

ARTICLE IX

Periodic meetings

Officials of the Parties' competition authorities shall meet periodically to:

- (a) exchange information on their current enforcement efforts and priorities in relation to their competition laws;
- (b) exchange information on economic sectors of common interest;
- (c) discuss policy changes that they are considering; and
- (d) discuss other matters of mutual interest relating to the application of their competition laws and the operation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE X

Confidentiality of information

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, neither Party is required to communicate information to the other Party if such communication is prohibited by the laws of the Party possessing the information or would be incompatible with that Party's important interests.
2. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, each Party shall, to the fullest extent possible consistent with that Party's laws, maintain the confidentiality of any information communicated to it in confidence by the other Party under this Agreement. Each Party shall oppose any application by a third party for disclosure of such confidential information.
3. The degree to which either Party communicates information to the other pursuant to this Agreement may be subject to and dependent upon the acceptability of the assurances given by the other Party with respect to confidentiality and with respect to the purposes for which the information will be used.
4.
 - (a) Notifications and consultations under Articles II and VIII of this Agreement and other communications between the Parties in relation thereto shall be deemed confidential.
 - (b) A notified Party may not, without the consent of the other Party, communicate to its state or provincial authorities information received from the other Party pursuant to notifications or consultations under this Agreement.
5. Subject to paragraph 2, information communicated in confidence by a Party's competition authority to the competition authority of the other Party pursuant to Articles III, IV or V of this Agreement shall not be communicated to third parties without the consent of the competition authority that provided the information.