of Investment

COFAP shall promote investment in disadvantaged countries by, *inter alia*, facilitating:

- (a) the establishment of joint ventures among nationals of disadvantaged countries as well as between nationals of disadvantaged countries and nationals of other Member States;

- (b) the establishment of joint ventures between nationals of disadvantaged countries and nationals of third countries;
- (c) investment for economic diversification including diversification of the agricultural sector;
- (d) research, development and the transfer of technology in the development of disadvantaged countries; and
- (e) capital flows from other Member States to disadvantaged countries through the conclusion of double taxation agreements and appropriate policy instruments.

Article 148. Measures Relating to the Services Sector

1. COTED, in establishing the programme for removal of restrictions by Member States on the provision of services in the Community mentioned in paragraph 2 of Article 37 shall give due consideration to the peculiar economic vulnerability of disadvantaged countries, bearing in mind Article 49.
2. Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions set out in paragraph 1 of this Article, COTED shall, in establishing the said programme, determine in respect of disadvantaged countries:
 - (a) a list of services in respect of which national treatment may not be applied for a specified period of time;
 - (b) the manner in which restrictions on services not mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph shall be removed:

Provided that such disadvantaged countries shall accord the Member States rights no more restrictive than those accorded to other parties of the WTO under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

Article 149. Measures Relating to the Right of Establishment

1. COTED shall take appropriate measures to ensure that, in establishing the programme for the removal of restrictions by the Member States on the right of establishment in the Community mentioned in paragraph 3 of Article 33, the peculiar economic vulnerability of disadvantaged countries in the Community is taken into account, bearing in mind Article 49.
2. Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, COTED shall, in establishing the said programme, determine in respect of disadvantaged countries:
 - (a) a list of economic activities in respect of which national treatment may not be accorded to persons exercising the right of establishment for a specified period of time;
 - (b) the manner in which restrictions on the right of establishment in respect of economic activities not mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph shall be removed:

Provided that such disadvantaged countries shall accord to the Member States rights of establishment no more restrictive than those accorded to third States.

Article 150. Safeguard Measures

1. Where, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 92, a disadvantaged country establishes an entitlement to limit imports of goods from other Member States, then, notwithstanding any other provisions to the contrary in this Treaty, the disadvantaged country may limit such imports for a period of up to three (3) years unless COTED authorises the limitation for a longer period and take such other measures as COTED may authorise.
2. A disadvantaged country applying restrictions in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article shall notify them to COTED, if possible, before they come into force. COTED may, at any time, consider those restrictions and shall, in light of such consideration, make recommendations designed to moderate any damaging effect of such restrictions or to assist the disadvantaged country to overcome its difficulties.
3. Nothing in this Treaty shall be construed as entitling any Member State to apply safeguard measures against the products of Community origin of a disadvantaged country where such products do not exceed 20 per cent of the market of the importing Member State.

Article 151. Support for Sensitive Industries

1. COTED may authorise a Member State having a sensitive industry which can be disadvantaged by the operation of the

CSME to suspend Community treatment to products of other Member States.

2. The suspension authorised in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be granted upon application to COTED in that behalf where the applicant establishes that the product is from a sensitive industry.

3. For the purpose of this Article, an industry may be considered to be sensitive by reason of its vulnerable nature and:

(a) the significance of its contribution to, *inter alia*:

(i) Gross Domestic Product;

(ii) employment;

(iii) foreign exchange earnings; or

(b) its designation as vital within the national industrial policy.

4. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Treaty, a disadvantaged country may, for the period of suspension decided upon by COTED, suspend Community treatment in respect of imports of like description from the Member State granted the suspension.

5. COTED, in authorising the suspension mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article may impose terms and conditions for the grant of the suspension.

6. COTED shall monitor the progress of the industry concerned and undertake a Periodic review.

Article 152. Public Undertakings

Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in this Treaty, disadvantaged countries may, with the prior approval of COTED, maintain, in respect of public undertakings, measures, the effect of which is to afford support to domestic production where such measures are in the form of:

(a) a duty or charge having equivalent effect; or

(b) quantitative restrictions.

Article 153. Use of Technological and Research Facilities In Member States

1. The Member States undertake to provide opportunities for access to their technological and research facilities by nationals of disadvantaged countries.

2. COTED shall encourage close collaboration between research institutions and facilities located in disadvantaged countries with others located in other Member States.

Article 154. Promotion of Development

1. COTED shall promote the establishment of infrastructure in a disadvantaged country, region or sector to encourage or stimulate economic activity.

2. COTED may also adopt measures for the establishment of new industries or for the retooling or expansion of existing industries in a disadvantaged country, region or sector.

Article 155. Special Provisions for Guyana

Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in this Treaty, Guyana shall be allowed, for as long as it continues to benefit from wheat imports under PL 480 Agreements with the United States of America, to impose quantitative restrictions on the importation of wheat flour.

Article 156. Application of the Special Regime to Highly- Indebted Poor Countries

COTED shall to the extent necessary and for a period to be determined, apply the Provisions of the Special Regime for the less developed countries to Highly-indebted Poor Countries.

Article 157. Technical and Financial Assistance

1. As soon as practicable after the entry into force of this Treaty, the Community Council shall, in collaboration with other competent Organs of the Community, make adequate arrangements to extend to disadvantaged countries, regions and

sectors such technical and financial assistance as may be required to allow them to participate effectively in the CSME and to administer international trade agreements.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article, COTED shall evaluate the need for technical and financial assistance to disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors, and promote and facilitate appropriate programmes and projects. Such assistance may include:

- (a) grants or access to low-cost financing;
- (b) preparation of project proposals for financing;
- (c) performance guarantees and other guarantees to enterprises;
- (d) accessing technology including information technology;
- (e) product design or quality enhancement; a factory design and market development.

3. Technical assistance within the meaning of this Article may also include:

- (a) assistance to establish or upgrade national standardising bodies;
- (b) assistance to countries to advance their diversification programmes,
- (c) Professional assistance in meeting obligations under trade-related agreements;
- (d) assistance to establish institutions or centres for the training or retraining of employees as the case may require;
- (e) Provision of relevant expertise to formulate a legal policy framework conducive to fair trading and fair competition;
- (f) Professional expertise in espousing and defending claims arising in connection with the WTO Agreement and other trade-related agreements;
- (g) Professional assistance in preparing for disputes resolution arising in connection with trade-related agreements;
- (h) professional assistance in preparing legislation.

4. The evaluation mentioned in paragraph 2 of this Article may be undertaken by COTED on its own initiative, or in response to an application for assistance issuing from a Member State.

5. COTED shall, from time to time, examine the impact of the measures mentioned in Paragraph 2 with a view to determining their adequacy and establishing a time-frame for their discontinuance.

Article 158. The Development Fund

1. There is hereby established a Development Fund for the purpose of providing financial or technical assistance to disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors.

2. Subject to the provisions of this Article and relevant provisions of this Treaty, the Community Council, in collaboration with COFAP, shall:

- (a) determine the status, composition and functions of the Development Fund;
- (b) determine the contributions of the Member States to the Development Fund.

3. The Development Fund may accept subventions from public or private sector entities of the Member States or from other entities external to the Community. Subventions shall not be accepted nor applied by the Development Fund on conditions which discriminate against Member States, regions or sectors except in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty.

Article 159. Saving

Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as disentitling a disadvantaged country, region or sector, being the beneficiary of any other technical assistance programme, from simultaneously benefiting from technical assistance pursuant to the provisions herein set forth.

Part THREE. SPECIAL REGIME FOR LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Article 160. Import Duties

Where a less developed country has suffered or is likely to suffer loss of revenue as a result of the importation of goods eligible for Community treatment, COTED may, on application made in that behalf by the less developed country, authorise the imposition of import duties on such goods for such time and on such terms and conditions as COTED may decide.

Article 161. Community Origin

The Member States agree that in the determination and operation of the criterion of substantial transformation pursuant to Article 84, the special needs of the less developed countries shall be taken into account.

Article 162. Incentive Regimes

The Member States agree that in the establishment of any programme for incentives in the Community provided for in Article 52 and Article 69, the special needs of the less developed countries shall be taken into account.

Article 163. The Common External Tariff

The Member States agree that in the implementation of the Common External Tariff Provided for in Article 82, the special needs of the less developed countries shall be taken into account.

Article 164. Promotion of Industrial Development

1. Upon application made in that behalf by the less developed countries, COTED may, if necessary, as a temporary measure in order to promote the development of an industry in any of these States, authorise such States to suspend Community origin treatment to any description of imports eligible therefor on grounds of production in one or more less developed countries.

2. COTED may, in taking decisions pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article, establish terms and conditions including a phasing-out period during which Member States and the Community shall provide support measures and the industry implement the necessary programmes for achieving competitiveness.

3. The grant of authorisation pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article shall be by means of a decision supported by the affirmative votes of all the less developed countries and at least two of the more developed countries.

Article 165. Public Undertakings

Paragraph 1 of Article 94 Shall Not Apply to the Less Developed Countries.

Article 166. Use of Technological and Research Facilities

The more developed countries undertake to provide opportunities for the use of their technological and research facilities by the less developed countries.

Article 167. Special Provisions for Belize

Belize shall be allowed to impose import duties or quantitative restrictions on beer and cigarettes produced in the Community for a period ending 31 December 2000.

Chapter EIGHT. Competition Policy and Consumer Protection

Part ONE. RULES OF COMPETITION

Article 168. Scope of Chapter

The rules of competition shall not apply to -

- (a) combinations or activities of employees for their own reasonable protection as employees;
- (b) arrangements for collective bargaining on behalf of employers or employees for the purpose of fixing terms and conditions of employment;

- (c) business conduct within the meaning of Article 177 duly notified to COTED in accordance with Article 170;
- (d) negative clearance rulings within the meaning of Article 180 or exemptions within the meaning of Articles 181 and 183;
- (e) activities of professional associations designed to develop or enforce Professional standards of competence reasonably necessary for the Protection of the public and approved by the Commission.

Article 169. Objectives of Community Competition Policy

1. The goal of the community competition policy shall be to ensure that the benefits expected from the establishment of the csme are not frustrated by anti-competitive business conduct.
2. in fulfilment of the goal set out in paragraph 1 of this article, the community shall pursue the following objectives:(a) the promotion and maintenance of competition and enhancement of economic efficiency in production, trade and commerce;
- (b) subject to this Treaty, the prohibition of anti-competitive business conduct which prevents, restricts or distorts competition or which constitutes the abuse of a dominant position in the market; and
- (c) the promotion of consumer welfare and protection of consumer interests.

Article 170. Implementation of Community Competition Policy

1. In order to achieve the objectives of the Community Competition Policy,
 - (a) the Community shall:
 - (i) subject to Articles 164, 177, 178 and 179 of this Treaty, establish appropriate norms and institutional arrangements to prohibit and penalise anti-competitive business conduct; and
 - (ii) establish and maintain information systems to enable enterprises and consumers to be kept informed about the operation of markets within the CSME;
 - (b) the Member States shall:
 - (i) take the necessary legislative measures to ensure consistency and compliance with the rules of competition and provide penalties for anti-competitive business conduct;
 - (ii) Provide for the dissemination of relevant information to facilitate consumer choice;
 - (iii) establish and maintain institutional arrangements and administrative procedures to enforce competition laws; and
 - (iv) take effective measures to ensure access by nationals of other Member States to competent enforcement authorities including the courts on an equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory basis.
2. Every Member State shall establish and maintain a national competition authority for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the rules of competition.
3. Every Member State shall require its national competition authority to:
 - (a) co-operate with the Commission in achieving compliance with the rules of competition;
 - (b) investigate any allegations of anti-competitive business conduct referred to the authority by the Commission or another Member State; .
 - (c) co-operate with other national competition authorities in the detection and Prevention of anti-competitive business conduct, and the exchange of information relating to such conduct.
4. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as requiring a Member State to disclose confidential information, the disclosure of which would be prejudicial to the public interest or to the legitimate commercial interest of enterprises, public or private. Confidential or proprietary information disclosed in the course of an investigation shall be treated on the same basis as that on which it was provided.
5. Within 24 months of the entry into force of this Treaty, the Member States shall notify COTED of existing legislation, agreements and administrative practices inconsistent with the Provisions of this Chapter. Within 36 months of entry into force of this Treaty, COTED shall establish a programme providing for the repeal of such legislation, and termination of agreements and administrative practices.

Article 171. Establishment of the Competition Commission

For the purposes of implementation of the Community Competition Policy, there is hereby established a Competition Commission (hereinafter called "the Commission") having the composition, functions and powers hereinafter set forth.

Article 172. Composition of the Commission

1. The Commission shall comprise seven members appointed by the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission to serve on the Commission. The Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission shall appoint a Chairman from among the members so appointed.
2. The Commission shall comprise persons, collectively having expertise or experience in commerce, finance, economics, law, competition policy and practice, international trade and such other areas of expertise or experience as may be necessary.
3. A Commissioner shall be appointed for a term of five years and such appointment may be renewed for a further period of not more than five years as determined by the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission.
4. A Commissioner may be removed from office only for inability to perform the functions of his office or for misbehaviour and shall otherwise be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission.
5. A Commissioner shall be removed only on the vote of the Judicial and Legal Services Commission that represents not less than three-quarters of all the Members of the Commission.
6. A Commissioner may at any time resign the office of Commissioner by writing under his hand addressed to the Chairman of the Judicial and Legal Services Commission.
7. A Commissioner shall not enter upon the duties of the office unless he has taken and subscribed before the Chairman of the Judicial and Legal Services Commission, the Oath of Office set out in the Annex to this Treaty.
8. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Article, the Conference shall on the recommendation of COTED execute the functions required to be carried out by the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission where the Parties to the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice are less than seven.

Article 173. Functions of the Commission

1. the commission shall:
 - (a) apply the rules of competition in respect of anti-competitive cross-border business conduct;
 - (b) promote and protect competition in the Community and co-ordinate the implementation of the Community Competition Policy; and
 - (c) perform any other function conferred on it by any competent body of the Community.
2. In discharging the functions set out in paragraph 1, the Commission shall:
 - (a) monitor anti-competitive practices of enterprises operating in the CSME, and investigate and arbitrate cross-border disputes;
 - (b) keep the Community Competition Policy under review and advise and make recommendations to COTED to enhance its effectiveness;
 - (c) Promote the establishment of institutions and the development and implementation of harmonised competition laws and practices by the Member States to achieve uniformity in the administration of applicable rules;
 - (d) review the progress made by the Member States in the implementation of the legal and institutional framework for enforcement;
 - (e) co-operate with competent authorities in the Member States;
 - (f) provide support to the Member States in promoting and protecting consumer welfare;
 - (g) facilitate the exchange of relevant information and expertise; and

(h) develop and disseminate information about competition policy, and consumer protection policy.

3. The Commission may, by directions in writing and subject to such conditions as it thinks fit, delegate any of its functions to one or more of its members.

Article 174. Powers of the Commission

1. Subject to Articles 175 and 176, the Commission may, in respect of cross-border transactions or transactions with cross-border effects, monitor, investigate, detect, make determinations or take action to inhibit and penalise enterprises whose business conduct prejudices trade or prevents, restricts or distorts competition within the CSME.

2. The Commission may, in accordance with applicable national laws, in the conduct of its investigations:

- (a) secure the attendance of any person before it to give evidence;
- (b) require the discovery or production of any document or part thereof, and
- (c) take such other action as may be necessary in furtherance of the investigation.

3. The Commission may, on the basis of its investigations, make determinations regarding the compatibility of business conduct with the rules of competition and other related provisions of the Treaty.

4. The Commission shall, to the extent required to remedy or penalise anti-competitive business conduct referred to in Article 177:

(b) order the termination or nullification as the case may require, of agreements, conduct, activities or decisions prohibited by Article 170;

(c) direct the enterprise to cease and desist from anti-competitive business conduct and to take such steps as are necessary to overcome the effects of abuse of its dominant position in the market, or any other business conduct inconsistent with the principles of fair competition set out in this Chapter;

- (i) order payment of compensation to persons affected; and
- (ii) impose fines for breaches of the rules of competition.

5. the commission may enter into such arrangements for the provision of services as may be necessary for the efficient performance of its functions.

6. The Member States shall enact legislation to ensure that determinations of the Commission are enforceable in their jurisdictions.

7. The Commission may establish its own rules of procedure.

Article 175. Determination of Anti-Competitive Business Conduct: Procedure of Commission on Request

1. A Member State may request an investigation referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 174 where it has reason to believe that business conduct by an enterprise located in another Member State prejudices trade and prevents, restricts or distorts competition in the territory of the requesting Member State.

2. Where COTED has reason to believe that business conduct by an enterprise in the CSME prejudices trade and prevents, restricts or distorts competition within the CSME and has or is likely to have cross-border effects, COTED may request an investigation referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 174.

3. Requests under paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be in writing and shall disclose sufficient information for the Commission to make a preliminary assessment whether it should proceed with the investigation.

4. Upon receipt of a request mentioned in paragraph 3, the Commission shall consult with the interested parties and shall determine on the basis of such consultations whether:

- (a) the investigation is within the jurisdiction of the Commission; and
- (b) the investigation is justified in all the circumstances of the case.

5. The consultations shall be concluded within 30 days of the date of receipt of the request for the investigation, unless the parties agree to continue the consultations for a longer period.

6. Where the Commission decides to conduct the investigation, the Commission shall:

(a) notify the interested parties and COTED;

(b) complete the investigation within 120 days from the date of receipt of the request for the investigation; and

(c) where the circumstances so warrant, extend the time period for completion of the investigation and notify the interested parties.

7. Where the Commission decides to conduct an enquiry following an investigation, the Commission shall afford any party complained of the opportunity to defend its interest.

8. At the conclusion of an enquiry, the Commission shall notify the interested parties of its determination.

9. Where the Commission determines that a party has engaged in anti-competitive business conduct, it shall also require the party to take the action necessary to remove the effects of the anti-competitive business conduct.

10. Where a specific course of action is required under paragraph 9, the enterprise concerned shall take the appropriate course of action within 30 days of the date of notification. If the concerned enterprise cannot comply, it shall notify the Commission and request an extension.

11. If the enterprise cannot comply within the time period specified and fails to inform the Commission, the Commission may apply to the Court for an order.

12. A party which is aggrieved by a determination of the Commission under paragraph 4 of Article 174 in any matter may apply to the Court for a review of that determination.

Article 176. Determination of Anti-competitive Business Conduct: Procedure of Commission Proprio Motu

1. Where the Commission has reason to believe that business conduct by an enterprise in the CSME prejudices trade and prevents, restricts, or distorts competition within the CSME and has cross-border effects, the Commission shall request the national competition authority to undertake a preliminary examination of the business conduct of the enterprise.

2. Where a request is made under paragraph 1, the national competition authority shall examine the matter and report its findings to the Commission within such time as may be determined by the Commission.

3. Where the Commission is not satisfied with the outcome of its request, the Commission may initiate its own preliminary examination into the business conduct of the enterprise referred to in paragraph 1.

4. Where the findings of the preliminary examination under paragraphs 2 and 3 require investigation, the Commission and the Member State concerned shall hold consultations to determine and agree on who should have jurisdiction to investigate.

5. If there is a difference of opinion between the Commission and the Member State regarding the nature and effects of the business conduct or the jurisdiction of the investigating authority, the Commission shall:

(a) cease any further examination of the matter; and

(b) refer the matter to COTED for its decision.

6. Nothing in this Article shall prejudice the right of the Member State to initiate proceedings before the Court at any time.

7. Where there is a finding that the Commission has jurisdiction to investigate the matter, the Commission shall follow the procedures set out in paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Article 175.

Article 177. Prohibition of Anti-competitive Business Conduct

1. A Member State shall, within its jurisdiction, prohibit as being anti-competitive business conduct, the following:

(a) agreements between enterprises, decisions by associations of enterprises, and concerted practices by enterprises which have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the Community;

(b) actions by which an enterprise abuses its dominant position within the Community; or

(c) any other like conduct by enterprises whose object or effect is to frustrate the benefits expected from the establishment of the CSME.

2. Anti-competitive business conduct within the meaning of paragraph 1 includes the following:

- (a) the direct or indirect fixing of purchase or selling prices,
- (b) the limitation or control of production, markets, investment or technical development;
- (c) the artificial dividing up of markets or restriction of supply sources;
- (d) the application of unequal conditions to parties undertaking equivalent engagements in commercial transactions thereby causing a competitive disadvantage;
- (e) making the conclusion of a contract subject to the acceptance by the other Party to the contract of additional obligations which, by their nature or according to commercial practice, have no connection with the subject matter of the contract;
- (f) unauthorised denial of access to networks or essential infrastructure;
- (g) predatory pricing;
- (h) Price discrimination;
- (i) loyalty discounts or concessions;
- (j) exclusionary vertical restrictions; and
- (k) bid-rigging.

3. Subject to Article 168, a Member State shall ensure that all agreements and decisions within the meaning of paragraph 1 of this Article shall be null and void within its jurisdiction.

4. An enterprise shall not be treated as engaging in anti-competitive business conduct if it establishes that the activity complained of:

- (a) contributes to:
 - (i) the improvement of production or distribution of goods and services; or
 - (ii) the promotion of technical or economic progress, while allowing consumers a fair share of the resulting benefit;
- (b) imposes on the enterprises affected only such restrictions as are indispensable to the attainment of the objectives mentioned in sub- paragraph (a); or
- (c) does not afford the enterprise engaged in the activity the possibility of eliminating competition in respect of a substantial part of the market for goods or services concerned.

Article 178. Determination of Dominant Position for the Purposes of this Chapter:

- (a) an enterprise holds a dominant position in a market if by itself or together with an interconnected enterprise, it occupies such a position of economic strength as will enable it to operate in the market without effective constraints from its competitors or potential competitors;
- (b) any two enterprises shall be treated as interconnected enterprises if one of them is a subsidiary of the other or both of them are subsidiaries of the same parent enterprise.

Article 179. Abuse of a Dominant Position

Subject to paragraph 2 of this article, an enterprise abuses its dominant position in a market if it prevents, restricts or distorts competition in the market and, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, it:

- (a) restricts the entry of any enterprise into a market;
- (b) prevents or deters any enterprise from engaging in competition in a market;
- (c) eliminates or removes any enterprise from a market;
- (d) directly or indirectly imposes unfair purchase or selling prices or other restrictive practices;
- (e) limits the production of goods or services for a market to the prejudice of consumers;
- (f) as a party to an agreement, makes the conclusion of such agreement subject to acceptance by another party of supplementary obligations which, by their nature or according to commercial usage, have no connection with the subject of

the agreement;

(g) engages in any business conduct that results in the exploitation of its customers or suppliers, so as to frustrate the benefits expected from the establishment of the CSME. that:

2. In determining whether an enterprise has abused its dominant position, consideration shall be given to:

(a) the relevant market defined in terms of the product and the geographic context;

(b) the concentration level before and after the relevant activity of the enterprise measured in terms of annual sales volume, the value of assets and the value of the transaction;

(c) the level of competition among the participants in terms of number of competitors, production capacity and product demand;

(d) the barriers to entry of competitors; and

(e) the history of competition and rivalry between participants in the sector of activity.

3. An enterprise shall not be treated as abusing its dominant position if it establishes

(a) its behaviour was directed exclusively to increasing efficiency in the Production, provision or distribution of goods or services or to promoting technical or economic progress and that consumers were allowed a fair share of the resulting benefit;

(b) it reasonably enforces or seeks to enforce a right under or existing by virtue of a copyright, patent, registered trade mark or design; or

(c) the effect or likely effect of its behaviour on the market is the result of superior competitive performance of the enterprise concerned.

Article 180. Negative Clearance Rulings

1. In any case where a Member States is uncertain whether business conduct is prohibited by paragraph 1 of Article 177, such a Member State may apply to the Commission for a ruling on the matter. If the Commission determines that such conduct is not prohibited by paragraph 1 of Article 177, it shall issue a negative clearance ruling to this effect.

2. Subject to paragraph 3, a negative clearance ruling shall be conclusive of the matters stated therein in any judicial proceedings in the Community.

3. The Court may, on an application of the Commission, review a decision of the Commission where the decision was induced by deceit or improper means.

Article 181. De Minimis Rule

The Commission may exempt from the provisions of this Part any business conduct referred to it if it considers that the impact of such conduct on competition and trade in the CSME is minimal.

Article 182. Powers of the Coted Respecting Community Competition Policy and Rules

Subject fo this Treaty, COTED shall develop and establish appropriate policies and rules of competition within the Community including special rules for particular sectors.

Article 183. Exemptions

1. Where COTED determines, pursuant to Article 182, that special rules shall apply to specific sectors of the Community, it may suspend or exclude the application of Article 177 to such sectors pending adoption of the relevant rules.

2. COTED may, on its own initiative or pursuant to an application by a Member State in that behalf, exclude or suspend the application of Article 177 to any sector or any enterprise or group of enterprises in the public interest.

Part TWO. CONSUMER PROTECTION

Article 184. Promotion of Consumer Interests In the Community

1. The Member States shall promote the interests of consumers in the Community by appropriate measures that:

- (a) Provide for the production and supply of goods and the provision of services to ensure the protection of life, health and safety of consumers;
- (b) ensure that goods supplied and services provided in the CSME satisfy regulations, standards, codes and licensing requirements established or approved by competent bodies in the Community;
- (c) Provide, where the regulations, standards, codes and licensing requirements referred to in paragraph (b) do not exist, for their establishment and implementation;
- (d) encourage high levels of ethical conduct for those engaged in the production and distribution of goods and services to consumers;
- (e) encourage fair and effective competition in order to provide consumers with greater choice among goods and services at lowest cost;
- (f) promote the provision of adequate information to consumers to enable the making of informed choices;
- (g) ensure the availability of adequate information and education programmes for consumers and suppliers;
- (h) protect consumers by prohibiting discrimination against producers and suppliers of goods produced in the Community and against service providers who are nationals of other Member States of the Community;
- (i) encourage the development of independent consumer organisations;
- (j) provide adequate and effective redress for consumers.

2. For the purpose of this Part,

"consumer" means any person:

- (a) to whom goods or services are supplied or intended to be supplied in the course of business carried on by a supplier or potential supplier; and
- (b) who does not receive the goods or services in the course of a business carried on by him.

Article 185. Protection of Consumer Interests In the Community

The Member States shall enact harmonised legislation to provide, *inter alia*:

- (a) for the fundamental terms of a contract and the implied obligations of parties to a contract for the supply of goods or services;
- (b) for the prohibition of the inclusion of unconscionable terms in contracts for the sale and supply of goods or services to consumers;
- (c) for the prohibition of unfair trading practices, particularly such practices relating to misleading or deceptive or fraudulent conduct;
- (d) for the prohibition of production and supply of harmful and defective goods and for the adoption of measures to prevent the supply or sale of such goods including measures requiring the removal of defective goods from the market;
- (e) that the provision of services is in compliance with the applicable regulations, standards, codes and licensing requirements;
- (f) that goods supplied to consumers are labelled in accordance with standards and specifications prescribed by the competent authorities;
- (g) that hazardous or other goods whose distribution and consumption are regulated by law are sold or supplied in accordance with applicable regulations;
- (h) that goods or materials, the production or use of which is likely to result in potentially harmful environmental effects, are labelled and supplied in accordance with applicable standards and regulations;

(i) that producers and suppliers are liable for defects in goods and for violation of product standards and consumer safety standards which occasion loss or damage to consumers;

(j) that violations of consumer safety standards by producers or suppliers are appropriately sanctioned and relevant civil or criminal defences to such violations are available to defendants.

Article 186. Action by the Commission to Provide Support In the Promotion of Consumer Welfare and Protection of Consumer Interests

1. The Commission shall, for the purpose of providing support to the Member States in the enhancement of consumer education and consumer welfare:

(a) promote in the Community the elaboration, publication and adoption of fair contract terms between suppliers and consumers of goods and services Produced or traded in the CSME;

(b) take such measures as it considers necessary to ensure that the Member States discourage and eliminate unfair trading practices, including misleading or deceptive conduct, false advertising, bait advertising, referral selling and pyramid selling;

(c) Promote in the Member States product safety standards as part of a programme of consumer education in order to assist the consumer to make informed choices concerning the purchase of consumer goods;

(d) keep under review the carrying on of commercial activities in the Member States which relate to goods supplied to consumers in such States or Produced with a view to their being so supplied, or which relate to services supplied for consumers with a view to identifying practices which may adversely affect the interests of consumers;

(e) educate and guide consumers generally in the practical resolution of their problems and in the best use of their income and credit, using such techniques and means of communications as are available;

(f) confer, on request, with consumer organisations of the Member States and offer such advice and information as may be appropriate for the resolution of their consumer problems;

(g) establish the necessary co-ordination with government agencies and departments for the effective education and guidance of consumers having regard to the programmes, activities and resources of each agency or department;

(h) conduct research and collect and collate information in respect of matters affecting the interests of consumers;

(i) compile, evaluate and publicise enactments for the protection of consumers in such States and recommend to COTED the enactment of legislation considered necessary or desirable for the protection of consumers;

(j) promote, after consultation with the competent standardising agency and other public and private agencies or organisations, the establishment of quality standards for consumer products;

(k) promote and monitor, after consultation with relevant agencies and departments of Government, the enforcement of legislation affecting the interests of consumers, including, but not limited to, legislation relating to weights and measures, food and drugs adulteration, the control of standards and price controls;

(l) make recommendations to COTED for the enactment of legislation by the Member States for the effective enforcement of the rights of consumers.

2. The Commission shall:

(a) draw to the attention of COTED business conduct by enterprises which impacts adversely on consumer welfare;

(b) collaborate with competent Organs of the Community to promote consumer education and consumer welfare.

Chapter Chapter Nine Disputes Settlement

Article 187. Scope of the Chapter

The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation and application of the Treaty, including:

(a) allegations that an actual or proposed measure of another Member State is, or would be, inconsistent with the objectives of the Community;

(b) allegations of injury, serious prejudice suffered or likely to be suffered, nullification or impairment of benefits expected from the establishment and operation of the CSME;

(c) allegations that an organ or body of the Community has acted ultra vires; or

(d) allegations that the purpose or object of the Treaty is being frustrated or prejudiced.

Article 188. Modes of Dispute Settlement

1. Subject to the provisions of this Treaty, the disputes mentioned in Article 187 shall be settled only by recourse to any one of the following modes for the settlement of disputes, namely, good offices, mediation, consultations, conciliation, arbitration and adjudication.

2. Where a dispute has not been settled following the adoption of one of the modes referred to in paragraph 1 other than arbitration or adjudication, either party may have recourse to another mode.

3. Subject to the procedural rules applicable in respect of arbitration or adjudication, the Parties may agree, pending a settlement, to have recourse to good offices, mediation or conciliation in order to arrive at a settlement.

4. Without prejudice to the exclusive and compulsory jurisdiction of the Court in the interpretation and application of this Treaty under Article 211, the parties may use any of the voluntary modes of dispute settlement provided for in this Article in the settlement of a dispute.

Article 189. Expeditious Settlement of Disputes

Where a dispute arises between Member States, the parties shall proceed expeditiously to an exchange of views for the purpose of agreeing on:

(a) a mode of settlement and where an agreed mode has been terminated, to another mode of settlement; or

(b) a mutually satisfactory method of implementation where a settlement has been reached and the circumstances require consultation regarding its implementation.

Article 190. Notification of Existence and Settlement of Disputes

1. Member States Parties to a Dispute Shall Notify the Secretary-general of:

(a) the Existence and Nature of the Dispute; and

(b) any mode of dispute settlement agreed upon or initiated.

2. Where a settlement is reached the Member States concerned shall notify the Secretary-General of the settlement and the mode used in arriving at the settlement.

3. The Secretary-General shall, as soon as practicable after receiving the information pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2, notify other Member States of the information received.

Article 191. Good Offices

1. Member States parties to a dispute may agree to employ the good offices of a third party, including those of the Secretary-General, to settle the dispute.

2. Good offices may begin or be terminated at any time. Subject to the procedural rules applicable in respect of arbitration or adjudication, good offices may continue during the course of arbitration or adjudication.

Article 192. Mediation

1. Where Member States parties to a dispute agree to settle the dispute by recourse to mediation, the parties may agree on a mediator or may request the Secretary-General to appoint a mediator from the list of conciliators mentioned in Article 196.

2. Mediation may begin or be terminated at any time. Subject to the procedural rules applicable in respect of arbitration or adjudication, mediation may continue during the course of arbitration or adjudication.

3. Proceedings involving mediation and, in particular, positions taken by parties during the proceedings, shall be confidential and without prejudice to the rights of the parties in any further Proceedings.

Article 193. Obligation to Enter Consultations

1. A Member State shall enter into consultations upon the request of another Member State where the requesting Member State alleges that an action taken by the requested Member State constitutes a breach of obligations arising from or under the provisions of this Treaty.

2. Where a request for consultations is made pursuant to paragraph 1, the requested Member State shall enter into consultations within 14 days of the receipt of the request or a mutually agreed period.

3. Where:

(a) consultations have not been entered into within the period referred to in Paragraph 2; or

(b) the consultations fail to settle the dispute within 45 days of the receipt of the request for consultations or the dates mutually agreed,

the requesting Member State may resort to any mode of dispute settlement including arbitration and adjudication.

4. Requests for consultations shall be in writing. The request shall state the reasons for the consultations and identify the measure at issue and the legal basis for the complaint.

5. The Secretary-General shall be notified of any request for consultations.

6. Consultations shall be confidential and without prejudice to the rights of the Member States in any further proceedings. However, before resorting to further proceedings, the Member States shall employ their best endeavours to settle the dispute.

7. In cases of urgency including those concerning perishable goods, the requested Member State shall enter into consultations within 3 days of the receipt of the request, and where such consultations are not entered into, the requesting Member State may resort to arbitration and adjudication.

8. Where consultations under paragraph 7 fail to settle the dispute within 7 days of the receipt of the request for such consultations, the requesting Member State may resort to arbitration and adjudication.

9. Whenever a Member State, other than the consulting Member States, considers that it has a legitimate interest in consultations being held pursuant to this Article, such Member State may notify the consulting Member States and the Secretary-General, within 10 days after the date of the circulation of the request for consultations, of its desire to be joined in the consultations. Such

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Member State shall be joined in the consultations, provided that the requested Member State agrees that the claim of legitimate interest is well-founded and based on similar facts and circumstances. In that event, the Member States concerned shall notify the Secretary-General. If the request to be joined in the consultations is not granted, the applicant Member State may request consultations under paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 194. Obligations of Consulting Parties

Where Member States parties to a dispute agree to settle the dispute by consultations, they shall endeavour to arrive at a mutually satisfactory settlement of the dispute through the consultations, and to this end shall:

(a) Provide sufficient information to enable a full examination of how the action complained of constitutes a breach of obligations arising from or under the Provisions of this Treaty referred to in Article 193; and

(b) treat any confidential or proprietary information exchanged in the course of consultations on the same basis as it is treated by the Member State Providing the information.

Article 195. Initiation of Conciliation Proceedings

Where Member States parties to a dispute have agreed to submit the dispute to conciliation under this Part, any such Member State may institute proceedings by notification addressed to the other party or parties to the dispute.

Article 196. Establishment of a List of Conciliators

1. A List of Conciliators shall be established and maintained by the Secretary-General. Every Member State shall be entitled to nominate two conciliators, each of whom shall be a person enjoying the highest reputation for fairness, competence and integrity. The names of the persons so nominated shall constitute the List. If at any time the number of conciliators nominated by a Member State is less than two, the Member State concerned shall be entitled to make such nominations as are necessary. The name of a conciliator shall remain on the List until withdrawn by the Member State which made the nomination and where a conciliator has been appointed to serve on any mediation or conciliation commission, the conciliator shall continue to serve on such commission until the completion of the relevant proceedings.

2. The term of a conciliator, including that of a conciliator appointed to fill a vacancy, shall be five (5) years and may be renewed.

Article 197. Constitution of Conciliation Commissiona Conciliation Commission Shall Be Constituted from Time to Time as Follows:

(a) subject to the provisions of this Article, a conciliation commission shall consist of three members;

(b) unless the parties otherwise agree, the party instituting the proceedings shall appoint one conciliator to be chosen from the List mentioned in Article 196. The conciliator appointed may be a national of the party making the appointment. Such an appointment shall be included in the notification mentioned in Article 195;

(c) the other party to the dispute shall appoint a conciliator in the manner set forth in sub-paragraph (b) within ten days of the notification referred to in Article 195. If the appointment is not made within that period, the party instituting the proceedings may, within one week of the expiration of that period, either terminate the proceedings by notification addressed to the other party or request the Secretary-General to make the appointment in accordance with sub-paragraph (e);

(d) within ten days after both conciliators have been appointed, they shall appoint a third conciliator chosen from the List referred to in Article 196, and who shall be the Chairman. If the appointment is not made within that period either party may, within the week of the expiration of that period, request the Secretary-General to make the appointment in accordance with sub-paragraph (e);

(e) within ten days of the receipt of a request under sub-paragraphs (c) and (d), the Secretary-General shall make the necessary appointments from the List referred to in Article 196 in consultation with the parties to the dispute;

(f) a any vacancy on a conciliation commission shall be filled in the manner prescribed for the initial appointment;

(g) two or more Member States parties to the dispute which determine by agreement that they are of the same interest shall appoint one conciliator jointly;

(h) in disputes involving more than two parties having separate interests, or where there is disagreement as to whether they are of the same interest, the Parties shall apply sub-paragraphs (a) to (f) in so far as may be possible.

Article 198. Amicable Settlement

A conciliation commission may draw to the attention of the Member States parties to the dispute any measures which might facilitate an amicable settlement of the dispute.

Article 199. Functions of Conciliation Commission

A conciliation commission shall hear the Member States parties to the dispute, examine their claims and objections, and make proposals to the parties with a view to reaching an amicable settlement.

Article 200. Procedure

1. A conciliation commission shall, unless the Member States parties to the dispute otherwise agree, determine its own procedure. A conciliation commission may, with the consent of the parties to the dispute, invite any Member State to submit its views to the commission, orally or in writing. The report and recommendations and decisions of the commission regarding procedural matters shall be made by a majority vote of its members.

2. The Member States parties to the dispute may, by agreement applicable solely to that dispute, modify the procedure referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 201. Report

1. a conciliation commission shall report within three months of its constitution. Its report shall record any agreements reached and, failing agreement, its conclusions on all questions of fact or law relevant to the matter in dispute and such recommendations as a conciliation commission may deem appropriate for an amicable settlement.

2. The conclusions or recommendations of a conciliation commission shall not be binding upon the parties.

Article 202. Termination

The conciliation proceedings shall be deemed to be terminated when a settlement has been reached, when the parties have accepted or one party has rejected the recommendations of the report by notification addressed to the Secretary-General, or when a period of one month has expired from the date of transmission of the report to the parties.

Article 203. Fees and Expenses

The fees and expenses of a conciliation commission shall be borne by the Member States parties to the dispute.

Article 204. Arbitration

A Member State party to a dispute may, with the consent of the other party, refer the matter to an arbitral tribunal constituted in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

Article 205. Constitution of the List of Arbitrators

1. For the purposes of constituting the arbitral tribunal referred to in Article 206, the Secretary-General shall establish and maintain a List of Arbitrators comprising persons chosen strictly on the basis of impartiality, reliability and sound judgment and who shall:

(a) have expertise or experience in law, international trade, other matters covered by this Treaty, or the settlement of disputes arising under international trade agreements;

(b) be independent of, and not be affiliated with or take instructions from any Member State; and

(c) comply with the Code of Judicial Conduct governing the behaviour of judges of the Court.

2. The term of an arbitrator, including that of any arbitrator nominated to fill a vacancy, shall be five years and may be renewed.

Article 206. Constitution of Arbitral Tribunal

1. Each of the Member States parties to a dispute shall be entitled to appoint one arbitrator from the List of Arbitrators. The two arbitrators chosen by the parties shall be appointed within fifteen days following the decision to refer the matter to arbitration. The two arbitrators shall, within fifteen days following the date of their appointments, appoint a third arbitrator from the List who shall be the Chairman. As far as practicable, the arbitrators shall not be nationals of any of the parties to the dispute.

2. Where either party to the dispute fails to appoint its arbitrator under paragraph 1, the Secretary-General shall appoint the arbitrator within ten days. Where the arbitrators fail to appoint a Chairman within the time prescribed, the Secretary-General shall appoint a Chairman within ten days.

3. Where more than two Member States are parties to a dispute, the parties concerned shall agree among themselves on the two arbitrators to be appointed from the List of Arbitrators within fifteen days following the decision to refer the matter to arbitration and the two arbitrators shall within fifteen days of their appointment appoint a third arbitrator from the List who shall be the Chairman.

4. Where no agreement is reached under paragraph three, the Secretary-General shall make the appointment within ten days and where the arbitrators fail to appoint a Chairman within the time prescribed the Secretary-General shall make the

appointment within ten days.

5. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4, Member States parties to a dispute may refer the matter to arbitration and consent to the Secretary-General appointing a sole arbitrator from the list who shall not be a national of a Party to the dispute.

Article 207. Rules of Procedure of Arbitral Tribunal

1. Subject to the relevant provisions of this Chapter, the arbitral tribunal shall establish its own rules of procedure.
2. The procedures shall assure a right to at least one hearing before the arbitral tribunal as well as the opportunity to provide initial and rebuttal written submissions.
3. The arbitral tribunal's hearings, deliberations and initial report, and all written submissions to and communications with the arbitral tribunal, shall be confidential.
4. The arbitral tribunal may invite any Member State to submit views orally or in writing. 5 The award of the arbitral tribunal shall be confined to the subject matter of the dispute and shall state the reasons on which it is based.
6. Where the parties cannot agree on the interpretation or implementation of the award, either party may apply to the arbitral tribunal for a ruling within thirty days of the award. The term of the arbitral tribunal shall come to an end unless an application for a ruling has been received, in which case it shall continue for such reasonable time, not exceeding thirty days, as may be required to make the ruling.
7. Decisions of the arbitral tribunal shall be taken by a majority vote of its members and shall be final and binding on the Member States parties to the dispute.

Article 208. Third Party Intervention

A Member State which is not a party to a dispute, on delivery of a notification to the Parties to a dispute and to the Secretary-General, shall be entitled to attend all hearings and to receive written submissions of the parties to a dispute and may be permitted to make oral or written submissions to the arbitral tribunal.

Article 209. Additional Information from Experts where Proceedings Have Commenced, the Arbitral Tribunal May, on Its Own Initiative

or on the request of a party to the dispute, seek information and technical advice from any expert or body that it considers appropriate, provided that the parties to the dispute so agree and subject to such terms and conditions as the parties may agree.

Article 210. Expenses of Arbitral Tribunal

1. The expenses of the arbitral tribunal, including the fees and subsistence allowances of arbitrators and experts engaged for the purposes of a dispute, shall be borne equally by the Member States parties to the dispute unless the arbitral tribunal, taking into account the circumstances of the case, otherwise determines.
2. Where a third party intervenes in the proceedings, the party shall bear the costs associated with the intervention.

Article 211. Jurisdiction of the Court In Contentious Proceedings

1. Subject to this Treaty, the Court shall have compulsory and exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine disputes concerning the interpretation and application of the Treaty, including:

- (a) disputes between the Member States parties to the Agreement;
- (b) disputes between the Member States parties to the Agreement and the Community;
- (c) referrals from national courts of the Member States parties to the Agreement;
- (d) applications by persons in accordance with Article 222, concerning the interpretation and application of this Treaty.

2. For the purpose of this Chapter, "national courts" includes the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

Article 212. Advisory Opinions of the Court

1. The Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction to deliver advisory opinions concerning the interpretation and application of the Treaty.
2. Advisory opinions shall be delivered only at the request of the Member States parties to a dispute or the Community.

Article 213. Institution of Proceedings

Any party to a dispute may institute proceedings in accordance with the Rules of Court governing Original Jurisdiction.

Article 214. Referral to the Court

Where a national court or tribunal of a Member State is seised of an issue whose resolution involves a question concerning the interpretation or application of this Treaty, the court or tribunal concerned shall, if it considers that a decision on the question is necessary to enable it to deliver judgment, refer the question to the Court for determination before delivering judgment.

Article 215. Compliance with Judgments of the Court

The Member States, Organs, Bodies of the Community, entities or persons to whom a judgment of the Court applies, shall comply with that judgment promptly.

Article 216. Compulsory Jurisdiction of the Court

1. The Member States agree that they recognise as compulsory, ipso facto and without special agreement, the original jurisdiction of the Court referred to in Article 211.
2. In the event of a dispute as to whether the Court has jurisdiction, the matter shall be determined by decision of the Court.

Article 217. Law to Be Applied by the Court In the Exercise of Its Original Jurisdiction

1. The Court, in exercising its original jurisdiction under Article 211, shall apply such rules of international law as may be applicable.
2. The Court may not bring in a finding of non liquet on the ground of silence or obscurity of the law.
3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not prejudice the power of the Court to decide a dispute ex aequo et bono if the parties so agree.

Article 218. Application for Interim Measures

The Court shall have the power to prescribe, if it considers the circumstances so require, any interim measures that ought to be taken to preserve the rights of either party.

Article 219. Revision of Judgments of the Court In the Exercise of Its Original Jurisdiction

1. The Court shall, in the exercise of its Original Jurisdiction, be competent to revise its judgment on an application made in that behalf.
2. An application for the revision of a judgment of the Court in the exercise of its original jurisdiction may be made only when it is based upon the discovery of some fact of such a nature as to be a decisive factor, which fact was, when the judgment was given, unknown to the Court and to the party claiming revision: provided always the ignorance of that fact was not due to negligence on the part of the applicant.
3. Proceedings for a revision shall be opened by a judgment of the Court expressly recording the existence of the new fact, recognising that it has such a character as to lay the case open to revision, and declaring the application admissible on this ground.

4. The Court may require previous compliance with the terms of the judgment before it admits proceedings for a revision.
5. The application for a revision shall be made within six months of the discovery of the new fact.
6. No application for a revision may be made after the lapse of five years from the date of the judgment.

Article 220. Rules of Court Governing Original Jurisdiction

The Rules of Court established by the President of the Court in accordance with Article XXI of the Agreement shall apply in the exercise of the original jurisdiction of the Court.

Article 221. Judgment of the Court to Constitute Stare Decisis

Judgments of the Court shall constitute legally binding precedents for parties in proceedings before the Court unless such judgments have been revised in accordance with Article 219.

Article 222. Locus Standi of Private Entities

Persons, natural or juridical, of a Contracting Party may, with the special leave of the Court, be allowed to appear as parties in proceedings before the Court where:

- (a) the Court has determined in any particular case that this Treaty intended that a right or benefit conferred by or under this Treaty on a Contracting Party shall enure to the benefit of such persons directly; and
- (b) the persons concerned have established that such persons have been prejudiced in respect of the enjoyment of the right or benefit mentioned in Paragraph (a) of this Article; and
- (c) the Contracting Party entitled to espouse the claim in proceedings before the Court has:
 - (i) omitted or declined to espouse the claim, or
 - (ii) expressly agreed that the persons concerned may espouse the claim instead of the Contracting Party so entitled; and
- (d) the Court has found that the interest of justice requires that the persons be allowed to espouse the claim.

Article 223. Alternative Disputes Settlement

1. The Member States shall, to the maximum extent possible, encourage and facilitate the use of arbitration and other modes of alternative disputes settlement for the settlement of private commercial disputes among Community nationals as well as among Community nationals and nationals of third States.
2. Each Member State shall provide appropriate procedures in its legislation to ensure observance of agreements to arbitrate and for the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards in such disputes.
3. A Member State which has implemented the 1958 United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards or the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on international Trade Law shall be deemed to be in compliance with the provisions of Paragraph 2 of this Article.

Article 224. General Undertaking

Each Member State undertakes to employ its best endeavours to complete the constitutional and legislative procedures required for its participation in the regime establishing the Court as soon as possible.

Chapter Chapter Ten General and Final Provisions

Article 225. Security Exceptions nothing In this Treaty Shall Be Construed:

- (a) as requiring any Member State to furnish information, the disclosure of which it considers contrary to its essential security interests;
- (b) as preventing any Member State from taking any action which it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests;

- (i) relating to the supply of services carried out directly or indirectly for the purpose of provisioning a military establishment;
- (ii) in time of war or other emergency in international relations; or
- (c) as preventing any Member State from taking any action in pursuance of its obligations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 226. General Exceptions

1. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as preventing the adoption or enforcement by any Member State of measures:

- (a) to protect public morals or to maintain public order and safety;
- (b) to protect human, animal or plant life or health;
- (c) necessary to secure compliance with laws or regulations relating to customs enforcement, or to the classification, grading or marketing of goods, or to the operation of monopolies by means of state enterprises or enterprises given exclusive or special privileges;
- (d) necessary to protect intellectual property or to prevent deceptive practices;
- (e) relating to gold or silver;
- (f) relating to the products of prison labour,
- (g) relating to child labour;
- (h) imposed for the protection of national treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value;
- (i) necessary to prevent or relieve critical food shortages in any exporting Member State;
- (j) relating to the conservation of natural resources or the preservation of the environment;
- (k) to secure compliance with laws or regulations which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Treaty including those relating to:
 - (i) the prevention of deceptive and fraudulent practices, and the effects of a default on contracts;
 - (ii) the protection of the privacy of individuals in relation to the processing and dissemination of personal data and the protection of confidentiality of individual records and accounts; and
 - (l) to give effect to international obligations including treaties on the avoidance of double taxation, but only if such measures do not constitute arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between Member States where like conditions prevail, or a disguised restriction on trade within the Community.

2. Measures taken by the Member States pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be notified to COTED.

3. The Community Council shall take appropriate measures to co-ordinate applicable legislation, regulations and administrative practices established in accordance with Article 44.

Article 227. Notification

Where in this Treaty provision is made for notification to an Organ of the Community, such notification shall be effected through the Secretariat.

Article 228. Legal Capacity of the Community

1. the community shall have full juridical personality.
2. every member state shall in its territory accord to the community the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons under its laws including the capacity to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property and to sue and be sued in its own name. in any legal proceedings, the Community shall be represented by the Secretariat.
3. The Community may also conclude agreements with States and International Organisations.
4. The Member States agree to take such action as is necessary to give effect in their territories to the provisions of this Article and shall promptly inform the Secretariat of such action.

Article 229. Privileges and Immunities of the Community

1. the headquarters agreement concluded between the Caribbean Community and Common Market and the Government of Guyana on 23 January 1976 shall continue to govern relations between the Community and the host country.
2. The Protocol on Privileges and immunities concluded by the Member States in connection with the Caribbean Community and Common Market shall govern relations between the Community and such Member States.

Article 230. Negotiation and Conclusion of Agreements

1. Conference may designate any Organ or Body of the Community to negotiate agreements for the achievement of the objectives of the Community.
2. Conference may delegate to the Secretary-General the conclusion of agreements, Particularly technical assistance agreements, on behalf of the Community.

Article 231. Associate Membership

Conference may admit any Caribbean State or Territory to associate membership of the Community on such terms and conditions as Conference thinks fit.

Article 232.

Signature This Treaty shall be open for signature on the Sth day of July 2001 by the States mentioned in paragraph 1 of Article 3.

Article 233. Ratification

This Treaty and any amendments thereto shall be subject to ratification by signatory States in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretariat which shall transmit certified copies to the signatory States.

Article 234. Entry Into Force

This Treaty shall enter into force on the deposit of the last instrument of ratification by the States mentioned in paragraph 1 of Article 3

Article 235. Registration

This Treaty and any amendments thereto shall be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations

Article 236. Amendments

1. This Treaty may be amended by the unanimous decision of the Parties.
2. An amendment shall enter into force one month after the date on which the last instrument of ratification is deposited with the Secretariat.

Article 237. Reservationsreservations May Be Entered to this Treaty with the Consent of the Signatory States.

Article 238. Accession

1. After the entry into force of this Treaty a State or Territory of the Caribbean may, if Conference so determines, accede to this Treaty.
2. Accession shall be on such terms and conditions as Conference decides and shall take effect one month following the deposit of the instrument of accession with the Secretariat.

Article 239. Undertaking the Member States Undertake to Elaborate a Protocol Relating, Inter Alia, to:

- (a) electronic commerce;
- (b) government procurement
- (c) treatment of goods produced in free zones and similar jurisdictions;
- (d) free circulation of goods in the CSME, and
- (e) rights contingent on establishment, provision of services and movement of capital in the Community.

Article 240. Saving

1. Decisions of competent Organs taken under this Treaty shall be subject to the relevant constitutional procedures of the Member States before creating legally binding rights and obligations for nationals of such States.
2. The Member States undertake to act expeditiously to give effect to decisions of competent Organs and Bodies in their municipal law.
3. COTED shall monitor and keep under review the implementation of the provisions of this Article and shall convene a review conference of Member States within five years from the entry into force of this Treaty.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Heads of Government have appended their signatures to this Treaty.

DONE at this day of 2001 in a single copy which shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the Community by whom certified copies will be communicated to all the signatories.

Signed by
for the Government of Antigua and Barbuda on the day of 2001 at

Signed by
for the Government of Belize on the day of 2001 at

Signed by
for the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica on the day of 2001 at

Signed by
for the Government of Grenada on the day of 2001 at

Signed by
for the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on the day of 2001 at

Signed by
for the Government of Jamaica on the day of 2001 at

Signed by
for the Government of Montserrat on the day of 2001 at

Signed by
for the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis on the day of 2001 at

Signed by
for the Government of Saint Lucia on the day of 2001 at

Signed by
for the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the day of 2001 at

Signed by
for the Government of The Republic of Suriname on the day of 2001 at

Signed by
for the Government of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the day of 2001 at

Signed by
for the Government of the Republic of Haiti on the day of 2002.