



Supporting Transatlantic Trade

Standards and Conformance
for Business and Regulators



EFTA's role in Standardisation at European and International level

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a conference organized by the American National Standards Institute
in cooperation with the European Standards Organizations



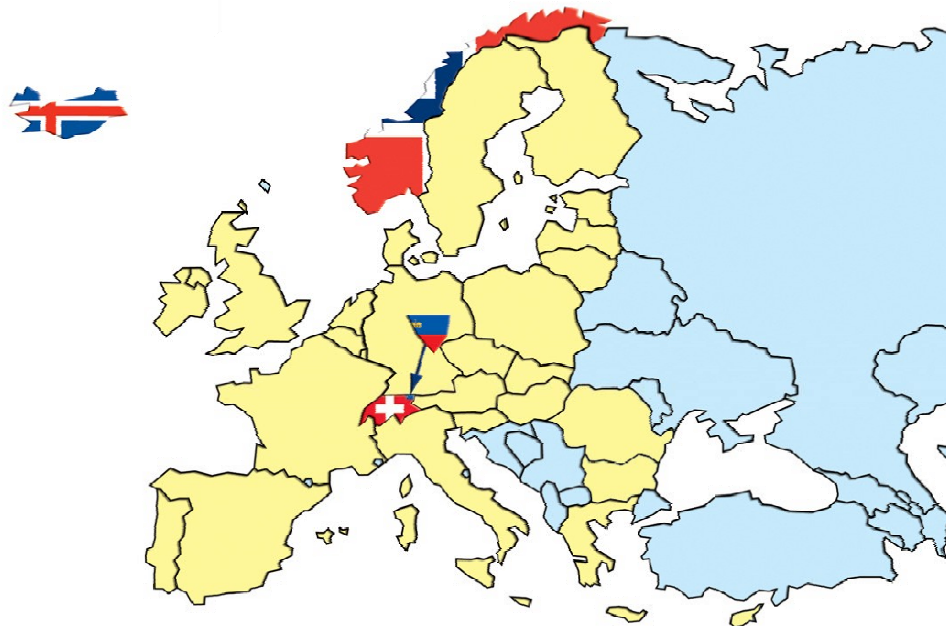
Overview

- A brief introduction to EFTA
- EFTA's relation with and financial support to European standardisation
- EFTA's work on conformity assessment
- EFTA's work at international level
- Conclusion



European Free Trade Association

- Four small, but successful countries:
 - Iceland
 - Liechtenstein
 - Norway
 - Switzerland





European Free Trade Association - objectives

- An inter-governmental association set up for the promotion of free trade and economic integration to the benefit of its four Member States
- Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland (established by the Stockholm Convention on January 4 1960 - updated in Vaduz on June 21 2001)
- 3 main objectives
 - Intra EFTA free trade (Geneva Secretariat)
 - Free trade agreements (Geneva Secretariat)
 - EEA Agreement (Brussels Secretariat) → 3 EFTA MS part of EU's internal market – signed: May 2-92, operational: Jan. 1-94



EFTA and USA are important trade partners for EU

EU'S TOTAL TRADE GOODS AND SERVICES IN BILL. EUROS and % 2006

Country	value	In % of total EU trade	Share of services in total trade
USA	703.47	21%	36%
EFTA	403.21	12%	30%
China	281.94	8%	9%
Russia	238.04	7%	11%
Japan	153.88	5%	21%
Turkey	108.16	3%	15%
Rest of the world	1433.32	43%	24%
EU's Total Trade	3322.02	100%	25%



EU and USA are important trade partners for EFTA

EFTA'S MAIN TRADING PARTNERS IN MERCHANDISE TRADE 2006, IN MILLION USD AND %

Rank	Country	Total	Share in world total	Exports	Imports
	World	484762	100	273465	211297
1	Free Trade Partners	381858	78.77	212538	169320
	EU-27	352710	72.76	193861	158849
	EFTA's 20 FTA partners	25897	5.34	17152	8745
	Intra-EFTA	3251	0.67	1525	1726
2	US	36628	7.56	23707	12921
3	China	12092	2.49	5029	7063
4	Japan	11084	2.29	6636	4448
5	Russia	5796	1.2	2712	3084



EFTA's relation with and financial support to European standardisation - legal basis

- Luxemburg Declaration of April 9 1984
 - EFTA to cooperate closely with the European commission on set up and implementation of a European Standardisation Policy
 - EFTA Council implements the Luxemburg Declaration



EFTA's relation with and financial support to European standardisation - organisation

- EFTA TBT Committee - through the EFTA Council - (EFTA 4) shapes the EFTA standardisation policy
- EFTA Council (EFTA 4) authorizes agreements and financial commitments



EFTA's relation with and financial support to European standardisation - contents

- Many European Standards are developed to support European legislation or policies relevant to the 4 EFTA states
- EFTA therefore contribute financially together with the European Commission (5% / 95% of total commitment), to
 - the operation of the central secretariats of the three ESOs
 - the production of mandated standards (EFTA issue mandates in parallel with the EC)
 - technical assistance projects, visibility projects
 - the work of ANEC (consumers) and ECOS (environment) in European standardisation
 - the ESO's standardisation expert in China



EFTA's standardisation work at international level

- Observer at the WTO TBT Committee
- EFTA's Free Trade Agreements have clauses on standardisation/TBT
- Follow the transatlantic dialogue between EU-USA
- Our member states are active internationally (ISO, IEC, ITU, UNECE)



EFTA's work on conformity assessment

- EFTA (3) are bound by the Global Approach, i.e. we have incorporated European Council Decision 93/465 EEC in the EEA Agreement (Switzerland bilaterally)
- EFTA (3) negotiate Mutual Recognition Agreements - for instance EFTA-3 and USA on test results (legal basis: EEA Agreement, Protocol 12)
- Completed EFTA Study on Certification and Marks in December 2007 – the full report can be downloaded from: www.efta.int/content/publications



Conclusion

- EFTA is fully integrated in the European standardisation system without being members of the European Union
 - a model for other non EU countries to follow?
 - NB: 3 of the 4 EFTA member states are participants in EU's internal market

More information on EFTA? → www.efta.int