



EFTA and Mexico discuss free trade issues

Representatives of Mexico and the Member States of the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) met in Geneva on 7 November 2003 to discuss the implementation of their Free Trade Agreement, which entered into force on 1 July 2001.

The Agreement deals with trade in goods, services, investments, public procurement, intellectual property and competition. This was the second meeting of the EFTA-Mexico Joint Committee.

The Parties discussed the trade developments between them. They noted with satisfaction that, in spite of an adverse global economic environment, EFTA-Mexico trade has developed positively since the entry into force of the Agreement. Moreover, mutual investments have shown a noticeable growth. The Parties exchanged information on the recent development in their respective countries in the areas covered by the Free Trade Agreement. They agreed to continue their efforts to further expand the liberalisation of trade in selected fields and to continue to promote investment flows from both sides.

The Parties reiterated that their preferential arrangements under the Free Trade Agreement were complementing the multilateral efforts undertaken in the framework of the WTO.

Ambassador Norbert Frick (Liechtenstein) was Spokesman for the EFTA countries, while the Mexican Delegation was chaired by Ms. Luz María de la Mora, Mexican Representative to the European Union.

The next meeting of the Joint EFTA-Mexico Committee is scheduled to take place in Mexico during the second half of 2004.

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