

23. In order to provide reliable conditions for the development of expanded markets for coal, IEA countries which have measures in force concerning international trade in coal, including coal prices, will implement and apply those measures in a manner which fully supports these Principles for IEA Action on Coal; and they will not introduce new measures regarding international trade in coal which are inconsistent with these Principles for IEA Action on Coal [except for over-riding reasons concerning the national interest, in which case they will take full account of these Principles for IEA Action on Coal/].

24. Once a long-term contract for international trade in coal has come into force, (5) the governments of IEA countries concerned will not interfere with the implementation of the contract in accordance with its terms, unless they are compelled to do so by severe developments in the coal supply situation occurring in an individual country which threatens that country's wellbeing; or by a severe international energy supply emergency in which latter case they will apply any restrictions on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis (6).

(4) The exception stated at the end of paragraphs 23 and 25 is included at the request of Australia and Canada, and accepted by the other IEA countries on the basis of statements to the Ministerial Meeting of these two countries.

(5) The Conclusions of the Ministerial Meeting will state that "come into force" is understood as meaning that:

(a) where government approvals are required such approvals have been obtained;

(b) where government approvals are informal, the contract is made known and no objection is raised;

(c) where there is no system for government approval, the contracting parties have concluded the contract.

(6) The Conclusions of the Ministerial Meeting will state that such interventions by IEA Governments will be limited in nature and time to the situation which gives rise to them; and that paragraph 24 covers both exports and imports, and either surplus or deficiency of supply.