

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

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## TARIFFS AND TRADE

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### EFTA - ISRAEL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

#### Joint Communication by the Government of Norway, on behalf of the EFTA States, and the Government of Israel

The following communication, dated 30 November 1992, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Norway, on behalf of the EFTA States, and the Permanent Mission of Israel.

Norway, on behalf of the governments of the EFTA States (Austria, Finland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland) and Israel, have 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 Israel<sup>1</sup> 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 Israel.

The Free Trade Agreement was signed on 17 September 1992 and is foreseen to enter into force on 1 January 1993, subject to ratification in the different signatory States.

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 Israel provide for measures to facilitate trade in agricultural products.

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

At the entry into force of the Free Trade Agreement both the EFTA States and Israel will eliminate all duties and other charges having equivalent effect on products falling within the scope of the Agreement and originating in Israel and in the EFTA States respectively.

The Free Trade Agreement between the EFTA States and Israel also contains provisions dealing with, inter alia, public procurement, intellectual property rights, State monopolies, State aid and competition. It also includes provisions for the co-operation in the areas of services and investment. An evolutionary clause gives the possibility of extending the relations to areas not covered by the Agreement.

<sup>1</sup>The text of the Agreement is being circulated as L/7129/Add.1.