

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

TCR-L 2/2002
17 January 2002

Mr. Director-General,

In the absence of the Secretary-General, I am pleased to send you the attached communication from the EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) and Jordan concerning the Agreement establishing a Free Trade Area between the EFTA States, on the one hand, and the Kingdom of Jordan on the other. I would kindly ask you to take the necessary steps to distribute a copy of this communication to the Members of the WTO.

Yours sincerely,

Pétur G. Thorsteinsson

Mr. Mike Moore
Director-General
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COMMUNICATION BY THE PARTIES

AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING A FREE TRADE AREA BETWEEN

THE EFTA STATES AND THE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

The EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) and Jordan, 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 Kingdom of Jordan 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. They form part of the instruments creating the Free Trade Area.

The Agreement and the bilateral agricultural arrangements were signed on 21 June 2001. The Agreement has been applied provisionally by Jordan, Liechtenstein and Switzerland as of 1 January 2002. It is foreseen that the Agreement will take effect between Iceland and Jordan and Norway and Jordan following their respective ratifications thereof during the first half of 2002.

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 Kingdom of Jordan. Within the framework of the Agreement, bilateral agricultural arrangements have been concluded which provide for liberalised trade in agricultural products.

Upon the entry into force of the Agreement, the EFTA States will eliminate all duties and restrictions on industrial products originating in Jordan, while Jordan will gradually eliminate its duties over a 12-year period. The Agreement also contains provisions, *inter alia*, on intellectual property rights, state monopolies, subsidies and competition.

The Parties will submit separately more detailed background information on the Agreement on the basis of the Standard Format for information. The text of the Agreement with its Annexes and Protocols is also available on the Internet at the EFTA Homepage (<http://www.efta.int>).