



First round of free trade negotiations between Switzerland and China

The first round of negotiations on the Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement took place on 7-8 April 2011 in Bern, 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. ZHU Hong, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (P.R.C).

During this first round, heads of delegations and groups of experts addressed the following topics: trade in goods (including trade remedies), technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), rules of origin, customs procedures, trade facilitation, trade in services, intellectual property rights, institutional provisions and dispute settlement, investment, cooperation on trade and sustainable development and cooperation on government procurement.

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. Further rounds of negotiations are expected to take place in the course of this year.