

**Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)
(Goods)
Summary Fact Sheet**

Table 1: Background information

Parties	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Chad	
Date of signature	16 March 1994	
Date of entry into force	24 June 1999	
Transition period for full implementation	The implementation of the Agreement is scheduled in three phases: The first and the second stage last 5 years, respectively; the duration of the third stage will be decided by the Council on the basis of results reached during previous phases.	
Date of full implementation	Not applicable	
Website addresses or points of contact	Official CEMAC website: http://www.cemac.int/	
List of related GATT/ WTO documents	WT/COMTD/N/13 WT/COMTD/24	Notification Agreement

Table 2: Internal trade liberalization provisions

Import and export duties and charges	During the first two stages of implementation, all customs duties, quantitative restrictions or measures with equivalent effects on trade in goods among the Parties have to be removed (Art. 13 (j)). The Parties are also prevented from introducing new customs duties or restrictions on the import and export of goods, not justified under Art.16. The Council decides, by a qualified majority, on the timetable and modalities of liberalization, taking into account the economic needs of certain Parties (Art. 14 (o) and (p)).
Non-tariff measures	The Agreement prohibits the Parties to adopt or maintain non-tariff measures on the importation or exportation of any good destined for the territory of the other Party, unless otherwise provided under its WTO rights and obligations (Art. 13 (j)).
Sector-specific rules	Chapter II addresses: education, research and professional training (Section I); transport and telecommunications (Section II); agriculture, farming and fisheries (Section III); energy (Section IV); the environment (Section V); industry (Section VI); and tourism (Section VIII).
Product exclusions	None

Table 3: Common External Tariff

Provisions	Not applicable
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Table 4: General trade-related provisions

Provision	Relevant Article(s)	Additional Information
Rules of origin	None	
Standards-related measures	Art. 13(n); Art. 17;	The Council of Ministers, during the first stage of implementation, is responsible for regulating the harmonization and mutual recognition of technical measures and procedures and for approval and certification procedures.
SPS measures	Art. 13(n); Art. 17	The Council of Ministers, during the first stage of implementation, is responsible for regulating the harmonization and mutual recognition of sanitary measures and procedures, and approval and certification procedures.
Safeguard mechanisms (intra-trade)	Art. 22	Any Party may request the Council to adopt, with a qualified majority, temporary safeguard measures where serious difficulties occur in one or more economic sectors. In case of

		serious balance-of-payments difficulties, either Party may adopt indispensable measures, providing that such measures cause the minimum disturbance to the functioning of the common market. Safeguard measures can not exceed a period of six months and are renewable. The Council of Ministers decides on the modification, suspension or termination of safeguard measures.
Anti-dumping and countervailing measures	Art. 19	The Agreement takes into account the need to protect the Economic Union from dumping policies practised by third countries.
Subsidies and State aid	Art. 19 Art. 23	The Agreement takes into account the need to protect the Economic Union from subsidy policies practised by third countries. The Parties are prohibited from granting enterprises or products public aid that may distort fair competition.
Customs-related procedures	Art. 3	The Agreement makes reference to the <i>acquis</i> of the "Union Douanière et Économique de l'Afrique Centrale" (UDEAC).
IPR	Art. 43(a)	In Section IV on industry, the Agreement commits the Parties to strengthening cooperation on procedures related to quality certification and industrial property protection.
Government procurement	None	
Competition	Art. 14(q); Art. 23	They are not allowed to adopt new anti-competitive measures after the entry into force of the Agreement. The Agreement requires the promotion of fair competition, the elimination of anti-competitive practices, such as the abuse of dominant position in the common market, and the prohibition of State aids aimed at distorting competition. After the transitional period, any natural or legal person has the right to invoke national jurisdiction or the Court of Justice, in their respective field of competence, to resolve any dispute concerning anti-competitive behaviour.
Investment	Art. 13(m)	The Agreement provides for, <i>inter alia</i> , free movement of investments and capital within the common market.
General exceptions	Art. 16	The Parties may adopt measures that prohibit or limit trade in goods with the objective to protect public morals, human, animal or plant life or health, national treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value, exhaustible natural resources and intellectual and commercial property.
Accession	Art. 6	Any African State may become a member of the Community. The original Parties unanimously agree on the terms of accession.
Dispute settlement	Art. 74	Any dispute regarding the interpretation or implementation of the Agreement will be settled by the Court of Justice.
Relation with other trade agreements	Art. 20	The Council of Ministers authorizes the Secretary to begin trade agreement negotiations with third countries. Such agreements are concluded by the Council with a qualified majority.
Institutional provisions	Arts. 2-5; Title IV	The Agreement provides for the establishment of the following institutions attached to the Community: the Central African Economic Union (Union Économique de l'Afrique Centrale); the Central African Monetary Union (Union Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale); the Community Parliament (Parlement Communautaire); the Community Court of Justice (Cour de Justice Communautaire); and the Court of Auditors (Cour de Comptes). The Community's main bodies are: The Conference of Heads of State; the Council of Ministers; the Ministerial Committee; the Secretariat; the Inter-State Committee; the Bank of Central African States; the Central African Banking Commission; and the Development Financing Institution.

Trade and tariff data are not available.