

441.2(67)

EC-NORWAY  
-----

The annual session of the EEC-Norway and the ECSC-Norway Joint Committees will take place in Brussels on 12 December 1983. These meetings mark the formal end of the eleven year transition to industrial free trade between the Community and Norway. From 1 January 1984 there will be no customs duties payable on bilateral industrial trade between the two partners bringing to a fruitful conclusion the process started by the 1973 agreement.

Apart from the formal meetings of the Joint Committees exchanges of visits by Commissioners and Ministers have been a regular feature of EC-Norwegian relations and once per year ministerial level consultations are held. In the recent past, Commission President Jenkins (1980) and Vice-President Haferkamp responsible for external relations (1981) have visited Oslo. The Norwegian Prime Minister, Mr Kaare Willoch, visited the Commission in November 1983 as did the former Prime Minister Odvar Nordli, Commerce Minister Revulf Steen and Finance Minister Ulf Sand in 1980. The Minister for Trade and Shipping Arne Skauge came to Brussels in 1981, 1982 and 1983.

COOPERATION WITHIN THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT  
-----

Norway was one of four countries, with the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark, to sign the Treaty of Accession to the European Communities in January 1972. Following a referendum on 26 September 1972 the Norwegian government decided not to ratify the Treaty and the Community subsequently offered Norway the same type of industrial free trade agreement that it had offered to the other members of the European Free Trade Association. Two agreements, one with the European Economic Community and one with the European Coal and Steel Community, were signed on 14 May 1973 and came into force on 1 July 1973 and 1 January 1975 respectively.

The agreements, which are for an indefinite period, provide for free trade in industrial goods between Norway and the Community and in particular for the immediate removal of all quantitative restrictions and the phasing out of all tariff barriers in respect of the products concerned. The Community and Norway abolished tariffs on most industrial goods on 1 July 1977 and on most other goods on 1 January 1980. The residual tariffs, which remain in force till 1 January 1984, are for certain paper products on the Community side, and for certain textiles, and shoes on the Norwegian side. On these products duties are levied at 20% of the standard rate applicable to third countries.

The agreement of 1972 provided for tariff concessions for certain processed agricultural produce as well as encouraging the development of trade in primary agricultural produce between the two parties. In this context the Community and Norway have concluded an agreement providing for reciprocal tariff preferences for cheese products.

#### COOPERATION BEYOND THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

---

Cooperation between the Community and Norway has greatly expanded in the ten years of the agreements. Among the many areas of cooperation the most notable are:

##### Steel

---

Since 1978 the Community and Norway have negotiated annual steel arrangements to regulate trade during the present recession in the steel market.

##### Agriculture and Fisheries

---

In 1973 the Community granted autonomous tariff concessions for certain fisheries products from Norway and at the same time the Norwegian authorities offered similar concessions for certain Community agricultural exports.

A framework agreement on fisheries between the Community and Norway, which was negotiated in 1978, was formally signed in 1980. In the context of this framework agreement annual arrangements have been reached since 1978 regulating reciprocal fishing rights and agreeing measures of conservation of joint fish stocks in the Skagerrak.

##### Science and Technology

---

Norway participates in the Community's cooperation in Scientific and Technical Research programme (COST). The main fields of interest are data processing, telecommunications, meteorology, oceanography, transport, metallurgy, environment and biology.

##### Other Areas

---

Experts on both sides meet regularly to exchange information on a wide variety of topics including sea and air transport, protection of the environment, energy policy, public aids, economic and monetary policy, consumer protection and development aid.

#### TRADE STRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

---

Trade has considerably expanded since the industrial free trade agreements came into effect. Norwegian exports to the Community increased from 1873 million ECU in 1973 to 11357 million ECU in 1982 representing 71% of its total exports in 1982. Norwegian imports from the Community increased in the same period from 2252 million ECU to 6867 million ECU representing 45% of its imports in 1982.

Seen from the Community viewpoint, Norway is the Community's ninth largest customer accounting for 2.4% of total exports in 1982 and her sixth largest supplier accounting for 3.5% of her total imports.

In 1982 45% of EC imports from Norway were made up of mineral fuel mainly oil and gas. Machinery, transport equipment, chemicals and other manufactured goods accounted for 7 % and basic manufactures, mainly non-ferrous metals, iron and steel, textiles and paper accounted for 15%. The Community exports to Norway were made up of machinery, transport equipment and chemicals (44%), basic manufactures mainly iron and steel, non-ferrous metals and textiles (18%) and other manufactured goods (14%).

TRADE BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND NORWAY		MILLION ECU				
	1973	1975	1978	1980	1981	1982
EC IMPORTS	1873	2795	5426	8444	10313	11357
EC EXPORTS	2252	3272	3864	5141	6052	6867
BALANCE	397	477	-1562	-3303	-4261	-4490

SOURCE : EUROSTAT

