



Fourth Round of Negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement between Switzerland and China

The fourth round of negotiations on the Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement took place from 14 to 17 February 2012 in Beijing, China.

The Swiss delegation was headed by Ambassador Christian ETTER, Delegate of the Swiss Government for Trade Agreements, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Federal Department of Economic Affairs. The Chinese delegation was led by Mr. ZHU Hong, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce.

During the fourth round, in depth discussions were conducted in the following areas: trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin, customs procedures and trade facilitation, technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), trade remedies, intellectual property rights, competition, investment promotion, government procurement, trade and sustainable development, dispute settlement, legal and institutional matters. Additionally, both sides discussed possible ways of deepening and extending bilateral economic and technical cooperation activities under the framework of the FTA. Overall, good progress was made during this round and follow-up work was agreed in all areas for further discussions in the next round.

The negotiations were officially launched by Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann, Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, and Mr. Chen Deming, Minister of Commerce of the P.R.C., in Davos on 28 January 2011. The first round of negotiations was held on 7 and 8 April 2011 in Bern, the second round from 5 to 7 July 2011 in Xi'an, China, and the third round from 8 to 11 November 2011 in Montreux. The next round of negotiations is expected to take place in spring 2012.