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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EC - NORWAY FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

WASHINGTON, DC -- April 17, 1973 -- Agreements establishing an industrial free trade arrangement between the member states of the European Community and Norway were initialed yesterday in Brussels.

Now subject to the necessary ratification procedures of both parties, the agreements are expected to be signed in Brussels on May 14 and come into force on July 1. They bring Norway into a 16-nation industrial free trade zone, comprising the nine EC member states and the seven member states of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

Norway, which had been accepted as an EC member, turned down full Community membership in a popular referendum last autumn; negotiations for the free trade arrangement then commenced.

Initialing yesterday's agreements were, for the EC, Edmund Wellenstein, Director General for external relations, and, for Norway, Ambassador Jens Evensen.