

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON LAUNCHING THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SWITZERLAND-CHINA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The Federal Department of Economic Affairs of the Swiss Confederation and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China ("the Parties"):

RECOGNIZING the long standing friendship and strong economic and political ties between the Swiss Confederation and the People's Republic of China;

RESOLVED to deepen and strengthen these links and aiming at developing and enhancing their economic and trade relations;

BUILDING on their mutual commitment to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and determined to contribute to the harmonious development and expansion of world trade;

RECOGNIZING the complementarities of the economies of Switzerland and China, and the potential for enhanced trade and investment flows as well as for closer economic exchange and cooperation between them;

RECALLING their intention to establish a framework for the intensification, expansion and diversification of the trade and investment flows between Switzerland and China;

RECALLING the recognition of China's full market economy status by the Swiss Government in 2007; and

RECALLING the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Beijing on 13 August 2010 endorsing the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Swiss-Chinese Study Group and announcing that negotiations on a Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement would be opened in the near future, once the necessary internal procedures on both sides have been accomplished;

NOTING that the necessary internal procedures to enter into negotiations have been successfully accomplished in Switzerland and in China.

Have arrived at the following understanding:

The Parties officially launch the negotiations on a Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement and mandate their representatives to meet at an early date and to conduct the negotiations expeditiously.

Done in duplicate in Davos on the twenty eighth day of January in the year Two thousand and Eleven in the English language.

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Johann N. SCHNEIDER-AMMANN,  
Federal Councillor,  
Head of the Swiss Federal  
Department of Economic Affairs

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CHEN Deming,  
Minister of Commerce  
Of the People's Republic of China