



EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

EFTA–UKRAINE

FIRST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS

Videoconference, 3–4 April 2024

PUBLIC REPORT

I. Context and General Assessment

The first negotiation round between EFTA and Ukraine towards the modernisation of their existing free trade agreement (FTA) took place via videoconference from 3 to 4 April 2024.

Thordur Jonsson, Director of Trade Agreements at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, acted as the EFTA spokesperson. Taras Kachka, Deputy Minister of Economy and Trade Representative of Ukraine, headed the Ukrainian delegation.

As Ukraine had no comments on the EFTA proposals in the areas of Technical Barriers to Trade, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Trade Facilitation that had been shared ahead of the round, it was already possible to conclude these chapters during the opening session. Furthermore, experts agreed on the chapters on Government Procurement, Technical Cooperation and Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) during the round.

To pave the way for further progress, EFTA and Ukraine agreed to follow up with intersessional meetings and provisionally set the date of the next round for the end of August.

II. Trade in Goods

Good progress was made on the Trade in Goods chapter and its annexes, and the way forward was agreed with follow-ups on the remaining text and the exchange of data in preparation for advancing market access negotiations.

III. Intellectual Property Rights

Experts agreed in principle to the proposed text for the chapter on Intellectual Property Rights and made substantial progress on the annex. Specific follow-ups for the next meeting were agreed upon.

IV. Government Procurement

Experts agreed on a chapter and an annex on Government Procurement, incorporating the Parties' respective commitments in the World Trade Organization's Government Procurement Agreement into the modernised FTA.

V. Digital Trade

Experts had a very constructive first reading of the chapter on Digital Trade, during which they were able to reach an agreement on a number of articles. With a view to building on the good momentum, they further decided to hold an intersessional meeting before the summer.

VI. Trade and Sustainable Development

Experts succeeded in concluding the discussion on a TSD chapter. The chapter foresees ambitious and comprehensive commitments on the protection of the environment and on labour, as well as procedures for consultations and a panel of experts.

VII. Technical Cooperation

Technical cooperation experts agreed on a chapter to foster cooperation between the EFTA States and Ukraine to facilitate the implementation of the modernised FTA.

VIII. General Provisions

Experts engaged in a first discussion on potential amendments to the General Provisions of the EFTA–Ukraine FTA. They undertook to share concrete text proposals with a view to deepening exchanges at the next meeting.