ARTICLE 22.13

Terms of reference

1. Unless the Parties agree otherwise no later than 10 days after the date of the establishment of the panel, the terms of reference of the panel shall be:

"to examine, in the light of the relevant covered provisions of this Agreement cited by the Parties, the matter referred to in the request for the establishment of the panel, to decide on the conformity of the measure at issue with the relevant covered provisions of this Agreement and to issue a report in accordance with Articles 22.18 and 22.19".

2. If the Parties agree on other terms of reference than those referred to in paragraph 1, they shall notify the agreed terms of reference to the panel no later than three days after their agreement.

ARTICLE 22.14

Decision on urgency

If a Party so requests, the panel shall decide, no later than 15 days after the date of its establishment, whether a dispute concerns matters of urgency.

ARTICLE 22.15

Panel proceedings

1. Any hearing of the panel shall be open to the public unless the Parties agree otherwise or the submissions and arguments of a Party contain confidential information. Hearings held in closed session shall be confidential.

2. Unless the Parties agree otherwise, the venue shall alternate between the Parties with the first hearing to be held in the Party complained against.

3. The panel and the Parties shall treat as confidential any information submitted by a Party to the panel which that Party has designated as confidential. Where that Party submits a confidential version of its written submissions to the panel, it shall also, on request of the other Party, provide a non-confidential summary of the information contained in its submissions that could be disclosed to the public with an explanation as to why the non-disclosed information is confidential.

4. The deliberations of the panel shall be kept confidential.

5. The Parties shall be given the opportunity to attend any of the presentations, statements, arguments or rebuttals in the proceedings. The Parties shall make available to each other any information or written submissions submitted to the panel, including any comments on the descriptive part of the interim report, responses to questions of the panel and written comments on those responses.

6. The interim report and the final report shall be drafted without the presence of the Parties, and in light of the information provided and the statements made. The arbitrators shall assume full responsibility for the drafting of the reports and shall not delegate this responsibility to any other person.

7. The panel shall attempt to make its decisions, including its final report, by consensus. It may also make its decisions, including its final report, by majority vote where a decision cannot be arrived at by consensus. Dissenting opinions of arbitrators shall not be published.

8. The decisions of the panel shall be final and binding on the Parties. They shall be unconditionally accepted by the Parties. They shall not add to or diminish the rights and obligations of the Parties under this Agreement. They shall not be construed as creating rights for and obligations on persons.