(d) a Committee on the Business Environment, to cover work on intellectual property; electronic commerce; competition; and government procurement.

2. Each Committee established pursuant to paragraph 1 shall have the functions set out for it in Annex 18A (Functions of the Subsidiary Bodies of the RCEP Joint Committee), and any other functions as set out for it in this Agreement or agreed by the Parties.

3. The RCEP Joint Committee may establish additional subsidiary bodies including other committees, as it deems necessary.

4. Each Committee established pursuant to paragraph 1 shall meet within one year of the date of entry into force of this Agreement and every year thereafter unless the Parties agree otherwise.

Article 18.7: Meetings of Subsidiary Bodies

Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, any subsidiary body:

(a) shall be composed of representatives from each Party;

(b) shall be co-chaired by a representative appointed by the Parties which are Member States of ASEAN and a representative appointed by the Parties which are not Member States of ASEAN on a rotational basis, unless the Parties agree otherwise;

(c) shall take decisions on any matter within its functions by consensus;[2]

(d) may carry out its work through whatever means that are appropriate, which may include electronic mail, videoconferencing, or other means; and

(e) shall meet as directed by the RCEP Joint Committee or as otherwise agreed by the Parties.

[2] A subsidiary body shall be deemed to have taken a decision by consensus if no Party present at the meeting when the decision is taken objects to the proposed decision. In case a Party is absent from the meeting, the decision shall be circulated to that Party for it to consider the decision, seek clarification where required, and that Party may convey its acknowledgement within 14 days of the circulation of the decision.

Article 18.8: **Contact Point**

Each Party shall, within 30 days of the date of entry into force of this Agreement for that Party, designate an overall contact point to facilitate communications among the Parties on any matter relating to this Agreement and notify the other Parties of the contact details of that contact point. Each Party shall promptly notify the other Parties of any change to those contact details. All official communications in this regard shall be in the English language.