ARTICLE 13

Consultation procedure

1. When a Party decides to introduce or to amend a domestic technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure in accordance with this Agreement, the other Party may request consultations with that Party, which shall accept those consultations without delay. During those consultations, the Parties shall cooperate to develop a solution to minimise negative effects on bilateral trade. In situations where the Party requires an immediate action, that Party may adopt the domestic technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure before the completion of such consultations. That Party shall communicate and substantiate the urgency and imminent risks to safety or the environment.

2. If the Parties fail to agree on a solution, the Party referred to in paragraph 1 may adopt its domestic technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure and the other Party may have recourse to dispute settlement under Chapter 21 in accordance with Article 19 of this Annex if it deems that that domestic technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure could adversely affect trade between the Parties.

3. The decision of the other Party whether or not to invoke consultations under paragraph 1 is without prejudice to the right of that other Party to have recourse to dispute settlement under Chapter 21 in accordance with Article 19 of this Annex with respect to a new or amended domestic technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure adopted by the Party referred to in paragraph 1.

ARTICLE 14

Products with new technologies or new features

A Party shall not prevent or unduly delay the placing on its market of a covered product on the ground that it incorporates a new technology or a new feature which has not yet been regulated unless there are duly substantiated risks to human health, safety or the environment. Each Party shall implement the relevant provisions of the 1958 Agreement relating to new technologies.

ARTICLE 15

Regulatory exception clause

1. If there are urgent and compelling risks for human health, safety or the environment, a Party may refuse the placing of a covered product on its market or may require the withdrawal from its market of a covered product which is compliant with the technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures referred to in this Annex. Such a refusal or requirement shall not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination against the products of the other Party or a disguised restriction on trade.