CHAPTER 9 FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 9.1

Taxation

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the rights and obligations of a Party under any tax convention. In the event of any inconsistency between this Agreement and any tax convention, the tax convention shall prevail to the extents of the inconsistency.

ARTICLE 9.2

Restrictions to Safeguard the Balance of Payments

1. The Parties shall endeavour to avoid the imposition of restrictions to safeguard the balance of payments.

2. Where any of the Parties to this Agreement is in serious balance of payments difficulties, or under threat thereof, it may adopt or maintain restrictive measures with regard to trade in goods and services, including on payments and transfers.

3. The rights and obligations of the Parties in respect of such restrictions shall be governed by paragraphs 1 to 3 of Article XII of the GATS, Article XII of the GATT 1994 and the Understanding on the Balance-of-Payments Provisions of the GATT 1994. A Party adopting or maintaining such restrictions shall promptly notify the Joint Committee thereof.

ARTICLE 9.3

Electronic Commerce

The Parties recognize the growing role of electronic commerce for trade between them. With a view to supporting provisions of this Agreement related to trade in goods and services the Parties undertake to intensify their co-operation on electronic commerce for their mutual benefit. For that purpose the Parties have established the framework contained in Annex XVI.

ARTICLE 9.4

Exhibitions

The Parties shall encourage participation by their national institutions and companies in international exhibitions and fairs held in the territory of another Party.

Each Party shall permit the other Parties to hold temporary, general or specialized exhibitions in its territory, pursuant to its relevant domestic laws and regulations.

ARTICLE 9.5

Annexes and Appendices

The Annexes and Appendices to this Agreement are an integral part thereof.

ARTICLE 9.6

Amendments

1. This Agreement, and its Annexes and Appendices, may be amended with mutual consent of the Parties. Any proposal for amendment shall be submitted to the Joint Committee for consideration and approval.

2. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, and without prejudice to paragraph 7 of Article 7.1, the amendments to this Agreement and its Annexes shall enter into force on the first day of the third month following the date of the receipt of the last written notification to the Depositary informing the Depositary that all necessary requirements have been fulfilled.

3. The text of any amendments as well as the instruments of acceptance shall be deposited with the Depositary.

ARTICLE 9.7

Accession

1. Any State becoming a Member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) or a Member of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), may accede to this Agreement, on terms and conditions to be agreed upon by the Parties, provided that the Joint Committee approves the accession of such State.

2. In relation to an acceding State, this Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the third month following the deposit to the Depositary of such State's instrument of accession or the approval of the terms of accession by the existing Parties, whichever is later.

ARTICLE 9.8

Duration, Withdrawal and Termination

1. This Agreement shall be valid for an indefinite period.

2. A Party may withdraw from this Agreement by means of a written notification to the Depositary. The withdrawal shall take effect 12 months after the date on which the notification is received by the Depositary.

3. Any EFTA State which withdraws from the EFTA Convention or any GCC Member State which withdraws from the Charter of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, shall, *ipso facto* on the same day as the withdrawal takes effect, cease to be a Party to this Agreement. A copy of the notification of withdrawal under the EFTA Convention or withdrawal from the Charter of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf shall promptly be submitted to the other Parties.

4. If all EFTA States withdraw or if all GCC Member States withdraw in accordance with paragraph 2, this Agreement shall be terminated as of the date when the withdrawal has taken effect for all EFTA States or all GCC Member States.

ARTICLE 9.9

Entry into Force

1. This Agreement is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval in accordance with the respective constitutional requirements of the Parties. The instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Depositary.

2. If its constitutional requirements permit, any Party may apply this Agreement provisionally. Provisional application of this Agreement under this paragraph shall be notified to the Depositary.

3. This Agreement shall not enter into force or be applied provisionally between an EFTA State and GCC unless the complementary agreement on trade in basic agricultural goods between the EFTA State and GCC enters into force or is applied provisionally simultaneously.

4. This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the third month after the GCC Member States and at least one EFTA State have deposited their respective instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval with the Depositary.

5. In relation to an EFTA State depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval after this Agreement has entered into force this Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the third month following the deposit of its instrument with the Depositary.

ARTICLE 9.10

Depositary

The Government of Norway shall act as the Depositary.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement.

Done at Hamar, this 22nd day of June 2009, which corresponds to this 29th day of Jumada'II 1430 Hijri, in four originals, two in the English language which shall be authentic and two in Arabic, one English and one Arabic version being deposited with the Government of Norway and one English and one Arabic version being lodged with the GCC Secretariat. The Depositary shall transmit certified copies to all the Parties.

For the Republic of Iceland	For the Governments of the Member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
....	....
For the Principality of Liechtenstein	Yusuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of Sultanate of Oman President of the Ministerial Council of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
....	
For the Kingdom of Norway	
....	....
For the Swiss Confederation	Abdulrahman Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
....	