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Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

Swiss Free Trade Policy in Practice

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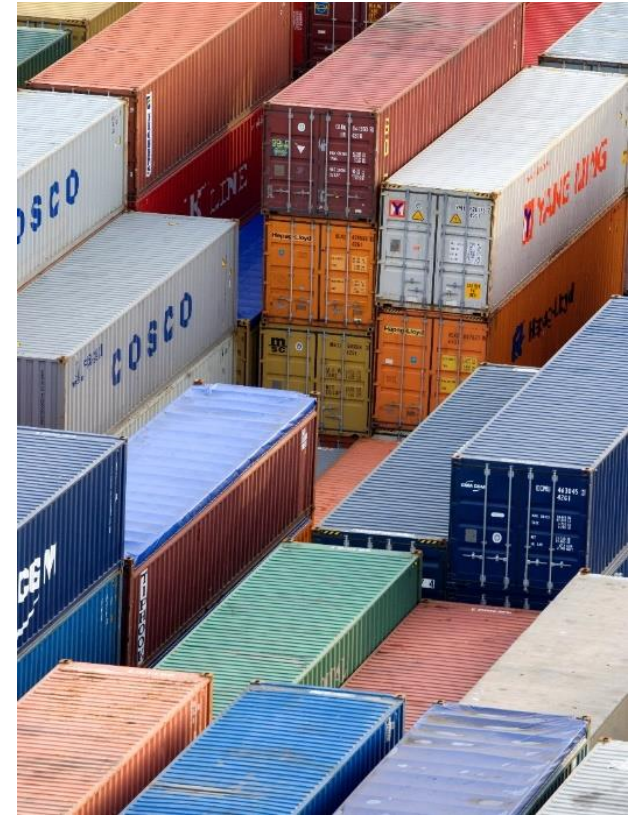
Swiss Economy Dependent on Global Markets

Switzerland is an exporting nation

- Dependent on international value chains
- Dependent on Free Trade Agreements

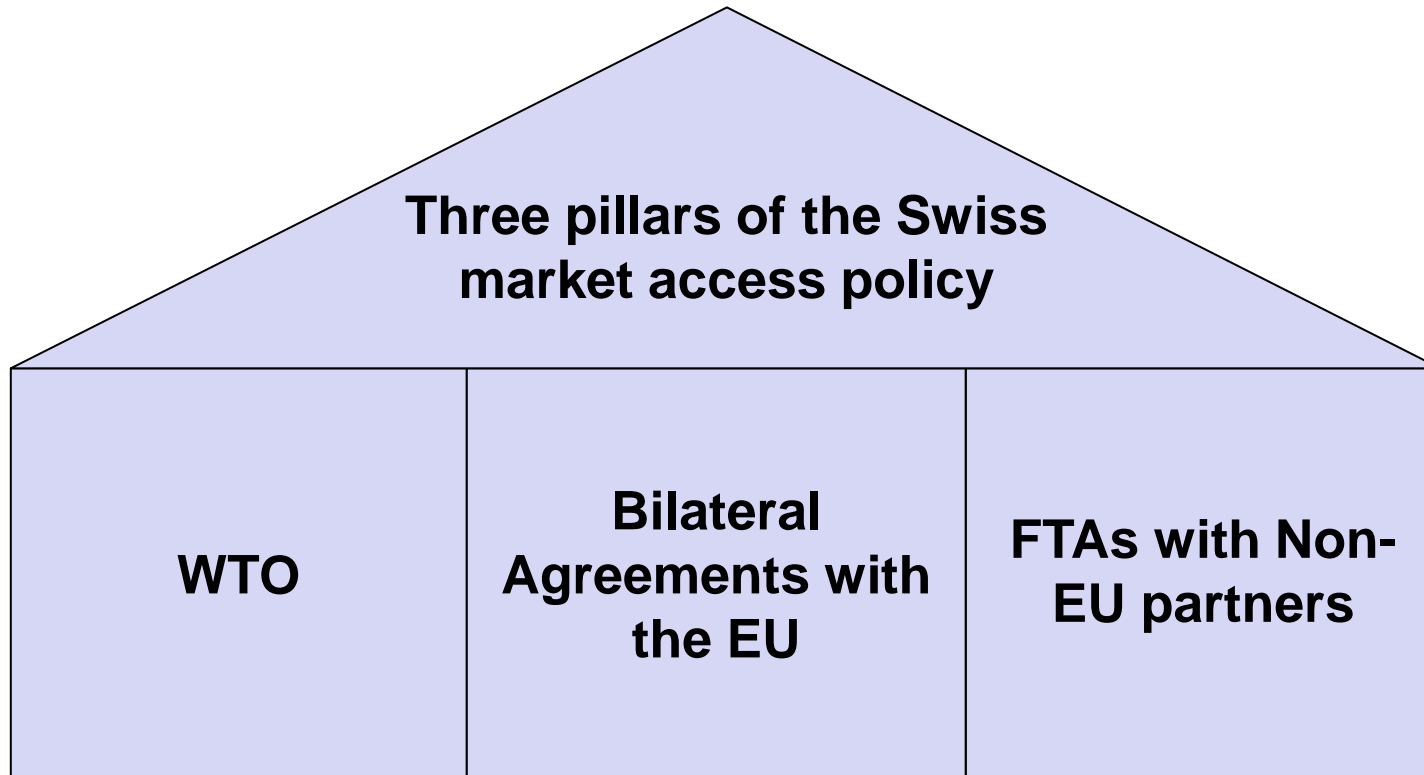
Competitors like EU are active

- Potential for discrimination in Switzerland





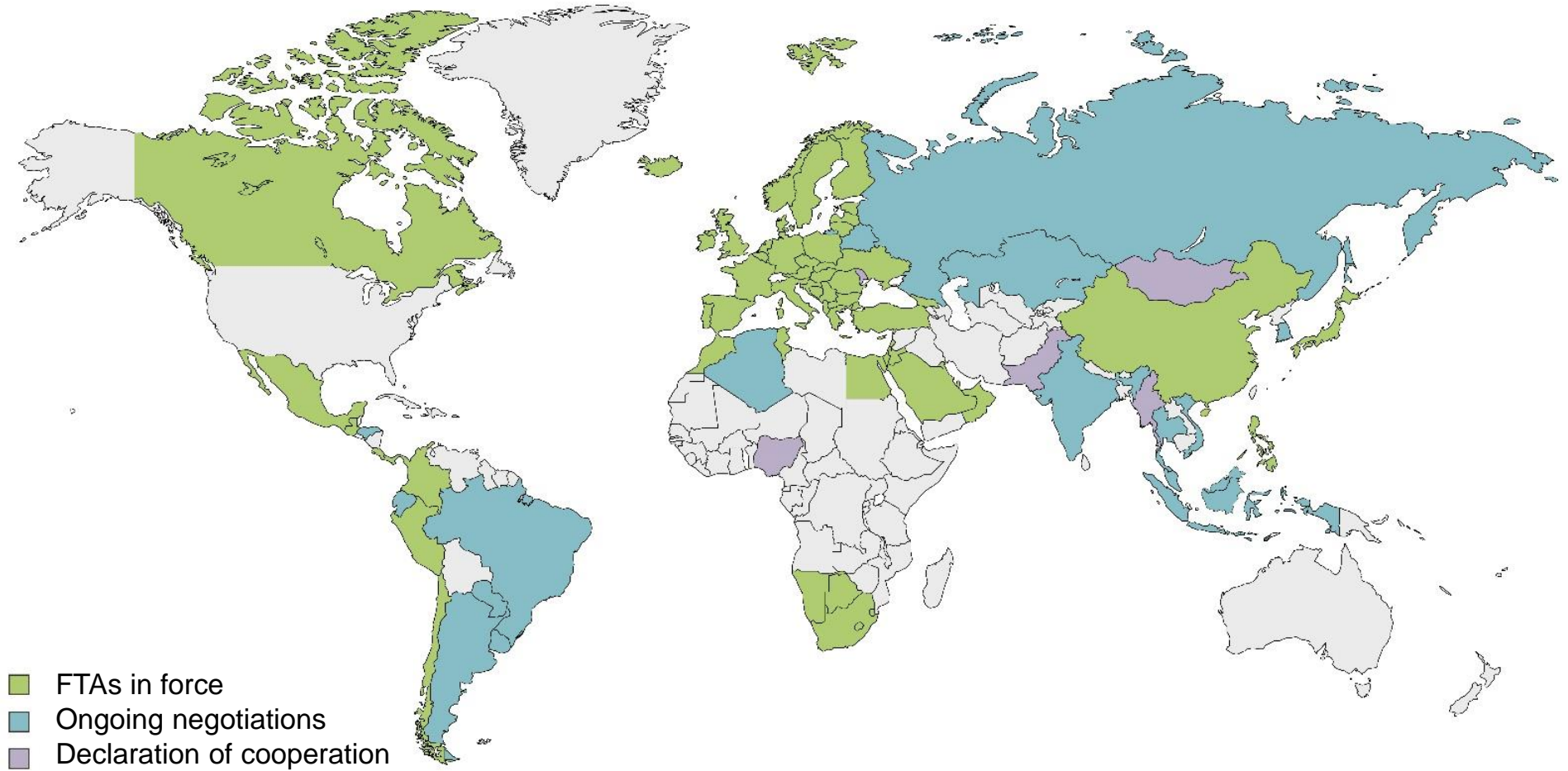
Swiss Trade Policy



➔ Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) as an instrument of the Swiss market access policy



Network of FTAs: 30 FTAs (in force) with 40 Partners





Impact of FTAs for CH

- FTAs cover **23%** of Switzerland's **total trade**
- **Positive influence** on growth, market access and investment and strengthening of Switzerland's competitiveness
- Greater **transparency** and **legal certainty**
- Prevention of **discrimination**
- Institutional security from stronger relationship with partners
- **Diversification** of economic relations



Switzerland's priorities in FTAs

- Market access
- Trade Facilitation
- Financial services
- Investment
- Intellectual property rights
- Government procurement
- Trade and sustainable development



EFTA-Mercosur FTA

- Launch of negotiations: June 2017
- Ten negotiation rounds: Agreement in substance August 2019
- Gradual liberalization of 95% of Swiss goods exports
- First time Switzerland granted bilateral quotas for sensitive agricultural products
- Comprehensive chapter on trade and sustainable development





Current political situation in Switzerland

- Shift towards green parties in last year's election
- Political pressure for stronger sustainability provisions in FTAs
- Critical public reaction to conclusion of negotiations with Mercosur
- Referendum against agreement with Indonesia



Next steps for EFTA-MCS FTA

- Agreement in substance in August 2019
- Legal review currently ongoing
- Signing of agreement
- Internal approval processes
- Entry into force





Questions?



Thank you for your attention!

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