

Committee on Regional Trade Agreements

EFTA-SLOVAK REPUBLIC FREE TRADE AREA

Biennial Report on the Operation of the Agreement

The following communication, dated 17 March 2006, is being circulated at the request of the EFTA States.

It is organized in accordance to the Standard Format for Information on Regional Trade Agreements (WT/REG/W/6).

In accordance with the guidelines approved by the Council for Trade in Goods¹, as recommended by the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements² and the reporting schedule established by the WTO Secretariat in WT/REG/W/33, the Parties to the Agreement establishing the free trade area between the EFTA States and the Slovak Republic (FTA) herewith provide their biennial report on the operation of the agreement covering the period of July 2001 to April 2004. The last such report was issued on 31 August 2001³.

Main developments

In the reporting period, the Joint Committee met once on 10 February 2003 and adopted one Joint Committee decision. For further details see Annex I. The agreement ceased to exist on 1 May 2004, when the Slovak Republic became a member of the European Union.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE AGREEMENT

1. Membership and dates of signature, ratification and entry into force

The agreement was signed on 20 March 1992, originally between the EFTA States and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (CSFR). Following the dissolution of the CSFR on 31 December 1992, a Protocol on the succession by the Slovak Republic to the agreement was signed on 19 April 1993.

The agreement entered into force on 1 July 1992. Austria, Finland and Sweden ceased to be Parties to the FTA, following their withdrawal from the EFTA Convention and accession to the European Union on 1 January 1995. Liechtenstein has applied it provisionally as of 1 January 1997.

¹ G/L/286

² WT/REG/4

³ WT/REG88/R/B/2

4. Trade Data

According to EFTA's statistical sources, trade between the EFTA States and the Slovak Republic experienced strong growth between 2000 and 2003. Total trade grew from 372 million USD in 2000 to 514 million USD in 2003, an increase of 38%. EFTA imports grew from 224 million USD in 2000 to 279 million USD in 2003 (25% increase). Exports increased from 128 million USD in 2000 to 211 million USD in 2003 (59% increase). The trade balance remains in favour of the Slovak Republic.

Among the EFTA States, Switzerland is the largest trading partner with the Slovak Republic. In 2003, Switzerland accounted for 85% of total trade, followed by Norway with 14% and Iceland with 1%.

Annex II: Trade statistics

II. TRADE PROVISIONS

3. Rules of origin

In 2003, a technical error in the specific list rule for ex 4114 in Appendix II to Annex A was corrected.

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT

5. Institutional framework

A Joint EFTA-Slovak Republic Committee was established under the agreement to supervise and administer its implementation. During the reporting period, the seventh and last Joint Committee meeting took place in Bratislava on 10 February 2003.

The agreement was replaced by the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) and the bilateral agreements between Switzerland and the European Union.

ANNEX I

Amendments To The EFTA-Slovak Republic FTA Since 2001

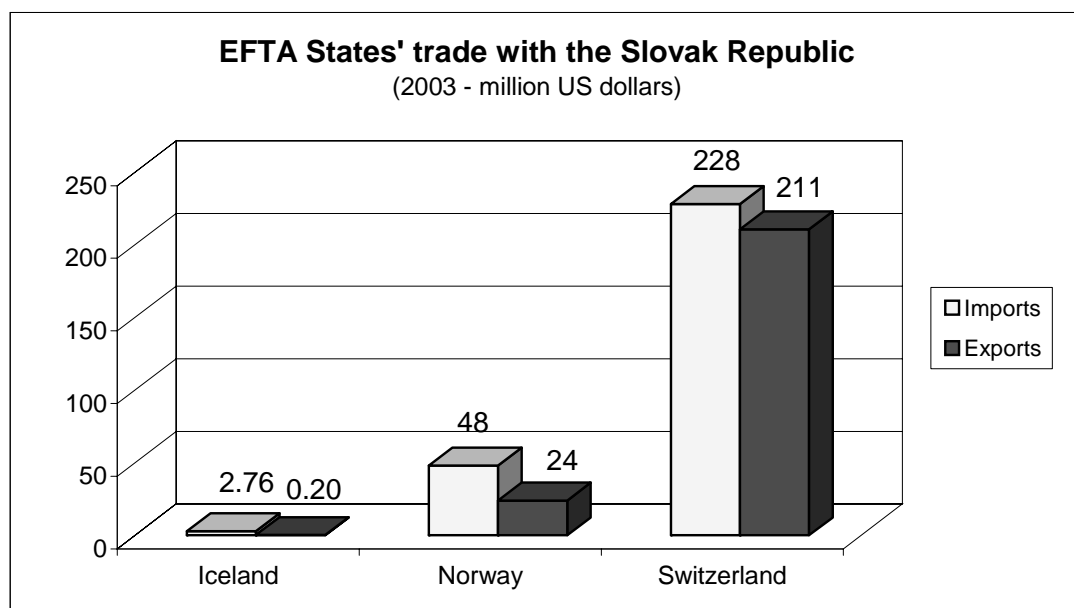
DC No.	Adopted:	In force:	Title:	Subject:
A-2003-SK-D-001	10.02.03	10.02.03	Amendments to Protocol B	Origin rules

ANNEX II

EFTA STATES' TRADE WITH THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2001/00	2002/01	2003/02
	In thousand US dollars				Percentage change		
IMPORTS							
Iceland	2,502	1,528	2,169	2,757	-38.9	42.0	27.1
Norway	26,093	24,894	35,770	47,993	-4.6	43.7	34.2
Switzerland	195,739	184,034	180,538	228,067	-6.0	-1.9	26.3
EFTA	224,334	210,456	218,477	278,817	-6.2	3.8	27.6
<i>Share in EFTA's tot. imports</i>	<i>0.19%</i>	<i>0.18%</i>	<i>0.18%</i>	<i>0.20%</i>			
EXPORTS							
Iceland	134	296	200	200	121.7	-32.5	-0.1
Norway	19,960	15,233	16,522	23,883	-23.7	8.5	44.6
Switzerland	127,775	152,208	167,826	210,727	19.1	10.3	25.6
EFTA	147,869	167,737	184,548	234,810	13.4	10.0	27.2
<i>Share in EFTA's tot. exports</i>	<i>0.10%</i>	<i>0.12%</i>	<i>0.12%</i>	<i>0.14%</i>			
IMPORTS + EXPORTS							
Iceland	2,636	1,824	2,369	2,957	-30.8	29.9	24.8
Norway	46,052	40,127	52,293	71,876	-12.9	30.3	37.4
Switzerland	323,515	336,242	348,363	438,795	3.9	3.6	26.0
EFTA	372,203	378,193	403,025	513,627	1.6	6.6	27.4
<i>Share in EFTA's total trade</i>	<i>0.14%</i>	<i>0.15%</i>	<i>0.15%</i>	<i>0.17%</i>			

-- no percentage calculated



Source: World Trade Atlas

EFTA STATES' TRADE WITH THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC BY SELECTED COMMODITIES (HS)

Source: World Trade Atlas	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
IMPORTS	In thousand US dollars			In per cent		
Iceland						
Total imports from the Slovak Republic	1,528	2,169	2,757	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>In per cent of imports from the world</i>	<i>0.07%</i>	<i>0.10%</i>	<i>0.11%</i>			
HS 94 Furniture and bedding	307	288	554	20.1	13.3	20.1
HS 62 Woven apparel or clothing accessories	431	395	506	28.2	18.2	18.4
HS 37 Photographic or cinematographic goods	153	316	406	10.0	14.6	14.7
Norway						
Total imports from the Slovak Republic	24,894	35,770	47,993	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>In per cent of imports from the world</i>	<i>0.08%</i>	<i>0.11%</i>	<i>0.12%</i>			
HS 64 Footwear	3,886	6,280	12,020	15.6	17.6	25.0
HS 84 Machinery, mechanical appliances	4,660	4,363	5,194	18.7	12.2	10.8
HS 85 Electrical machinery	1,112	2,035	4,474	4.5	5.7	9.3
HS 94 Furniture and bedding	3,907	5,666	4,330	15.7	15.8	9.0
HS 73 Iron and steel products	1,042	2,592	4,208	4.2	7.2	8.8
HS 62 Woven apparel or clothing accessories	1,603	3,544	3,638	6.4	9.9	7.6
HS 48 Paper, paperboard	1,814	1,978	2,978	7.3	5.5	6.2
HS 56 Wadding, felt, twine, rope	102	1,257	1,666	0.4	3.5	3.5
Switzerland						
Total imports from the Slovak Republic	184,034	180,538	228,067	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>In per cent of imports from the world</i>	<i>0.22%</i>	<i>0.22%</i>	<i>0.24%</i>			
HS 87 Vehicles (not railway)	103,561	115,870	136,634	56.3	64.2	59.9
HS 85 Electrical machinery	8,442	7,553	12,256	4.6	4.2	5.4
HS 84 Machinery, mechanical appliances	7,694	7,051	10,844	4.2	3.9	4.8
HS 62 Woven apparel or clothing accessories	11,602	11,597	10,573	6.3	6.4	4.6
HS 73 Iron and steel products	4,584	4,739	9,001	2.5	2.6	3.9
HS 63 Miscellaneous textile articles	5,048	5,348	7,062	2.7	3.0	3.1
HS 94 Furniture and bedding	3,857	5,621	6,388	2.1	3.1	2.8
HS 39 Plastic, plastic articles	1,475	1,221	3,581	0.8	0.7	1.6
HS 48 Paper, paperboard	6,540	2,425	3,461	3.6	1.3	1.5
HS 44 Wood	2,562	2,009	2,573	1.4	1.1	1.1
EXPORTS	In thousand US dollars			In per cent		
Iceland						
Total exports to the Slovak Republic	296	200	200	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>In per cent of exports to the world:</i>	<i>0.01%</i>	<i>0.01%</i>	<i>0.01%</i>			
HS 84 Machinery, mechanical appliances	1	0	160	0.4	0.0	80.1
HS 30 Pharmaceutical products	289	137	36	97.5	68.5	18.2
HS 39 Plastic, plastic articles	0	0	3	0.0	0.0	1.5
Norway						
Total exports to the Slovak Republic	15,233	16,522	23,883	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>In per cent of exports to the world:</i>	<i>0.03%</i>	<i>0.03%</i>	<i>0.04%</i>			
HS 99 Salvage and reparations				0.0	0.0	0.0
HS 48 Paper, paperboard	2,812	5,205	9,262	18.5	31.5	38.8
HS 85 Electrical machinery	2,800	2,397	3,664	18.4	14.5	15.3
HS 84 Machinery, mechanical appliances	1,913	2,394	3,037	12.6	14.5	12.7
HS 87 Vehicles (not railway)	1,644	1,578	2,138	10.8	9.6	9.0
HS 47 Woodpulp	48	529	1,608	0.3	3.2	6.7
HS 90 Optical, medical, surgical instruments	2,177	1,801	921	14.3	10.9	3.9
HS 03 Fish, crustaceans	637	581	664	4.2	3.5	2.8
Switzerland						
Total exports to the Slovak Republic	152,208	167,826	210,727	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>In per cent of exports to the world:</i>	<i>0.19%</i>	<i>0.19%</i>	<i>0.21%</i>			
HS 30 Pharmaceutical products	23,116	37,247	61,601	15.2	22.2	29.2
HS 84 Machinery, mechanical appliances	27,894	29,476	26,219	18.3	17.6	12.4
HS 39 Plastic, plastic articles	8,404	17,164	19,843	5.5	10.2	9.4
HS 85 Electrical machinery	25,561	17,619	18,648	16.8	10.5	8.8
HS 86 Railway vehicles	16,550	6,848	11,907	10.9	4.1	5.7
HS 90 Optical, medical, surgical instruments	6,440	6,933	7,974	4.2	4.1	3.8
HS 52 Cotton	8,115	7,164	7,612	5.3	4.3	3.6
HS 48 Paper, paperboard	4,363	5,317	7,173	2.9	3.2	3.4
HS 38 Misc. chemical products	3,875	4,051	6,600	2.5	2.4	3.1
HS 54 Manmade filaments	980	2,555	3,900	0.6	1.5	1.9

