CHAPTER 17
ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Article 17.1: Administrative Commission of the Agreement

1. The Parties hereby establish an Administrative Commission of the Agreement to supervise the implementation of this Agreement and to review the trade relationship between the Parties.

(a) The Administrative Commission of the Agreement shal be composed of government officials of each Party and shal be chaired by:

(i) Panama´s Minister for Trade and Industry; and

(i) Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry

or their designees.

(b) The Administrative Commission of the Agreement may establish *ad hoc* and standing committees or working groups[1], based on the agreed terms of reference[2] for such working groups or committees (where necessary) and also the composition thereof in order to:

(i) study and recommend to the Ministers in charge of trade negotiations of the Parties any appropriate measures to resolve any issue arising from the implementation or application of any part of this Agreement; and / or

(i) consider, at either Party's request, fresh concessions or issues not already dealt with by this Agreement.

2. The Administrative Commission of the Agreement shal :

(a) review the general functioning of this Agreement;

(b) review and consider specific matters related to the operation and implementation of this Agreement in the light of its objectives;

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1 This may include working groups or committees on maritime services and investment issues, where appropriate and necessary.

2 For greater certainty, the *ad hoc* and standing committees or working groups, may have the fol owing functions, where appropriate: (a) reviewing, for the purpose of avoiding disputes between the Parties, claims by a Party that a measure of the other Party (which is in force) has affected the effective implementation of the undertakings in this Agreement; (b) assessing and recommending to the Administrative Commission, proposed amendments or other modifications to this Agreement.

(c) facilitate the avoidance and settlement of disputes arising under this Agreement, including through consultations pursuant to Article 15.3 (*Consultations*);

(d) consider and adopt any amendment to this Agreement or other modification to the commitments[3] therein, subject to the completion of necessary domestic legal procedures by each Party and Article 18.9 (*Amendments*);

(e) consider any other matter that may affect the functioning of this Agreement and make recommendations, as appropriate, for enhancing the implementation of this Agreement;

(f) consider ways to further enhance trade relations between the Parties and to further the objectives of this Agreement;

(g) adopt, as appropriate, binding interpretations of this Agreement; and pursuant to Article 9.13 (*Investor - State Dispute Settlement*); and

(h) take such other action as the Parties may agree.

3. The Administrative Commission shal normal y convene every two years, or such other time as the Parties may agree, with such sessions to be held alternatively in the territory of each Party. A request by the Tribunal to the Administrative Commission pursuant to Article 9.13.9 (*Investor – State Dispute Settlement*) shal not be construed as to require the convening of a session of the Administrative Commission of the Agreement.

Article 17.2 Administration of Dispute Settlement Proceedings

1. Each Party shal :

(a) designate an office that shal be responsible for providing administrative assistance to panels established under Article 15.6 (*Request for an Arbitral Panel*)[4].

(b) be responsible for the operation and costs of its designated office; and

(c) notify the other Party of the location of its office.

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3 For greater certainty, this includes Annexes such as Annex 2.3 (*Customs Duties Elimination Schedule*) of Chapter 2 (*Trade in Goods*), Annex 3A (*Product-Specific Rules*) of Chapter 3 (*Rules of Origin*), Annex I and II of Chapters 9 (*Investmen*t) and 10 (Cross-Border Trade in Services) and Annex III of Chapter 11 (*Financial Services*).

4 For greater certainty, it is clarified that this Article does not require Parties to establish a new or separate office for the purposes of providing administrative assistance to arbitral panels established under Article 15.6 (*Request for an Arbitral Panel*).