



EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

EFTA – REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

THIRD ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS

Geneva, 9 and 10 June 2022

PUBLIC REPORT

Context

The third round was held in Geneva on 9 and 10 June. This was the first in-person meeting between the two sides since negotiations were launched last year. Since the second round of negotiations in June 2021, several expert meetings had been held online.

General Assessment

Negotiations are far advanced, and several chapters had already been concluded during the first two rounds. Further progress was made during this round in all open areas. The Parties confirmed the conclusion for the chapter on electronic commerce and several other legal texts. The remaining open issues in government procurement and geographical indications will be concluded in writing.

Trade in Goods

Delegations succeeded in agreeing on the remaining provisions on trade in goods, and the legal text could thus be concluded. Regarding market access, both sides presented their revised offers on market access for agricultural products exchanged before the round and indicated improvements they could consider for a last offer but also underlined their respective sensitivities. Key open issues to be addressed in the next round include market access for a variety of products, including fruits and vegetables and processed agricultural products.

Trade in Services and Establishment

Negotiations on trade in services and establishment progressed well and positions converged significantly. With only few items outstanding, both sides expect a swift conclusion on the chapters and the relevant annexes containing specific sectoral disciplines. Some more work is required on market access commitments in services as both sides seek certain improvements in selected areas of interest.

Legal and Horizontal Issues

The pending legal and horizontal issues in chapters General Provisions and Dispute Settlement could be resolved and the chapters were concluded.