The general principle which can be formulated as to the binding character of a contractual promise is narrow in theory although broad as to its practical implications. It reads: Contractual promises in a contract providing for mutual obligations of both parties are binding.

[Set out in detail.]

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As to substance, two issues arise: First, \textit{when} is a contract illegal or immoral? And second, what is the \textit{effect} of an illegal or immoral contract? It will be obvious that in this area generalisations are impossible. Prohibitions express moral convictions or social policies. It will be very difficult to find a common denominator for these basic values. This is true even within a regional association like the European Community - except the provisions enacted by this Community itself which are binding upon all the member states.

\textbf{Referring Principles:} \\
- IV.1.2 - Sanctity of contracts \\
- IV.7.1 - Invalidity of contract that violates good morals ("<em>boni mores</em>")