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Canada - European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

On January 28, 2009, the Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, tabled in the House of Commons legislation to implement the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Canada and the States of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) and associated Bilateral Agreements on Agriculture with Iceland, Norway and Switzerland ([News Release](#) – January 28, 2009).

Should the necessary legislation to implement the Agreement be passed by the Parliament and the Treaty ratified before end of April, 2009, the Agreement could come into force on July 1, 2009.

- [Text of the agreement](#)
- [Canada-EFTA Fast Facts](#)

If you want to learn more about the potential of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) market and what the signing of a free trade agreement with EFTA countries could mean for your business, please join us for a [seminar](#) on the Canada-EFTA Free Trade Agreement.

Background

On December 1, 2008, the Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, tabled Bill C-2 - legislation to implement the Canada-EFTA FTA ([News Release](#)). However, due to the prorogation of Parliament on December 4, 2008, all legislation before the House of Commons, including Bill C-2, ceased to exist.

On January 26, 2008, Canada and the EFTA States signed the FTA and associated Bilateral Agricultural Agreements on the margins of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland (see [News Release](#) - January 26, 2008). The Treaty was tabled in the House of Commons on February 14, 2008, for 21 sitting days under the new Treaties in Parliament policy, which affords Parliament the opportunity to review proposed international treaties.

Canada-EFTA FTA implementing legislation was tabled on May 5, 2008, passed Second reading and was referred to the Standing Committee on International Trade (CIIT) for review. The implementing legislation ceased to exist on September 8, 2008, when the federal election was called.

On June 7, 2007, Canada and the EFTA countries announced the conclusion of free trade agreement negotiations.

The Government of Canada announced the launch of negotiations with the EFTA countries on October 9, 1998 ([News Release](#)) following extensive consultations to gauge Canadians' interests and sensitivities. A free trade agreement with EFTA was supported by a broad cross-section of Canadian stakeholders.

The Canada-EFTA FTA is a "first-generation" agreement with an emphasis on tariff elimination. It does not include substantial new obligations in areas such as services, investment, and intellectual property.

The EFTA countries are significant economic partners for Canada. In 2007, two-way merchandise

trade was valued at \$12.9 billion (Canadian exports: \$5.2 billion; imports: \$7.7 billion). In addition, two-way investment stocks almost reached \$28.4 billion in 2007.

Contact Point

If you have questions or comments about this initiative we would like to hear from you. Please contact Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada at:

Regional Trade Policy Division (TBB)
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Lester B. Pearson Building
125 promenade Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0G2
Fax: 613-944-3489
E-mail : consultations@international.gc.ca

Other Interesting Links

- [CanadaEuropa](#)
- [European Free Trade Association](#)

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