



EFTA MINISTERIAL MEETING

31 May 2021

**CONCLUSIONS ON EFTA INTERNAL AND
EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

Relations amongst EFTA countries

- Continue to adapt the EFTA Convention and its annexes to changing needs
- Continue EFTA States' cooperation in the field of statistics

EFTA Trade Policy

Horizontal

- Strengthen and deepen cooperation between EFTA Countries on trade matters in line with the Declaration adopted at this Ministerial meeting
- Foster transparency through close and regular dialogue and consultation with the EFTA Advisory Bodies
- Continue work to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of chapters on trade and sustainable development, as well as explore the need for sustainability impact assessments
- Increase the monitoring of the implementation of FTAs by in particular analyzing the preference utilization of FTAs
- Finalise work on e-commerce to include digital trade provisions in future agreements.

Ongoing FTA negotiations

- Finalise the legal review, resolve outstanding issues and address concerns related to deforestation and climate change with Mercosur

- Continue negotiations with India, Malaysia, Moldova, and Vietnam towards the conclusion of free trade agreements
- Relaunch negotiations with Thailand as soon as domestic preparatory processes are completed

Management and development of existing FTAs

- Work towards the conclusion of the review of the FTAs with SACU and Chile
- Continue negotiations on the modernisation of the Agreement with Mexico as soon as the parties are able to do so
- Work towards finalising the update of the bilateral agricultural agreements with the Palestinian Authority
- Aim at swiftly addressing implementation issues with current partners
- Update the rules of origin protocols/annexes with PEM partners with a link to the PEM Convention, also taking the alternative rules into account

Potential partners and other activities

- Launch negotiations with Kosovo.
 - Work towards preparation of negotiations with Pakistan
 - Sign a Joint Declaration of Cooperation with ASEAN
 - Aim to hold the first Joint Committee meeting with Nigeria under the Joint Declaration of Cooperation to assess the possibility to further strengthen trade relations
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