4. If a specific period of time for applications exists, the competent authority shall allow an applicant a reasonable period of time for the submission of an application. The competent authority shall initiate the processing of an application without undue delay. If possible, the competent authority should accept an application in electronic format under the same conditions of authenticity as an application in paper format.

5. The competent authority shall complete the processing of an application, including reaching a final decision, within a reasonable period of time from the submission of a complete application. Each Party shall endeavour to establish an indicative timeframe for the processing of an application and shall make publicly available that timeframe, when established.

6. The competent authority shall, within a reasonable period of time after the receipt of an application which it considers incomplete, inform the applicant, and, to the extent feasible, identify the additional information required to complete the application and provide the opportunity to correct deficiencies.

7. The competent authority should, where possible, accept authenticated copies in place of original documents.

8. If the competent authority rejects an application by an applicant, it shall inform the applicant, in principle in writing, and without undue delay. It shall also, on request of the applicant, inform the applicant of the reasons for rejection of the application and the timeframe for an appeal against that decision.

9. The competent authority shall grant an authorisation as soon as it is established, in the light of an appropriate examination, that the applicant meets the conditions for obtaining it.

10. The competent authority shall ensure that an authorisation, once granted, enters into effect without undue delay in accordance with the terms and conditions specified therein.

ARTICLE 8.32

Technical standards

Each Party shall encourage its competent authorities, when adopting technical standards, to adopt technical standards developed through open and transparent processes, and shall encourage any body designated to develop technical standards to use open and transparent processes.