

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EFTA STATES AND ISRAEL

Note: Austria, Finland and Sweden withdrew from the Convention establishing the European Free Trade Association (the Stockholm Convention) on 31 December 1994. In accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 36 of the Free Trade Agreement between the EFTA States and Israel these three countries ceased to be Parties to the Agreement on the same day. Consequently, in the present text, the provisions referring to Austria, Finland and Sweden have been deleted.

PREAMBLE

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

and

the State of Israel (hereinafter called Israel),

Having regard to the Convention establishing the European Free Trade Association (EFTA),

Having regard to the Free Trade Agreements and related instruments between Israel and its main trading partners,

Having regard to the co-operation developed in the light of the aforementioned Agreements as well as between individual EFTA States and Israel,

Declaring their willingness to take action with a view to promoting a harmonious development of their trade as well as to expanding and diversifying their mutual co-operation in fields of common interest, including fields not covered by this Agreement, thus creating a framework and supportive environment based on equality and non-discrimination,

Recalling the mutual interest of the EFTA States and Israel to the continual reinforcement of the multilateral trading system and considering their capacity as Contracting Parties of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the provisions and instruments of which constitute a basis for their foreign trade policy,

Resolved to lay down for this purpose provisions aimed at a progressive abolition of the obstacles to trade between the EFTA States and Israel in accordance with the provisions of that Agreement, in particular those concerning the establishment of free trade areas,

Confirming the common desire for the progressive and sustained participation of the EFTA States and Israel in the process of economic integration,

Considering that no provision of this Agreement may be interpreted as exempting the States Parties to this Agreement (hereinafter called the Parties) from their obligations under other international agreements,

HAVE DECIDED, in pursuance of these objectives, to conclude the following Agreement:

ARTICLE 1

Objectives

The objectives of this Agreement are:

- (a) to promote, through the expansion of reciprocal trade, the harmonious development of the economic relations between the EFTA States and Israel;
- (b) to provide fair conditions of competition for trade between the EFTA States and Israel;
- (c) to contribute in this way, by the removal of barriers to trade, to the harmonious development and expansion of world trade;
- (d) to enhance co-operation between the EFTA States and Israel.

ARTICLE 2

Scope

1. The Agreement shall apply:
 - (a) to products falling within Chapters 25 to 97 of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, excluding the products listed in Annex I;
 - (b) to products specified in Protocol A, with due regard to the arrangements provided for in that Protocol;
 - (c) to fish and other marine products as provided for in Annex II;originating in an EFTA State or in Israel.
2. The provisions concerning trade in agricultural products which are not covered by paragraph 1 are contained in Article 11.
3. This Agreement applies to trade relations between, on the one hand, each EFTA State and, on the other hand, Israel. It shall not apply to the trade relations between EFTA States, except if otherwise provided for in this Agreement.

ARTICLE 3

Rules of origin

1. Protocol B lays down the rules of origin and methods of administrative co-operation.

2. The Parties shall take appropriate measures, including regular reviews and arrangements regarding administrative co-operation, to ensure that the provisions of Articles 4 to 7, 12 and 21 are effectively and harmoniously applied, taking into account the need to reduce as far as possible the formalities imposed on trade and the need to achieve mutually satisfactory solutions to any difficulties arising out of the operation of those provisions.

3. Protocol E lays down the rules for mutual administrative assistance in customs matters.¹

ARTICLE 4

Customs duties on imports and charges having equivalent effect

1. No new customs duty on imports or any charge having equivalent effect shall be introduced in trade between the EFTA States and Israel.

2. Upon the entry into force of this Agreement the EFTA States shall abolish all customs duties on imports and any charges having equivalent effect for products originating in Israel.

3. Upon the entry into force of this Agreement Israel shall abolish all customs duties on imports and any charges having equivalent effect for products originating in an EFTA State.

ARTICLE 5

Customs duties of a fiscal nature

1. The provisions of paragraphs 1 to 3 of Article 4 shall also apply to customs duties of a fiscal nature except as provided for in Protocol C.²

2. The Parties may replace a customs duty of a fiscal nature or the fiscal element of a customs duty by an internal tax.

ARTICLE 6

Customs duties on exports and charges having equivalent effect

1. No new customs duty on exports or charge having equivalent effect shall be introduced in trade between the EFTA States and Israel.

¹ Protocol E was added by Joint Committee Decision No. 3 of 2005 (15 June 2005) which entered into force on 11 July 2008.

² Protocol C, as amended by Joint Committee Decisions Nos. 4 of 1993 (11 and 12 November 1993) which entered into force on 12 November 1993 and Decision No. 2 of 1996 (13 February 1996), was deleted by Joint Committee Decision No. 2 of 1997 (12 November 1997) which entered into force on 12 November 1997.

2. Upon the entry into force of this Agreement customs duties on exports and any charges having equivalent effect shall be abolished, except as provided for in Annex III.¹

ARTICLE 7

Quantitative restrictions and measures having equivalent effect

1. No new quantitative restriction on imports or exports or measures having equivalent effect shall be introduced in trade between the EFTA States and Israel.

2. Upon the entry into force of this Agreement quantitative restrictions on imports or exports and measures having equivalent effect shall be abolished except as provided for in Annex IV.²

3. For the purpose of this Agreement "quantitative restrictions and measures having equivalent effect" means prohibitions or restrictions on imports or exports into an EFTA State from Israel or into Israel from an EFTA State made effective through quotas, import or export licences or other administrative measures and requirements restricting trade.

ARTICLE 8

Non-economic reasons for restrictions

This Agreement shall not preclude prohibitions or restrictions on imports, exports or goods in transit justified on grounds of public morality, public policy or public security; the protection of health and life of humans, animals or plants and of the environment; the protection of national treasures possessing artistic, historic or archaeological value; or the protection of intellectual property. Such prohibitions or restrictions shall not, however, constitute a means of arbitrary discrimination or disguised restriction on trade between an EFTA State and Israel.

ARTICLE 9

State monopolies

1. The Parties shall ensure that any state monopoly of a commercial character be adjusted so that no discrimination regarding the conditions under which goods are procured and marketed will exist between nationals of the EFTA States and Israel.

2. The provisions of this Article shall apply to any body through which the competent authorities of the Parties, in law or in fact, either directly or indirectly

¹ Annex III, as amended by Joint Committee Decision No. 3 of 1996 (13 February 1996), was deleted by Joint Committee Decision No. 3 of 1997 (12 November 1997).

² Annex IV was deleted by Joint Committee Decision No. 2 of 1999 (24 June 1999).

supervise, determine or appreciably influence imports or exports between the Parties. These provisions shall likewise apply to monopolies delegated by the State to others.

ARTICLE 10

Technical regulations

1. The Parties recognize the important role of harmonized international standards and technical regulations in the development of trade.
2. They reconfirm their adherence to the GATT Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and to its procedures.
3. The Parties may, within the framework of the Joint Committee, hold consultations in case that a Party considers that another Party did not fulfil its obligations in a satisfactory way, in particular if a Party considers that another Party has taken measures which are likely to create, or have created, an obstacle to trade.
4. The Parties agree to start discussions on possibilities to co-operate more closely in the field of testing and certification as means to further facilitate trade.

ARTICLE 11

Trade in agricultural products

1. The Parties declare their readiness to foster, in so far as their agricultural policies allow, harmonious development of trade in agricultural products.
2. In pursuance of this objective each individual EFTA State and Israel have concluded a bilateral arrangement providing for measures to facilitate trade in agricultural products.
3. The Parties shall apply their regulations in veterinary, plant health and health matters in a non-discriminatory fashion and shall not introduce any new measures that have the effect of unduly obstructing trade.

ARTICLE 12

Internal taxation

1. The Parties shall refrain from any measure or practice of an internal fiscal nature establishing, whether directly or indirectly, discrimination between the products originating in an EFTA State and like products originating in Israel.
2. Products exported to the territory of one of the Parties may not benefit from repayment of internal taxation in excess of the amount of direct or indirect taxation imposed on them.

ARTICLE 13

Payments

1. Payments relating to trade between an EFTA State and Israel and the transfer of such payments to the territory of the Party where the creditor resides shall be free from any restrictions.
2. The Parties shall refrain from any exchange or administrative restrictions on the grant, repayment or acceptance of short- and medium-term credits covering commercial transactions in which a resident participates.
3. Israel reserves the right to apply exchange restrictions connected with the granting or taking up of short- and medium-term credits to the extent permitted according to Israel's status under the IMF, provided that these restrictions are applied in a non-discriminatory manner. They shall be applied in such a manner as to cause the least possible disruption to this Agreement. Israel shall inform the Joint Committee promptly of the introduction of such measures and of any changes therein.

ARTICLE 14

Public procurement

1. The Parties consider the effective liberalisation of their respective public procurement markets an integral objective of this Agreement.
2. As of the entry into force of this Agreement, the Parties shall grant each other's companies access to contract award procedures on their respective public procurement markets on a reciprocal basis according to the Agreement on Government Procurement of 12 April 1979, as amended by a Protocol of Amendments of 2 February 1987, negotiated under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.
3. Taking into account the rules and disciplines agreed upon within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and with third countries in this field, the Parties foresee to extend the scope of paragraph 2 of this Article after the entry into force of this Agreement in accordance with the following provisions:
 - (a) The Parties agree to further ensure effective transparency and free access and that there is no discrimination between the potential suppliers from the Parties. To this end the Parties shall progressively adjust the relevant rules, conditions, procedures and practices governing the participation in contracts awarded by public authorities and public undertakings, and by private undertakings which have been granted special or exclusive rights.
 - (b) The Parties agree to entrust the Joint Committee to decide, as soon as possible, on all practical modalities, including the scope, timetable and rules for this adjustment, taking into account the need to maintain a full balance of the rights and obligations between the Parties.

4. As soon as conceivable after the entry into force of this Agreement, the Joint Committee shall discuss with a view to reaching an agreement on a progressive extension of the list of the procuring entities to be covered as regards their procurements in the supplies and utilities sectors, above the respective thresholds.

ARTICLE 15

Protection of intellectual property

1. The Parties shall grant and ensure adequate, effective and non-discriminatory protection of intellectual property rights, as defined in Article 1 of Annex V. They shall adopt and take adequate, effective and non-discriminatory measures for the enforcement of such rights against infringement thereof, and in particular against counterfeiting and piracy. Particular obligations of the Parties shall be listed in Annex V.

2. The Parties agree to comply with the substantive provisions of the multilateral conventions which are specified in Article 2 of Annex V and make their best endeavours to adhere to them as well as to multilateral agreements facilitating co-operation in the field of protection of intellectual property rights.

3. In the field of intellectual property, the Parties shall not grant treatment to each other's nationals less favourable than that accorded to nationals of any other State. Any advantage, favour, privilege or immunity in the field of intellectual property deriving from:

- (a) bilateral agreements in force for a Party at the entry into force of this Agreement as notified to the other Party at the latest before the entry into force,
- (b) existing and future multilateral agreements, including regional agreements on economic integration to which not all of the Parties are parties,

may be exempted from this obligation, provided that it does not constitute an arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination of nationals of the other Party.

4. Two or more Parties may conclude further agreements exceeding the terms of this Agreement and of Annex V, provided that such agreements shall be open to all other Parties on terms equivalent to those under the agreements and that they shall be ready to enter into good faith negotiations to this end.

5. The Parties agree to keep under mutual review the implementation of the provisions on intellectual property with a view to further improve levels of protection and to avoid or remedy trade distortions caused by actual levels of protection of intellectual property rights.

6. If any Party considers that any other Party has failed to fulfil its obligations under this Article and the Annex thereto, it may take appropriate measures under the conditions and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 23.

7. The Parties shall agree upon appropriate modalities for technical assistance and co-operation of respective authorities of the Parties. To this end, they shall co-ordinate efforts with relevant international organizations.

ARTICLE 16

Fulfilment of obligations

1. The Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the achievement of the objectives of the Agreement and the fulfilment of their obligations under this Agreement.

2. If an EFTA State considers that Israel has, or if Israel considers that an EFTA State has, failed to fulfil an obligation under this Agreement, the Party concerned may take the appropriate measures under the conditions and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 23.

ARTICLE 17

Rules of competition applying to undertakings

1. The following are incompatible with the proper functioning of this Agreement in so far as they may affect trade between an EFTA State and Israel:

- (a) all agreements between undertakings, decisions by associations of undertakings and concerted practices between undertakings which have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition;
- (b) abuse by one or more undertakings of a dominant position in the territories of the Parties as a whole or in a substantial part thereof.

2. These provisions shall also apply to the activities of public undertakings, and undertakings for which the Parties grant special or exclusive rights, in so far as the application of these provisions does not obstruct the performance, in law or in fact, of their particular public tasks.

3. If a Party considers that a given practice is incompatible with this Article, it may take appropriate measures under the conditions and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 23.

ARTICLE 18¹

Subsidies

1. The rights and obligations of the Parties in respect of subsidies and countervailing measures shall be governed by Article XVI of the GATT 1994 and the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, except as otherwise provided for in this Article.

2. The extent of the Parties' obligations to ensure transparency of subsidy measures shall be governed by the criteria set out in Article XVI:1 of the GATT 1994 and Article 25 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

3. Before an EFTA State or Israel, as the case may be, initiates an investigation to determine the existence, degree and effect of any alleged subsidy in Israel, or in an EFTA State, as provided for in Article 11 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, the Party considering initiating an investigation shall notify in writing the Party whose goods are subject to investigation and provide relevant information concerning the application in order to allow for a period of 30 days for consultations from the date that notification was given, with a view to finding a mutually acceptable solution. The consultations shall take place in the Joint Committee if any Party so requests within 10 days from the receipt of the notification."

ARTICLE 19

Anti-dumping

If a Party finds that dumping is taking place in trade relations governed by this Agreement, it may take appropriate measures against that practice in accordance with Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and agreements related to that Article, under the conditions and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 23.

ARTICLE 20

Emergency action on imports of particular products

If an increase in imports of a given product originating in an EFTA State or Israel occurs in quantities or under conditions which cause, or are likely to cause:

- (a) serious injury to domestic producers of like or directly competitive products in the territory of the importing Party, or
- (b) serious disturbances in any sector of the economy or difficulties which could bring about serious deterioration in the economic situation of a region,

¹ As amended by Joint Committee Decision No 1 of 2006 (3 July 2006) which entered into force on 5 July 2010.

the Party concerned may take appropriate measures under the conditions and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 23.

ARTICLE 21

Re-export and serious shortage

Where compliance with the provisions of Articles 6 and 7 leads to:

- (a) re-export towards a third country against which the exporting Party maintains for the products concerned quantitative export restrictions, export duties or measures or charges having equivalent effect; or
- (b) a serious shortage, or threat thereof, of a product essential to the exporting Party;

and where the situations referred to above give rise or are likely to give rise to major difficulties for the exporting Party, that Party may take appropriate measures under the conditions and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 23.

ARTICLE 22 ¹

Balance-of-Payments Difficulties

1. The Parties shall endeavour to avoid the imposition of restrictive measures for balance-of-payments purposes.
2. A Party in serious balance-of-payments difficulties, or under imminent threat thereof, may, in accordance with the conditions established under the GATT 1994 and the WTO Understanding on the Balance-of-Payments Provisions, adopt trade restrictive measures, which shall be of limited duration and non-discriminatory, and may not go beyond what is necessary to remedy the balance-of-payments situation. The relevant provisions of the GATT 1994 and the WTO Understanding on the Balance-of-Payments Provisions are hereby incorporated into and made part of this Agreement.
3. The Party introducing a measure under this Article shall promptly notify the other Parties and the Joint Committee thereof.

¹ Article 22 was amended by Joint Committee Decision No. 4 of 2005 (15 June 2005) which entered into force on 11 July 2008.

ARTICLE 23

Procedure for the application of safeguard measures

1. Before initiating the procedure for the application of safeguard measures set out in this Article, the Parties shall endeavour to solve any differences between them through direct consultations, and inform the other Parties.
2. Without prejudice to paragraph 6 of this Article, a Party which considers resorting to safeguard measures shall promptly notify the other Parties and the Joint Committee thereof and supply all relevant information. Consultations between the Parties shall take place without delay in the Joint Committee with a view to finding a commonly acceptable solution.
3.
 - (a) As regards Article 17, the Parties concerned shall give to the Joint Committee all the assistance required in order to examine the case and, where appropriate, eliminate the practice objected to. If the Party in question fails to put an end to the practice objected to within the period fixed by the Joint Committee, or if the Joint Committee fails to reach an agreement within three months of the matter being referred to it, the Party concerned may adopt the appropriate measures to deal with the difficulties resulting from the practice in question.
 - (b) As regards Articles 19, 20, 21, 22, and Article 5 A.(b)(ii) of Annex II, the Joint Committee shall examine the situation and may take any decision needed to put an end to the difficulties notified by the Party concerned. In the absence of such decision within thirty days of the matter being referred to the Joint Committee, the Party concerned may adopt the measures necessary in order to remedy the situation.
 - (c) As regards Article 16, the Party concerned may take appropriate measures after the consultations within the Joint Committee have been concluded or a period of three months has elapsed from the date of notification.
4. The safeguard measures taken shall be notified immediately to the Parties and to the Joint Committee. They shall be restricted with regard to their extent and to their duration to what is strictly necessary in order to rectify the situation giving rise to their application and shall not be in excess of the injury caused by the practice or the difficulty in question. Priority shall be given to such measures as will least disturb the functioning of the Agreement. The measures taken by Israel against an action or an omission of an EFTA State may only affect the trade with that State.
5. The safeguard measures taken shall be the object of regular consultations within the Joint Committee with a view to their relaxation, substitution or abolition as soon as possible.
6. Where exceptional circumstances requiring immediate action make prior examination impossible, the Party concerned may, in the cases of Articles 19, 20, 21 and 22, apply forthwith the precautionary measures strictly necessary to remedy the

situation. The measures shall be notified without delay and consultations between the Parties shall take place within the Joint Committee as soon as possible.

ARTICLE 24

Security exceptions

Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent a Party to it from taking any measures which it considers necessary:

- (a) to prevent the disclosure of information contrary to its essential security interests;
- (b) for the protection of its essential security interests or for the implementation of international obligations or national policies
 - (i) relating to the traffic in arms, ammunition and implements of war and to such traffic in other goods, materials and services as is carried on directly or indirectly for the purpose of supplying a military establishment; or
 - (ii) relating to the non-proliferation of biological and chemical weapons, nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; or
 - (iii) in time of war or other serious international tension.

ARTICLE 25

Non-discrimination

In the fields covered by this Agreement:

- (a) the arrangements applied by Israel in respect of the EFTA States shall not give rise to any discrimination between these States, their nationals or their companies or firms;
- (b) the arrangements applied by the EFTA States in respect of Israel shall not give rise to discrimination between Israeli nationals, companies or firms.

ARTICLE 25 bis ¹

Arbitration procedure

1. Disputes between Parties to this Agreement relating to the interpretation of rights and obligations of the Parties to this Agreement, which have not been settled

¹ Article 25 bis was introduced by Joint Committee Decision No. 5 of 1997 (12 November 1997).

through consultation or in the Joint Committee within six months, may be referred to arbitration by any party to the dispute by means of a written notification addressed to the other party to the dispute. A copy of this notification shall be communicated to all Parties to this Agreement.

2. The constitution and functioning of the arbitral tribunal is governed by Annex VIII.

3. The arbitral tribunal shall decide the dispute in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and applicable rules and principles of international law.

4. The award of the arbitral tribunal shall be final and binding upon the parties to the dispute.

ARTICLE 26

Establishment of the Joint Committee

1. A Joint Committee is hereby established in which each Party shall be represented. The Joint Committee shall be responsible for the administration of the Agreement and shall ensure its proper implementation.

2. For the purpose of the proper implementation of this Agreement, the Parties to it shall exchange information and, at the request of any Party, shall hold consultations within the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee shall keep under review the possibility of further removal of the obstacles to trade between the EFTA States and Israel.

3. The Joint Committee may, under the conditions laid down in paragraph 3 of Article 27, take decisions in the cases provided for in this Agreement. On other matters, the Joint Committee may make recommendations.

ARTICLE 27

Procedures of the Joint Committee

1. For the proper implementation of this Agreement the Joint Committee shall meet at an appropriate level whenever necessary but at least once a year. Each Party may request that a meeting be held.

2. The Committee shall act by common agreement.

3. If a representative in the Joint Committee of a Party has accepted a decision subject to the fulfilment of constitutional or legislative requirements, the decision shall enter into force, if no later date is contained therein, on the day the lifting of the reservation is notified.

4. For the purpose of this Agreement the Joint Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure which shall, inter alia, contain provisions for convening meetings and for the designation of the Chairman and his term of office.

5. The Joint Committee may decide to set up such sub-committees and working parties as it considers necessary to assist it in accomplishing its tasks.

ARTICLE 28

Evolutionary clause

1. Where a Party considers that it would be useful in the interests of the economies of the Parties to develop the relations established by the Agreement by extending them to fields not covered thereby, it shall submit a reasoned request to them.

The Parties may instruct the Joint Committee to examine this request and, where appropriate, to make recommendations to them.

2. Agreements resulting from the procedure referred to in paragraph 1 will be subject to ratification or approval by the Parties in accordance with their own procedures.

ARTICLE 29

Services and investments

1. The Parties recognize the growing importance of certain areas, such as services and investments. In their efforts to gradually deepen and broaden their co-operation, they will co-operate with the aim of achieving a progressive liberalization and mutual opening of markets for investments and trade in services, taking into account relevant GATT work. They will endeavour to accord treatment no less favourable than that accorded to domestic and foreign operators in their territories on condition that a balance of rights and obligations exists between the Parties.

2. The modalities for this co-operation will be negotiated in the Joint Committee. Arrangements resulting therefrom will, where necessary, be subject to ratification or approval by the Parties in accordance with their own procedures and be applied within the framework of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 30

Protocols and Annexes

The Protocols and Annexes to this Agreement are an integral part of it. The Joint Committee may decide to amend the Protocols and Annexes.

ARTICLE 31

Customs unions, free trade areas and frontier trade

This Agreement shall not prevent the maintenance or establishment of customs unions, free trade areas or arrangements for frontier trade to the extent that these do not negatively affect the trade regime and in particular the provisions concerning rules of origin provided for by this Agreement.

ARTICLE 32

Territorial application

This Agreement shall apply to the territories of the Parties.

ARTICLE 33

Entry into force

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on 1 January 1993 in relation to those Signatory States which by then have deposited their instruments of ratification or acceptance with the Depositary, provided that Israel is among the States that have deposited their instruments of ratification or acceptance.
2. In relation to a Signatory State depositing its instrument of ratification or acceptance after 1 January 1993, this Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the deposit of its instrument, provided that Israel is among the States that have deposited their instruments of ratification or acceptance.
3. Any Signatory State may already at the time of signature declare that, during an initial phase, it shall apply the Agreement provisionally, if the Agreement cannot enter into force in relation to that State by 1 January 1993, provided that in relation to Israel the Agreement has entered into force.

ARTICLE 34

Amendments

Amendments to this Agreement other than those referred to in Article 30, which are approved by the Joint Committee, shall be submitted to the Parties for ratification or acceptance and shall enter into force if ratified or accepted by all the Parties. The instruments of ratification or acceptance shall be deposited with the Depositary.

ARTICLE 35

Accession

1. Any State, Member of the European Free Trade Association, may accede to this Agreement, provided that the Joint Committee decides to approve its accession, on such terms and conditions as may be set out in that decision. The instrument of accession shall be deposited with the Depositary.
2. In relation to an acceding State, the Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the third month following the deposit of its instrument of accession.

ARTICLE 36

Withdrawal and expiration

1. Each Party may withdraw from this Agreement by means of a written notification to the Depositary. The withdrawal shall take effect six months after the date on which the notification is received by the Depositary.
2. If Israel withdraws, the Agreement shall expire at the end of the notice period, and if all EFTA States withdraw it shall expire at the end of the latest notice period.
3. Any EFTA Member State which withdraws from the Convention establishing the European Free Trade Association shall *ipso facto* on the same day as the withdrawal takes effect cease to be a Party.

ARTICLE 37 ¹

Depositary

The Government of Norway, acting as Depositary, shall notify all States that have signed or acceded to this Agreement of the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession, the entry into force of this Agreement, of its expiry or of any withdrawal therefrom.

¹ Article 37 was amended by Joint Committee Decision No. 5 of 1996 (14 February 1996).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto, have signed the present Agreement.

DONE at Geneva, this 17th day of September 1992, in a single authentic copy in the English language which shall be deposited with the Government of Sweden. The Depositary shall transmit certified copies to all Signatory States and States acceding to this Agreement.