

# **DECLARATION**

by

**THE EFTA STATES AND UKRAINE**

19 June 2000

**EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION**

# DECLARATION

The Republic of Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Kingdom of Norway and the Swiss Confederation (hereinafter referred to as “the EFTA States”), on the one hand,

and

Ukraine, on the other:

Considering the importance of existing links between the EFTA States and Ukraine and the common values they share,

Recognising the EFTA States' and Ukraine's desire to strengthen their economic co-operation and trade relations,

Recalling the intention of the Ukrainian Government to participate actively and fully in the integration process in Europe and expressing their willingness to co-operate in seeking ways and means to strengthen this process,

Adhering to the principles of democracy, political pluralism, human rights and the market economy, inspired by the common objective of fostering human, cultural and economic contacts across borders,

Aware of the importance of giving full effect to all the provisions and principles of the CSCE/OSCE process, in particular the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris for a new Europe, as well as the final document of the Bonn Conference on economic co-operation in Europe,

Recognising the importance of guaranteeing the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, in accordance with the undertakings made in the context of the CSCE/OSCE,

Conscious of the need to associate their efforts to strengthen security, political stability and economic development in Europe,

Noting the intention of the EFTA States to make a dynamic and independent contribution to improving economic conditions across Europe and beyond, as reaffirmed in their Ministerial Declarations of 14 June 1995 and, most recently, 14 December 1999,

Determined to promote, expand and diversify trade and economic relations, based on the principles and rules of the WTO, thus creating the basis for further co-operation and an environment conducive to foreign direct investment,

Determined to make all efforts to develop relations between the EFTA States and Ukraine, which may eventually lead to the establishment of a free trade area,

Hereby declare the following:

## I OBJECTIVES

1. The EFTA States and Ukraine shall, building on already existing forms of co-operation, deepen and extend that co-operation within the EFTA framework, with the aim of further improving relations based on market-economy principles.
2. The EFTA States and Ukraine shall to this end develop their co-operation, in particular with the aim of strengthening the environment conducive to, and supportive of, private entrepreneurship, free competition and economic activity based on market forces.

## II TRADE

3. The EFTA States and Ukraine shall examine, within the EFTA context, concrete ways and means of expanding and liberalising their trade relations taking into account their international obligations, in particular the principles and provisions of the WTO.
4. The EFTA States and Ukraine shall seek to create conditions favourable to the expansion of trade, *inter alia*, by
  - removing technical barriers to trade, in accordance with the principles and provisions of the WTO,
  - developing customs and tariff co-operation,
  - facilitating exchange of information on foreign trade.

5. The EFTA States and Ukraine shall seek to broaden co-operation in areas particularly important to liberalising their trade relations, *inter alia*, by

- facilitating an exchange of views on conditions for free and undistorted competition without government intervention in the market,
- exchanging information on an opening up of public procurement markets,
- encouraging co-operation in the area of intellectual property rights.

6. The EFTA States and Ukraine shall encourage and stimulate business contacts, notably between enterprises and organisations concerned with foreign trade, with the aim of developing their mutual trade.

### III FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE RELATIONS

7. The EFTA States and Ukraine shall jointly discuss measures to be taken to create legal and economic preconditions necessary for the gradual establishment of free trade.

8. The EFTA States and Ukraine shall, when conditions permit, jointly examine the actions to be taken to establish a free trade area, taking into account the provisions of the WTO.

### IV PRIVATE SECTOR CO-OPERATION AND INVESTMENT

9. The EFTA States and Ukraine shall seek to improve conditions for the implementation of private sector industrial co-operation projects, *inter alia*, by creating favourable conditions conducive to capital flows and investment in all economic sectors of mutual concern, as well as securing the interests of the partners involved.

## V JOINT COMMITTEE

10. The EFTA States and Ukraine hereby establish a Joint Committee.
11. The Joint Committee shall review the co-operation in areas referred to in the present Declaration and shall discuss any other issue of mutual interest. The Joint Committee shall formulate appropriate recommendations on any co-operation between the EFTA States and Ukraine,
12. The Joint Committee shall meet on a regular basis, as and when necessary.
13. The secretariat services for the Joint Committee shall be performed jointly by the EFTA Secretariat and the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine.

DONE at Zurich this 19th day of June 2000, in two original copies in the English language.

For the Republic of Iceland

For Ukraine

Halldór Ásgrímsson.....

Borys Tarasyuk.....

For the Principality of Liechtenstein

Andrea Willi .....

For the Kingdom of Norway

Grete Knudsen.....

For the Swiss Confederation

Pascal Couchepin.....