

DECLARATION

by

THE EFTA STATES AND TUNISIA

8 December 1995

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

DECLARATION

The Republic of Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Kingdom of Norway and the Swiss Confederation (hereinafter called the EFTA States)

and

the Republic of Tunisia (hereinafter called Tunisia)

Considering the common values shared by the EFTA States and Tunisia,

Adhering to the principles of democracy, political pluralism and human rights, inspired by the common objective of fostering human, cultural and economic contacts across borders,

Recognizing the EFTA States' and Tunisia's desire to strengthen their economic co-operation and trade relations,

Noting the intention of the EFTA States to make a dynamic and independent contribution to improving economic conditions across Europe and beyond, as re-affirmed in their Ministerial Declaration on 14 June 1995,

Convinced of the need to strengthen the process which Tunisia has undertaken to fully integrate its economy in the world economy,

Conscious of the need to associate their efforts to strengthen security, political stability and economic development in the region,

Determined to promote, expand and diversify trade and economic relations, thus creating the basis for further co-operation and an environment conducive to foreign direct investment,

Undertaking to make all efforts to develop relations between the EFTA States and Tunisia, which may eventually lead to the establishment of a free trade area,

Hereby declare their intention to explore together the possible future scope of co-operation, *inter alia*, in the following areas:

I OBJECTIVES

1. The EFTA States and Tunisia shall, building on already existing forms of co-operation, deepen and extend that co-operation within the EFTA framework.
2. The EFTA States and Tunisia shall to this end develop their co-operation, in particular with the aim of strengthening the environment conducive to, and supportive of, private entrepreneurship, free competition and economic activity based on market forces.

II TRADE

3. The EFTA States and Tunisia shall examine, within the EFTA context, concrete ways and means of expanding and liberalizing their trade relations taking into account their international obligations, in particular the principles and provisions of the WTO.
4. The EFTA States and Tunisia shall seek to create conditions favourable to the expansion of trade, *inter alia*, by
 - removing technical barriers to trade, in accordance with the principles and provisions of the WTO;
 - facilitating exchange of information on foreign trade.
5. The EFTA States and Tunisia shall seek to broaden co-operation in areas particularly important to liberalizing their trade relations, *inter alia*, by
 - facilitating an exchange of views on conditions for free and undistorted competition without government intervention in the market,
 - exchanging information on an opening up of public procurement markets,
 - encouraging co-operation in the area of intellectual property rights.
6. The EFTA States and Tunisia shall encourage and stimulate business contacts, notably between enterprises and organizations concerned with foreign trade, with the aim of developing their mutual trade.

III FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE RELATIONS

7. The EFTA States and Tunisia shall jointly discuss measures to be taken to create legal and economic preconditions necessary for the gradual establishment of free trade.

8. The EFTA States and Tunisia shall, when conditions permit, jointly examine the actions to be taken to establish a free trade area, taking into account the provisions of the WTO.

IV PRIVATE SECTOR CO-OPERATION AND INVESTMENT

9. The EFTA States and Tunisia consider it desirable to improve conditions for the implementation of private sector industrial co-operation projects, *inter alia* by creating favourable conditions conducive to capital flows and investment in all economic sectors of mutual concern, as well as securing the interests of the partners involved.

V JOINT COMMITTEE

10. The EFTA States and Tunisia hereby establish a Joint Committee.

11. The Joint Committee shall review the co-operation in areas referred to in the present Declaration and shall discuss any other issue of mutual interest. The Joint Committee shall formulate appropriate recommendations on any co-operation between the EFTA States and Tunisia.

12. The Joint Committee shall meet on a regular basis, as and when necessary.

13. The secretariat services for the Joint Committee shall be performed jointly by the EFTA Secretariat and the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade in Tunisia.

DONE at Zermatt this 8th day of December 1995.

For the Icelandic Delegation

Halldór Ásgrímsson

For the Tunisian Delegation

Slaheddine Ben M'Barek

For the Liechtenstein Delegation

Michael Ritter

For the Norwegian Delegation

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