EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

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PRIORITIES OF THE SWISS CHAIR OF THE EFTA COUNCIL

July 2023-June 2024

Relations amongst EFTA countries

- Continue to adapt the EFTA Convention and its annexes in accordance with Member States' needs and priorities;

- Further strengthen the good cooperation between EFTA Countries on trade matters.

EFTA Free Trade Agreements (FTA) and other trade relations with third countries

FTA negotiations

- Sustain momentum to conclude negotiations with India;

- Work towards the conclusion of negotiations with Kosovo, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam;

- Finalise the legal review, resolve outstanding issues with the Mercosur countries and address concerns on deforestation and climate change with the Mercosur countries.

Management and development of existing FTA

- Work towards the conclusion of the modernisation of the FTA with Chile;

- Continue negotiations on the modernisation of the FTA with Mexico and SACU;

- Start negotiations to modernise the FTA with Ukraine;

- Work towards the conclusions of negotiations of a digital economy agreement with Singapore;

- Conclude negotiations on the update of the bilateral agricultural agreements with Palestine;

- Finalise the rules of origin update process with PEM partners with a link to the PEM Convention.

Potential partners and other activities

- Conclude negotiations on a Joint Declaration on Economic Cooperation with ASEAN.

Horizontal issues

- Address implementation issues whenever they arise and proactively follow up;

- Further improve the monitoring of FTA chapters on trade and sustainable development and improve reporting on progress to the advisory bodies;

- Finalise the ex-ante sustainability impact assessment of a future EFTA-Thailand FTA;

- Expand the scope of the annual EFTA publication on the utilisation of EFTA's FTAs, with the inclusion of the EFTA Convention and bilateral FTAs;

- Follow more systematically structured dialogues between relevant trading partners, such as trade and technology councils and IPEF.