9. The request referred to in paragraph 2 may also be submitted in cases where no satisfactory solution has been reached at the level of the relevant specialised committee and is without prejudice to the Parties' rights and obligations under Chapter 21 or under the dispute settlement procedure of any other applicable agreement.

10. The request referred to in paragraph 2 shall not require the responding Party to achieve a particular regulatory outcome and shall not delay the adoption of a regulatory measure.

SECTION B

Animal welfare

ARTICLE 18.17

Animal welfare

1. The Parties will cooperate for their mutual benefit on matters of animal welfare with a focus on farmed animals with a view to improving the mutual understanding of their respective laws and regulations.

2. For that purpose, the Parties may adopt by mutual consent a working plan defining the priorities and categories of animals to be dealt with under this Article, and establish an Animal Welfare Technical Working Group to exchange information, expertise and experiences in the field of animal welfare and to explore the possibility of promoting further cooperation.

SECTION C

Final provisions

ARTICLE 18.18

Application of Section A

1. The provisions of Section A do not apply to Section B and to the regulatory cooperation on financial regulation provided for in Sub-Section 5 of Section E of Chapter 8.

2. Notwithstanding Article 18.3, any specific provisions in other Chapters of this Agreement shall prevail over the provisions of Section A to the extent necessary for the application of the specific provisions.