



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

The eighth round of negotiations on the Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement took place in the week of 25 February 2013 in Beijing, China. The Chinese delegation was led by Mr. YAO Wenliang, Commercial Counselor, Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce. 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, Education and Research.

During the eighth round, in depth discussions were held on trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin, customs procedures and trade facilitation, technical barriers to trade (TBT), sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), trade remedies, intellectual property rights, competition, trade and sustainable development, economic and technical cooperation, dispute settlement, legal and institutional matters. Good progress was achieved in all areas under negotiation. Further follow-up actions will be carried out in the coming weeks.

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