

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
ON CONCLUDING THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SWITZERLAND-CHINA
FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

The Government of the Swiss Confederation and the Government of the People's Republic of China ("the Signatories"):

RECOGNIZING the long standing friendship and strong economic and political ties between the Swiss Confederation and the People's Republic of China;

RESOLVED to deepen and strengthen these links and aiming at developing and enhancing their economic and trade relations;

BUILDING on their respective rights and obligations under the WTO;

DETERMINED to contribute to the harmonious and sustainable development and expansion of world trade;

RECALLING their intention to establish a cooperative mechanism for the intensification, expansion and diversification of trade and investment flows between Switzerland and China;

RECOGNIZING further that a free trade agreement between Switzerland and China shall provide mutual benefits and enhance bilateral economic and trade cooperation;

RECALLING the recognition of China's full market economy status by the Swiss Government in 2007;

RECALLING the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Davos on 28 January 2011 for officially launching the negotiation on a Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement;

NOTING that the negotiators have reached consensus, subject to legal review and internal approval, on the texts of the Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement;


HAVE arrived at the following understandings on the Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement, on the occasion of the official meeting between H.E. Ueli MAURER, President of the Swiss Confederation, and H.E. LI Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China:

- 1) The negotiation on the Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement has been concluded in substance;
- 2) The Signatories decide to initiate their respective domestic approval procedures without delay with a view to signing the Free Trade Agreement as soon as possible, with the aim of implementing the Free Trade Agreement for the benefit of the people of both countries.

Done in duplicate in Bern on the twenty fourth day of May in the year two thousand and thirteen in Chinese and English languages, and both texts being equally valid.

For and on behalf
of the Government of
the Swiss Confederation

For and on behalf
of the Government of
the People's Republic of China



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Johann N. SCHNEIDER-AMMANN
Federal Councillor
Head of the Swiss Federal
Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research



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GAO Hucheng
Minister of Commerce
of the People's Republic of China