

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1.1

Objectives

1. The EFTA States and the GCC Member States hereby establish a free trade area in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
2. The objectives of this Agreement are:
 - (a) to achieve the liberalisation of trade in goods, in conformity with Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (hereinafter referred to as “the GATT 1994”), pursuant to Chapter 2;
 - (b) to achieve the liberalisation of trade in services, in conformity with Article V of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (hereinafter referred to as “the GATS”), pursuant to Chapter 3;
 - (c) to promote competition in their economies pursuant to Chapter 4;
 - (d) to ensure adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights, pursuant to Chapter 5;
 - (e) to achieve further liberalisation on a mutual basis of the government procurement markets of the Parties, pursuant to Chapter 6; and
 - (f) mutually enhance investment opportunities.

ARTICLE 1.2

Geographical Scope

1. Without prejudice to Annex IV, this Agreement shall apply:
 - (a) to the land territory, internal waters, and the territorial sea of a Party and the air-space above the territory of a Party in accordance with international law; as well as
 - (b) beyond the territorial sea, with respect to measures taken by a Party in the exercise of its sovereign rights or jurisdiction in accordance with international law.
2. Annex I applies with respect to Norway.

ARTICLE 1.3

Trade and Economic Relations Governed by this Agreement

The provisions of this Agreement apply to the trade and economic relations between, on the one side, the individual EFTA States and, on the other side, the individual GCC Member States or, where specifically provided for, the GCC Member States acting jointly as GCC. This Agreement applies neither to the trade relations amongst the EFTA States nor to the trade relations amongst the GCC Member States.

ARTICLE 1.4

Relationship to Other Agreements

The Parties reaffirm their rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement and the other agreements negotiated thereunder to which they are a party and any other international agreement to which they are a party.

ARTICLE 1.5

Regional and Local Government

1. Each Party shall take such reasonable measures as may be available to it to ensure observance of the provisions of this Agreement by the regional and local governments and authorities within its territory.
2. This provision is to be interpreted and applied in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 3 (a) of Article I of the GATS and the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994, as applicable. Paragraph 3 (a) of Article I of the GATS and the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 are hereby incorporated and made part of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 1.6

Transparency

1. The Parties shall publish or otherwise make publicly available their laws, regulations, judicial decisions and administrative rulings of general application as well as their respective international agreements which may affect the operation of this Agreement.
2. The Parties shall promptly respond to specific questions and provide, upon request, information to each other on matters referred to in paragraph 1.

ARTICLE 1.7

Confidential Information

1. Each Party shall maintain the confidentiality of information which the Party submitting the information has designated as confidential.
2. Nothing in this Agreement shall require any Party to disclose confidential information, which would impede law enforcement, or otherwise be contrary to the public interest or would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of any economic operator.