

3 February 2015

**PRIORITIES  
DURING THE LIECHTENSTEIN EFTA COUNCIL CHAIR**

**First half 2015**

The Liechtenstein Chair bases its priorities for the first half of 2015 on the conclusions of the EFTA Council meeting at Ministerial level in Geneva on 17 November 2014.

**1. Internal EFTA affairs**

- Continue to update the Vaduz Convention (EFTA Convention) and its annexes in light of evolving needs of the EFTA States and in order to reflect common developments under the EEA Agreement and the Swiss bilateral agreements with the European Union.
- Further develop Member States' common basis for future free trade negotiations.

**2. Third-country relations**

*Existing free trade agreements*

- *Hong Kong China, Serbia, Southern African Customs Union (SACU)*: Hold Joint Committee meetings in order to update and further develop the existing Free Trade Agreements.
- *Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)*: Hold a Joint Committee meeting and work towards the full implementation of the Free Trade Agreement by all parties.
- *Turkey*: Advance substantively towards the completion of negotiations on a broad revision of the Agreement.
- *Canada*: Finalise exploratory process in view of a possible start of negotiations on a substantive expansion of the Agreement.
- *Mexico*: Complete discussions on the terms of reference for possible new negotiations for the further development of the Agreement.
- Continue to work on the maintenance and further development of EFTA's existing Free Trade Agreements, notably with Chile, Israel, Korea and Singapore.

*Ongoing free trade negotiations*

- *Guatemala*: Finalise the accession of Guatemala to the EFTA-Central America Free Trade Agreement.
- *India*: Resume negotiations with the current government with a view to concluding them.
- *Indonesia*: Resume negotiations with the newly established government.

- *Malaysia*: Hold the fourth round of negotiations.
- *Vietnam*: Hold at least two negotiating rounds.
- *Algeria*: Monitor developments and explore the feasibility of resuming negotiations.
- *Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan*: Monitor developments.
- *Thailand*: Monitor developments.

*New free trade agreements and potential partners*

- *Philippines*: Start free trade negotiations.
- *Georgia*: Hold the second meeting under the Joint Declaration on Cooperation and establish a timeframe for free trade negotiations before the Ministerial meeting in June.
- *Mercosur*: Hold the fourth meeting under the Joint Declaration on Cooperation.
- *Ecuador*: Sign a Joint Declaration on Cooperation.
- *Sub-Saharan Africa*: Continue assessing the possibilities for closer trade relations with potential partners, including through the formalisation of ties with the East African Community and through the signing of a joint declaration on cooperation with Nigeria.
- *ASEAN*: Explore the possibility of establishing relations with ASEAN as a group.
- *Pakistan*: Examine possibilities for developing trade relations.

**3. Other activities**

- Continue the dialogues with the US and the EU regarding the ongoing Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations.
- Follow developments with respect to international economic and trade negotiations, notably the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Development Agenda, and the plurilateral initiative on a Trade in Services Agreement.