



The EFTA States and Chile sign important Free Trade Agreement

On 26 June 2003 the European Free Trade Association, EFTA, holds a ministerial meeting in Kristiansand, Norway. The Norwegian Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Ansgar Gabrielsen, will chair the meeting where EFTA ministers will discuss EU and EEA enlargement as well as EFTA free trade agreements.

After the meeting, the Ministers will sign the Free Trade Agreement between the EFTA States and Chile. Representing Chile at this ceremony will be Ms Maria Soledad Alvear, Foreign Minister of Chile.

The ceremony, which is open to the press, will be held on Thursday 26 June at 16.45 in Hotel Caledonien, Kristiansand, Norway. The Ministers will then be available for comments.

With the Chile Agreement, the EFTA States will have concluded Free Trade Agreements with 20 States and Territories, representing a population of 340 million, in addition to the free trade relations with the European Union, comprising a population of 375 million. The Agreement with Chile is the second free trade agreement that the EFTA States conclude with a country in the Americas, after the agreement concluded with Mexico in 2000.

The Agreement with Chile covers all major areas of trade relations including goods, services and investment, government procurement, competition and intellectual property. It also contains stipulations on dispute settlement.

In 2002, the EFTA States exported goods worth 124 million US dollars to Chile and imported goods worth 136 million US dollars from Chile.

For further information about the EFTA Ministerial Meeting in Kristiansand, Norway, please contact Glumur Baldvinsson, EFTA Secretariat, at gb@efta.int or + 32 2 286 17 12.

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