ARTICLE 7.13

Cooperation

1. The Parties shall strengthen their cooperation in the field of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures with a view to increasing the mutual understanding of their respective systems and facilitating access to their respective markets. The Parties recognise that existing regulatory cooperation dialogues are important means to strengthen such cooperation.

2. The Parties shall seek to identify, develop and promote trade facilitating initiatives of mutual interest.

3. The initiatives referred to in paragraph 2 may include:

(a) improving the quality and effectiveness of their respective technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures, and promoting good regulatory practices through regulatory cooperation between the Parties, including the exchange of information, experience and data;

(b) where appropriate, simplifying their respective technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures;

(c) increasing the convergence of their respective technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures with relevant international standards, guides or recommendations;

(d) ensuring efficient interaction and cooperation of their respective regulatory authorities at international or national level;

(e) promoting or enhancing cooperation between organisations in the Parties in charge of standardisation, accreditation and conformity assessment procedures; and

(f) exchanging information, to the extent possible, about international agreements and arrangements regarding technical barriers to trade to which one or both Parties are party.

ARTICLE 7.14

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

1. The Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade established pursuant to Article 23.3 shall be responsible for the effective implementation and operation of this Chapter.

2. The Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade shall have the following functions:

(a) reviewing the implementation and operation of this Chapter;

(b) reviewing the cooperation in the development and improvement of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures as provided for in Article 7.13;

(c) reviewing this Chapter in light of any developments under the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade established under Article 13 of the TBT Agreement, and if necessary, developing recommendations for amendments to this Chapter;

(d) taking any steps which the Parties may consider to be of assistance in their implementation of this Chapter and the TBT Agreement and in facilitating trade between the Parties;

(e) identifying and considering technical cooperation projects of mutual interests between the Parties in the area of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures, including those relating to third countries;

(f) discussing any matter covered by this Chapter, on request of a Party;

(g) promptly addressing any issue that a Party raises related to the development, adoption or application of technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures of the other Party under this Chapter and the TBT Agreement;