

Early announcement: Guatemala Accession to the EFTA-Central America FTA

In accordance with Paragraph 1(b) of the WTO Transparency Mechanism for Regional Trade Agreements (WT/L/671), Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Panama and the Member States of EFTA (Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Kingdom of Norway and the Swiss Confederation) have the honour to inform the Members of the World Trade Organization that Guatemala and the Parties to the EFTA-Central America Free Trade Agreement signed a Protocol of Accession to the FTA on 22 June 2015 in Schaan, Liechtenstein. The Agreement establishes a free trade area for trade in goods and services, in the sense of Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994) and Article V of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

Title and Text of the Agreement

The official name of the Agreement is: Free Trade Agreement between the EFTA States and the Central American States.

All relevant documents including the Agreement and its Annexes are available on the following websites:

- EFTA: <http://www.efta.int/free-trade/Free-Trade-Agreements/central-american-states>
- Costa Rica: http://www.comex.go.cr/tratados/proceso_negociacion/EFTA/texto_tratado.aspx
- Panama: <http://www.mici.gob.pa/detalle.php?cid=15&sid=58&clid=66&scid=113&id=4183>
- Guatemala: *[please provide link]*

Other Information

The Agreement covers trade in goods, including industrial products, fish and other marine products, and agricultural products. In addition, it includes provisions on trade in services, investment, intellectual property rights, government procurement, competition, trade and sustainable development, and cooperation, as well as institutional and dispute settlement provisions. The Agreement establishes a Joint Committee which, among other functions, will supervise and examine the application thereof.

The Agreement is expected to enter into force with Guatemala in 2016, pending the completion of internal procedures by all Parties.