

Joint Declaration

regarding the Joint Feasibility Study on a China-Switzerland Free Trade Agreement

by Doris LEUTHARD, Vice-President of the Swiss Federal Council, Head of the Federal
Department of Economic Affairs

and CHEN Deming, Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China

Geneva, 30 November 2009

Recognizing the long standing friendship between the Swiss Confederation and the
People's Republic of China,

Recognizing the already intense and fruitful economic exchange and cooperation between
Switzerland and China,

Recalling the decision by Premier WEN Jiabao of the People's Republic of China and
Swiss President Hans-Rudolf MERZ taken at their meeting of 27 January 2009 in Bern to
establish a Joint Feasibility Study on a China-Switzerland Free Trade Agreement,

We acknowledge the successful results of the two Workshops on Industrial Exchange for
a China-Switzerland Free Trade Agreement, held in Beijing in April and in Bern in October
this year.

The two Workshops, through constructive discussions, enhanced mutual understanding
on the complementarity of the Chinese and the Swiss economies and on the opportunities
and challenges for intensifying economic exchange and cooperation under a Free Trade
Agreement.

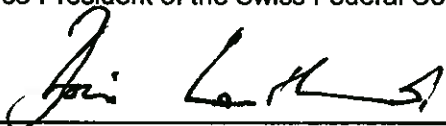
At the end of the second Workshop consensus was reached on launching a Joint
Feasibility Study on a China-Switzerland Free Trade Agreement.

By successfully completing the two workshops, mandated by Premier WEN Jiabao and
Swiss President Hans-Rudolf MERZ at their meeting in January this year, the preparatory
phase for the Joint Feasibility Study on a China-Switzerland Free Trade Agreement is
accomplished. We therefore instruct the Joint Study Group to start its work on the
Feasibility Study and to examine the feasibility of a Free Trade Agreement between China
and Switzerland as a way to further promote the economic relationship between the two
countries.

The Study Group will examine the topics covered by free trade agreements, such as trade
in goods, trade in services, investment, and other possible areas of cooperation between
China and Switzerland.

The Joint Study Group will present its findings and conclusions to the competent Ministers,
with a view to offer suggestions to both Governments to take a decision on future
negotiations on a China-Switzerland Free Trade Agreement.

Federal Councillor Doris LEUTHARD,
Vice-President of the Swiss Federal Council



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