



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER

**State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO**

## **Press release Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research:**

### **Free trade negotiations with China concluded at technical level**

Bern, 13.05.2013 - The delegations from Switzerland and the People's Republic of China met between 9 and 11 May 2013 for a ninth round of negotiations on a free trade agreement between the two countries. At the end of the three days, negotiations were concluded at a technical level. The Swiss delegation was led by Ambassador Christian Etter, Federal Council Delegate for Trade Agreements and the delegation of the People's Republic of China was led by Assistant Minister Yu Jianhua from the Chinese Ministry of Trade.

Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann was in contact over the weekend with his Chinese counterpart, Trade Minister Gao Hucheng. At the request of the head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, EAER, the Federal Council will discuss the free trade agreement at its meeting on Wednesday. Both sides will now examine the draft agreement from a legal perspective so that it is ready to be signed.