

X. CONFIDENTIALITY AND USE OF INFORMATION

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, neither Party is required to disclose information to the other Party where such disclosure 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, maintain the confidentiality of any information communicated to it in confidence by the other Party under this Agreement. Each Party shall oppose, to the fullest extent possible, any application by a third party for disclosure of such information.
3. (a) The competition authority of the European Communities, after notice to the Canadian competition authority, will inform the competent authorities of the Member State or Member States whose important interests are affected of the notifications sent to it by the Canadian competition authority.

(b) The competition authority of the European Communities, after consultation with the Canadian competition authority, will inform the competent authorities of such Member State or Member States of any cooperation and coordination of enforcement activities. However, as regards such activities, the competition authority of the European Communities will respect the Canadian competition authority's request not to disclose the information which it provides when necessary to ensure confidentiality.