

NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VII:4 OF THE
GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES

The following notification has been received from the delegation of Norway.

1. Member notifying:

Norway
The Ministry of Justice and Police

2. Notification under Article(s):

Article VII, paragraph 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (recognition of diplomas).

3. Date of entry into force/duration:

Regulations concerning the rights of foreign lawyers to provide legal aid in Norway and concerning foreign qualifications as a basis for a licence to practice law in Norway. Laid down by Royal Decree of 10 December 1993.

Interim guidelines for aptitude test for lawyers from EEA countries wishing to qualify as lawyers in Norway. Adopted by the Board of the Faculty at a meeting of 7 June 1994, with amendment adopted at a meeting of 14 March 1995.

4. Agency responsible for enforcement of the regulations:

The Ministry of Justice and Police

5. Description of the regulations:

The provisions of Chapter I apply to foreign lawyers generally, i.e. also to lawyers from States that are not parties to the EEA Agreement. These provisions state that foreign lawyers may be granted permission by the Ministry to provide legal aid in foreign and international law. A foreign lawyer who is granted permission pursuant to Chapter I may establish himself in Norway in order to provide legal aid as a foreign lawyer. Such permission may be granted subject to conditions and restrictions imposed. The contents of these provisions have been arrived at independently of the EEA Agreement, but one assumes that they at the same time

satisfy the rights that are derivable from the non-discriminatory principle in the Agreement as far as the right of lawyers to establish themselves in other EEA States as foreign lawyers is concerned.

Chapter II implements Norway's obligations pursuant to Annex VII, Section 2 of the EEA Agreement, cf. the Council Directive of 22 March 1977, which aims to facilitate the actual implementation of lawyers' right to provide services (77/249/EEC) in EEA-adjusted form. This chapter only applies to lawyers established in States that are parties to the EEA Agreement.

Chapter III implements Norway's obligations pursuant to Annex VII, Section I of the EEA Agreement, cf. the Council Directive of 21 December 1988 concerning a general system for the approval of diplomas of higher professional education of at least three years duration (89/48/EEC) in EEA-adjusted form.

6. Changes to existing regulations:

There have been no changes to these regulations which significantly affect trade in services covered by its specific commitments under this Agreement.

7. Text available from:

The Ministry of Justice and Police
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Norway