

CHAPTER 13
TRANSPARENCY

Article 1: Scope

1. This Chapter provides minimum standards on transparency that shall apply to any matters covered by this Agreement. Other Chapters may include higher or more specific standards that apply to their subject matter.
2. Any provisions in other Chapters addressing the same subject matter as this Chapter shall apply in addition to and shall supplement the provisions of this Chapter.

Article 2: Publication

1. Each Party shall ensure, wherever possible, that its laws, regulations, procedures, and administrative rulings of general application relating to any matter covered by this Agreement are promptly published or otherwise made publicly accessible to interested persons.
2. To the extent possible, each Party shall make the measures referred to in paragraph 1 available in electronic form, or online.
3. To the extent possible, each Party shall:
 - (a) publish in advance any measure referred to in paragraph 1 that it proposes to adopt; and
 - (b) where appropriate, provide all Parties with a reasonable opportunity to comment on such proposed measures.¹

Article 3: Notification and Provision of Information

1. To the extent possible, each Party shall notify the other Parties of any proposed or actual measure that the Party considers might materially affect the operation of this Agreement or otherwise substantially affect another Party's interests under this Agreement.
2. On request of another Party, a Party shall provide information and respond to questions pertaining to any actual or proposed measure that the requesting Party considers might materially affect the operation of this Agreement or otherwise substantially affect its interests under this Agreement, regardless of whether the requesting Party has been previously notified of that measure.

¹ For greater certainty, a proposed measure may include a policy discussion document, a summary of proposed regulations or the draft text of a law or regulation.

3. Parties shall provide any notification, request, information or response made under this Article to the other Party through the relevant contact points.

4. Any notification, information or response provided under this Article shall be without prejudice as to whether the measure in question is consistent with this Agreement.