

CONVENTION
ESTABLISHING THE
EUROPEAN FREE TRADE
ASSOCIATION

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Convention establishing
the European Free Trade Association

1 The Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Kingdom of Norway, the Portuguese Republic, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Swiss Confederation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; 2, 3

Having regard to the Convention for European Economic Co-operation of 16th April, 1948, which established the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation; Resolved to maintain and develop the co-operation instituted within that Organisation;

Determined to facilitate the early establishment of a multilateral association for the removal of trade barriers and the promotion of closer economic co-operation between the Members of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, including the Members of the European Economic Community;

Having regard to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;

Resolved to promote the objectives of that Agreement;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The Association

1. An international organisation to be known as the European Free Trade Association, hereinafter referred to as "the Association", is hereby established.

2. The Members of the Association, hereinafter referred to as "Member States", shall be the States which ratify this Convention and such other States as may accede to it.

1 Signed at Stockholm on 4th January, 1960. Entered into force on 3rd May, 1960.

2 Iceland acceded to the Convention on 1st March, 1970 (see Council Decision No. 17 of 1969 (page Ic/1)); Finland acceded to the Convention on 1st January, 1986 (see Council Decision No. 7 of 1985); Liechtenstein acceded to the Convention on 1st September, 1991 (see Council Decision No. 2 of 1991 (page Li/1)).

3 Denmark and the United Kingdom withdrew from the Convention on 1st January, 1973; Portugal withdrew from the Convention on 1st January, 1986; Austria, Finland and Sweden withdrew from the Convention with effect from January 1995.

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3. The Area of the Association shall be the territories to which this Convention applies.

4. The Institutions of the Association shall be a Council and such other organs as the Council may set up.

ARTICLE 2

Objectives

The objectives of the Association shall be

(a) to promote in the Area of the Association and in each Member State a sustained expansion of economic activity, full employment, increased