

I GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1

Objectives

1. The EFTA States and Singapore hereby establish a free-trade area in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
2. The objectives of this Agreement, which is based on trade relations between market economies are:
 - (a) to achieve the liberalisation of trade in goods, in conformity with Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (hereinafter referred to as “the GATT 1994”);
 - (b) to promote competition in their economies, particularly as it relates to economic relations between the Parties;
 - (c) to achieve further liberalisation on a mutual basis of the government procurement markets of the Parties;
 - (d) to achieve the liberalisation of trade in services, in conformity with Article V of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (hereinafter referred to as “the GATS”);
 - (e) to mutually enhance investment opportunities and accord constant protection for investors and investments;
 - (f) to ensure adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights, in accordance with international standards; and
 - (g) to contribute in this way, by the removal of barriers to trade and investment, to the harmonious development and expansion of world trade.

ARTICLE 2

Geographical Scope

1. Without prejudice to Annex I, this Agreement shall apply:
 - (a) to the land territory, internal waters, and the territorial sea of a Party, and the air-space above the territory in accordance with international law; as well as

- (b) beyond the territorial sea, with respect to measures taken by a Party in the exercise of its sovereign rights or jurisdiction in accordance with international law.
- 2. Annex II applies with respect to Norway.

ARTICLE 3

Trade and Economic Relations Governed by this Agreement

- 1. The provisions of this Agreement apply to the trade and economic relations between, on the one side, the EFTA States and, on the other side, Singapore, but not to the trade relations between individual EFTA States, unless otherwise provided for in this Agreement.
- 2. As a result of the customs union established by the Treaty of 29 March 1923 between Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein, Switzerland shall represent the Principality of Liechtenstein in matters covered thereby.

ARTICLE 4

Relationship to Other Agreements

The provisions of this Agreement shall be without prejudice to the rights and obligations of the Parties under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization and the other agreements negotiated thereunder (hereinafter referred to as “the WTO Agreement”) to which they are a party and any other international agreement to which they are a party.

ARTICLE 5

Regional and Local Government

Each Party is fully responsible for the observance of all obligations and commitments under this Agreement and shall ensure their observance by its respective regional and local governments and authorities and by non-governmental bodies in the exercise of governmental powers delegated by central, regional and local governments or authorities within its territory.