2. If the competent authorities of a Party require additional information in order to process the application for an immigration formality, they shall, where applicable, endeavour to notify the applicant without undue delay.

3. Each Party shall, upon request and within a reasonable period of time after receiving a complete application for an immigration formality, notify the applicant of:

(a) the receipt of the application;

(b) the status of the application; and

(c) the decision concerning the application including, if approved, the period of stay and other conditions.

4. Each Party shall endeavour to simplify the requirements including required documentation, and to facilitate and expedite the procedures, relating to entry and temporary stay, in accordance with its laws and regulations.

5. Any fees imposed by a Party in respect of the processing of an application referred to in paragraph 1 shall be reasonable and in accordance with its laws and regulations.

Article 50 *bis*.6
Transparency

Each Party shall:

(a) publish or otherwise make publicly available explanatory material and relevant forms and documents on all relevant immigration formalities which pertain to or affect the operation of this Chapter;

(b) maintain or establish contact points or other appropriate mechanisms to respond to enquiries from interested persons regarding its laws and regulations relating to entry and temporary stay of natural persons;

(c) to the extent possible, allow reasonable time between publication of new regulations affecting entry and temporary stay of natural persons and their effective date. Such publication may be made electronically available; and

(d) upon modifying or amending any immigration measure that affects the entry and temporary stay of natural persons, ensure that the information published or otherwise made available pursuant to subparagraph (a) is updated as soon as possible.

Article 50 *bis*.7
Recognition

1. For the purposes of smooth movement of natural persons under this Chapter, a Party may recognise the education or experience obtained, requirements met, or licences or certifications granted in another Party for the purposes of the fulfilment, in whole or in part, of its standards or criteria for the authorisation, licensing or certification of natural persons of that other Party.

2. Recognition referred to in paragraph 1, which may be achieved through harmonisation or otherwise, may be based upon an agreement or arrangement between the Parties concerned or may be accorded unilaterally.

3. Where a Party recognises by agreement or arrangement between the Party and a non-Party or unilaterally, the education or experience obtained, requirements met, or licences or certifications granted in the non-Party, the Party shall accord to the other Parties an adequate opportunity to demonstrate that the education or experience obtained, requirements met or licences or certifications granted in the other Parties should also be recognised.

Article 50 *bis*.8
Application of Chapter 9

1. Without prejudice to Chapter 9, the Parties shall endeavour to resolve any differences arising out of the implementation of this Chapter through consultations.