

CHAPTER 16: INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 16.1

Establishment of the Closer Economic Partnership Joint Commission

A Closer Economic Partnership Joint Commission (CEP Joint Commission) shall be established to ensure the proper implementation of this Agreement and to review periodically the economic relationship and partnership between the Parties. The CEP Joint Commission may meet at the level of Ministers or senior officials, as mutually determined by the Parties. Each Party shall be responsible for the composition of its delegation.

ARTICLE 16.2

Mandate of the Closer Economic Partnership Joint Commission

1. The CEP Joint Commission shall:
 - (a) review the general functioning of this Agreement;
 - (b) review and consider specific matters related to the operation and implementation of this Agreement;
 - (c) consider any proposal to amend this Agreement;
 - (d) establish, as required, permanent and ad hoc subsidiary bodies and refer matters to them for advice and consider matters raised by all subsidiary bodies created under this Agreement;
 - (e) seek advice from non-governmental persons or groups on any matter falling within its responsibilities where this would help the CEP Joint Commission make an informed decision;
 - (f) explore measures for the further expansion of trade and investment between the Parties and identify appropriate areas of commercial, industrial and technical cooperation between relevant enterprises and organisations of the Parties; and
 - (g) take such other action as the Parties may mutually determine.
2. The CEP Joint Commission shall develop procedures governing the extent to which representatives from the private sector may participate in its deliberations.

ARTICLE 16.3

Meetings of the Closer Economic Partnership Joint Commission

1. The CEP Joint Commission shall meet within one year of the date of entry into force of this Agreement and then each year, or as otherwise mutually determined by the Parties.
2. Sessions of the CEP Joint Commission shall be held alternately in the territory of each Party.

ARTICLE 16.4

Contact Point

1. Each Party shall designate a contact point to facilitate communications between the Parties on any matter covered by this Agreement and for which a contact point has not been designated under Chapter 6, Chapter 7, Chapter 12 or Chapter 13 of this Agreement.
2. Upon request, the contact point shall identify the office responsible for the matter and assist, as necessary, in facilitating communication with the requesting Party.

ARTICLE 16.5

General Reviews

1. The Parties shall undertake a general review at ministerial level of the Agreement, including matters relating to liberalisation, cooperation and trade facilitation, within five years of its entry into force and at least every five years thereafter.
2. The conduct of general reviews shall normally coincide with regular meetings of the CEP Joint commission.