

For 6 years (the Norwegian textile) industry was in the forefront of those forces in Norway that successfully blocked the establishment of a Scandinavian common market, on the ground that it could not compete with Denmark and Sweden.

Then the rush of events, started by the formation of the Common Market on the Continent, suddenly forced Norway almost overnight into the European Free Trade Association. There was to be tariff-free competition not only from Sweden and Denmark, but from Britain, Switzerland, Portugal, and Austria as well.

With remarkable speed, the Norwegian textile industry faced up to the new situation. Some product lines were dropped, with concentration on a smaller number of items that could be competitively produced. And already, with the tariff cutting only beginning, the industry—no doubt to its own surprise—is not only surviving, but has become an important exporter.