4.   The receiving Party shall provide protection to information received under this Agreement, as mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article. In the event that a law or a court order requires the receiving party to disclose the information received, it shall inform the other Party promptly.

ARTICLE 15

Personal Data

1.   Personal data exchanged under this Agreement shall be subject to a level of protection equivalent to the level of protection maintained by the Party providing the data.

2.   The Parties shall provide each other with all legislation and administrative provisions relevant to this Article, concerning the personal data protection of their respective countries.

3.   Personal data exchange shall not occur until the Parties have agreed in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 18 of this Agreement, that the level of protection in their territories is equivalent.

ARTICLE 16

Exemptions from Obligation to Render Assistance

1.   If the requested administration considers that the requested assistance might be prejudicial to public policy, or to the sovereignty, security or other essential interests of that Party, or might in the opinion of that Customs administration involve violation of industrial, commercial or professional secrecy, it may refuse to provide assistance or it may provide the assistance only if certain conditions are met.

2.   If the requesting administration has requested assistance which it would not itself be able to give if requested by the other Customs administration, it shall draw attention to that fact in its request. Compliance with such a request shall be entirely within the discretion of the requested administration.

3.   Assistance may be postponed by the requested administration on the ground that it will interfere with an ongoing investigation, prosecution or proceeding. In such a case the requested administration shall consult with the requesting administration to determine if assistance can be given subject to such terms or conditions as the requested administration may require.