



EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

20 June 2022

EFTA MINISTERIAL MEETING

Borgarnes, Iceland, 20 June 2022

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

- Further reinforce the good cooperation between EFTA Countries on trade matters;
- Foster transparency of FTA processes in general, including through close and regular dialogue and consultation with the EFTA Advisory Bodies;
- Continue to monitor chapters on trade and sustainable development;
- Carry out an ex-ante sustainability impact assessment on the impact of an EFTA-Thailand FTA;
- Continue and deepen analysis on the utilisation of EFTA FTAs and implement measures to further enhance preference utilisation;
- Explore the opportunity to negotiate dedicated trade agreements focused on certain topics, e.g. digital trade;
- Explore trade dialogues with important partners on a case by case basis to scope and prepare ground for the development of trade relations.

Ongoing FTA negotiations

- Finalise the legal review, resolve outstanding issues, and address concerns on deforestation and climate change with Mercosur;
- Conclude negotiations with Moldova;
- Advance negotiations with India, Malaysia, and Vietnam towards the conclusion of free trade agreements.

Management and development of existing FTAs

- Work towards the conclusion of the review of the FTAs with Chile and SACU;
- Continue negotiations on the modernisation of the agreement with Mexico;
- Finalise the update of the bilateral agricultural agreements with Palestine;
- Address implementation issues whenever they arise;
- Finalise process of updating the rules of origin with PEM partners with a link to the PEM Convention.

Potential partners and other activities

- Start negotiations with Kosovo and Thailand;
 - Work towards the conclusion of a Joint Declaration of Cooperation with ASEAN.
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