



# EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

## **EFTA–MOLDOVA FIRST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS**

*Videoconference*

*23-25 March 2021*

### **REPORT**

The first round of negotiations between EFTA and Moldova took place through video conference from 23 to 25 March 2021. Ambassador Harald Aspelund, Permanent Representative of Iceland to the UN and to the WTO acted as the EFTA spokesperson, while State Secretary Iuliana Drăgălin at the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova headed the Moldovan delegation.

All issues included in the negotiation were discussed, i.e. trade in goods, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, rules of origin, trade facilitation, trade in services, investment, trade and sustainable development, intellectual property rights, government procurement, competition, trade remedies and legal and horizontal issues.

EFTA and Moldova were able to reach agreement in the fields of competition, technical barriers to trade and trade and sustainable development. Progress was considerable also in the remaining fields upon which significant parts of the legal texts could be agreed.

Key follow-up points from the first round include exchange of requests and offers for market access in trade in goods and trade in services. For intellectual property rights, experts will consider the possible inclusion of an appendix addressing Geographical Indications.

On sanitary and phytosanitary measures, provisions on perishable goods, lists of establishments and health certificates were discussed in depth and will be on the agenda in the next meeting. Also on the table will be anti-dumping and subsidies and countervailing duties in the trade remedies group. Regarding rules of origin, the key issues outstanding include full cumulation and electronically issued movement certificates.