

PRIORITIES DURING THE SWISS EFTA COUNCIL CHAIR

First half 2020

1. Relations amongst EFTA countries

- Continue to adapt the EFTA Convention and its annexes to changing needs, including trade in agricultural products

2. Trade relations with third countries

Horizontal issues

- Evaluate the possibilities to establish greater transparency with respect to information related to trade negotiations
- Finalise the work on the new EFTA approach to e-commerce
- Foster close and regular dialogue and consultation with the EFTA Advisory Bodies
- Enhance reporting on Trade and Sustainable Development

Ongoing FTA negotiations

- Finalise the legal review and sign the Agreement with Mercosur
- Continue discussions with India, Malaysia and Vietnam in order to resume negotiations and make substantial progress
- Relaunch negotiations with Thailand

Management and development of existing FTAs

- Work towards the conclusion of the review of the Agreements with SACU and Chile
- Update the bilateral agricultural Agreements with the Palestinian Authority
- Continue discussions on modernising the Agreements with Canada and Mexico

Potential partners and other activities

- Pursue closer relations with countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, in particular with the EAC and Nigeria
- Further explore the possibility to strengthen trade relations with ASEAN
- Finalise preparation for negotiations with Moldova and launch negotiations
- Monitor the situation in Kosovo regarding the use of trade measures against neighbouring countries
- Continue preparation for possible negotiations with Pakistan, by in particular completing the scoping exercise

3. Brexit and relations with the United Kingdom

- Continue to closely monitor developments under the current extension period, until 31 January 2020 and beyond

4. Other

- Mark EFTA's 60 years anniversary at the occasion of the summer Ministerial meeting
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