



# EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

14 December 2022

## **EFTA – KOSOVO 2<sup>nd</sup> ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS**

*Prishtina, 29 November – 1 December 2022*

### **PUBLIC REPORT**

#### **I. Context**

The second round of negotiations between EFTA and Kosovo was held in Prishtina on 29 November to 1 December 2022.

#### **II. General Assessment**

Efficient progress was achieved, and the delegations were able to agree on the chapters on competition and dispute settlement in addition to the annexes on rules of origin and trade facilitation. The SPS Article had already been agreed ahead of the round by intersessional exchanges. Finalisation in several other areas is within reach. Follow-ups were agreed for all remaining areas.

Services were again addressed at Heads level and another meeting dedicated to discussing the way forward regarding this topic is planned to take place in the beginning of 2023.

#### **III. Trade in Goods (NAMA/Agriculture)**

The draft chapter on trade in goods was discussed and both sides presented their respective approaches to trade in industrial and agricultural products. Useful discussions took place on market access for trade in industrial products and fish. On agriculture, Kosovo and the individual EFTA States presented their approaches and agricultural policies as well as an overview of current trade flows, main interests and sensitivities. Furthermore, follow-ups paving the way forward were agreed.

#### **IV. Rules of Origin**

The working group agreed on the text of the rules of origin Annex, which provides a dynamic link to the rules of the PEM Convention and the optional application of the transitional rules of origin as an alternative. In Annex, Mandate of the sub-committee on trade in goods, only one minor issue remains open, which is foreseen to be solved by intersessional written exchanges.

#### **V. Trade Facilitation**

Based on the follow-up feedback received from Kosovo ahead of the round, the delegations were able to clean the four open articles and the Annex is therefore agreed and finalised.

#### **VI. TBT**

EFTA and Kosovo continued to discuss TBT matters. Both sides agreed on provisions enhancing mutual transparency for TBT regulations and further discussed avenues for increased cooperation. EFTA will revert on Kosovo's latest proposal regarding mutual recognition.

#### **VII. Trade Remedies**

Regarding trade remedies, all the provisions had already been finalised. More discussions will be needed on anti-dumping at the next round.

#### **VIII. Legal and Horizontal Issues and Dispute Settlement**

EFTA and Kosovo finalised all pending substantive issues in the area at this round.

#### **IX. Trade and Sustainable Development**

Productive discussions led to an agreement in substance on an ambitious Chapter on trade and sustainable development. Further discussions will be required at a technical level to adequately reflect Kosovo's particular status as non-party to relevant international organisations and instruments referred to in the chapter and its efforts and commitment to align its legislation with these instruments.

**X. Intellectual Property Rights**

Experts reached an agreement on most of the matters outstanding within the text proposals on IPR. On the few elements outstanding, information was exchanged and follow-ups agreed to find mutually acceptable solutions. With intersessional work having taken place on a bilateral Appendix for the protection of geographical indications (GIs) and indications of source in Kosovo, Liechtenstein and Switzerland experts discussed the way forward, including the next steps to propose specific GIs for inclusion in the agreement.