2. The Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition shall take decisions and adopt recommendations by consensus. It shall meet at the request of either Party under the co-chairs of the Parties. The Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition may establish sub-committees and delegate specific tasks to such sub-committees. The Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition shall adopt its rules of procedure.

3. The Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition may consider any matter related to the operation of this Protocol. In particular, it shall be responsible for and/or decide on:

(a) registration of a conformity assessment body, suspension of registration of a conformity assessment body, lifting of suspension of registration of a conformity assessment body, and termination of registration of a conformity assessment body;

(b) establishment and, unless otherwise decided, publication on a Sector by Sector basis of lists of the registered conformity assessment bodies and the confirmed facilities;

(c) establishment of appropriate modalities of information exchange referred to in this Protocol; and

(d) appointment of experts from each Party for the joint verification referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 7 of this Protocol and subparagraph 1(c) of Article 9 of this Protocol.

4. If any problem arises to the interpretation or application of this Protocol, the Parties shall seek an amicable solution through the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition.

5. The Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition is responsible for coordinating and facilitating the negotiation of additional Sectoral Annexes.

6. Each Party shall provide the other Party and the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition, at least annually, with a list of the confirmed facilities.

7. Any decision made by the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition will be notified promptly in writing to each Party.

8. The Parties shall, through the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition:

(a) specify and communicate to each other the applicable articles or annexes contained in the laws, regulations and administrative provisions set out in the Sectoral Annexes;

(b) exchange information concerning the implementation of the applicable laws, regulations and administrative provisions specified in the Sectoral Annexes;

(c) notify each other of any scheduled changes in the laws, regulations and administrative provisions related to this Protocol prior to their entry into force; and

(d) notify each other of any scheduled changes concerning their Designating Authorities, Competent Authorities, the registered conformity assessment bodies and the confirmed facilities.

9. Without prejudice to the provisions of preceding paragraphs of this Article, the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition shall, on the date of application of this Protocol, decide to accept, *mutatis mutandis*, documents that were produced by Japan and the European Community and its successors with regard to the EC-Japan MRA, including joint declarations, exchange of letters and decisions of the Joint Committee established pursuant to the EC-Japan MRA, and that are considered appropriate by the Parties.

ARTICLE 9

1. The following procedure shall apply to the registration of a conformity assessment body:

(a) Each Party shall make a proposal that a conformity assessment body of that Party designated by its Designating Authority be registered under this Protocol, by presenting its proposal in writing, supported by necessary documents, to the other Party and the Joint Committee on Mutual Recognition;