

# **DECLARATION**

by

THE EFTA STATES

and

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

## DECLARATION

The Republic of Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Kingdom of Norway and the Swiss Confederation (hereinafter called the EFTA States)

and

the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (hereinafter called Jordan)

Considering the importance of existing links between the EFTA States and Jordan and the common values they share,

Adhering to the principles of democracy, political pluralism and human rights inspired by the common objective of fostering human and economic contacts across borders,

Recognising the EFTA States' and Jordan's desire to strengthen their economic co-operation and trade relations,

Noting the intention of the EFTA States to make a dynamic and independent contribution to improving economic conditions across Europe and beyond, as re-affirmed in their Ministerial Declaration on 14 June 1995,

Convinced of the need to strengthen the process which Jordan has undertaken to fully integrate its economy in the world economy,

Considering the importance of the Middle East peace process and conscious of the need to associate their efforts to strengthen security, political stability and economic development in the region,

Determined to promote, expand and diversify trade and economic relations, based on the principles and rules of the WTO, thus creating the basis for further co-operation and an environment conducive to foreign direct investment,

Determined to make all efforts to develop relations between the EFTA States and Jordan, which may eventually lead to the establishment of a free trade area,

Hereby declare their intention to explore together the possible future scope of co-operation, *inter alia*, in the following areas:

## I OBJECTIVES

1. The EFTA States and Jordan shall, building on already existing forms of co-operation, deepen and extend that co-operation within the EFTA framework.
2. The EFTA States and Jordan shall to this end develop their co-operation, in particular with the aim of creating an environment conducive to, and supportive of, private entrepreneurship, free competition and economic activity based on market forces.

## II TRADE

3. The EFTA States and Jordan shall examine, within the EFTA context, concrete ways and means of expanding and liberalising their trade relations taking into account their international obligations and the applicable principles and provisions of the WTO.
4. The EFTA States and Jordan shall seek to create conditions favourable to the expansion of trade, *inter alia*, by
  - facilitating exchange of information on foreign trade,
  - removing barriers to trade.
5. The EFTA States and Jordan shall seek to broaden co-operation in order to liberalise their trade, *inter alia*, by
  - facilitating an exchange of views on conditions for free and undistorted competition without government intervention in the market,
  - exchanging information on an opening up of public procurement markets,
  - encouraging co-operation in the area of intellectual property rights.
6. The EFTA States and Jordan shall encourage and stimulate business contacts, notably between enterprises and organisations concerned with foreign trade, with the aim of developing their mutual trade.

### III FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE RELATIONS

7. The EFTA States and Jordan shall discuss measures to be taken to create legal and economic preconditions necessary for the gradual establishment of free trade.

8. The EFTA States and Jordan shall, when conditions permit, examine the actions to be taken to establish a free trade area, taking into account the applicable provisions of the WTO.

### IV PRIVATE SECTOR CO-OPERATION AND INVESTMENT

9. The EFTA States and Jordan declare their willingness to improve conditions for the implementation of private sector industrial co-operation projects, *inter alia* by creating favourable conditions conducive to capital flows and investment in all economic sectors of mutual concern, as well as securing the interests of the partners involved.

### V JOINT COMMITTEE

10. The EFTA States and Jordan hereby establish a Joint Committee.

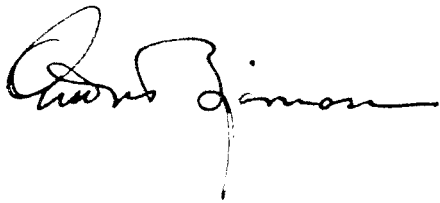
11. The Joint Committee shall review the co-operation in areas referred to in the present Declaration and shall discuss any other issue of mutual interest. The Joint Committee shall formulate appropriate recommendations on any co-operation between the EFTA States and Jordan.

12. The Joint Committee shall meet on a regular basis, as and when necessary.

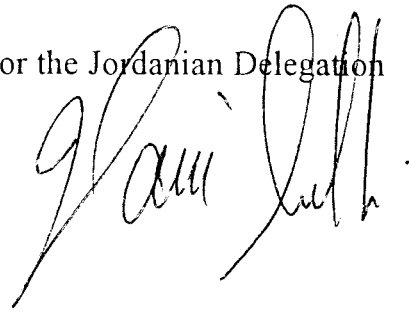
13. The secretariat services for the Joint Committee shall be performed jointly by the EFTA Secretariat and the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Jordan.

DONE at Geneva this 19th day of June 1997


For the Icelandic Delegation



For the Jordanian Delegation



For the Liechtenstein Delegation



For the Norwegian Delegation



For the Swiss Delegation

