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EFTA and Chile discuss their free trade relations

At their first meeting since the free trade agreement between the two sides entered into force in 2004, the Joint EFTA-Chile Committee met to discuss various aspects of the agreement. The Joint Committee adopted several Decisions that will, after their entry into force, further facilitate the trade in goods between the Parties. Moreover, the Parties were considering other issues including trade in services, intellectual property, establishment and government procurement.

The parties agreed on further work to be undertaken with a view to enhancing the agreement in a number of areas.

Ms. Lexy Orosco, Head of the Europe, Middle East and Africa Department, General Directorate of International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, headed the Chilean Delegation. Mr. Kristinn Árnason, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Iceland to EFTA and the international organisations in Geneva, acted as EFTA Chairman.

According to the EFTA Secretariat's statistical sources, the value of EFTA-Chile merchandise trade amounted to around 284 million USD in 2004, an increase of 23% compared to the previous year. The EFTA States imported goods from Chile worth 108 million USD (up 5% from 2003) and exported goods to Chile worth 176 million USD (up 37% from 2003).

About EFTA


EFTA, the European Free Trade Association, is an inter-governmental organisation established in 1960 for the development of economic relations between its Member States and for developing free trade relations between its Members and other countries. Present Members include Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. EFTA's trade accounts for 2% of world merchandise trade, in addition to significant services trade and foreign investment.

The EFTA Secretariat supports the operation of the EFTA Free Trade Area (4 countries), EFTA's participation in the European Economic Area (EEA), which includes the EU (28 countries), and EFTA's network of free trade agreements (14).

The EFTA Secretariat headquarters are in Geneva. It has an important office in Brussels (EEA Affairs) and an office in Luxembourg (Statistics).

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EFTA has concluded free trade agreements with Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Mexico, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Romania, Singapore, Tunisia and Turkey. It has concluded free trade negotiations with South Korea and the Southern African Customs Union. Negotiations are currently in progress with Canada, Egypt and Thailand. The EFTA States and Indonesia have established a joint group to study the feasibility of a trade agreement. EFTA has concluded joint declarations on co-operation with the Albania, Algeria, the Gulf Cooperation Council, MERCOSUR, Serbia and Montenegro as well as the Ukraine.

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