

PRIORITIES

DURING THE LIECHTENSTEIN EFTA COUNCIL CHAIR

Second half of 2017

1. Relations amongst EFTA countries

- Continue to adapt the EFTA Convention and its annexes to changing needs.
- Further developing Member States' common basis for future free trade negotiations by finalizing a new model regarding trade in services and investment.
- Examining the feasibility of adding references to gender equality considerations to EFTA free trade agreements.

2. Third-country relations

Ongoing FTA negotiations

- India: continue negotiations with a view to concluding the process as soon as possible.
- Indonesia: continue negotiations and move forward towards conclusion of the negotiations in the first half of 2018.
- Malaysia: advance negotiations substantively with a view to finalizing the process in the first half of 2018.
- Mercosur: continue negotiations with a view to making substantive progress.
- Vietnam: continue negotiations with the aim of progressing substantively and possibly concluding in 2018.
- Ecuador: continue negotiations with a view to making substantive progress and possibly concluding in early 2018.

Management and development of existing FTAs

- Mexico: advance negotiations on a substantive expansion of the agreement with a view towards concluding in early 2018.
- Chile and Southern African Customs Union (SACU): start negotiations on updating and developing the existing agreement with the aim of advancing substantively in 2018.
- Turkey: continue negotiations on a substantive expansion of the agreement with a view to concluding by the end of 2017.
- Canada: finalise the exploratory process in view of a possible start of negotiations on a substantive expansion of the free trade agreement in 2018.
- Continue to work on maintaining and possibly further developing other existing free trade agreements.

Negotiations on hold

- Algeria, Thailand, and Russia/Belarus/Kazakhstan: monitor developments.

3. Brexit and Relations with the United Kingdom

- Regularly exchange information on work related to Brexit and consult on implications for EFTA Member States.
- Prepare an expanded legal analysis of the differences between the EFTA Convention, the EEA Agreement and Swiss bilateral agreements with the EU, on the basis of the preliminary overview provided by the EFTA Secretariat last year

4. Other activities

- East African Community: finalise and sign a Joint Declaration on Cooperation in order to explore the prospects for developing closer trade relations.
 - United States of America: continue the trade policy dialogue and follow any developments regarding the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations.
 - Nigeria: finalise the ongoing work with a view to signing a Joint Declaration on Cooperation in order to explore the prospects for developing closer trade relations.
-