

**EFTA-ISRAEL (GOODS)
Summary Fact Sheet
March 2009**

Table 1: Background Information

Parties	EFTA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland), and Israel (withdrawal from the agreement of Austria, Finland and Sweden on 31 December 1994)	
Date of signature	17 September 1992	
Date of entry into force	1 January 1993	
Transition period for full implementation	11 years	
Date of full implementation	1 January 2004	
Website addresses or points of contact	EFTA: http://www.efta.int/content/free-trade/fta-countries/israel Israel: http://www.moital.gov.il/NR/exeres/33EC5139-FE9C-4FC6-A384-6CC61A25E63B.htm	
List of related GATT/WTO documents	L/7129 L/7129/Add.1 L/7201 L/7569 WT/REG14/N/1-Add.1 and 2 WT/REG14/2 WT/REG14/M/1-Rev.1/M/2	Notification Agreement Terms of Reference Questions and Replies Notification of changes Summary Records Minutes

Table 2: Internal Trade Liberalization

Import duties and charges	Article 4 (Customs duties on imports and charges having equivalent effect) Article 5 (Customs duties of a fiscal nature) Article 31 (Customs Unions, free trade areas and frontier trade)
Export duties and charges	Article 3 (Rules of origin) Article 6 (Customs duties on exports and charges having equivalent effect)
Non-tariff measures	Article 7 (Quantitative restrictions and measures having similar effect) Article 12 (Internal taxation)
Sector-specific rules	Article 11 (Trade in agricultural products and separate bilateral agreement) Article 29 (Services and investments) [services would not be included in a goods abstract] Annex II (Fish and other marine products) Protocol A (processed agricultural products)
Product exclusions	Annex I (exclusions on HS Chapters 25 to 97)

Table 3: Common External Tariff

Provisions	None
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Table 4: Provisions of the Agreement

Provision	Relevant Article(s)	Additional Information
Rules of Origin	Article 3 and Protocol B	The origin rules are in line with the Common Declaration with Regard to Preferential Rules of Origin contained in Annex II to the Agreement on Rules of Origin as set out in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round. The relevant provisions on the definition of the concept "originating products" are contained in Title I of Protocol B.
Standards-related measures	Article 10	The technical regulations and amendments introduced by the Parties are equally applied to all countries under the provisions of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.
SPS measures	Article 11.3	The Parties shall apply their regulations in veterinary, plant health and health matters in a non-discriminatory fashion and shall not introduce any new measures that have the effect of

Provision	Relevant Article(s)	Additional Information
		unduly obstructing trade.
Safeguard mechanisms (intra-trade)	Articles 20-23	Safeguard measures can be adopted in three situations: i) as an emergency action on imports of particular products (Article 20) ii) in case of re-export and serious shortage (Article 21) iii) in case of balance of payment difficulties (Article 22) The procedure for the application of safeguard measures is set out in Article 23.
Anti-dumping and countervailing measures	Article 19	The Parties to the Agreements may only take anti-dumping measures in accordance with the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994 and agreements related to that Article, under the condition and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 23.
Subsidies and state aid	Article 18	Any actions taken in accordance with the state aid provisions of the Agreement will be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the WTO. The state aid criteria and notification/annual reporting requirements introduced under the Agreement are more stringent than those under the WTO Subsidy Agreement.
Customs-related procedures	Article 3 and Protocol B	The Agreement establishes the rules of origins and methods of administrative co-operation.
IPR	Article 15 and Annex V	The Parties shall grant and ensure adequate, effective and non-discriminatory protection of IPR. Particular obligations are listed in Annex V.
Government procurement	Article 14	The effective liberalisation of public procurement markets is an important component of the agreement. The Parties shall grant each other reciprocal access to their public procurement markets.
Competition	Articles 9 and 17	The provisions on state monopolies ensure that procurement or marketing of products by any state monopolies of commercial nature also include monopolies delegated by the States to others. There are also provisions governing rule of competition regarding undertakings, whereby the following are incompatible with the Agreement: all agreements between undertakings, decisions by associations of undertaking and concerted practices between undertakings which have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition; or abuse by one of more undertakings of a dominant position in the territories of the Parties as a whole or in a substantial part thereof. These provisions are also applicable to public undertakings, and undertakings for which the Parties grant special or exclusive rights, in so far as the performance, in law or in fact, of their particular public tasks is not obstructed.
Investment	Article 29	The Parties will co-operate with the aim of achieving a progressive liberalisation and mutual opening of markets for investments.
General exceptions	Articles 8 and 24	This Agreement shall not preclude prohibitions or restrictions on imports, exports or goods in transit justifies on grounds of public morality, public policy or public security; the protection of health and life of humans, animals or plants and of the environment; the protection of national treasures possessing artistic, historic or archaeological value; rules related to gold, silver or the conservation of exhaustive natural resources; or the protection of intellectual property.

Provision	Relevant Article(s)	Additional Information
		Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent a Party to it from taking any measures which it considers necessary to prevent the disclosure of information contrary to its essential security interests, or for the protection of its essential security interests or for the implementation of certain international obligations or national policies.
Accession	Article 35	Any member of the EFTA may accede to the Agreement, provided that the Joint Committee approves its accession.
Dispute resolution	Article 25 <i>bis</i> and Annex VIII	Disputes between the Parties which have not been settled through consultation or in the Joint Committee within six months may be referred to arbitration by any party to the dispute through written notification addressed to the other party to the dispute. The awards of the arbitral tribunal are final and binding upon the parties to the dispute. The constitution and functioning of the arbitral tribunal is laid down in the Annex VIII.
Relation with other trade agreements	Article 31	This Agreement shall not prevent the maintenance or establishment of customs unions, free trade areas, or arrangements for frontier trade to the extent that these do not negatively affect this trade regime and in particular the provisions concerning rules of origin provided for by this Agreement.
Institutional provisions	Articles 26 and 27	The Agreement establishes a Joint Committee which is responsible for administering the Agreement. The Joint Committee can take decisions in cases provided for by the Agreement or make recommendations. The Joint Committee is to keep under review the removal of further obstacles to trade between the parties. The Joint Committee shall meet at an appropriate level but at least once a year. The Joint Committee may decide to set up such sub-committees and working parties as it considers necessary to assist it in accomplishing its tasks.

Table 5 EFTA's trade with Israel
(US\$ '000s)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Imports	358,452	331,350	359,166	348,165	412,589	430,784	456,023	578,020
Agricultural goods ^a	36,339	37,019	31,499	35,827	44,525	45,394	48,666	59,267
Industrial goods	322,113	294,331	327,667	312,338	368,064	385,390	407,357	518,753
Exports	926,893	826,639	482,567	540,191	597,590	691,543	819,548	966,069
Agricultural goods ^a	15,041	15,773	16,855	19,620	24,229	36,515	24,863	55,697
Industrial goods	911,852	810,866	465,712	520,571	573,361	655,028	794,685	910,372
Total trade	1285,345	1,157,989	841,733	888,356	1,010,179	1,122,327	1,275,571	1,544,089

a (HS1-24, excluding fish)