

**JOINT DECLARATION ON  
COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE EFTA STATES  
AND THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

## **JOINT DECLARATION ON COOPERATION**

**Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Kingdom of Norway and the Swiss Confederation** (hereinafter referred to as “the EFTA States”), on the one hand,

and

**The Republic of Moldova** (hereinafter referred to as “Moldova”), on the other:

DESIRING to enhance the bonds of friendship and economic cooperation between the EFTA States and Moldova;

ADHERING to the principles of human rights, democracy and the common objective of fostering human and economic contacts across borders;

BUILDING on their mutual commitment to the World Trade Organization (hereinafter referred to as the “WTO”);

EXPRESSING their intention to establish a framework supporting the expansion and diversification of trade and investment flows between the EFTA States and Moldova, as a step towards free trade negotiations;

DESIRING to pursue the objective of sustainable development and recognising the importance of coherence and mutual supportiveness of trade, environment and labour policies in this respect;

DESIRING to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of good corporate governance and corporate social responsibility for sustainable development, and affirming their aim to encourage enterprises to observe internationally recognised guidelines and principles in this respect, such as OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the OECD Principles of Corporate Governance and the UN Global Compact;

HEREBY DECLARE the following:

## I OBJECTIVES

1. The EFTA States and Moldova will seek to:
  - (a) enhance economic relations between them, in particular concerning trade in goods and services, as well as investment;
  - (b) strengthen their cooperation with a view to promoting further liberalisation of trade and investment among them, including through a free trade agreement;
  - (c) facilitate the increased involvement of the private sector, in particular of small and medium-sized enterprises, in trade and commercial cooperation between them;
  - (d) ensure that labour and environmental standards are reflected in their trade relationship; and
  - (e) examine, in light of any relevant factors, the possibility of further developing their economic and trade relationship.

## II TRADE

2. The EFTA States and Moldova will seek concrete ways and means of expanding their trade relations, taking into account their international obligations, in particular the provisions of the WTO agreements, *inter alia* in the areas of:
  - (a) trade in goods and services, including the exchange of relevant information and developing customs cooperation;
  - (b) technical barriers to trade;
  - (c) sanitary and phytosanitary measures;
  - (d) trade facilitation, including customs cooperation;
  - (e) intellectual property rights, including enforcement; and
  - (f) trade policy instruments.
3. The EFTA States and Moldova will seek to broaden cooperation in areas of particular importance to expanding their trade relations, *inter alia*, by exchanging views and information and encouraging cooperation on:
  - (a) investment flows, including technology transfer;
  - (b) competition policy and law;

- (c) public procurement;
- (d) trade and sustainable development; and
- (e) other trade-related issues and policies.

4. The EFTA States and Moldova will examine the feasibility of establishing a free trade area taking into account the provisions of the WTO agreements.

### **III PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION AND INVESTMENT**

5. The EFTA States and Moldova will seek to promote private sector trade and investment cooperation projects, *inter alia*, by creating favourable conditions conducive to capital flows and investment in economic sectors of mutual interest.

6. The EFTA States and Moldova will encourage and stimulate business contacts, notably between enterprises and organisations concerned with foreign trade and investment, with the aim of developing sustainable economic activities between the EFTA States and Moldova.

### **IV JOINT COMMITTEE**

7. The EFTA States and Moldova hereby establish a Joint Committee.

8. The Joint Committee will be composed of representatives of the EFTA States and Moldova.

9. The Joint Committee will review the cooperation in areas referred to in this declaration and discuss any other issue of mutual interest. It may formulate recommendations on any relevant subject by consensus.

10. The Joint Committee will meet as and when necessary upon agreement between the EFTA States and Moldova.

11. The secretariat services for the Joint Committee will be provided jointly by the EFTA Secretariat and by the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova.

DONE at Geneva, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 2017, in two original copies in the English language.

For Iceland

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For the Republic of Moldova

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For the Principality of Liechtenstein

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For the Kingdom of Norway

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For the Swiss Confederation

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