



EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

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PRIORITIES OF THE ICELANDIC CHAIR OF THE EFTA COUNCIL

July 2025 - June 2026

Relations amongst EFTA countries

- Continue to adapt the EFTA Convention and its annexes in accordance with Member States' needs
- Further strengthen the good cooperation between the EFTA States on trade matters

EFTA Free Trade Agreements (FTA) and other trade relations with third countries

FTA negotiations

- Finalise the remaining procedures for the effective entry into force of the Mercosur-EFTA FTA.
- Advance negotiations with Vietnam

Management and development of existing FTAs

- Explore the prospects of modernisations with Canada, Mexico and the Republic of Korea
- Finalise the remaining procedures for the effective entry into force of the Digital Economy Agreement (DEA) with Singapore
- Begin the implementation of Chapter 7 on Investment Promotion and Cooperation of the TEPA with India
- Continue to monitor FTA chapters on trade and sustainable development

Potential partners and other activities

- Continue the Trade Policy Dialogue with the USA
- Identify opportunities for structured dialogue with relevant trading nations or blocs, including the EU and the CPTPP
- Advance the implementation of the joint declaration on economic cooperation with ASEAN
- Continue reflections on emerging priorities in third-country relations in the light of ongoing global trade developments

Horizontal issues

- Continue to foster the transparency of FTA processes, including through close and regular dialogue and consultation with the EFTA Advisory Bodies
- Build on and maintain the achievements of the EFTA FTA Monitor by exploring opportunities for expanded coverage, enhancing dissemination efforts, and deepening engagement with trade partners to improve analysis of under-utilisation
- Update the model chapter on E-commerce in light of negotiating experiences, including the EFTA-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement (DEA)
- Continue the implementation of the revised Pan-Euro-Mediterranean (PEM) Convention in remaining FTAs with PEM partners
- Pursue impactful technical cooperation activities