



EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

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EFTA MINISTERIAL MEETING

Geneva, 31 May 2021

DECLARATION

on Reinforcing EFTA Cooperation in Urgent Trade Matters

The EFTA States share a common set of values as liberal democracies with a firm commitment to the rules-based international order and a belief that global prosperity depends on an open global economy. EFTA Ministers recall that cooperation through EFTA has contributed to the prosperity of the EFTA States and their partners a.o. through one of the most extensive networks of free trade agreements in the world.

EFTA Ministers further recall that the Covid-19 pandemic has in the past year demonstrated both trade partners' mutual interdependence as well as the strength and value of EFTA's links with each other and with other trading partners across the world. The EFTA States' effective response often depends on quick and reliable access to accurate information as well as on good communication and cooperation with key partners.

Drawing on the lessons of the crisis, EFTA Ministers have therefore decided to further reinforce the good cooperation between their countries and, using the existing structures established by the EFTA Convention and other agreements, to:

- Exchange information whenever issues arise with trade partners
- Coordinate positions on trade and economic issues whenever appropriate
- Assess possible joint actions

EFTA Ministers reiterate the commitment of EFTA States to play a constructive role in line with their open and outward-looking economies and to continue seeking international cooperation and closer links with like-minded countries.
