

**FREE TRADE AREA BETWEEN THE EFTA STATES AND  
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Notification by the EFTA States

The following communication, dated 11 December 2000, has been received from the EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) with the request that it be circulated to the WTO Members.

---

The EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), with reference to Article XXIV:7(a) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, herewith transmit the text of the Agreement establishing a Free-Trade Area between the EFTA States and the Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup> with its Annexes, Lists and Protocols. The bilateral arrangements on trade in agricultural products, which have been concluded between the Parties, are also transmitted herewith.<sup>2</sup> They form part of the instruments creating the Free-Trade Area.

The Agreement and the bilateral agricultural agreements were signed on 19 June 2000, and the Agreement is foreseen to enter into force on 1 January 2001.

In accordance with Article XXIV of GATT 1994, the objective of the Agreement is to eliminate duties and other restrictions on trade in industrial products, fish and other marine products, and processed agricultural products in trade between the EFTA States and the Republic of Macedonia. Within the framework of the Agreement, bilateral agricultural arrangements have been concluded which provided for liberalized trade in agricultural products.

Upon the entry into force of the Agreement, the EFTA States will eliminate all duties and restrictions on originating products falling within the scope of the Agreement, while the Republic of Macedonia will gradually eliminate its duties over a nine year period. The Agreement also contains provisions, *inter alia*, on intellectual property rights, state monopolies, subsidies and competition.

---

<sup>1</sup> The text of the Agreement will be circulated in document WT/REG117/1.

<sup>2</sup> The agricultural arrangements have been submitted to the Secretariat for consultation by interested Members (office 3006). The text of the Agreement together with its Annexes and Protocols is also available on the EFTA website (<http://secretariat.efta.int/library/legal/fta/macedonia/>).