



## **Fifth Round of Negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement between Switzerland and China**

The fifth round of negotiations on the Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement took place from 8 to 10 May 2012 in Beijing, China.

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 both Mr. ZHU Hong, Deputy Head of the permanent Mission of China to WTO and Mr YAO Wenliang, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce.

Both sides held discussions in the following areas: trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin, customs procedures and trade facilitation, technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), trade remedies, intellectual property rights, competition, investment promotion, government procurement, trade and sustainable development, economic and technical cooperation, dispute settlement as well as legal and institutional matters. Good progress was achieved in most of the groups during this round. Follow-up work was agreed in all areas. It is foreseen that some expert groups will hold intersessional meetings before the next round of negotiations which is expected to take place in fall 2012.

The negotiations were officially launched by Federal Councilor 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. The first round of negotiations was held on 7 and 8 April 2011 in Bern, the second round from 5 to 7 July 2011 in Xi'an, China, the third round from 8 to 11 November 2011 in Montreux, and the fourth round from 14 to 17 February 2012 in Beijing.