

CHAPTER SEVEN TRANSPARENCY

Article 7.1: Definitions

For purposes of this Chapter:

administrative ruling of general application means an administrative ruling or interpretation that applies to all persons and fact situations that fall generally within its ambit and that establishes a norm of conduct but does not include:

- (a) a determination or ruling made in an administrative or quasi-judicial proceeding that applies to a particular person, good, or service of the other Party in a specific case; or
- (b) a ruling that adjudicates with respect to a particular act or practice.

Article 7.2: Publication

1. Each Party shall ensure that its laws, regulations, procedures, and administrative rulings of general application relating to any matter covered by this Agreement are promptly published or otherwise made publicly available in such a manner as to enable interested persons and the other Party to become acquainted with them.

2. To the extent possible and practicable, each Party, in accordance with its domestic laws and regulations, shall:

- (a) publish in advance measures referred to in paragraph 1 that it proposes to adopt; and
- (b) provide interested persons and the other Party with a reasonable opportunity to comment on such proposed measures.

Article 7.3: Provision of Information

Upon request of a Party, the other Party shall, to the extent possible and practicable, promptly provide information and respond to questions pertaining to any actual or proposed measures referred to in Article 7.2 that the requesting Party considers might affect the operation of this Agreement, regardless of whether the requesting Party has been previously notified of that

measure.

Article 7.4: Administrative Proceedings

With a view to administering in a consistent, impartial, and reasonable manner its laws, regulations, procedures, and administrative rulings of general application relating to any matter covered by this Agreement, each Party shall ensure, in its administrative proceedings, applying measures referred to in Article 7.2 to particular persons, goods, or services of the other Party in specific cases, that:

- (a) wherever possible, in accordance with its domestic laws and regulations, persons of the other Party that are directly affected by a proceeding are provided reasonable notice when a proceeding is initiated, including a description of the nature of the proceeding, a statement of the legal authority under which the proceeding is initiated, and a general description of any issues in controversy;
- (b) persons of the other Party that are directly affected by a proceeding are afforded a reasonable opportunity to present facts and arguments in support of their positions prior to any final administrative action, when time, the nature of the proceeding, and the public interest permit; and
- (c) its procedures are in accordance with its domestic laws and regulations.

Article 7.5: Review and Appeal

1. Each Party shall establish or maintain judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative tribunals or procedures for the purposes of the prompt review and, where warranted, correction of administrative actions relating to any matter covered by this Agreement. Such tribunals shall be impartial and independent of the office or authority entrusted with administrative enforcement and shall not have any substantial interest in the outcome of the matter.

2. Each Party shall ensure that, in any such tribunals or procedures, the parties to the proceeding are provided with the right to:

- (a) a reasonable opportunity to support or defend their respective positions; and

- (b) a decision based on the evidence and submissions of record or, where required by its domestic laws and regulations the record compiled by the administrative authority.

3. Each Party shall ensure, subject to appeal or further review as provided for in its domestic laws and regulations, that any decision referred to in subparagraph 2(b) shall be implemented by, and shall govern the practice of, the office or authority with respect to the administrative action at issue.

Article 7.6: Cooperation on Promoting Increased Transparency and Combating Corruption

1. The Parties agree to cooperate in bilateral ways to promote transparency in respect of international trade and investment

2. The Parties affirm their resolve to combat bribery and corruption in international trade and investment in accordance with its applicable laws and regulations.

3. The Parties, subscribing to the principles of good administrative behavior, agree to cooperate in promoting regulatory quality and performance, including through exchange of information and best practices on their respective policies and regulations.