

PROTOCOL F

CONCERNING SAFEGUARD MECHANISMS FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS

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1. The EFTA States and Bulgaria agree that in cases where the imports into the territory of a State Party to this Agreement, of a textile product originating in another State Party to this Agreement, take place in such increased quantities or under such conditions, so as to cause serious damage or actual threat thereof, to the importing Party's production of like or directly competitive products, the EFTA States or Bulgaria, as the case may be, may resort to appropriate measures for the textile category in question, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 25 of this Agreement.
 2. For the purpose of this Protocol, appropriate measures shall consist of the temporary reintroduction of the basic duty referred to in Article 5 of this Agreement or the actual MFN duty, whichever is the lower, on imports exceeding a level which in no case may be lower than 110 per cent of the level of the importing State Party's imports during the twelve-month period terminating two months, or where data is not available three months, preceding the month in which the request for consultation is made, of the product in question originating in the other State Party.
 3. In no case may the afore-mentioned safeguard mechanism be invoked, or the measures taken pursuant to it be applied, after the period for the elimination of all quantitative restrictions and measures of equivalent effect on textile trade between Bulgaria and the European Economic Community has elapsed.
 4. The EFTA States and Bulgaria furthermore agree that in no case shall non-tariff barriers be applied in trade in textile products between the EFTA States and Bulgaria after the transitional period referred to in Article 1 of this Agreement.
 5. At the request of either State Party to this Agreement, consultations will take place without delay on any problem arising from trade in textile and clothing products.
 6. If Bulgaria and the European Economic Community would come to a different solution concerning safeguard mechanisms for textile products, the Joint Committee would amend this Protocol accordingly.
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