

## **PRIORITIES OF THE LIECHTENSTEIN CHAIR OF THE EFTA COUNCIL**

**July 2022-June 2023**

### **1. Relations among EFTA States**

- Foster cooperation among EFTA States on trade matters;
- Analyse preference utilisation of the EFTA Convention for intra-EFTA trade;

### **2. EFTA Free Trade Agreements (FTA) and other trade relations with third countries**

#### *FTA negotiations*

- Conclude negotiations with Moldova;
- Work towards the conclusion of negotiations with Malaysia;
- Work towards the finalisation of the review process with Chile;
- Make progress in negotiations with Thailand;
- Further advance negotiations with India;
- Further advance negotiations with Vietnam;
- Continue negotiations on the modernisation of the agreement with Mexico;
- Finalise the legal review, resolve outstanding issues, and address concerns on deforestation and climate change with Mercosur;
- Make progress in negotiations with Kosovo;
- Continue discussions with SACU in order to make substantial progress;
- Coordinate the update of the bilateral agricultural agreements with Palestine;

#### *Management and development of existing FTA*

- Consider the possible scope for a modernisation of the FTA with Ukraine;
- Address implementation issues swiftly whenever they arise;
- Continue to monitor FTA chapters on trade and sustainable development;

- Deepen analysis on the utilisation of EFTA FTA and implement measures to further enhance preference utilisation;
- Finalise the process of updating the rules of origin with PEM partners with a link to the PEM Convention;

*Potential partners and other activities*

- Explore the opportunity to negotiate a digital trade agreement with Singapore;
- Sign a Joint Declaration of Cooperation with ASEAN;

*Horizontal issues*

- Foster transparency of FTA processes in general, including through close and regular dialogue and consultation with the EFTA Advisory Bodies;
  - Carry out an ex-ante sustainability impact assessment regarding the EFTA-Thailand FTA;
  - Implement technical cooperation activities, including *ex ante* modules with appropriate partner countries;
  - Explore possibilities to strengthen the benefits of EFTA FTAs for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME).
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