

CHAPTER 17

ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 Establishment of the Joint Commission

The Parties hereby establish a Joint Commission which may meet at the level of Ministers or senior officials, as mutually determined by the Parties.

Article 2 Functions of the Joint Commission

1. The Joint Commission shall:
 - (a) consider any matter relating to the implementation of this Agreement;
 - (b) review the general functioning of this Agreement;
 - (c) consider any proposal to amend this Agreement;
 - (d) supervise the work of all committees and working groups established under this Agreement and supervise other activities conducted under this Agreement; and
 - (e) consider any other matter that may affect the operation of this Agreement.
2. The Joint Commission may:
 - (a) establish additional committees and working groups, refer any matter to a committee or working group for advice, and consider any matter raised by a committee or working group established under this Agreement;

- (b) further the implementation of this Agreement's objectives through implementing arrangements;
- (c) further the implementation of this Agreement's objectives by approving any modifications of, *inter alia*, the lists of entities and thresholds in Annexes I and II to Chapter 12 (Government Procurement);
- (d) explore measures for the further expansion of trade and investment between the Parties;
- (e) seek to resolve differences or disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement;
- (f) seek the expert advice of non-governmental persons or groups on any matter falling within its functions where this would help the Joint Commission make an informed decision; and
- (g) take such other action in the exercise of its functions as the Parties may mutually determine.

Article 3 **Meetings of the Joint Commission**

1. The Joint Commission shall meet within one year of the date of entry into force of this Agreement and every second year thereafter, or as otherwise mutually determined by the Parties.
2. Meetings of the Joint Commission shall be held alternately in the Area of each Party or as otherwise mutually determined by the Parties, and shall be chaired successively by each Party. The Party chairing a meeting of the Joint Commission shall provide any necessary administrative support for that meeting.

3. Each Party shall be responsible for the composition of its delegation.
4. The Joint Commission shall take decisions on any matter within its functions by mutual agreement.

Article 4
General Reviews

1. The Parties shall undertake a general review at ministerial level of this Agreement, including of matters relating to liberalisation, cooperation and trade facilitation, within two years of its entry into force and at least every three years thereafter, unless the Parties agree otherwise.
2. The conduct of general reviews shall, where possible, coincide with regular meetings of the Joint Commission.