ARTICLE 18.7

Public consultations

1. When preparing major regulatory measures, the regulatory authority of each Party shall, where applicable, and in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures:

(a) publish either the draft regulatory measures or consultation documents providing sufficient details about regulatory measures under preparation to allow any person to assess whether and how the person's interests might be significantly affected;

(b) offer, on a non-discriminatory basis, reasonable opportunities for any person to provide comments; and

(c) consider the comments received.

2. The regulatory authority of each Party should make use of electronic means of communication and seek to maintain a dedicated single access web portal for the purposes of providing information and receiving comments related to public consultations.

3. The regulatory authority of each Party shall make publicly available any comment received or a summary of the results of the consultations. This obligation does not apply to the extent necessary for the protection of confidential information, for withholding personal data or inappropriate content or for other justified grounds such as the risk of harm to the interests of a third party.

ARTICLE 18.8

Impact assessment

1. The regulatory authority of each Party shall endeavour to systematically carry out, in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures, an impact assessment of major regulatory measures under preparation.

2. When carrying out an impact assessment, the regulatory authority of each Party shall establish and maintain processes and mechanisms under which the following factors will be taken into consideration:

(a) the need for the regulatory measure, including the nature and the significance of the issue that the regulatory measure intends to address;

(b) any feasible and appropriate regulatory or non-regulatory alternatives, including the option of not regulating, if available, that would achieve the Party's public policy objectives;