(b) any new, or any changes to existing, laws, regulations or administrative guidelines which significantly affect trade in services.

**Article 8.15: Domestic Regulation**

1. Each Party shall ensure that all measures of general application affecting trade in services are administered in a reasonable, objective, and impartial manner.

2. Each Party shall maintain or institute as soon as practicable judicial, arbitral, or administrative tribunals or procedures which provide, on request of an affected service supplier, for the prompt review of, and where justified, appropriate remedies for, administrative decisions affecting trade in services. Where such procedures are not independent of the agency entrusted with the administrative decision concerned, the Party shall ensure that the procedures in fact provide for an objective and impartial review.

3. Nothing in paragraph 2 shall be construed to require a Party to institute such tribunals or procedures where this would be inconsistent with its constitutional structure or the nature of its legal system.

4. If the results of the negotiations related to paragraph 4 of Article VI of GATS enter into effect, the Parties shall review the results of such negotiations and shall amend this Article as appropriate, after consultation among the Parties to bring the results of such negotiations into effect under this Chapter.

5. With a view to ensuring that measures relating to qualification requirements and procedures, technical standards, and licensing requirements do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade in services, while recognising the right to regulate and to introduce new regulations on the supply of services in order to meet its policy objectives, each Party shall endeavour to ensure that any such measures that it adopts or maintains are:

   (a) based on objective and transparent criteria, such as competence and the ability to supply the service;

   (b) not more burdensome than necessary to ensure the quality of the service; and

   (c) in the case of licensing procedures, not in themselves a restriction on the supply of the service.

6. In determining whether a Party is in conformity with its obligations under subparagraph 5(a), international standards of relevant international organisations[13] applied by that Party shall be taken into account.

7. Where a Party requires authorisation for the supply of a service, it shall ensure that its competent authorities:

   (a) ensure that any authorisation fees charged for the completion of relevant application procedures are reasonable, transparent, and do not in themselves restrict the supply of a service. For the purposes of this subparagraph, authorisation fees do not include fees for the use of natural resources, payment for auction, tendering, or other non-discriminatory means of awarding concessions, or mandated contributions to universal services provision;

   (b) within a reasonable period of time after the submission of an application considered complete under its laws and regulations, inform the applicant of the decision concerning the application;

   (c) to the extent practicable, establish an indicative time frame for processing of an application;

   (d) on request of the applicant, provide, without undue delay, information concerning the status of the application;

   (e) in the case of an incomplete application and on request of the applicant, identify, where practicable, all the additional information that is required to complete the application, and provide the opportunity to remedy deficiencies within a reasonable time frame;

   (f) if an application is terminated or denied, to the extent possible and without undue delay, inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for such action. The applicant will

[13] "Relevant international organisations" refers to international bodies whose membership is open to the relevant bodies of the Parties.