**EFTA’s ‘Pragmatic Emulation’ of Labor Provisions in FTAs: Interdependent Policymaking in the Trade and Sustainable Development Nexus**

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First Draft

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**Abstract**

The number of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) signed by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) has been significantly increasing over the past decades leading to the creation of one of the largest global trade networks. Unlike in agreements signed by major trade powers (e.g., US, EU, and Canada), labor related provisions were seldom addressed in EFTA FTAs. In 2010, however, the EFTA has introduced a new Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter with comprehensive labor provisions and has since then included it in every newly signed FTA. In spite of this development, we still know little about the factors that determined the design of such provisions in EFTA FTAs. Our paper is the first to systematically examine the underlying causes behind the approach the EFTA has taken regarding its model text on labor provisions. Employing the method of process tracing and drawing on qualitative analysis based on expert interviews and relevant documents, we find that the design of labor provisions is a product of interdependent policy making in the context of which the EFTA pragmatically emulated approaches of other international actors, primarily the EU, by aligning them to its own prerequisites. These insights are of particular relevance given the EFTA’s ongoing negotiations with countries like India or Indonesia that have long rejected the trade-labor linkage.