

Distribution: EFTA/CL

Ref. 12864
Annex
31 January 2006

DECISION OF THE JOINT EFTA-CHILE COMMITTEE

No. 1 of 2006

(Adopted on 31 January 2006)

ESTABLISHING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE EFTA-CHILE
JOINT COMMITTEE

THE JOINT COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Free Trade Agreement between the EFTA States on the one part, and the Republic of Chile (hereinafter referred to as "Chile"), on the other, signed in Kristiansand, Norway, on 26 June 2003, hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement",

Whereas:

Paragraph 4 of Article 85 of the Agreement provides that the EFTA-Chile Joint Committee shall establish its rules of procedure,

DECIDES:

Article 1

The Rules of Procedure of the EFTA-Chile Joint Committee are established as set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force with immediate effect.

Signed in Geneva on 31 January 2006 in two originals.

For the Republic of Chile

For the Republic of Iceland

For the Principality of Liechtenstein

For the Kingdom of Norway

For the Swiss Confederation



RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE EFTA-CHILE JOINT COMMITTEE

Article 1

Chair

The EFTA-Chile Joint Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Joint Committee”) shall be chaired in turn by a representative of an EFTA State or by a representative of Chile.

Article 2

Meetings

- (1) The Joint Committee shall meet whenever necessary but normally once every two years.
- (2) Each meeting of the Joint Committee shall be held in a place and on a date mutually agreed by the Parties. The regular meetings of the Joint Committee shall alternate between Chile and an EFTA State. By mutual agreement of the Parties, the meeting of the Joint Committee could take place by video- or teleconference.
- (3) Before each meeting of the Joint Committee, the Secretariat of the Parties shall exchange the names and titles of their delegations, including the Head of Delegation.
- (4) Unless the Joint Committee decides otherwise, its meetings shall not be public.
- (5) The Secretary-General of EFTA and his representatives may attend the meetings of the Joint Committee.

Article 3

Agenda

A provisional agenda for each meeting shall be drawn up by the Secretariat of the Joint Committee on the basis of suggestions by the Parties. It shall be circulated to the Parties no later than 14 days before the beginning of the meeting. The Agenda shall be adopted by the Joint Committee at the beginning of each meeting. An item other than those appearing in the agenda may be placed on the agenda if the Parties so agree.

Article 4

Secretariat

An official of the EFTA Secretariat and an official of the General Directorate of International Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Chile shall act jointly as the Secretariat of the Joint Committee.

Article 5

Documents

When the deliberations of the Joint Committee are based on written supporting documents, such documents shall be numbered and circulated as documents of the Joint Committee by the Secretariat.

Article 6

Correspondence

All exchange of correspondence between the Parties shall be carried out through the EFTA Secretariat and the General Directorate of International Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile.

Article 7

Official language

The working language of the Joint Committee shall be English.

Article 8

Joint Minutes

The Joint Minutes of the meeting held by the Joint Committee shall contain, as a general rule, the following:

- a) All the documentation formally presented by the Parties during the Joint Committee and agreed to be included as an annex to the Joint Minutes.
- b) A summary of the statements made by the Parties, including those whose inclusion in the Joint Minutes have been especially requested the by Joint Committee.
- c) The decisions, recommendations and declarations agreed by the Joint Committee as well as the conclusions reached on specific issues.

- d) A list of all the officials that participated in the Joint Committee and the Head of Delegation of each Party.
- e) The Joint Minutes shall be drawn up by the Secretariat and circulated to the representatives of the Parties for written approval. They should be approved no later than three months after the date of the meeting. Once the Joint Minutes are approved, the Secretariat of each Party shall sign two original copies of the Joint Minutes. Each Party will file one original copy.

Article 9

Decisions and recommendations

- (1) Decisions and recommendations of the Joint Committee shall bear a number, date of adoption and a title referring to their subject matter.
- (2) Two original copies of the decisions and recommendations adopted shall be certified by the Secretariat and signed by the Head of Delegation of each Party.
- (3) Each Party may decide to publish in its respective official publications the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Joint Committee.
- (4) Where a matter is urgent and a meeting cannot be convened, the Joint Committee may adopt its decisions or make its recommendations by written procedure, if so agreed by the Parties. In such event, the Parties shall circulate the proposed draft decisions or recommendations for approval. A written procedure consists of an exchange of notes between the two secretaries of the Secretariat, acting in agreement with the Parties.

Article 10

Expenses

Expenses in connection with the organisation of meetings and reproduction of documents shall be borne by the Party that hosts the meeting.

Article 11

Notifications

Notifications addressed to the Joint Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement shall be made through the Secretariat of the Joint Committee.
