

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 THE CONCLUSION OF THE JONIT FEASIBILITY STUDY
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;

COMMEMORATING the 60th anniversary of Switzerland-China diplomatic relations;

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;

DECLARING 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;

RECALLING the Joint Declaration of 30 November 2009, by Doris LEUTHARD, Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, and CHEN Deming, Minister of Commerce

of the People's Republic of China, mandating the Joint Swiss-Chinese Study Group to examine the feasibility of a Free Trade Agreement between Switzerland and China as a way to further promote the economic relationship between the two countries;

CONVINCED that a Free Trade Agreement between Switzerland and China will provide an enhanced framework for the promotion and development of economic and trade relations between the Swiss Confederation and the People's Republic of China in their common interest and for their mutual benefit;

Have arrived at the following understandings:

1. The Parties endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the Joint Study Group.
2. The Parties announce that negotiations on a Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement will be opened in the near future, once the necessary internal procedures on both sides have been accomplished.

Done in duplicate in Beijing on the thirteenth day of August in the year Two thousand and Ten in the English language.



Blaise GODET
Ambassador of Switzerland
to the People's Republic of China



GAO Hucheng
China International Trade Representative
(Ministerial Level) & Vice Minister
of the Ministry of Commerce
of the People's Republic of China