

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

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EFTA - ROMANIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Joint communication by Sweden on behalf of the Governments of the EFTA States and of Romania

The following joint communication, dated 7 May 1993, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Sweden on behalf of the EFTA countries and Romania.

On behalf of the Governments of the EFTA States (Austria, Finland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland) on the one hand, and Romania on the other, and in accordance with Article XXIV:7(a) of the General Agreement, I have the honour of transmitting to you the text of the a Free Trade Agreement between EFTA States¹ and Romania with the Annexes and Lists which form an integral part thereof.¹ Within the framework of the Free Trade Agreement, bilateral arrangements on agriculture have been concluded between each of the EFTA States and Romania.

The Free Trade Agreement was signed on 10 December 1992. It entered into force between Romania and Sweden on 1 May 1993 and it is applied provisionally by Switzerland and Liechtenstein from 1 May 1993 on. The Free Trade Agreement will enter into force in other EFTA States when the respective ratification process has been concluded.

The Free Trade Agreement covers trade in industrial products, fish and other marine products and processed agricultural products. The bilateral arrangements between each EFTA State and Romania provide for measures to facilitate trade in agricultural products.

The objective of the EFTA-Romania Free Trade Agreement is to abolish tariffs and other restrictions on substantially all trade between the EFTA States and Romania.

At the entry into force of the Free Trade Agreement the EFTA States will eliminate all duties on products, falling within the scope of the Agreement and originating in Romania, except for some products for which a

¹The text of the Agreement is being circulated as L/7215/Add.1.

transition period will apply. Romania will, at the entry into force, eliminate duties and other charges having equivalent effect on some products originating in the EFTA States, whereas the elimination of remaining duties and charges will take place over a transition period ending by 31 December 2002.

The Free Trade Agreement between the EFTA States and Romania also contains provisions dealing with, inter alia, public procurement, intellectual property rights, state monopolies, state aid and competition. It also includes provisions for co-operation in the areas of services and investments. An evolutionary clause gives the possibility of extending the relations to areas not covered by the Agreement.