(e) endeavour to resolve any dispute arising from the interpretation, application or implementation of this Agreement;

(f) be a forum to explain any relevant modification of policies, programmes or competences relevant to this Agreement; and

(g) make recommendations and adopt decisions, where appropriate, and facilitate specific aspects of cooperation based on this Agreement.

3. The Joint Committee shall take decisions by consensus.

4. The Joint Committee shall normally meet once a year in Tokyo and Brussels alternately. It shall also meet at the request of either Party.

5. The Joint Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure.

ARTICLE 43

Dispute settlement

1. The Parties shall take any general or specific actions required to fulfil their obligations under this Agreement, based on the principles of mutual respect, equal partnership and respect for international law.

2. If any dispute arises concerning the interpretation, application or implementation of this Agreement, the Parties shall strengthen their efforts to consult and cooperate with each other to resolve the dispute in a timely and amicable manner.

3. If a dispute cannot be resolved in accordance with paragraph 2, either Party may request that the dispute be referred to the Joint Committee for further discussion and study.

4. The Parties consider that a particularly serious and substantial violation of the obligations described in paragraph 1 of Article 2 and paragraph 1 of Article 5, which respectively constitutes an essential element of the basis of the cooperation under this Agreement, with its gravity and nature being of an exceptional sort that threatens peace and security and has international repercussion, may be addressed as a case of special urgency.

5. In the unlikely and unexpected event that a case of special urgency as referred to in paragraph 4 occurs within the territory of either Party, the Joint Committee shall hold an urgent consultation within 15 days upon the request of the other Party.

In case the Joint Committee is unable to reach a mutually acceptable solution, it shall convene urgently at ministerial level on that matter.