

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE EFTA STATES
AND
HONG KONG, CHINA

PREAMBLE

Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Kingdom of Norway, the Swiss Confederation (hereinafter referred to as the “EFTA States”) on the one part, and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as “Hong Kong, China”), on the other, hereinafter individually referred to as a “Party” or collectively as the “Parties”:

RECOGNISING the common wish to strengthen the links between the EFTA States on the one part and Hong Kong, China on the other by establishing closer and lasting trade and investment relations;

REAFFIRMING their commitment to democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental political and economic freedoms in accordance with their obligations under international law, and principles and objectives set out in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

REAFFIRMING their commitment to pursue the objective of sustainable development and recognising the interdependence and mutual supportiveness of trade, environment and labour policies in this respect;

RECALLING their rights and obligations under multilateral environmental agreements applicable to them, and the respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work, including the principles set out in the relevant International Labour Organisation Conventions applicable to them;

AIMING to create new employment opportunities, raise the living standards of their people and improve their living conditions through liberalising trade and improving levels of protection of health and safety and of the environment;

DESIRING to create favourable conditions for the development and diversification of trade between them and for the promotion of commercial and economic co-operation in areas of common interest on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, non-discrimination and international law;

RECOGNISING the importance of trade facilitation in promoting efficient and transparent procedures to reduce costs and to enhance predictability for the trading communities of the Parties;

DETERMINED to promote and further strengthen the multilateral trading system, building on their respective rights and obligations under the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation (hereinafter referred to as the “WTO”) and the other agreements negotiated thereunder, thereby contributing to the harmonious development and expansion of world trade;

DETERMINED to implement this Agreement in line with the objectives to preserve and protect the environment through sound environmental management and to promote an optimal use of the world’s resources in accordance with the objective of sustainable development;

AFFIRMING their commitment to prevent and combat corruption in international trade and investment and to promote the principles of transparency and good governance;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of good corporate governance and corporate social responsibility for sustainable development, and affirming their aim to encourage enterprises to take into account internationally recognised guidelines and principles where appropriate;

CONVINCED that this Agreement will enhance the competitiveness of their firms in global markets and create conditions encouraging economic, trade and investment relations between them;

HAVE AGREED, in pursuit of the above, to conclude the following Free Trade Agreement (hereinafter referred to as “this Agreement”):