



## Mutual Recognition Agreement (*MRA*)

### What is the MRA?

Wherever a product is sold, it must have the correct documentation attesting to its compliance with the regulations of the country concerned. As these regulations differ from one country to another, verification costs time and money.

This is something Switzerland and the EU want to simplify. To this end, they signed the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA). The MRA ensures that a product on the Swiss market may also be sold in the EU without additional administrative procedures, and vice versa. It bolsters and simplifies cross-border production and distribution chains, which also contributes to combating Switzerland's 'high price island' status.

The MRA covers 20 product sectors (such as machinery, medical devices, electrical equipment, building materials, lifts and pharmaceutical products), which is 73% of all Swiss industrial goods exported to the EU. It sets out standardised product regulations and stipulates that the conformity assessment (proof that a product complies with said regulations) only needs to be conducted once – either in Switzerland or the EU. This makes it possible to sell products manufactured in Switzerland (hip prostheses, machines, etc.) in the EU without any additional regulatory hurdles.

Because the regulations for products are evolving all the time, the MRA must be updated on a regular basis. Yet due to the unresolved institutional issues, the EU has refused to allow the MRA to be updated for medical products since May 2021.

### Outcome of the negotiations

As provided for in the negotiating mandate, the institutional elements are to be anchored directly in the MRA. This will ensure that the agreement is regularly updated in future, while the fundamental principles of the agreement remain unchanged.

Switzerland will also be able to participate in EU market surveillance, i.e. in measures to ensure product safety and quality. The exceptions foreseen in the MRA for differing product regulations concerning pre-packaging will be retained.

Switzerland and the European Commission have defined the modalities for their cooperation in the period from the end of 2024 until the package comes into force. They will be working closely together within this framework to ensure that the existing internal market agreements continue to function properly. In particular, they will discuss the implementation of the MRA, taking into account the needs of the private sector.

**The negotiation objectives have been achieved.**

### Importance for Switzerland

The MRA make it easier to export products, thereby strengthening the export industry, helping to lower prices in Switzerland and securing local jobs. It is important for Switzerland to have unhindered access to the EU market for the products covered by the MRA. This reduces costs for companies and therefore also for consumers. It also ensures a stable legal framework between Switzerland and the EU, which makes Switzerland more attractive as a business location.