

mutual recognition of conformity assessment, which includes certification and testing procedures for several sectors.

They will strengthen regulatory co-operation, in particular by encouraging regulatory agencies to give high priority to co-operation with their transatlantic counterparts, so as to address and prevent technical and other non-tariff barriers to trade and investment resulting from different regulatory processes at all levels.

d) Competition policy

They aim to bring the bilateral co-operation agreement in the area of competition policy into force in 1997.

e) Government procurement

They will work to expand the access at all levels to their respective public procurement markets, on the basis of fair and balanced opportunities. They will also examine other issues of common interest to advance liberalisation of public procurement markets.

f) Financial services

They will co-operate with a view to facilitating market access to their respective financial services industries.

g) Intellectual property rights (IPR)

They will renew their efforts to resolve all remaining bilateral IPR problems.

h) Customs and indirect taxation

(i) They will endeavour to reach a bilateral agreement on customs co-operation and mutual assistance in early 1997. This agreement should cover:

- with regard to customs co-operation:

- the simplification of customs procedures, computerisation, including data exchange and