

EFTA-MERCOSUR Free Trade Agreement and Perspectives



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Presidencia Pro Tempore
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UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA
DE SALAMANCA

Instituto de Pensamiento
Iberoamericano (IPI)

Webinar Invitation
July 9, 2020, 5.00 p.m.
(Zurich time)

COVID-19: Key Features of the EFTA-MERCOSUR Free Trade Agreement and Perspectives

Amb. Markus Schlagenhof, State Secretariat of Economic Affairs, Bern
Prof. Mario Torres Jarrin, Pontifical University of Salamanca / EIIIS Stockholm

Moderator:
Dr. Philippe G. Nell,
Honorary Ambassador of LATCAM

EFTA-MERCOSUR Free Trade Agreement and Perspectives

The Latin American Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland is honored to invite you to attend a webinar on **COVID-19: Key Features of the EFTA-MERCOSUR Free Trade Agreement and Perspectives** with our two guest speakers Ambassador Markus Schlagenhof and Professor Mario Torres Jarrín.

Switzerland and its EFTA partners concluded in substance the negotiations of a free trade agreement with the members of Mercosur in August 2019. Switzerland has important economic ties with Mercosur and seeks to constantly strengthen them. In this webinar, Ambassador Markus Schlagenhof, Head of the Swiss Delegation to the EFTA-Mercosur negotiations, will discuss Switzerland's free trade policy, highlight the key elements of the EFTA-Mercosur FTA and assess the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on trade policy. Professor Mario Torres Jarrín will place the EFTA-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement in the context of Mercosur's integration policy and will present the implications of COVID-19 for Mercosur's efforts to open up its market through free trade agreements.

Our Speakers

Ambassador Markus Schlagenhof, State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO), Bern

Ambassador Markus Schlagenhof, since 1st September 2016 Delegate of the Federal Council for Trade Agreements, head of the World Trade Division and Member of the Executive Board at the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). Previously, Minister Counsellor and head of the WTO unit. From 2006 to 2012, head of Trade in Goods (as deputy head until 2008). In 2001, he was delegated to the Embassy of Switzerland in London as counsellor and deputy head of the Economic Department. Prior to that, from 1998 to 2001, he served as an advisor to the Division of Technical Barriers to Trade (as of October 1999 as deputy head). He joined the former Federal Office for Foreign Economic Affairs (FOFEA) in 1995 as advisor in the WTO sector, after having served from 1991 to 1994 as research assistant at the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland).

Mr. Schlagenhof studied business administration, economics and law (Undergraduate studies), as well as economics, public and European law and political science (Graduate studies) at the University of St. Gallen. Additionally, he holds an LL.M. degree in European and International Trade Law (Postgraduate studies at the University of Leicester, UK).

Prof. Mario Torres Jarrín, is Director of International Relations of the Pontifical University of Salamanca (Spain) and Director of the European Institute of International Studies (Sweden).

He was Research Associate and Adjunct Lecturer in Regionalism in Latin America in the Chair of International Business and Society Relations with focus of Latin America at Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany). Previously, he was Lecturer in Regional Studies and Research Associate in the Institute of Latin American Studies, as well as, Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Romance Studies and Classics, Faculty of Humanities at Stockholm University (2010-2018).

He has been a Visiting Professor at Copenhagen Business School (Denmark), University of Bergen and University of Oslo (Norway), University Institute of Lisbon (Portugal), National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (Romania), University of Salamanca (Spain), University of Economics and Anglo American University (Czech Republic) and Institute of Foreign Service of the Nation (Diplomatic Academy of Argentina).

He is Executive Secretary IBERO-EURO-AMERICA Consortium of Universities, Member of the Bi-Regional Council of the Latin America and Caribbean-EU Academic Forum and Member in two Task Forces in the G20/T20 Summits system: Task Force “Economy, Employment and Education in the Digital Age” and Task Force “The Future of Multilateralism and Global Governance”.

Currently, he is Member of the Jean Monnet Project “Relations between the European Union and Latin America: Future scenarios in a changing world”, project led by the University of Concepcion (Chile) and co-led by the European Institute of International Studies (Sweden). Research Group Member at Jean Monnet Module on International Private Law in the Research Center for International Private Law at Federal University of Santa Catarina (Brazil). Research Group Member at Jean Monnet Project “*Over the Atlantic. EU and Latin American Relations: Between Diplomacy and Paradiplomacy*”, project led by University of Bologna (Italy). Approved project in July 2019 by EACEA. Research period 2019-2021.

He holds a PhD in History, a MA in European Union Studies, and a BA in Business from the University of Salamanca (Spain). His research interests include international relations and diplomacy, EU Foreign affairs and security, EU & Latin America and the Caribbean relations, European and Latin American integration history, theories of regional integration and interregionalism, international political economy, global governance.

Our Moderator

Philippe G. Nell, Honorary Ambassador of LATCAM

Mr. Nell is University Lecturer on trade, investment and integration policy as well as negotiating techniques. Until October 2019, he was Deputy Assistant State Secretary for Bilateral Economic Affairs at the Swiss Department of Economic Affairs, Education and

Research. He was in charge of bilateral trade and investment relations for the Americas and held the diplomatic title of Minister.

Mr. Nell holds a Ph.D from the Graduate School of International Studies of the University of Denver and Masters from the universities of Fribourg, Carleton (Ottawa) and Denver. He is Private Docent at the University of Fribourg, where he dispenses courses. He has published numerous articles on trade and integration policy as well as a book on Swiss-EU negotiations for the European Economic Area.

***The Webinar will be in English.
Participation is free of charge and will be limited.***

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