

PRIORITIES DURING THE LIECHTENSTEIN EFTA COUNCIL CHAIR

First half 2019

1. Relations amongst EFTA countries

- Continue to adapt the EFTA Convention and its annexes to changing needs

2. Third-country relations

Horizontal issues

- Finalize the review of the model chapter on trade and sustainable development in EFTA free trade agreements and the addition of gender equality considerations
- Clarify the added value of reporting regarding trade and sustainable development provisions in EFTA free trade agreements, taking into account relevant activities in specialized international fora

Ongoing FTA negotiations

- *India, Mercosur*: work towards a conclusion of the negotiations
- *Malaysia, Vietnam*: remain in close contact with a view to resume negotiations as soon as the parties are in position to do so

Management and development of existing FTAs

- *Mexico*: remain in close contact with a view to resume negotiations on the modernisation of the Agreement as soon as the parties are in a position to do so
- *Canada*: remain in close contact in order to further explore the possible modernisation of the existing FTA
- *Southern African Customs Union*: continue negotiations on the modernisation of the Agreement
- *Chile*: start negotiations on updating and improving the existing FTA
- Continue work on the maintenance and possible further development of other existing FTAs, such as those with *Korea* and the *Palestinian Authority*

Negotiations on hold

- *Algeria and Russia/Belarus/Kazakhstan*: monitor developments
- *Thailand*: envisage technical meeting with a view to prepare the re-launch of negotiations when circumstances allow

Potential partners and other activities

- *East African Community*: continue negotiations on a Joint Declaration on Cooperation
- *Pakistan*: continue the scoping exercise in view of opening negotiations on a free trade agreement

- *Moldova*: work towards opening free trade negotiations, taking into account available resources
- *Kosovo*: work towards opening free trade negotiations, taking into account available resources
- *ASEAN*: further explore the possibility to enter into formal relations with ASEAN, e.g. by concluding a Joint Declaration on Cooperation
- *Nigeria*: aim to hold first Joint Committee meeting under the JDC in order to assess the possibility to further strengthen trade relations
- *US*: Continue the trade policy dialogue

3. Brexit and relations with the United Kingdom

- Monitor developments, continue to consult at senior officials' level on implications and possible actions to take before and after 29 March 2019
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