

Chapter 16

Administration of the Agreement

Article 16.1: The Free Trade Commission

1. The Parties hereby establish the Free Trade Commission, comprising the Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica and the Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore, or their designees.
2. The Commission shall:
 - (a) supervise the operation and implementation of this Agreement;
 - (b) oversee the further elaboration of this Agreement ;
 - (c) seek to resolve disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement ;
 - (d) supervise the work of any committees, working groups or coordinators under this Agreement;
 - (e) establish the amount of remuneration and expenses that will be paid in dispute settlement proceedings ; and
 - (f) consider any other matter that may affect the operation of this Agreement.
3. The Commission may:
 - (a) establish and delegate responsibilities to committees, working groups and coordinators;
 - (b) modify in fulfillment of the Agreement's objectives:
 - i. Appendix to Annex 2.1 (Elimination of Customs Duties), by accelerating tariff elimination;
 - ii. Annex 3.1 (Exceptions for the General Rule of Origin under Article 3.5);
 - iii. Annex 4.1 (Data Elements to be Included in the Certification of Origin);
 - iv. Annexes 8.1 (Government Procurement Schedules) and 8.2 (Officially Designated Electronic Media for the Publication of Information on Government Procurement); and

- v. Annexes I and II (Non-Conforming Measures) on Trade in Services and Investment;
- (c) issue interpretations of the provisions of this Agreement ;
- (d) seek the advice of non-governmental persons or groups; and
- (e) take such other action in the exercise of its functions as the Parties may agree.

Each Party shall implement, in accordance with its applicable legal procedures, any modification referred to in subparagraph 3(b) within such period as the Parties may agree.

4. The Commission shall establish its rules and procedures. All decisions of the Commission shall be taken by consensus.

5. The Commission shall normally convene every 2 years in regular session, unless the Commission otherwise decides. Regular sessions of the Commission shall be chaired successively by each Party. The sessions may be held by any technological means available to the Parties.

Article 16.2: Free Trade Agreement Coordinators

- 1. Each Party shall appoint a free trade agreement coordinator.
- 2. The coordinators shall work jointly to develop agendas and make other preparations for Commission meetings, and shall follow up on Commission decisions, as appropriate.

Article 16.3: Administration of Dispute Settlement Proceedings

- 1. Each Party shall:
 - (a) designate an office that shall provide administrative assistance to the panels established under Chapter 17 (Dispute Settlement) and perform such other administrative functions as the Commission may direct; and
 - (b) notify the Commission of the location of its designated office.
- 2. Each Party shall be responsible for:
 - (a) the operation and costs of its designated office;
 - (b) the remuneration and payment of expenses, as set out in Article 16.1 (The Free Trade Commission) and Annex 16.2 (Remuneration and Payment of Common Expenses); and

- (c) its own expenses and legal costs incurred in dispute settlement proceedings.