

DECLARATION

by

THE EFTA STATES' GOVERNMENTS

and

THE MACEDONIAN GOVERNMENT

29 March 1996

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

DECLARATION

The Icelandic, Liechtenstein, Norwegian and Swiss Governments
(hereinafter called the EFTA States' Governments)

and

the Macedonian Government

Adhering to the principles of democracy, political pluralism, the rule of law and human rights, as well as the market economy,

Aware of the importance of giving full effect to all the provisions and principles of the CSCE/OSCE process, in particular the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris for a new Europe, as well as the final document of the Bonn Conference on economic co-operation in Europe,

Recognising the importance of guaranteeing the rights of ethnic and national groups and minorities, in accordance with the undertakings made in the context of the CSCE/OSCE,

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,

Recalling the intention of the Macedonian Government to participate actively in the integration process in Europe and expressing their willingness to co-operate in seeking ways and means to strengthen this process,

Noting the intention of the EFTA States' Governments 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,

Undertaking to make all efforts to develop relations between the EFTA States' Governments and the Macedonian Government, 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' Governments and the Macedonian Government shall, building on already existing forms of co-operation, deepen and extend that co-operation within the EFTA framework, with the aim of achieving relations based on market-economy principles.
2. The EFTA States' Governments and the Macedonian Government 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' Governments and the Macedonian Government shall examine concrete ways and means of expanding and liberalizing their trade relations taking into account their international obligations, in particular the principles and provisions of the WTO.
4. The EFTA States' Governments and the Macedonian Government shall seek to create conditions favourable to the expansion of trade, *inter alia*, by
 - removing technical and other barriers to trade,
 - developing customs and tariff co-operation,
 - facilitating the exchange of information on foreign trade.
5. The EFTA States' Governments and the Macedonian Government shall seek to broaden co-operation in areas particularly important to liberalizing their trade relations, *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' Governments and the Macedonian Government shall encourage and stimulate business contacts, notably between enterprises and organizations concerned with foreign trade, with the aim of developing their mutual trade.

III FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE RELATIONS

7. The EFTA States' Governments and the Macedonian Government shall take all measures with the aim of creating conditions necessary for the establishment of a free trade area, taking into account the relevant provisions of the WTO.

IV PRIVATE SECTOR CO-OPERATION AND INVESTMENT

8. The EFTA States' Governments and the Macedonian Government shall seek 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

9. The EFTA States' Governments and the Macedonian Government hereby establish a Joint Committee.

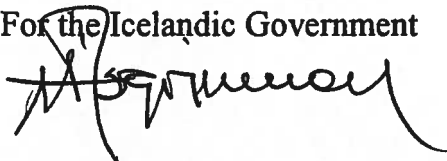
10. The Joint Committee shall review the co-operation in areas referred to in the present Declaration and shall discuss any other issue of mutual interest. The Joint Committee shall formulate appropriate recommendations on any co-operation between the EFTA States' Governments and the Macedonian Government.

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

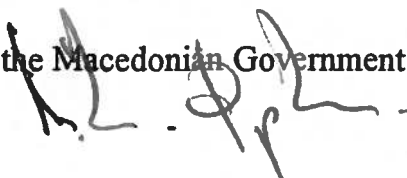
12. The secretariat services for the Joint Committee shall be performed jointly by the EFTA Secretariat and the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

DONE at Vaduz this 29th day of March 1996.

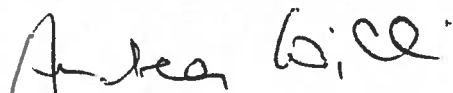
For the Icelandic Government



For the Macedonian Government



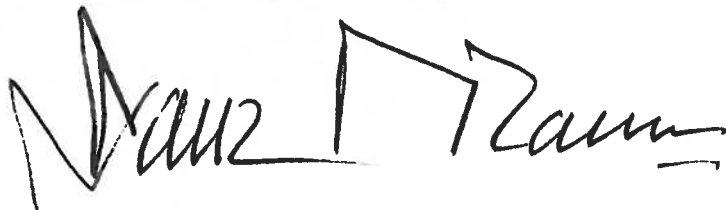
For the Liechtenstein Government



For the Norwegian Government



For the Swiss Government



DONE at Vaduz this 29th day of March 1996.

For the Icelandic Government

Halldór Ásgrímsson

For the Macedonian Government

Ljubomir Danailov Frckoski

For the Liechtenstein Government

Andrea Willi

For the Norwegian Government

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For the Swiss Government

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