

4. If assistance is refused or postponed, the decision and the reasons for the refusal or postponement shall be notified in writing to the requesting administration without delay.

ARTICLE 17

Costs

1. Subject to paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article, each Customs administration shall waive all claims for reimbursement of costs incurred in the execution of this Agreement.
2. Expenses and allowances paid to experts and witnesses, as well as costs of translators and interpreters, other than Government employees, shall be borne by the requesting Party.
3. If expenses of a substantial or extraordinary nature are or will be required to execute a request, the Parties shall consult to determine the terms and conditions under which the request shall be executed as well as the manner in which the costs shall be borne.

ARTICLE 18

Application of the Agreement

1. The Customs administrations shall enable their officials responsible for the investigation or combating of Customs offences to maintain personal and direct relations with each other.
2. The Customs administrations shall jointly decide on detailed arrangements to facilitate the application of this Agreement.
3. Any difficulties or doubts between the Customs administrations arising from the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between them.

ARTICLE 19

Settlement of Disputes

Any disputes arising from this Agreement shall be settled by the Parties by diplomatic means.