

ARTICLE 1

Objectives

1. The EFTA States and Poland, taking into account the need of Poland to ensure the accelerated development of its economy, shall gradually establish, during a transitional period ending on 31 December 2001, 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 promote, through the expansion of reciprocal trade, the harmonious development of the economic relations between the EFTA States and Poland and thus to foster in the EFTA States and in Poland the advance of economic activity, the improvement of living and employment conditions, and increased productivity and financial stability;
 - (b) to provide fair conditions of competition for trade between the States Parties to this Agreement;
 - (c) to contribute in this way, by the removal of barriers to trade, to European economic integration and the harmonious development and expansion of world trade.

ARTICLE 2

Scope

The Agreement shall apply:

- (a) to products falling within Chapters 25 to 97 of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, excluding the products listed in Annex I;
- (b) to products specified in Protocol A, with due regard to the arrangements provided for in that Protocol;
- (c) to fish and other marine products as specified in Annex II;

originating in an EFTA State or Poland.

ARTICLE 3

Rules of origin and co-operation in customs administration

1. Protocol B lays down the rules of origin and methods of administrative co-operation.
2. The States Parties to this Agreement shall take appropriate measures, including regular reviews by the Joint Committee and arrangements for administrative co-operation, to ensure that the provisions of Articles 4 to 9, 14 and 23 of the Agreement and Protocol B are effectively and harmoniously applied, and to reduce, as far as possible, the formalities imposed on trade, and to achieve mutually satisfactory solutions to any difficulties arising out of the operation of those provisions.