

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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EFTA-BULGARIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Communication by Sweden

The following communication, dated 30 June 1993, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Sweden, on behalf of the EFTA States.

Sweden, on behalf of the Governments of the EFTA States (Austria, Finland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland), has the honour to transmit herewith, in accordance with Article XXIV:7 (a) of the General Agreement, the text of the Free Trade Agreement between the EFTA States and Bulgaria¹ with its Annexes and Lists which form an integral part thereof. Within the framework of the Free Trade Agreement, bilateral arrangements on agriculture have been concluded between each of the EFTA States and Bulgaria.

The Agreement was signed on 29 March 1993. It will enter into force between Bulgaria and Sweden on 1 July 1993 and it is applied provisionally by Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland as from 1 July 1993 on. The 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 Bulgaria provide for measures to facilitate trade in agricultural products.

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

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 Bulgaria, except for some products for which a transition period will apply. Bulgaria will, at the entry into force,

¹The text of the Agreement is being circulated as L/7257/Add.1.

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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 Bulgaria also contains provisions dealing with, inter alia, public procurement, intellectual property rights, state monopolies, state aid and competition. An evolutionary clause give the possibility of extending the relations to areas not covered by the Agreement.