



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

The seventh round of negotiations on the Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement took place in the week of 3 December 2012 in Lucerne, Switzerland.

Head of the Swiss delegation was 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, Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce.

The seventh round allowed to hold in depth discussions 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, economic and technical cooperation. Good progress was achieved in all areas under negotiation. Both sides agreed to hold further expert meetings in various areas before the next round of negotiations, foreseen to take place in spring 2013.

The negotiations were officially launched by Federal Councillor Johann Schneider-Ammann, Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Switzerland, and Mr. Chen Deming, Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, in Davos on 28 January 2011. Since then, seven rounds of negotiations took place.