Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Choi Sung-hong and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile Cristian Barros signed the Free Trade Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Government of the Republic of Chile on February 15, 2003, in the presence of President Kim Dae-jung and Chilean President Ricardo Lagos.

Under this Agreement, the two Governments have agreed to progressively eliminate their customs duties on originating goods in other country in accordance with their Tariff Elimination Schedule. But in the case of Korea, rice, apples and pears are not subject to tariff elimination, and for other sensitive goods, a maximum implementing period of 16 years is set up or they will be discussed again after the Doha Development Agenda negotiations. In the case of Chile, household or laundry-type washing machines and refrigerators are not subject to tariff elimination, and for some goods, a maximum implementing period of 13 years is set up.

The conclusion of the first ROK-Chile FTA is expected to further expand and enhance the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries by the liberalization of trade and investment, the liberalization of cross-border trade in services, the opening of government procurement market, and strengthened protection of intellectual property rights.

Spokesman of MOFAT

*unofficial translation*