COMMUNICATION FROM THE EFTA STATES

AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING A FREE TRADE AREA BETWEEN THE EFTA
STATES AND THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

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 Kingdom of Morocco together with its Annexes 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 between Morocco, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, respectively, were signed on 19 June 1997 and entered into force on 1 December 1999.

In accordance with Article XXIV of GATT 1994, the objective of the Agreement is to eliminate duties and other restrictions for industrial products, fish and other marine products and processed agricultural products in trade between the EFTA States and Morocco. Within the framework of the Agreement, the bilateral agricultural arrangements provide for measures to liberalise 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. Morocco will eliminate all duties and restrictions on originating products over a transitional period.

The Agreement also contains provisions on, *inter alia,* intellectual property rights, state monopolies, state aid and competition. An evolutionary clause provides for the possibility of developing the existing provisions and extending the relations to areas not covered by the Agreement.

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 together with its Annexes and Protocols is also available on the EFTA website (http://www.efta.int).

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