



Third round of free trade negotiations between Switzerland and China

The third round of negotiations on the Switzerland-China Free Trade Agreement took place from 8 to 10 November 2011 in Montreux, 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.

During the third round, expert level discussions continued and further exchanges of information on respective regulatory systems and FTA-practices took place with regard to 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 and dispute settlement. Heads of delegations and experts discussed investment promotion, cooperation on trade and sustainable development, and cooperation on government procurement. Follow-up work was agreed in all areas.

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. The first round of negotiations was held on 7-8 April 2011 in Bern, the second round from 5 to 7 July 2011 in Xi'an, China. A next round of negotiations is expected to take place in the first quarter 2012.