

CHAPTER 18

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 18.1 : Establishment of the Joint Commission

The Parties hereby establish a Joint Commission which may meet at the level of Ministers or their respective designees, as mutually agreed by the Parties. Each Party shall be responsible for the composition of its delegation.

Article 18.2 : Functions of the Joint Commission

1. The Joint Commission shall:
 - (a) review and assess the implementation and operation of this Agreement;
 - (b) supervise the work of all committees, working groups and other bodies established under this Agreement; and
 - (c) consider any other matter that may affect the operation of this Agreement.
2. The Joint Commission may:
 - (a) establish any *ad hoc* or standing committee, working group, or other body;
 - (b) refer matters to, or consider matters raised by, any *ad hoc* or standing committee, working group, or other body established under this Agreement;
 - (c) consider any proposals for amendments or modifications to the rights and obligations under this Agreement;
 - (d) as appropriate, issue interpretations of the provisions of this Agreement;
 - (e) further the implementation of this Agreement through implementing arrangements under the Agreement;
 - (f) establish its own rules of procedure as appropriate;
 - (g) explore ways to enhance further trade and investment between the Parties;
 - (h) seek to resolve differences or disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement;
 - (i) seek the advice of non-governmental persons or groups; and
 - (j) take such other action in the exercise of its functions as the Parties may agree.

Article 18.3 : Meetings of the Joint Commission

1. The Joint Commission shall convene within one year of entry into force of this Agreement and then annually, or as otherwise mutually agreed by the Parties.
2. Unless the Parties otherwise agree, meetings of the Joint Commission shall be held alternately in the territory of each Party and shall be chaired successively by each Party. The Party chairing a meeting of the Joint Commission shall provide any necessary administrative support for such meeting.
3. All decisions of the Joint Commission and of any *ad hoc* or standing committee, working group, and other body established under this Agreement shall be taken by mutual agreement.

Article 18.4 : Contact Points

1. Each Party shall designate a Contact Point or Points, and provide details of such Contact Points to the other Party, to facilitate communications between the Parties on any matter covered by this Agreement.
2. The Parties shall notify each other promptly of any amendments to their Contact Points.
3. On the request of the other Party, a Party's Contact Point shall identify the office or official responsible for the matter and assist, as necessary, in facilitating communications with the other Party.