

## ARTICLE 51

*Amendment*

(a) The Council may, by a two-thirds majority of the total votes held by all producing countries and a two-thirds majority of the total votes held by all consuming countries, recommend to Contracting Governments amendments to this Agreement. The Council shall, in its recommendation, fix the time within which each Contracting Government shall notify the depositary Government whether or not it ratifies, approves or accepts the amendment.

(b) The Council may extend the time fixed by it under paragraph (a) of this article for notification of ratification, approval or acceptance.

(c) If, within the time fixed under paragraph (a) of this article or extended under paragraph (b) of this article, an amendment is ratified, approved or accepted by all participating countries it shall take effect immediately on the receipt by the depositary Government of the last ratification, approval or acceptance.

(d) If, within the time fixed under paragraph (a) of this article or extended under paragraph (b) of this article, an amendment is not ratified, approved or accepted by participating countries holding all of the votes of producing countries and by participating countries holding two-thirds of the total votes of all consuming countries, it shall not take effect.

(e) If, by the end of the time fixed under paragraph (a) of this article or extended under paragraph (b) of this article, an amendment is ratified, approved or accepted by participating countries holding all of the votes of producing countries and by participating countries holding two-thirds of the total votes of all consuming countries:

(i) The amendment shall, for the participating countries by which ratification, approval or acceptance has been signified, take effect at the end of three months next following the receipt by the depositary Government of the last ratification, approval or acceptance necessary to comprise all of the votes of producing countries and two-thirds of the total votes of all consuming countries;

(ii) Any Contracting Government which does not ratify, approve or accept an amendment by the date of its coming into effect shall as of that date cease to participate in the Agreement, unless any such Contracting Government satisfies the Council at its first meeting following the effective date of the amendment that its ratification, approval or acceptance could not be secured in time by reason of constitutional difficulties, and the Council decides to extend for such Contracting Government the period fixed for ratification, approval or acceptance until these difficulties have been overcome.

(f) If a consuming country considers that its interests will be adversely affected by an amendment it may, before the date of its coming into effect, give notice to the depositary Government of withdrawal from the Agreement. Withdrawal shall become effective on the effective date of the amendment. The Council may, at any time, on such terms and conditions as it considers equitable, permit such country to withdraw its notice of withdrawal.