

**PRIORITIES
DURING THE LIECHTENSTEIN EFTA COUNCIL CHAIR**

First half 2011

The Liechtenstein Chair bases its priorities for the first half of 2011 on the conclusions made at the EFTA Council meeting at Ministerial level in Geneva on 23 November 2010.

1. Internal EFTA affairs

- Adapt the Vaduz Convention (EFTA Convention) and its annexes inter alia in line with changes in the relations between EFTA countries and the EU
- Explore possibilities to further liberalise EFTA internal trade in agricultural products and formulate proposals to that effect in time for the next EFTA Council meeting at Ministerial level in June 2011
- Further develop Member States' common basis for future free trade negotiations

2. Third-country relations

Existing Free Trade Agreements:

- **Jordan, Chile, Egypt and Israel:** Hold Joint Committee meetings
- **Albania, Colombia, Gulf Cooperation Council, Peru, Serbia, Ukraine:** Work towards the entry into force of the respective Free Trade Agreements for all Member States

Ongoing free trade negotiations:

- **India:** Continue negotiations with a view to concluding these in 2011
- **Hong Kong, China:** Finalise negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement in the first half of 2011
- **Algeria, Thailand:** Continue to monitor developments with a view to resuming free trade negotiations when timely

New free trade negotiations and future potential partners:

- **Russia/Belarus/Kazakhstan:** Start negotiations and hold two rounds of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement

- **Indonesia:** Start negotiations and hold two rounds of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement
- **Bosnia-Herzegovina:** Open negotiations with a view to concluding a Free Trade Agreement in 2011
- **Montenegro:** Open negotiations with a view to concluding a Free Trade Agreement in 2011
- **Vietnam:** Finalise and endorse the work of the EFTA-Vietnam Joint Study Group with a view to taking a decision on opening free trade negotiations
- **Malaysia:** Hold a meeting of the Joint Committee under the Joint Declaration on Cooperation to assess the possibility of opening negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement
- **MERCOSUR:** Hold a meeting of the Joint Committee under the Joint Declaration on Cooperation to discuss the prospects of closer trade relations
- **Central American States (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama):** Hold an exploratory meeting on the possibility of closer trade relations
- **Philippines:** Conduct exploratory work with a view to developing closer trade relations

3. Other activities

- Continue exchanging views on ongoing bilateral free trade negotiations by individual EFTA Member States
- Follow closely developments with regard to EFTA Member States' bilateral relations with the European Union, including the application by Iceland to join the EU and CH-EU negotiations.
- Exchange views on developments with respect to the intensified engagement envisioned in 2011 for the ongoing negotiations in the WTO