

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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**MTN.GNS/W/196**  
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Group of Negotiations on Services

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**COMMUNICATION FROM NORWAY**

**Revised MFN Exemption List of Norway**

The following communication is circulated at the request of Norway to the members of the Group of Negotiations on Services.

1. Norway hereby submits a preliminary listing of those measures that Norway considers necessary to exempt from the application of Article II.
2. Norway, together with the other Nordic countries, has been a proponent of a strong MFN discipline under the GATS. Therefore, Norway is of the firm view that the scope of MFN exemptions should be limited to a minimum.
3. Over the past years, the Nordic countries have repeatedly raised questions concerning to what extent MFN exemptions have to be taken for certain measures, such as those contained in social security agreements. The initial list of Norwegian MFN exemptions reflected this uncertainty. The Nordic countries continue to have questions concerning these measures, and we believe that they are best dealt with through collective solutions. Due to lack of time we are ready to seek procedural solutions which would allow us to address these questions properly at a later stage. However, Norway will not extend benefits contained in e.g. social security agreements on an MFN basis.
4. Norway has not sought exemptions for measures falling under the Agreement on European Economic Area (EEA), which provides for the freedom of establishment, of provision of services and of movement of labour between Norway and the European Community, Austria, Finland, Iceland and Sweden. Once the EEA Agreement enters into force, it will be covered by Article V of the GATS.
5. Should this not have occurred prior to the entry into force of the GATS, there might be need for the addition of these countries to the list of exemptions, and for the exemption of additional measures to cover existing agreements and arrangements which would be subsumed under the EEA Agreement.
6. Norway reserves the right to revise this list of MFN exemptions against the background of the revised MFN exemption lists of other participants.

LIST OF ARTICLE II EXEMPTIONS FOR NORWAY

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Sector or Sub-sector	Description of Measure Indicating its Inconsistency with Article II	Countries to which the Measure Applies	Intended Duration	Conditions Creating the Need for the Exemption
Road transport: Passenger and Freight	Provisions of existing and future road transport agreements with one or more countries to reserve traffic rights for carriage to/from Norway and between third countries concerned. Road cabotage can also be allowed for specific countries.	All countries	Indefinite	Regional specificity of road transport services.
Audiovisual services: Transmission of audiovisual programmes to the public	Measures that are taken for the implementation and in conformity with the regulations such as the EC Television Broadcasting Directive (No. 89/552) and which define programmes of European origin in order to extend national treatment to audiovisual programmes meeting specific origin criteria.	Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Transfrontier Television or other European countries with whom an agreement may be concluded.	Indefinite	The promotion of cultural identity within the broadcasting sector in Europe, as well as achievement of certain linguistic policy objectives.

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Sector or Sub-sector	Description of Measure Indicating its Inconsistency with Article II	Countries to which the Measure Applies	Intended Duration	Conditions Creating the Need for the Exemption
Audiovisual services: Motion picture and video tape production and distribution services	To confer national treatment on audiovisual works through government-to-government framework agreements on film co-production. Such works may in some cases receive access to funding when this would not otherwise be available to co-production.	All countries (existing agreement with the United Kingdom)	Indefinite	The aim of such agreements is to promote cultural links between the countries concerned.
Audiovisual services: Production and distribution of cinematographic works and television programmes in Nordic countries	Measures that are adopted for the implementation of benefits in conformity with such support programmes as the NORDIC FILM and TV FUND in order to enhance production and distribution of audiovisual works produced in Nordic countries.	Finland, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Denmark	Indefinite	Preservation and promotion of the regional identity of the countries concerned.
Audiovisual services: Production and distribution of cinematographic works and television programmes	Measures that are adopted for the implementation of benefits in conformity with such support programmes as MEDIA and EURIMAGES to audiovisual programmes and suppliers to these programmes, meeting specific European origin criteria.	European countries	Indefinite	Preservation and promotion of the regional identity of the countries concerned.

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Sector or Sub-sector	Description of Measure Indicating its Inconsistency with Article II	Countries to which the Measure Applies	Intended Duration	Conditions Creating the Need for the Exemption
All sectors	<p>Measures aimed at promoting Nordic cooperation, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- guarantees and loans to investment projects and exports (The Nordic Investment Bank);</li> <li>- financial support to R&amp;D projects (The Nordic Industrial Fund);</li> <li>- funding of feasibility studies for international projects (The Nordic Fund for Project Exports);</li> <li>- financial assistance to companies* utilizing environmental technology (The Nordic Environment Finance Cooperation).</li> </ul>	<p>Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Norway</p>	Indefinite	To maintain and develop Nordic cooperation.