

**JOINT DECLARATION ON
CO-OPERATION**

between

THE EFTA STATES

and the

REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

JOINT DECLARATION ON CO-OPERATION

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

The Republic of Colombia, on the other:

Desiring to enhance the bonds of friendship and co-operation between the EFTA States and Colombia,

Inspired by basic principles of human rights and the common objective of fostering human and economic contacts across borders,

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

Building on their mutual commitment to the World Trade Organization (WTO),

Declaring their intention to establish a framework for the expansion and diversification of EFTA – Colombia trade and investment,

Wishing to explore opportunities to strengthen co-operation in other areas and activities,

Determined to make all efforts to develop relations between the EFTA States and Colombia,

Hereby declare the following:

I OBJECTIVES

1. The EFTA States and Colombia will seek to:
 - (a) enhance economic relations between them, in particular concerning trade in goods and services, as well as investment;
 - (b) strengthen their co-operation with a view to promoting further liberalisation of trade and investment;
 - (c) facilitate the increased involvement of the private sector, in particular of the smaller and medium-sized enterprises, in trade and commercial co-operation between them;
 - (d) examine, in the light of any relevant factor, the possibility of further developing their trade and economic co-operation.

II TRADE

2. The EFTA States and Colombia shall seek concrete ways and means of expanding and liberalising their trade relations, taking into account their international obligations, in particular the provisions of the WTO agreements, *inter alia*, by:
 - (a) removing technical barriers to trade;
 - (b) developing customs and tariff co-operation;
 - (c) exchanging information on foreign trade in goods and services;
 - (d) examining all available trade policy instruments with a view to realizing the objectives of this Declaration.
3. The EFTA States and Colombia shall seek to broaden co-operation in areas particularly important to liberalising their trade relations, *inter alia*, by:
 - (a) exchanging views on free and undistorted competition;
 - (b) exchanging information on their public procurement markets;
 - (c) encouraging co-operation in the area of intellectual property rights.
4. The EFTA States and Colombia shall encourage and stimulate business contacts, notably between enterprises and organisations concerned with foreign trade, with the aim of developing their mutual trade.

III PRIVATE SECTOR CO-OPERATION AND INVESTMENT

5. The EFTA States and Colombia 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.

IV JOINT COMMITTEE

6. The EFTA States and Colombia hereby establish a Joint Committee.

7. 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 Colombia,

8. The Joint Committee shall meet on a regular basis, as and when necessary.

9. The secretariat services for the Joint Committee shall be performed jointly by the EFTA Secretariat and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism of Colombia.

DONE at Bern, this 17th day of May 2006, in two original copies in the English and the Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of conflict the English version shall prevail.

For the Republic of Iceland

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For the Republic of Colombia

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For the Principality of Liechtenstein

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For the Kingdom of Norway

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For the Swiss Confederation

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