

# OFFICIAL GAZETTE



**of the  
COMMON MARKET  
FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**

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By Order of the Council and the Authority

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**IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED** that the Council of Ministers at its Fifth Meetings held on 25 to 27 June 1998, issued the following Legal and General Notices:

**(a) Implementation of the Protocol on the Gradual Relaxation of and Elimination of Visas**

1. Council decided that:
  - (i) all the member States should actively implement the Visa Protocol by taking the necessary steps as are required under their national systems before 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1998;
  - (ii) the member States should implement the earlier decision by Council that Immigration provide COMESA counters that are clearly marked to facilitate entry of COMESA Citizens; and
  - (iii) that Immigration Authorities should meet on a regular basis to review implementation of the Visa Protocol and other decisions of the Council of Ministers, and that the first such meeting of the COMESA Immigration Authorities should take place in the second half of 1998.
2. The Authority adopted the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, Services and the Right of Establishment and Residence and decided that it should be implemented progressively in five stages as follows:

**(b) Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Labour, Service, the Right of Establishment and Residence**

3. Council agreed that special consideration of the circumstances of each State such as Mauritius and Seychelles with regard to Articles 9, 11 and 12 should be taken into account when implementing the Protocol.

**STAGE I: PART II – Articles 3 to 8**

Objectives: Gradual Removal of Visa Requirements and Co-operation in the Prevention and Fight against Crime.

Period: On-going and up the year 2000.

**STAGE II: PART III – Article 9**

Objective: Enhancing movement of skilled labour

Period: 1998 – 2004 (progressively).

**STAGE III: PART IV – Article 10**

Objective: Movement of Services.

Period: Programme to be adopted by Council – projected period 1998 – 2004

**STAGE IV: PART V – Article 11**

Objective: Right of Establishment.

Period: From 2004 – 2010: programme to be adopted by the Council progressively.

**STAGE V: PART VI – Article 12**

Objective: Right of Residence

Period: 2014 (20 years from the date of entry of COMESA Treaty)

4. A final copy of the Protocol on Free Movement to become Annex V to the Treaty is attached as Annex I.

**(c) Amendment of the Treaty Establishing the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa**

5. The Authority amended Rule 2 of the Rules of Origin by the inclusion under paragraph 2 of a new sub-paragraph (b) with the existing paragraph becoming sub-paragraph (a) and the deletion of paragraph 3 which becomes redundant. The new paragraph 2 of Rule 2 should read as follows:

“2. Council may, subject to approval of the Authority:

(a) determine how long the goods contained in the list referred to in sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 1 of this Rule shall remain on such list and may from time to time, amend it as may be necessary; and

(b) amend any of the percentage values and value added specified in sub-paragraphs (b) (i) and (ii) of paragraph 1 of this Rule, from time to time, as may be necessary”.

6. The Authority amended Article 1 of the Treaty by the adoption of the following amendment:

Insert a new paragraph 4 under Article 1 providing as follows:

“4. The Authority may admit a State not referred to under paragraph 2 or 3 of this Article, which is an immediate neighbour of a Member State as a Member State of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, upon fulfilling such conditions as may be determined by the Authority”.

**(d) Sanctions/Penalties for Non-Implementation of COMESA Treaty Provisions and Decisions**

7. The Authority adopted the proposed sanctions/penalties contained in a separate document number COM/CM/V/4, subject to enduring that the sanctions/penalties shall be imposed only after giving a Member State at least three months notice.

**(e) Appointment of the Judges and President of the COMESA Court of Justice**

8. The Authority appointed the following as Judges of the COMESA Court of Justice:
- (1) Honourable Mr. Justice A. M. Akiwumi (Kenya)
  - (2) Honourable Mr. Justice James B. Kalaile (Malawi)
  - (3) Professor Dr. Josaphat L Kanywanyi (Tanzania)
  - (4) Honourable Mr. Justice K. R. A. Korsah (Zimbabwe)
  - (5) Honourable Justice Dr. Adrien Nyankiye (Burundi)
  - (6) Honourable Mr. Justice James M. Ogoola (Uganda)
  - (7) Honourable Mr. Justice Ernest Sakala (Zambia)
9. The Authority appointed Dr. Josaphat L. Kanywanyi (Tanzania) Judge as President of the COMESA Court of Justice.

**(f) Establishment of Telecommunications Network Interconnectivity and Tariff Harmonization Project**

10. The Authority agreed that a private limited liability company be established and be known as COMTEL to build, manage and operate the regional Telecommunication Inter-Connected Network in the region.
11. Council decided that:
- (a) an appropriate technology be implemented in the regional network that allows for transmission of multimedia services (data, internet, fax, voice and video). In this regard, the ATM technology is recommended. However, the operating company may adopt any future technology, which may be more appropriate;
  - (b) a Regional Private Liability Company be established with the National Telecommunications Operators (NTOs) as shareholders with the participation of the private sector, including institutional investors and a strategic Investment Partner;
  - (c) the name of the regional operating Company shall be COMTEL;
  - (d) COMESA should co-ordinate with SADC and other sub-regional organizations for the establishment of the regional Company in order to facilitate regional interconnectivity;
  - (e) NTOs should establish cost-based tariffs and analytical cost accounting systems
  - (f) the practice of Sender Keeps All (SKA) be reviewed by the Secretariat, taking into account the ITU Studies, WTO Agreements, capacity by the NTOs to measure the traffic and the impact on the intra-regional traffic before abolition of the SKA system; and

- (g) the Secretariat should request the ADB to provide additional funding for the Regional Planning Unit to facilitate the establishment of COMTEL.
12. The Authority adopted the Resolution Establishing COMTEL attached as Annex II.
13. Council agreed that:
- (i) a Steering Committee comprising Chief Executives of NTOs and other stakeholders be established to implement COMTEL; and
  - (ii) the Steering Committee reports progress to Ministers responsible for telecommunications in the project countries.
14. Council agreed that Member States should submit the status of the telecommunications regulatory framework in their countries to the Secretariat before September 1998 to facilitate the harmonization of the regional telecommunications regulatory framework.

**(g) Trade and Customs**

15. Council directed:
- (i) Member States should adopt fair agricultural trading practices so as to maximize the potential benefits from trade in agriculture;
  - (ii) the free trade in agricultural products be accepted on the basis of international standards in the Harmonization Commodity Description and Coding System (Chapters 1 to 24);
  - (iii) the Secretariat should work out measures for increasing agricultural production and formulate an action plan on how to improve production in agriculture;
  - (iv) that all non-tariff barriers on agricultural trade be removed immediately and that commodity sanitary and phytosanitary regulations be developed, harmonized and standardized in accordance with the African Regional Standards Organization (ARSO) requirements;
  - (v) the Secretariat should establish a regional watchdog for the administration of common standards and to facilitate the adoption of a common system of certification to replace permits which are restrictive to trade;
  - (vi) that quarantine measures should be made and administered in such a way that they do not constitute non-tariff barriers; and
  - (vii) each Member State should adopt its own standards of quarantine which would then be integrated into regional standards, except in cases where diseases and/or pests afflicting Member States were the same.
16. Council directed that:
- (i) each Member State should establish a working Committee comprising government officials, economic operators and other stakeholders to identify NTBs; and

- (ii) each Member State should notify the Secretariat not later than 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1998 of the name of the Chairman of the Committee, his/her address and any other relevant information to facilitate communication and co-ordinate by the Secretariat.
17. The Authority directed that each Member State undertake a study to determine the continued existence of all non-tariff barriers which their business communities experience in their day to day trade with other Member States, and to submit results thereof by 30<sup>th</sup> August 1998 to the Secretariat which shall then compile a report cataloguing all non-tariff barriers identified in the region including proposals for their immediate removal.
18. The Authority decided that Namibia and Swaziland be granted an extension of the derogation to publish COMESA tariffs until the completion of the ongoing renegotiations of the SACU Agreement for a period not later than the year 2000, to facilitate their effective participation in the COMESA Free Trade Area.
19. The Secretariat should present a progress report on the elimination of NTBs by Member States to the next Council meeting.
20. Council decided that Member States should study the categorization schedules as contained in the COMESA Tariff Book and submit comments to the Secretariat by 30<sup>th</sup> August 1998 for consolidation and analysis by the Secretariat and submission to the next meeting of Customs and Trade Committee.
21. Council decided that Member States which have not adopted the HS 1996 should do so in order to facilitate the study and eventually the establishment of a COMESA Common Tariff Nomenclature which would facilitate the smooth administration of the COMESA CET and the production of comparable external trade statistics.
22. Council decided that:
- (i) all the Member States should implement the tariff reductions in accordance with the agreed time-table and reduce tariffs by 90% by October 1998, and that a comprehensive country by country report on tariffs obtaining, including measures taken to implement the COMESA programmes, be submitted to the next Council meeting;
  - (ii) the Authority be requested to adopted the resolution on Free Trade Area which appears at Annex III of this report, and which re-affirms, Member States commitment to achieve a Free Trade Area by the year 2000; and
  - (iii) in order to facilitate the Free Trade Area to generate maximum benefits to the Common Market, all the Member States should implement all the programmes enumerated in the Action Plan contained in a separate document COM/CM/V/3.
23. Council decided:
- (i) that each Member State should study its industrial structure to determine the most appropriate local value added and submit the report to the Secretariat. The report from each Member State should be analyzed and incorporated in the study report to be undertaken by the Secretariat;
  - (ii) that the study by the Secretariat on the COMESA Rules of Origin should take into account the guidelines of the WCO and WTO, including the substantial Transformation Criterion which allows for change of tariff heading as one of the qualification criteria for originating status; and

- (iii) that the Rules of Origin of 35% minimum local value added be adopted. Council agreed that Zambia and Uganda be granted exemption from applying the reduced rate pending the completion of the study.
24. Council decided that fridges, freezers and their accessories be designated as goods of particular economic importance to the economic development in terms of Rule 2.1 (c) and qualify for COMESA tariff preferential treatment on the basis of a minimum of 25% local value added. Council agreed that the designation of goods mentioned shall not apply to Zambia.
25. The Authority decided that the local value added criteria be reduced to a level that would be conducive to investors; promote intra-COMESA trade; and rationalize and standardize the COMESA and SADC Rules of Origin, by adopting the 35% minimum local value added until a comprehensive study is undertaken. The Authority also agreed that Egypt, Zambia and Uganda be granted an exemption from applying the 35% minimum local value added pending the completion of the study.

**(h) Agriculture**

26. The Authority pronounced the COMESA region a Free Trade Area in agricultural products and inputs, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2000 and directed Member States to put in place the necessary measures to implement the FTA in agricultural products; with special emphasis on sanitary and phytosanitary standards. This means that tariffs and non-tariff barriers have to be removed by this date in an effort to increase intra-COMESA trade and production.
27. Council decided that:
- (i) tariffs and non-tariffs barriers be removed by the year 1999 on all agricultural products and inputs, in order to increase agricultural trade and production within COMESA.
  - (ii) to facilitate agricultural trade within COMESA, Member States to formulate a Common Agricultural Policy, which incorporates standards of products, phytosanitary and sanitary measures according to the FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE); and
  - (iii) a common network of Agricultural Commodity Exchanges in the COMESA region be established to facilitate information flow and improve market transparency and market intelligence for all stakeholders.
28. Council decided that:
- (i) the Secretariat should prepare guidelines for uniform phytosanitary and sanitary requirements for adoption;
  - (ii) quarantine measures should be implemented for the purpose of plant and animal protection and should not constitute a non-tariff barrier to trade;
  - (iii) countries should publish bi-annually their quarantine regulations for entry of plant and animal materials, pests and diseases from which the country is free and those present, and update these requirements and lists as appropriate;

- (iv) the Secretariat should prepare for the signature of Member States a structured COMESA Quarantine Agreement (CQA) which lists pests and diseases of concern, indicating the treatment to be used, the inspection sampling procedures, the contingency measures to be applied by the trading partners and names of institutions accountable for the Agreement;
  - (v) phytosanitary and sanitary legislations and regulations of the Member States should be harmonized and rationalized so that they are less obstructive to regional trade;
  - (vi) capacity building and training programmes for government officials responsible for imposing phytosanitary and quarantine measures should be carried out on a regular basis;
  - (vii) COMESA Member States should be encouraged to adopt and introduce plant and animal importation certificates and phytosanitary and sanitary certificates in order to facilitate trade in agricultural products;
  - (viii) the quantities and types of plant and animal materials allowed into a country should be limited to those that can be adequately controlled by the existing animal and plant quarantine facilities;
  - (ix) animal and plant quarantine stations should be established at ports and other points of entry to prevent entry of exotic pests and diseases into the country and that the Secretariat should support such efforts;
  - (x) Member States should implement the joint FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION and recommended international codes of practice for foods; and
  - (xi) Member States should establish permanent surveillance systems on diseases whose outbreak are prevalent and which should be immediately notified to other Member States.
29. Council decided that:
- (i) Member States should establish National Irrigation Co-ordinating Units, where they do not exist, to formulate national and regional policies, strategies and action programmes on water and sustainable agriculture development;
  - (ii) the Secretariat should facilitate the establishment of a Standing sub-technical Committee at the regional level comprising National Co-ordinating Units to formulate joint regional Irrigation Programmes, including providing advisory services;
  - (iii) the Secretariat should establish an agricultural data bank to be used, *inter-alia*, for information exchange, planning and co-ordinating food production, distribution and the management of river basins; and
  - (iv) the COMESA Data Bank should be used as a clearing house for bilateral and multilateral external support agencies and other international organizations to promote and catalyze investment and flow of resources for irrigation development in the region.

**(i) Industry**

30. Council decided that:

- (i) Member States should collect, analyze and disseminate information according to the agreed standardized energy data bank;
- (ii) the Secretariat should collect, collate, analyze and disseminate information on the basis of standardized and computerized energy statistics as well as on all the other data banks maintained by each Member State;
- (iii) the Secretariat should act as a repository of the energy policy documents of the Member States and ensure that they are updated regularly; and
- (iv) an energy expert be recruited in the next batch of professionals, in order to fulfill the role assigned to COMESA by AFREC and co-ordinate energy policies and development of the sector in the region.

31. Member States are urged to ensure that they have the necessary infrastructure and qualified personnel in their national standards bureaux in order to benefit from the programme.

32. Council decided on the establishment of a forum where National Investment Promotion Agencies (IPA) of Member States would meet to:

- (i) ensure that the Member States adhere to the Provisions of Article 159 of the COMESA Treaty;
- (ii) ensure cooperation among IPAs in the various aspects of investment promotion in the region; and
- (iii) collect relevant investment related data for dissemination among member countries.

**(j) Investment**

33. The Authority declared the COMESA region as a COMMON INVESTMENT AREA and urged all Member States to promote investments into the region as a whole, to take advantage of the larger market.

**(k) Transport and Communications**

34. The Authority urged all the mainland Member States that had not implemented the Yellow Card Scheme to do so as soon as possible, preferably not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1999.

**(l) Monetary Harmonization**

35. Council decided that:

- (i) a working group of selected professionals of Central Banks and Ministries of Finance from Member States be established to examine and make recommendations to the Committee of Central Bank Governors;

- (ii) to assist in the process of achieving monetary and fiscal co-operation through participating fully in the committees being set up to examine these issues, an official, with daily access to e-mail, in the Central Bank and in the Ministry of Finance of each Member State, would be nominated as a contact with the COMESA Secretariat;
- (iii) the Secretariat should draw up a revised monetary and fiscal co-operation programme to replace the existing Monetary Harmonization Programme for consideration by the next COMESA summit meeting in the first half of 1999, through the COMESA Ministers of Finance who will meet prior to the Summit;
- (iv) Member States should provide the Secretariat with up-to-date economic and statistical information on a regular basis for posting onto the COMESA Website to publicize the achievements of Member States; and
- (v) the Secretariat should recruit a Monetary Expert, who should be responsible for the co-ordination of monetary and fiscal issues, in the next batch of recruitment to facilitate the implementation of the programme.

**(m) Private Sector Development**

36. Council decided that:

- (i) COMESA should explore the feasibility of setting up a fund to strengthen FEMCOM national associations; and
- (ii) the Women in Business Unit in COMESA should develop a strategy of how best women can lobby at regional level.

**(n) Implementation of COMESA Decisions**

37. Council decided that all the Member States that had not submitted an update of their status of implementation of COMESA decisions, submit their updates not later than 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1998 to the Secretariat.

**(o) COMESA Information and Networking Initiative**

38. Council decided that:

- (i) to reduce costs and allow the Secretariat to keep Member States fully informed on various issues on a regular and timely basis and make documents available to Member States immediately, via the Internet, all the Member States should nominate a contact person, or persons, with whom the COMESA Secretariat can communicate and for that person, or persons, to have full-time access to a computer connected to the Internet; and
- (ii) Member States should continuously review their telecommunications regulations to allow them to take advantage of the benefits of the Internet and of advances in communications technology.

**(p) Admission of Egypt**

39. The Authority admitted the Arab Republic of Egypt as a full Member State of COMESA.

**(q) Contacts with Co-operating Partners and Commemorative Events for Free Trade Area Launch**

40. Council recommended that:

- (a) the Chairman of Council should have regular contacts with his counterparts who are Chairpersons of other regional groupings; and
- (b) Member States initiate commemorative events as a count down towards the Free Trade Area by the year 2000.

**(r) Legal and Institutional Matters**

41. Council recognized the importance of Procurement Rules in the process of effective liberalization of trade and agreed that the COMESA Secretariat should mobilize funding to embark on the proposed study to identify the existing procurement rules in the Member States. The Study should be based on the terms of reference adopted by the Third Meeting of the Ministers of Justice and Attorneys – General. Council also agreed that the Terms of Reference should take into account World Trade Organization (WTO) proposals on procurement Rules.

42. Council recommended as follows:

- (a) Council recommends that those States that have not yet deposited their Instruments of Ratification do so as soon as possible;
- (b) Council agreed on the importance of the ratification of the COMESA Customs Bond Guarantee Agreement which had so far been ratified by only four States and had, therefore, not come into force, since it required nine ratifications;
- (c) in view of the importance of Article 10 of the Treaty, Council agreed that the members of the Committee on Legal Affairs should keep their governments informed about the legality of Council decisions, directives and regulations, so that they are implemented at national level. As COMESA moves towards the realization of a Free Trade in the year 2000, the Member States need to be cognizant of the fact that the COMESA Treaty provides for an integration regime that emphasizes legality and enforceability.
- (d) Members of the Committee on Legal Affairs should advise their governments on the provisions of Article 5 (2) (b) of the COMESA Treaty providing that all the Member States shall take steps to secure the enactment of, and the confirmation of, such legislation to give effect to the Treaty and, in particular:
  - (i) to confer upon the Common Market legal capacity and personality required for the performance of its functions; and
  - (ii) to confer upon the regulations of the Council, the force of law and the necessary legal effect within its territory.

**(s) Negotiations under the World trade Organization**

43. Council recommended:

- (a) that Member States find ways to strengthen their representation as a group at World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva so that African interests are reflected in all relevant discussions and in the working groups on the so-called "new issues" which include trade and investment, trade and competition policy and on government procurement;
- (b) that Member States build up their foreign trade capacities so that the proposed negotiating teams in Geneva can receive instruction and guidance from the COMESA countries themselves and so that the concerned public in COMESA are better informed on the activities and implications of WTO;
- (c) that Member States take steps to take advantage of the fact that the Uruguay Round results included a large number of provisions intended to benefit specifically the WTO's poorer members, such as allowing more time to implement some obligations; and
- (d) that the COMESA Secretariat be asked to explore other areas of concern, such as the need for further in-depth analysis of electronic commerce to determine its definition, scope, implications, benefits, legal aspects as well as relationships with other agreements in WTO.

**(t) Agriculture**

44. The Authority urged Member States to initiate the formulation of a regional Common Agricultural Strategy, which shall include common policies on product standards and phytosanitary and sanitary measures in accordance with International practice.

**(u) Industry**

45. The Authority recommended that for Member States to optimize their benefits from the COMESA SQMT programme, they must ensure that they have the infrastructure required for a National Standard Body (NSB) and a critical mass of qualified personnel to manage the NSB. The Authority also urged all Member States to provide adequate resources for the development of SQMT activities in Member States.

46. Council requested that:

- (i) all the other Member States, through the Ministries of Agriculture, acquire the machines manufactured in the region for use by rural farmers. In this regard, partnerships with the private sector, NGOs and multilateral/bilateral agencies like  
  
FAO, GTZ and IFAD/WFP could be sought for the dissemination of the technology in these Member States; and
- (ii) each Member State should request assistance from FAO or any other agencies working on the seed multiplication schemes/programmes to disseminate the technology in countries not covered by the project.

47. Council recommended that:
- (i) the Pharmaceutical Association of Manufacturers of Eastern and Southern Africa (PHARMESA) should offer its services for establishing comprehensive tables about registration requirements in COMESA countries and fully participate in Southern and Eastern African Medicines Regulatory Affairs Conference (SEAMRAC) activities;
  - (ii) PHARMESA companies should be accorded “national treatment” in each COMESA Member State;
  - (iii) A Permanent Registration Authority (PRA) should be established for the COMESA region, with the powers to register a drug for all COMESA countries once the drug is registered in the home country and one or two reference countries;
  - (iv) A reference laboratory for quality control should be established and recognized by the Permanent Registration Authority;
  - (v) Technical assistance should be sought to support the operationalization of PHARMESA in preparing strategies and a Plan of Action; and
  - (vi) Drug Registration Procedures in COMESA region should be harmonized.

48. Council recommended that:

- (i) critical sectors for Africa’s development like infrastructure and industry should be included in the agenda of TICAD II; and
- (ii) sub-regional organizations should participate in the preparatory works for TICAD II and take part in the negotiations as well.

**(v) Negotiations on Future EU-ACP Relationship**

49. The Secretariat was mandated to collaborate with the ACP Secretariat to ensure that the ACP Group was adequately prepared for the start of negotiations with the EU in September 1998, and that this negotiating position be fully supported by the Member States.

50. Council recommended that:

- (a) the Secretariat of COMESA, EAC, IOC, IGAD, CEPGL and SADC work out a common negotiating position on the post of Lome EU-ACP relations;
- (b) the Secretariat should work out a mechanism for consultation with the Member States to ensure that all their concerns were taken into account; and
- (c) the Secretariat in consultation with the Member States should identify suitable experts from the region who would then form part of the Team of Experts, which the OAU/AEC Secretariat had been mandated to set up, to provide technical support to the African negotiators within the ACP group.

**(w) US Initiative on a new Trade and Investment Policy on Sub-Sahara Africa**

51. Council recommended that each Member State should study the U.S. Act in order to reach a common approach in negotiating the impending new American Policy with Sub-Sahara Africa. Council also recommended that a joint study be carried out by COMESA and the OAU on the impact of the US initiative on regional integration groups in Africa.

**(x) PTA Re-Insurance Company**

52. Council recommended as follows:

- (i) Member States who are not yet signatory members should accede to the Agreement establishing the PTA Re-Insurance Company (ZEP-RE);
- (ii) Member States should produce legalization of cessions and/or encourage companies in their territories to cede business to ZEP-RE;
- (iii) the taking up of ZEP-RE shares by those Member States who have not yet done so and for those who are already shareholders, subscribe to additional share capital; and
- (iv) ZEP-RE should examine the possibility of promoting agricultural insurance in COMESA Member States.

**(y) Restructuring of the COMESA Clearing House**

53 Council agreed that the Clearing House should be restructured to provide following facilities as soon as possible and urged all the Member States to facilitate the restructuring:

- (i) adopting the successful ALADI model in Latin America to introduce a Fast Payments Facility (FAP) to replace the current clearing operation;
- (ii) setting up a political risk facility with the World Bank assistance (the Africa Guarantee Facility (AGF), to increase the availability and lower the cost of medium term (1 to 3years) trade finance cover; and
- (ii) setting up of a SWIFT Regional Centre to facilitate participation by the smaller nationally owned banks in modern international electronic payments system.

**(a) Expansion of the Capital Base of the PTA Bank**

54. The Authority adopted the plans of the PTA Bank as follows:

- (i) that all Member States of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and are hereby encouraged to acquire the membership of the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank. To this effect, all the Members States of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa that have not joined the Bank are urged to join the Bank expeditiously;
- (ii) that the Eastern and Southern African Trade Development Bank be and is hereby supported in its endeavours to increase its capital stock in order to strengthen its ability to significantly intervene in the economies of the States in

the sub-region and thereby further the aims of the economic integration efforts of the sub-region;

- (iii) that admission of non-COMESA Member States be carefully considered to safeguard the interest of the Bank and the sub-region.

**(a) Study on Leather and Leather Products Institute**

55. Council decided that a study be undertaken to review the commitment of Member States to Leather and Leather Products Institute (LLPI) and the needs of the institution.