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## EFTA and Central America make further headway in free trade negotiations

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Delegations from the EFTA States as well as Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama held a fourth round of negotiations on a comprehensive free trade agreement from 29 October to 2 November 2012 in Geneva.

Five days of intensive discussions allowed for significant progress in all areas covered by the draft free trade agreement. Delegations agreed on a detailed work plan towards the fifth round foreseen to take place in December 2012 in Guatemala City, with the objective of concluding the negotiations on that occasion.

The EFTA team during the round was headed by Ambassador Didier Chambovey from Switzerland, while on the Central American side Mr Ricardo Zuñiga, for Costa Rica, Ms Sonia Lainfiesta, for Guatemala, Mr César Díaz, for Honduras, and Mr Luis Garrido, for Panama, acted as chief negotiators.

Bilateral merchandise trade between EFTA and the Central American countries stood at almost USD 1 billion in 2011.



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