



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

The sixth round of negotiations on the Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement took place from 4 to 7 September 2012 in Davos, Switzerland.

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. YAO Wenliang, Commercial Counselor of the Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce.

During the sixth round, in depth discussions were held 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, legal and institutional matters, dispute settlement, economic and technical cooperation. While overall, good progress was made, further efforts will be needed with a view to conclude the negotiations in a near future. Follow-up work was agreed in all areas of negotiations and both sides agreed to hold, where relevant, intersessional expert meetings before the next round of negotiations which is foreseen to take place before the end of the year.

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, the third round from 8 to 11 November 2011 in Montreux, the fourth and the fifth round took place from 14 to 17 February 2012 and from 8 to 10 May 2012 in Beijing.