

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

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FREE-TRADE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN SWITZERLAND AND ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA

Communication from Switzerland

The following communication, dated 10 May 1993, has been received from the delegation of Switzerland.

I have the honour to inform you that that Swiss Confederation has concluded free-trade agreements, provisionally applied since 1 April 1993 subject to ratification by Switzerland, with the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania. Pursuant to Article XXIV:7(a), I transmit herewith the texts of the three agreements together with their annexes and protocols.

The free-trade agreement concluded between the Swiss Confederation and Lithuania was signed on 24 November 1992, while the free-trade agreements concluded between the Swiss Confederation on the one hand and the Republic of Estonia and the Republic of Latvia on the other were signed on 21 and 22 December 1992, respectively. The three agreements will enter into force definitively once Switzerland has completed the process of ratification.

The purpose of these free-trade agreements is gradually to establish a free-trade area within the meaning of Article XXIV of the General Agreement, between Switzerland and each of the three partners. Following the provisional entry into force of the agreements, customs duties, quantitative restrictions on trade and measures having an equivalent effect will be prohibited in trade between Switzerland and the partners.

The agreements also contain a number of general rules concerning in particular government procurement, intellectual property, government aid and competition. Under a clause providing for future developments, the parties to each of the agreements undertake to examine the possibilities of further developing and deepening the co-operation established thereunder, as well as the possibility of co-operating towards a gradual liberalization of their markets for services and investment.