

Geneva, July 31st 1961

DECLARATION

At their meeting in London on 27th and 28th June, EFTA Ministers decided to re-examine at their next meeting the question whether their common objective - a single European market - could be achieved by way of negotiation for membership of, or association with, the European Economic Community, and they agreed on the lines on which such negotiation should be co-ordinated in EFTA. This examination was carried further at the Ministerial Meeting in Geneva on 28th July. In this connection, Ministers recalled the repeated statements by the Members of the European Economic Community of their willingness to accept other countries as Members or in an associated status.

2. EFTA Governments consider that the decision of the United Kingdom Government to take the initiative announced by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons this afternoon, which was followed by a similar statement of the Danish Government, provides an opportunity to find an appropriate solution for all EFTA countries and thus to promote the solidarity and cohesion of Europe. In reaching this conclusion, the Members of EFTA reaffirmed the decisions recorded in the London Communiqué. (appropriate extracts attached)

3. The Members of EFTA consider that it is the duty of all concerned not to miss this new opportunity. EFTA, for its part, will, on the lines set out in the London Communiqué, do everything in its power to seize it. All Member States of EFTA declare their intention to examine with the European Economic Community, the ways and means by which all Members of EFTA could take part together in a single market embracing some 300 million people.

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4. The Council of EFTA will consider at future meetings, what further action should be taken by the Members of EFTA in the light of these developments.
5. The Council invited the Chairman, Dr. Bruno Kreisky, to inform the European Economic Community of this declaration.
6. The Council instructed the Secretary-General to inform the Finnish Government of these decisions.

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Als Beilage enthält die "declaration" die Absätze 2 - 6 des Communiqués zur Sitzung des EFTA-Ministerrates in London vom 28. Juni 1961.