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WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	European Commission
To:	Working Party on the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
Subject:	Joint Declaration by the European Union and of the Swiss Confederation on the establishment of a high-level dialogue on the Broad Bilateral Package and the possible further development of the bilateral relations between the European Union and Switzerland

On behalf of the Commission, delegates will find attached, for their information, Joint Declaration by the European Union and of the Swiss Confederation on the establishment of a high-level dialogue on the Broad Bilateral Package and the possible further development of the bilateral relations between the European Union and Switzerland, to be initialled on 21 May 2025.

JOINT DECLARATION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE SWISS CONFEDERATION
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON THE BROAD BILATERAL
PACKAGE AND THE POSSIBLE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE BILATERAL
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND SWITZERLAND

The European Union and the Swiss Confederation,

CONSIDERING the close mutual ties between them based on their proximity, shared values and common European culture, as well as the fact that their economies are highly interlinked in terms of trade and investments,

SHARING the objective of contributing to the smooth running and continued development of the European Union and Switzerland's comprehensive partnership to its full potential,

RECALLING the Common Understanding of 27 October 2023, between representatives of the Swiss Federal Council and the European Commission, and in particular paragraph 7 thereof,

WELCOMING the conclusion in December 2024 of the negotiations on the broad bilateral package for the stabilisation and development of their relations,

declare that a high-level dialogue will be established, which:

- will be co-chaired by the Commissioner responsible for relations with Switzerland and the Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs;
- will aim to promote mutual understanding and cooperation on the negotiated broad bilateral package and the possible further development of their bilateral relations;

- will discuss issues of mutual interest, in particular Switzerland's participation in the internal market and possibilities to strengthen the partnership between Switzerland and the European Union; and
- will regularly evaluate the implementation of the broad bilateral package, the work of the Joint Committees and the possible further development of their bilateral relations.

The high-level dialogue will take place annually, alternately in Switzerland and in Brussels, to review progress and discuss future cooperation. The first dialogue will take place within three months after the entry into force of the broad bilateral package and the detailed modalities thereof will be jointly defined on this occasion.

This Joint Declaration is without prejudice to the establishment of a political dialogue on matters of foreign and security policy between the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, which is dealt with separately.

Signed in [place], on [date], in duplicate in the English and French languages.

For the European Union:

For the Swiss Confederation: