

3. When preparing or implementing measures aimed at protecting the environment or labour conditions that may affect trade or investment, each Party shall take into account relevant and available scientific and technical information, international standards, guidelines and recommendations.

ARTICLE 357

Dispute settlement

Title I of Part Six does not apply to this Chapter, except for Article 356(2). Articles 408 and 409 apply to Article 355(3).

CHAPTER 2

COMPETITION POLICY

ARTICLE 358

Principles and definitions

1. The Parties recognise the importance of free and undistorted competition in their trade and investment relations. The Parties acknowledge that anticompetitive business practices may distort the proper functioning of markets and undermine the benefits of trade liberalisation.

2. For the purposes of this Chapter, an "economic actor" means an entity or a group of entities constituting a single economic entity, regardless of its legal status, that is engaged in an economic activity by offering goods or services on a market.

ARTICLE 359

Competition law

1. In recognition of the principles set out in Article 358, each Party shall maintain a competition law which effectively addresses the following anticompetitive business practices:

- (a) agreements between economic actors, decisions by associations of economic actors and concerted practices which have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition;
- (b) abuse by one or more economic actors of a dominant position; and
- (c) for the United Kingdom, mergers or acquisitions and, for the Union, concentrations, between economic actors which may have significant anticompetitive effects.

2. The competition law referred to in paragraph 1 shall apply to all economic actors irrespective of their nationality or ownership status.

3. Each Party may provide for exemptions from its competition law in pursuit of legitimate public policy objectives, provided that those exemptions are transparent and are proportionate to those objectives.

ARTICLE 360

Enforcement

1. Each Party shall take appropriate measures to enforce its competition law in its territory.
2. Each Party shall maintain an operationally independent authority or authorities competent for the effective enforcement of its competition law.
3. Each Party shall apply its competition law in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner, respecting the principles of procedural fairness, including the rights of defence of the economic actors concerned, irrespective of their nationality or ownership status.

ARTICLE 361

Cooperation

1. To achieve the objectives of this Chapter and to enhance the effective enforcement of their respective competition law, the Parties recognise the importance of cooperation between their respective competition authorities with regard to developments in competition policy and enforcement activities.
2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the European Commission or the competition authorities of the Member States, on the one side, and the United Kingdom's competition authority or authorities, on the other side, shall endeavour to cooperate and coordinate, with respect to their enforcement activities concerning the same or related conduct or transactions, where doing so is possible and appropriate.
3. To facilitate the cooperation and coordination referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, the European Commission and the competition authorities of the Member States, on the one side, and the United Kingdom's competition authority or authorities, on the other side, may exchange information to the extent permitted by each Party's law.
4. To implement the objectives of this Article, the Parties may enter into a separate agreement on cooperation and coordination between the European Commission, the competition authorities of the Member States and the United Kingdom's competition authority or authorities, which may include conditions for the exchange and use of confidential information.

ARTICLE 362

Dispute settlement

This Chapter shall not be subject to dispute settlement under Title I of Part Six.

CHAPTER 3

SUBSIDY CONTROL

ARTICLE 363

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions apply:
 - (a) "economic actor" means an entity or a group of entities constituting a single economic entity, regardless of its legal status, that is engaged in an economic activity by offering goods or services on a market;