

Alteration in composition of regional economic integration organizations

(e) Except as provided in subparagraph (f) (ii) and (iv) below, the rights and obligations of a regional economic integration organization under the instrument shall apply only in respect of its membership as of the date of the adoption of this instrument;

(f) In the event of any alteration to the composition of a regional economic integration organization by way of enlargement, withdrawal, union of States or partition of States the following provisions shall apply:

- (i) The organization shall notify the secretariat and the Depository of the alteration in the composition of the organization;
- (ii) At the next scheduled review of commitments of Parties under Article _ (*review of commitments*) the Meeting of the Parties may decide whether and on what terms the alteration in composition of the organization shall, by way of exception to subparagraph (e) above, be recognized for the purposes of this instrument. If a country undergoing the process of transition to a market economy joins such an organization and the Meeting of the Parties decides that it should be regarded as a member of the organization for the purposes of this instrument, any provisions of this instrument applying specifically to countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy shall no longer apply to that country, as of the date of the decision of the Meeting of the Parties;
- (iii) At the review of commitments referred to in subparagraph (ii) above, the Parties shall, to ensure that commitments of all Annex [Q] Parties continue to be shared as equitably as possible, take into account, in addition to the factors listed in Article _ (*review of commitments*), the implications of the alteration in composition of the organization for the level and distribution of commitments of all Annex [Q] parties; and
- (iv) If a member State of a regional economic integration organization which is a Party to the instrument withdraws from that organization it shall be treated as no longer being a member of the organization for the purposes of this instrument as of the date of notification of withdrawal under subparagraph (i) above unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties as part of the review referred to in subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) above. In the event that a withdrawing member State does not have a separate QELRO listed for it in Annex [Q], that Party shall negotiate with other Parties in accordance with procedures established for the setting of commitments to agree upon an equitable and appropriate QELRO for that Party.]