

No. 30600

**ESTONIA
and
SWEDEN**

Free Trade Agreement (with annexes, protocol and memorandum of understanding). Signed at Stockholm on 31 March 1992

Authentic text: English.

Registered by Estonia on 10 December 1993.

**ESTONIE
et
SUÈDE**

Accord de libre échange (avec annexes, protocole et mémorandum d'entente). Signé à Stockholm le 31 mars 1992

Texte authentique : anglais.

Enregistré par l'Estonie le 10 décembre 1993.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA AND THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN

Preamble

The Republic of Estonia and the Kingdom of Sweden,

Recalling the importance of the traditional links between Estonia and Sweden and the common values they share, and recognizing their wish to strengthen these links and to establish close and lasting relations,

Desiring to create favourable conditions for the development and diversification of trade between them and for the promotion of commercial and economic co-operation in areas of common interest on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and international law,

Having regard to the Declaration signed by Estonia and the EFTA States on 10 December, 1991,

Having regard to the Trade Agreement between Estonia and Sweden signed on 28 October, 1991,² in particular to the provision contained therein that the Parties shall accord most-favoured-nation treatment to each other, and to the objective expressed in that Agreement to establish free trade between the two countries,

Reaffirming their commitment to pluralistic democracy based on the rule of law, human rights, and fundamental freedoms, and sharing the principles of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe,³ the

¹ Came into force on 1 July 1992, i.e., the first day of the month following the date on which the Parties had notified each other (on 22 and 29 June 1992) of the completion of their national legal requirements, in accordance with article 24.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1748, No. I-30485.

³ *International Legal Materials*, vol. XIV (1975), p. 1292 (American Society of International Law).

Concluding Documents of the Madrid¹ and Vienna² meetings, the Document of the Bonn Conference³ on Economic Co-operation in Europe, and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe,⁴

Having regard to the emerging process of economic liberalization taking place in Estonia aimed at the establishment of a market economy, thus facilitating the integration of Estonia into the European and world economy,

Resolved to develop further their relations in the field of trade in accordance with the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade,⁵

Considering that no provision of this Agreement may be interpreted as exempting the Parties from their obligations under other international agreements,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1 Objectives

The objectives of this Agreement are:

(a) to promote, through the establishment of free trade according to the provisions of this Agreement, the harmonious development of economic relations between Estonia and Sweden, and thus to foster the expansion of reciprocal trade, the advance of economic activity, the improvement of living and employment conditions, increased productivity, and financial stability;

(b) to promote fair conditions of competition in the mutual trade between Estonia and Sweden;

¹ *International Legal Materials*, vol. XXII (1983), p. 1395 (American Society of International Law).

² *Ibid.*, vol. XXVIII (1989), p. 527 (American Society of International Law).

³ *Ibid.*, vol. XXIX, No. 4 (1990), p. 1054 (American Society of International Law).

⁴ United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session*, document A/45/859, p. 3.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 55, p. 187.

(c) to contribute, in this way, to European economic integration and the harmonious development and expansion of world trade.

Article 2

Scope of the Agreement

This Agreement shall apply to products falling within Chapters 25 to 97 of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System,¹ which originate in Estonia or in Sweden.

Article 3

Rules of Origin

1. Protocol A lays down the rules of origin and related methods of administrative co-operation.

2. The Parties shall take appropriate measures, including arrangements for administrative co-operation, to ensure that the provisions of Articles 4 (Prohibition and Abolition of Customs Duties and Charges Having Equivalent Effect), 5 (Prohibition and Abolition of Quantitative Restrictions and Measures Having Equivalent Effect), 8 (Internal Taxation), and 17 (Re-export and Serious Shortage), and Protocol A are effectively and harmoniously applied, and to reduce, as far as possible, the formalities imposed on trade, and to achieve mutually satisfactory solutions to any difficulties arising out of the operation of those provisions.

Article 4

Prohibition and Abolition of Customs Duties and Charges Having Equivalent Effect

1. No new customs duty on imports and exports or charges having equivalent effect shall be introduced in trade between Estonia and Sweden.

¹ See "International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System", United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1503, p. 3.

2. Customs duties on imports and exports and charges having equivalent effect shall be abolished upon the entry into force of this Agreement.

3. The provisions of this Article shall also apply to customs duties of a fiscal nature.

Article 5

Prohibition and Abolition of Quantitative Restrictions and Measures Having Equivalent Effect

1. No new quantitative restrictions on imports and exports or measures having equivalent effect shall be introduced in trade between Estonia and Sweden.

2. Quantitative restrictions on imports and exports and measures having equivalent effect shall be abolished upon the entry into force of this Agreement except as provided for in Annex I.

Article 6

General Exceptions

This Agreement shall not preclude prohibitions or restrictions on imports, exports, or goods in transit, justified on grounds of public morality, public policy, or public security; protection of the health and life of humans, animals, or plants; protection of the environment; protection of national treasures possessing artistic, historic, or archaeological value; protection of intellectual property; or rules relating to gold or silver. Such prohibitions or restrictions shall not, however, constitute a means of arbitrary discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade between the Parties.