

PRIORITIES OF THE NORWEGIAN CHAIR OF THE EFTA COUNCIL

First half 2021

1. Relations amongst EFTA countries

- Continue to adapt the EFTA Convention and its annexes to changing needs

2. Trade relations with third countries

Horizontal issues

- Implement the adopted measures to establish greater transparency with respect to information related to trade negotiations
- Foster close and regular dialogue and consultation with the EFTA Advisory Bodies
- Enhance reporting on Trade and Sustainable Development
- Conclude discussions on sustainability impact assessments within the EFTA framework
- Conclude the work on the new draft model chapter on e-commerce

Ongoing FTA negotiations

- Finalise the legal review and resolve outstanding issues with Mercosur. Follow up on issues related to deforestation and climate change.
- Continue discussions with India, Malaysia and Vietnam and work towards the conclusion of negotiations
- Prepare the relaunch of negotiations with Thailand

Management and development of existing FTAs

- Work towards the conclusion of the review of the Agreements with SACU and Chile
- Update the bilateral agricultural Agreements with the Palestinian Authority
- Continue discussions on modernising the Agreement with Mexico

- Aim at swiftly addressing implementation issues with current partners
- Updating the rules of origin protocols/annexes with PEM partners with a link to the PEM Convention also taking the alternative rules into account
- Hold Joint Committee meetings with different partners and aim at keeping EFTA's FTAs up to date

Potential partners and other activities

- Finalise preparation for negotiations with Moldova and launch negotiations
 - Work towards launching negotiations with Kosovo in the second half of the year
 - Prepare for possible negotiations with Pakistan
 - Assess the possibility of strengthening trade relations with Australia
 - Further explore the possibility to strengthen trade relations with ASEAN
 - Continue contacts and assessments regarding other potential future partners
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