

**PRIORITIES
DURING THE NORWEGIAN EFTA COUNCIL CHAIR**

Second half 2011

The Norwegian Chair base its priorities for the second half of 2011 on the conclusions made at the EFTA Council meeting at Ministerial level in Schaan on 21 June 2011.

1. Internal EFTA affairs

- Adapt the Vaduz Convention and its Annexes to changing needs, in particular by concluding the negotiations between the EFTA Member States on further liberalisation of trade in agricultural products
- Further develop the EFTA Member States' common basis for future free trade negotiations
- Finalise the review of access to documents
- Finalise the review of the guidelines for technical assistance

2. Third-country relations

Existing free trade agreements:

- **Egypt, Israel, SACU:** Hold Joint Committee meetings
- **Albania, Colombia, Gulf Cooperation Council, Hong Kong China, Peru, Serbia and Ukraine:** Work toward the entry into force of the respective free trade agreements for all EFTA Member States
- Continue to actively manage and upgrade existing free trade agreements through the respective Joint Committees

Ongoing free trade negotiations:

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro:** Conclude the negotiations and sign the free trade agreements

- **India:** Achieve further substantive progress in, and if possible conclude, the negotiations
- **Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan:** Move forward substantively in the negotiating process
- **Indonesia:** Continue and make substantive headway in the negotiations

New free trade negotiations and future potential partners:

- **Vietnam:** Commence negotiations at the earliest opportunity
- **Malaysia:** Pursue preparations for free trade negotiations based on the Joint Declaration on Cooperation
- **Central American States:** Continue preparations for possible free trade negotiations
- **MERCOSUR:** Explore possibilities for closer free trade relations, including through a meeting of the Joint Committee established under the Joint Declaration on Cooperation
- **Africa:** Start to assess prospects of closer trade relations with countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (except SACU)
- Continue monitoring and evaluating potential future free trade partners world-wide

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
- Exchange views on developments with respect to the ongoing negotiations in the WTO