



EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

EFTA – REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA 4th ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS

Videoconference, 18 and 19 October 2022

PUBLIC REPORT

Context

The fourth round was held through videoconference on 18 and 19 October addressing all outstanding issues in the negotiations. Most trade fields had been agreed upon during the first three rounds, leaving trade in goods and services as the key open fields.

General Assessment

As negotiations are at an advanced stage, the remaining open issues are centred on market access for agricultural products and services providers, and technical clarifications in the legal texts. The parties were able to conclude the field of government procurement in this round.

Trade in Goods

With the legal text on trade in goods agreed in the last round, bilateral discussions centred on market access for agricultural products based on the follow-ups exchanged before the round. Moldova presented its revised requests for market access to Norway and Switzerland, indicating areas where improvements could be made to their current offers while highlighting their sensitivities and limitations. Further clarifications on these issues will be made in writing before the next round, which will allow for subsequent exchange of market access offers.

Trade in Services

Discussions centred on Moldova's revised requests to the EFTA States. The ensuing discussion provided a better understanding of the parties' possibilities and limitations for market access, especially regarding natural persons. Regarding the legal texts, delegates were able to clear the issues outstanding in the chapter and the annexes on telecommunications and maritime transport, leaving only a few provisions on financial services open. In addition, Moldova will revert on its position regarding the annex on movement of natural persons proposed by EFTA.

Establishment

Discussions focused on Moldova's reservation concerning national treatment for the acquisition of agricultural and forestry land. Moldova will submit a revised reservation list to EFTA, which should allow both Parties to conclude the negotiations in writing.