

**DECLARATION
ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT
CO-OPERATION AND ACTION PLAN**

between

THE EFTA STATES

and

THE MERCOSUR MEMBER STATES

Geneva, 12 December 2000

Florianópolis, 15 December 2000

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”), on the one hand,

and

the Republic of Argentina, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay (hereinafter called “the MERCOSUR Member States”), on the other:

Desiring to enhance the bonds of friendship and co-operation between the EFTA States and the MERCOSUR Member States,

Inspired by basic principles of human rights and the common objective of fostering human and economic contacts across borders,

Building on their mutual commitment to the World Trade Organisation (WTO),

Recognising the EFTA States’ and the MERCOSUR Member States’ desire to strengthen their economic co-operation and trade relations,

Considering that both the EFTA States and the MERCOSUR Member States have particular experiences of regional integration which could be of mutual benefit as they develop closer relations,

Declaring their intention to establish a framework for the expansion and diversification of EFTA-MERCOSUR trade and investment,

Wishing to explore opportunities to strengthen co-operation in other areas and activities,

Have reached the following understanding:

I OBJECTIVES

1. The EFTA States and the MERCOSUR Member States will seek to:
 - (a) enhance economic relations between them, in particular concerning trade in goods and services, as well as investment;

- (b) strengthen their co-operation with a view to promoting further liberalisation of trade and investment;
- (c) facilitate the increased involvement of the private sector, in particular of the smaller and medium-sized enterprises, in trade and commercial co-operation between them;
- (d) examine, in the light of any relevant factor, the possibility of further developing their trade and economic co-operation.

II EXPANSION OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT

2. The EFTA States and the MERCOSUR Member States will endeavour to create the most favourable conditions for expanding trade in goods and services, and the expansion of investment between them in accordance with the annexed Action Plan.

3. The EFTA States and the MERCOSUR Member States will examine all questions set out in the Action Plan influencing their economic relations or their respective interests in respect of trade and investment in third countries, including multilateral questions of common interest arising in appropriate fora.

4. In enhancing the expansion of trade and investment between their private sectors, the EFTA States and the MERCOSUR Member States will, in particular, foster regular exchanges of information on opportunities for trade and investment.

III JOINT COMMITTEE

5. The EFTA States and the MERCOSUR Member States hereby establish a Joint Committee.

6. The Joint Committee shall review co-operation in areas referred to in the present Declaration and discuss any other issues of mutual interest. The Joint Committee may make appropriate recommendations for the implementation of this Declaration.

7. The Joint Committee shall meet whenever necessary, normally once a year, to review and direct progress on the Action Plan.

8. The Joint Committee may decide to set up working groups as considered necessary to accomplish its tasks.

9. The secretariat services for the Joint Committee shall be performed jointly by the EFTA Secretariat and the Pro Tempore Presidency of MERCOSUR.
10. The Joint Committee may invite to its meetings private sector representatives .

IV FINAL CLAUSES

11. Nothing in this Declaration affects the respective rights and obligations of either the EFTA States or the MERCOSUR Member States under Agreements, Conventions or other instruments to which they are Parties, either individually or collectively.
12. This Declaration may be amended by the written concurrence of both the EFTA States or the MERCOSUR Member States.
13. The Declaration comes into effect on signature and will remain in effect unless terminated by either the EFTA States or the MERCOSUR Member States on 180 days notice.

DONE in two original copies in the English and the Portuguese languages.

Geneva, 12 December 2000

Florianópolis, 15 December 2000

For the Republic of Iceland

For the Republic of Argentina

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For the Principality of Liechtenstein

For the Federative Republic of Brazil

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For the Kingdom of Norway

For the Republic of Paraguay

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For the Swiss Confederation

For the Eastern Republic of Uruguay

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DECLARATION ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT CO-OPERATION
BETWEEN THE EFTA STATES AND MERCOSUR

ACTION PLAN

1. This Action Plan constitutes an integral part of the Declaration on Trade and Investment Co-operation between the EFTA States and MERCOSUR Member States signed at Geneva on 12 December 2000 and at Florianopolis on 15 December 2000.
 2. The Action Plan, in conformity with the objectives of this Declaration, will include the following areas of priority interest:
 - a) exchange of information and technical co-operation in certain core sectors such as
 - customs and origin rules, customs valuation and transit procedures;
 - technical regulations;
 - competition, and anti-dumping policies;
 - subsidies, state aid and Non Tariff Barriers in all sectors;
 - public procurement
 - intellectual property, in particular in connection with conformance with international conventions and standards;
 - services;
 - cooperation among institutions responsible for trade promotion;
 - investment facilitation.
 - b) identification and analysis of factors and measures, including those of third countries, influencing trade and investment.
 - c) definition of options and appropriate actions in order to promote market access for goods and services.
 3. The present Action Plan will be reviewed periodically and revised as appropriate by the Joint Committee.
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