ARTICLE 6

1. In case of suspension of the designation of a registered conformity assessment body, the Party whose Designating Authority has suspended the designation shall immediately notify the other Party and the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition to that effect. The registration of that conformity assessment body shall be suspended from the date of receipt of the notification by the co-chair of that other Party on the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition. The other Party shall accept the results of the conformity assessment procedures conducted by that conformity assessment body prior to the suspension of the designation.

2. In case of lifting of the suspension of the designation of a registered conformity assessment body, the Party whose Designating Authority has lifted the suspension of the designation shall immediately notify the other Party and the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition to that effect. The suspension of the registration of that conformity assessment body shall be lifted from the date of receipt of the notification by the co-chair of that other Party on the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition. The other Party shall accept the results of the conformity assessment procedures conducted by that conformity assessment body from the date of lifting of the suspension of the registration.

ARTICLE 7

1. Each Party may contest the compliance with the criteria for designation or the criteria for confirmation set out in the applicable laws, regulations and administrative provisions specified in the relevant Sectoral Annex by a registered conformity assessment body or a confirmed facility of the other Party, respectively. Such contestation shall be notified to the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition and to that other Party in writing with an objective explanation of the reason for the contestation. The Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition shall discuss such contestation within 20 days after the date on which such notification is made.

2. Where the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition decides to conduct a joint verification, it will be conducted in a timely manner by the Parties with the participation of the Designating Authority that designated the contested conformity assessment body and with the prior consent of the conformity assessment body. The result of such joint verification shall be discussed in the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition with a view to resolving the issue as soon as possible.

3. The registration of the contested conformity assessment body shall be suspended 15 days after the date on which the notification is made or on the date on which the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition decides to suspend the registration, whichever is the sooner. The registration of the contested conformity assessment body shall remain suspended until the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition decides to lift the suspension of the registration of the conformity assessment body. In the event of such suspension, the contesting Party shall accept the results of conformity assessment procedures conducted by that conformity assessment body prior to the date of suspension.

4. The Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition will decide on the actions to be taken by a Party or the Parties with a view to resolving issues concerning the contestation of facilities as soon as possible.

5. The contesting Party shall not be obliged to accept the confirmation of, and the data generated by, the contested facility from the date on which the co-chair of the other Party on the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition receives the notification referred to in paragraph 1 until the date on which the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition decides otherwise.

ARTICLE 8

1. A Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition made up of representatives of the Parties shall be established on the date of application of this Protocol, as a body responsible for the effective functioning of this Protocol.