

Swiss private sector issues/obstacles in Egypt

Topic	Comments
FX Dependency: Potential government restrictions on FX availability could result in strong disruptions for businesses and their activities, especially companies producing and exporting from Egypt that need to import in Egypt as part of the production chain. Outlook in the short-term has improved. Uncertainty still dominates in the medium-term for Swiss companies.	- Update regarding the efforts of Egypt for this topic would be appreciated during the JEC - Corresponds partly to point 5.1.1 in the agenda
Currency devaluation/inflation: The steep currency devaluation has led to high pricing volatility, especially during foreign exchange (FX) shortages. This situation has increased the cost of imported raw materials and equipment, further constraining activities for businesses reliant on foreign input.	- Issue affecting Swiss private sector actors horizontally. - Update regarding the efforts of Egypt for this topic would be appreciated during the JEC
Bureaucratic hurdles: Despite recent initiatives to improve customs clearance times, the conditions for imports to Egypt remains difficult. Complex and time-consuming customs/approval procedures (e.g lengthy administrative processes between local authorities).	- Issue affecting Swiss private sector actors horizontally. - Update regarding the efforts of Egypt for this topic would be appreciated during the JEC - Partly covered under agenda point 5.1.4
IP-enforcement: Swiss private sectors recognise the efforts under the new IP national strategy, but IP enforcement remains a challenge with high availabilities of counterfeits (especially in fake Swiss watches).	- The Swiss watch industry will briefly touch on this topic.
Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Convention (PEM): Amongst others, the Swiss textile sector wishes for rapid ratification of the revised PEM Convention within the European Free-Trade Association (EFTA) – Egypt free-trade agreement. The textile supply chain in Europe and the Mediterranean region benefits greatly from diagonal cumulation. The swift ratification and application of the revised rules of origin would strengthen trade and make Egypt a more attractive trading partner.	- Topic important to ensure possibility for diagonal cumulation of rules of origin, and for economic actors of the PEM member states to benefit from increased economic integration - Topic covered under agenda point 3.2.ii