

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

G/STR/Q1/NOR/4

20 May 1999

(99-2050)

**Working Party on
State Trading Enterprises**

Original: English

STATE TRADING

Questions posed by the UNITED STATES concerning the New and Full Article XVII Notification of NORWAY¹

The following communication, dated 14 May 1999, has been received from the Permanent Mission of the United States.

Norway indicates in its notification that it had terminated the exclusive (monopoly) trade and procurement authorities of the Norwegian Grain Corporation in 1994 and separated that organization's functions into two organizations: The Norwegian Grain Corporation (Statens Kornforretning) will continue to buy domestically-produced grain, administer domestic support schemes for grain, maintain emergency stocks of grains, and administer the import regime for grains. Statkorn Holding Ltd. and its subsidiaries, "100 per cent owned by the Norwegian State through the Royal Ministry of Agriculture", will carry out the "business activities" of the former Norwegian Grain Corporation, but private firms will be able to import in competition with Statkorn Holding AS.

Despite the elimination of Statkorn's exclusive privileges, does it not continue to benefit from special privileges as defined in Article XVII because it is a wholly-owned government corporation that trades in global markets? Could Norway please elaborate on the conditions under which private firms are allowed to import?

¹ G/STR/N/1/NOR and G/STR/W/27