3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, either Party may request consultations with the other Party on any matter related to this Agreement. The Parties shall enter into consultations at a time agreed by them within 45 days of the request. These consultations may take place at the meetings of the Joint Committee.

ARTICLE 17

Suspension of reciprocal acceptance obligations

1. A Party shall have the right to suspend, in whole or in part, its acceptance obligations under paragraph 1 of Article 4, when the other Party materially violates its obligations under this Agreement.

2. Before exercising its right to suspend its acceptance obligations, a Party shall request consultations under Article 16 for the purpose of seeking corrective measures of the other Party. During the consultations, the Parties shall, where appropriate, consider the effects of the suspension.

3. Rights under this Article shall be exercised only if the other Party fails to take corrective measures within an appropriate period of time following the consultations. If a Party exercises the right, it shall notify the other Party of its intention to suspend the acceptance obligations in writing and detail the reasons for suspension.

4. Such suspension shall take effect 30 days after the date of the notification, unless, prior to the end of this period, the Party, which initiated the suspension, notifies the other Party in writing that it withdraws its notification.

5. Such suspension shall not affect the validity of findings of compliance made and certificates issued by the competent authorities or approved organisations of the other Party prior to the date the suspension took effect. Any such suspension that has become effective may be rescinded immediately upon an exchange of diplomatic notes to that effect by the Parties.

ARTICLE 18

Headings

The headings of the Articles of this Agreement are inserted for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 19

Annexes

Annexes to this Agreement shall form an integral part of this Agreement, and all references to the "Agreement" shall include references to the Annexes except where otherwise provided.