EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

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EFTA MINISTERIAL MEETING

Geneva, Switzerland, 24 June 2024

CONCLUSIONS ON EFTA INTERNAL AND

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Relations between the EFTA States

- Continue to adapt the EFTA Convention and its annexes in accordance with Member States' needs;

- Further strengthen and deepen cooperation between the EFTA States on trade matters.

EFTA free trade agreements and other trade relations with third countries

Free trade negotiations

- Finalise negotiations with Mercosur;

- Work towards the conclusion of negotiations on free trade agreements (FTAs) with Kosovo, Malaysia, and Thailand;

- Advance negotiations with Vietnam.

Management and development of existing free trade agreements

- Work towards the conclusion of a digital economy agreement (DEA) with Singapore;

- Work towards the conclusion of a modernised FTA with Ukraine;

- Prepare for the implementation, especially of the new chapter on investment promotion and cooperation, of the recently signed FTA with India;

- Continue to monitor FTA chapters on trade and sustainable development, and hold joint committee meetings with relevant partners;

- Continue to modernise FTAs.

Potential partners and other activities

- Sign/adopt a joint declaration on economic cooperation with ASEAN;

- Identify opportunities for structured dialogue with relevant trading nations or blocs;

- Identify opportunities to engage with partners on the African continent.

Horizontal issues

- Continue to foster the transparency of FTA processes, including through close and regular dialogue and consultation with the EFTA Advisory Bodies;

- Continue to deepen and widen the EFTA FTA Monitor with FTA partners, the EU, the UK and intra-EFTA – and strengthen analysis of preference under-utilisation;

- Discuss and prepare the implementation of the SME Chapter;

- Implement the revised Pan-Euro-Mediterranean (PEM) Convention in FTAs with PEM partners;

- Identify and carry out technical cooperation activities.

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