

**PRIORITIES
DURING THE LIECHTENSTEIN EFTA COUNCIL CHAIR**

Second half 2013

The Liechtenstein Chair bases its priorities for the second half of 2013 on the conclusions of the EFTA Council meeting at Ministerial level in Trondheim, Norway, on 24 June 2013.

1. Internal EFTA affairs

- Continue to adapt the Vaduz Convention (EFTA Convention) and its annexes to changing needs.
- Further develop Member States' common basis for future free trade agreements.

2. Third-country relations

Existing free trade agreements

- Hong Kong China, Korea, Mexico, Southern African Customs Union (SACU): Hold joint committee meetings.
- Canada: Continue preparation for and, if possible, start negotiations on an expansion of the free trade agreement.
- Continue to work on the maintenance and further development of EFTA's free trade agreements, notably with Chile, Israel, Korea, Peru, Serbia, Singapore and Turkey.
- Colombia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC): Work towards the entry into force of the respective free trade agreements for all parties.

Ongoing free trade negotiations

- Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan: Move the process to an advanced stage with a view to finalising negotiations in the first half of 2014.
- India: Achieve further progress with a view to finalising negotiations.
- Indonesia: Move forward substantively in the negotiation process.
- Vietnam: Move forward substantively in the negotiation process.
- Malaysia: Hold the first two rounds of negotiations.
- Thailand: Prepare the ground for and, if possible, resume negotiations.

- Algeria: Continue to monitor developments and explore the feasibility of resuming negotiations.

New free trade agreements and potential partners

- Sub-Saharan Africa: Continue assessing the possibilities for closer trade relations with potential partners. Sign a joint declaration on cooperation with Nigeria.
- Pakistan: Continue monitoring and evaluating the potential for enhanced preferential trade relations.
- Philippines: Continue monitoring and evaluating the potential for future preferential trade relations.

3. Other activities

- Continue monitoring developments and exchanging views on the ongoing EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations. Follow up on the proposal by the EFTA States to establish a trade policy dialogue with the United States.
- Follow developments closely with regard to the EFTA States' bilateral relations with the European Union.
- Continue exchanging views on ongoing bilateral free trade negotiations of individual EFTA States.
- Follow developments with respect to international economic and trade negotiations, notably the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Development Agenda, preparations for the WTO Ministerial meeting in Bali in December and the plurilateral initiative on a Trade in Services Agreement.