



EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DE LIBRE-ECHANGE

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

TCR-L 21/2000  
11 December 2000

Mr. Director-General,

Please find attached a communication from the EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) concerning the Agreement establishing a Free Trade Area between the EFTA States, on the one hand, and the Republic of Macedonia 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,

William Rossier

Mr. Mike Moore  
Director-General  
WTO Secretariat  
Centre William Rappard  
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## COMMUNICATION BY THE EFTA STATES

### AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING A FREE TRADE AREA BETWEEN THE EFTA STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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 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 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 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 originating products falling within the scope of the Agreement, while the Republic of Macedonia will gradually eliminate its duties over a 9-year period. The Agreement also contains provisions, *inter alia*, on intellectual property rights, state monopolies, subsidies and competition.

The EFTA States 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>).