

# **NON-TARIFF MEASURES WEEK**

## **NTMs: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly**

**14-15 October 2019**

**European Free Trade Association**  
**EFTA**

**by**

**Pascal Schafhauser**

**Deputy Secretary-General, EFTA Secretariat, Geneva**

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD



# European Free Trade Association

## EFTA

Pascal Schafhauser  
Deputy Secretary-General  
EFTA Secretariat, Geneva



# European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

> The intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland

## > Foundation:

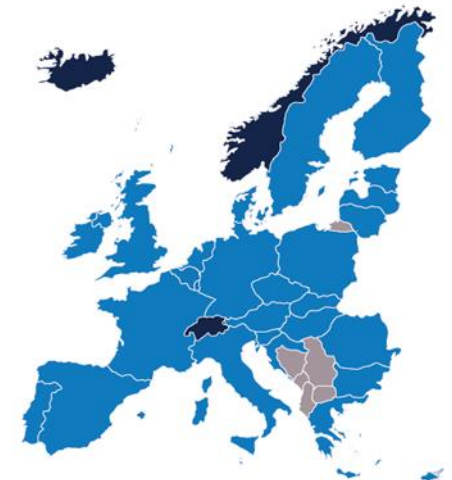
In 1960 by its then seven Member States: Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom

## > Goal:

The promotion of trade and economic integration to the benefit of its Member States and their trading partners around the globe.



EFTA and the EU 1960



EFTA and the EU 2019



# The four EFTA Member States



## Iceland:

Benefits from its vast renewable natural resources, a thriving industry and tourism scene, exporter of seafood and aluminium

Pop.: 353,570<sup>1</sup>

GDP: 25,882,220<sup>2</sup>

Share of SME: 99.77% Share of employment by SME : 71%<sup>3</sup>



## Liechtenstein:

Highly industrialised and specialised in capital-intensive and R&D driven technological products

Pop.: 37,910<sup>1</sup>

GDP: 6,214,630<sup>2</sup>

Share of SME: approx.. 100%



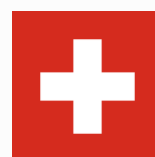
## Norway:

Benefits from its wealth from the sea, with rich offshore oil and gas resources, seafood and maritime & offshore energy services

Pop.: 5,314,340<sup>1</sup>

GDP: 434,750,940<sup>2</sup>

Share of SME: 99.86% Share of employment by SME : 63%<sup>3</sup>



## Switzerland:

Leader in financial services, high-quality industrial products, and R&D driven sectors (e.g. pharmaceuticals)

Pop.: 8,516,540<sup>1</sup>

GDP: 705,501.30<sup>2</sup>

Share of SME: 99.23% Share of employment by SME : 59%<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> World Bank national accounts data

<sup>2</sup> GDP in current \$, World Bank national accounts data, 2018

<sup>3</sup> OECD SDBS Structural Business Statistics



# Merchandise trade by country/block, 2018

| Rank | Economy                      | Total      | Share (as %) of world total | Exports | Imports  |
|------|------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------|----------|
| 1    | EU [1]                       | 4,646      | 14.97%                      | 2,309   | 2,337    |
| 2    | China                        | 4,623      | 14.90%                      | 2,487   | 2,136    |
| 3    | United States of America     | 4,278      | 13.79%                      | 1,664   | 2,614    |
| 4    | Japan                        | 1,487      | 4.79%                       | 738.403 | 748.735  |
| 5    | Hong Kong, China [2]         | 1,197      | 3.86%                       | 569.241 | 627.517  |
| 6    | Korea, Republic of           | 1140.062   | 3.67%                       | 604.86  | 535.202  |
| 7    | Mexico                       | 927.141    | 2.99%                       | 450.572 | 476.569  |
| 8    | Canada                       | 918.845    | 2.96%                       | 449.845 | 469      |
| 9    | India                        | 836.227    | 2.70%                       | 325.562 | 510.665  |
| 10   | EFTA                         | 813.9521   | 2.62%                       | 439.36  | 374.5921 |
| 11   | Singapore [2]                | 783.264    | 2.52%                       | 412.629 | 370.635  |
| 12   | Russian Federation           | 693.063    | 2.23%                       | 444.008 | 249.055  |
| 13   | Chinese Taipei               | 622.242    | 2.01%                       | 335.909 | 286.333  |
| 14   | United Arab Emirates         | 598.5      | 1.93%                       | 345.5   | 253      |
| 15   | Thailand                     | 501.766    | 1.62%                       | 252.106 | 249.66   |
| 16   | Australia                    | 492.571    | 1.59%                       | 256.88  | 235.691  |
| 17   | Viet Nam (1)                 | 489.83     | 1.58%                       | 245.635 | 244.195  |
| 18   | Malaysia                     | 464.836    | 1.50%                       | 247.365 | 217.471  |
| 19   | Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of (1) | 434.116    | 1.40%                       | 299.1   | 135.016  |
| 20   | Brazil                       | 428.399    | 1.38%                       | 239.681 | 188.718  |
|      | <b>Total of above</b>        | 26376.2701 | 0.85006591                  | 13116.5 | 13259.8  |
|      | <b>World</b>                 | 31028.5    | 1                           | 15318.7 | 15709.8  |

In billion US dollars

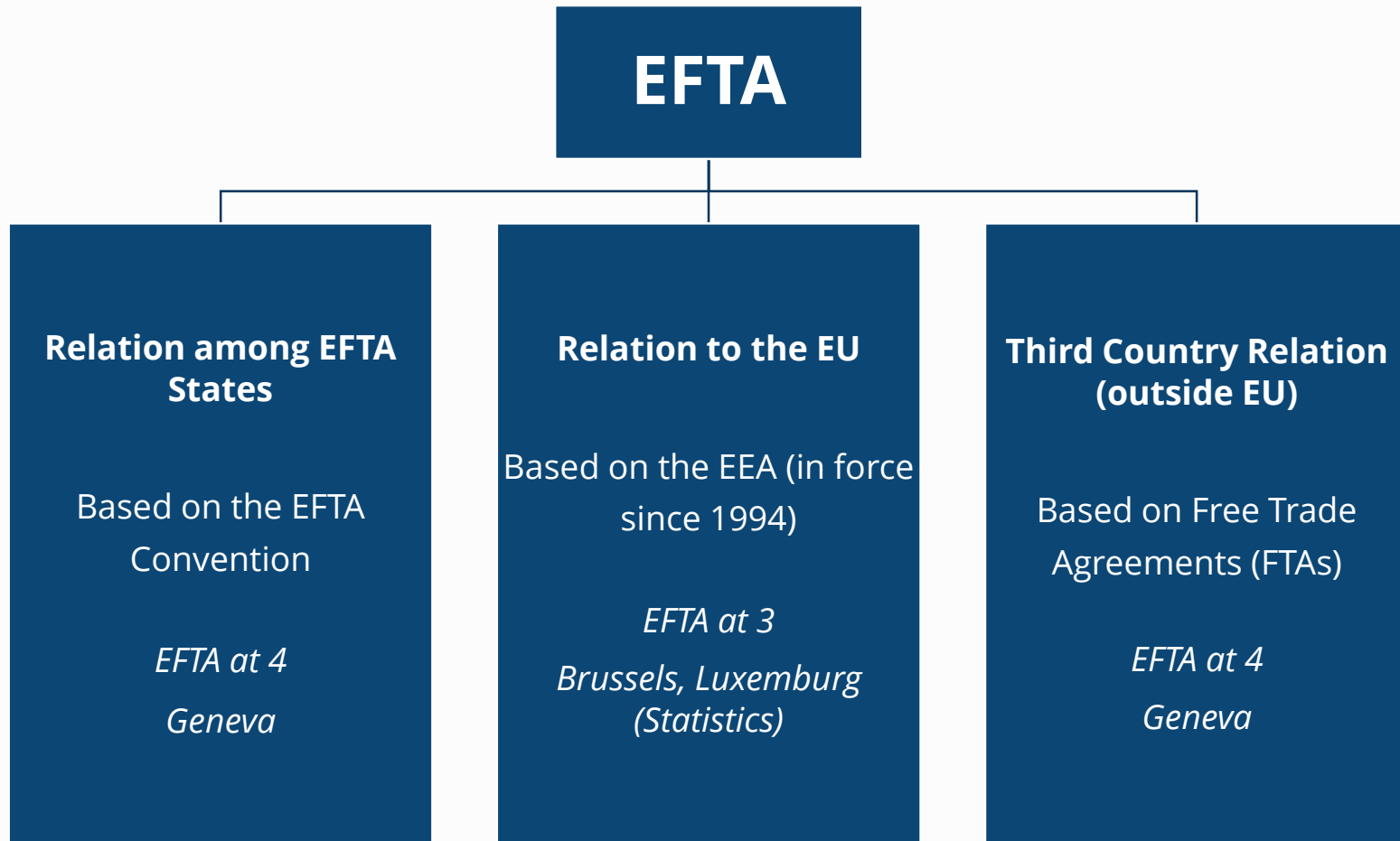
[1] exclude intra-EU trade

[2] Includes significant re-exports or imports for re-export

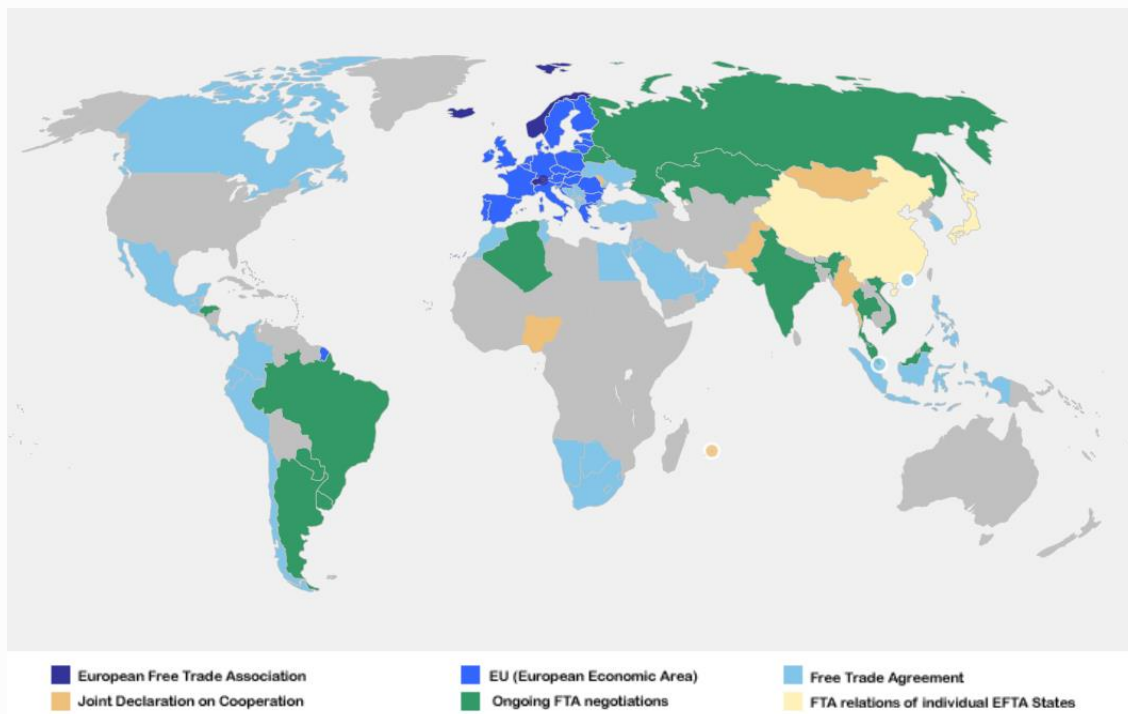
Source: WTO Secretariat



# EFTA – Three fields of action



# Third Country Relations



- 29 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), with a total of 40 partners (plus 8 JCDs)
- The EFTA countries cover around 80% of their merchandise trade under preferential trade relations
- Traditionally, EFTA FTAs focused on trade in goods
- Modern FTAs also include issues such as trade in services, investment and sustainable development



# Menu du Jour

- > The Case of EFTA:
  - > Regulatory co-operation follows development of trade
  
- > Examples from our FTAs
  - > Regulatory Co-operation (SPS; TBT)
  
  - > Sustainable Development:
    - > EFTA Approach: encourage/support existing
    - > Standards as trade enabler (recent example)
  
- > Targeted cooperation but broad geographical impact/benefit for partners





# Thank you for your attention!

[www.efta.int](http://www.efta.int)

