



EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

11 June 2024

EFTA–KOSOVO THIRD ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS

Geneva, hybrid format, 3–5 June 2024

PUBLIC REPORT

I. Context

The third round of negotiations between EFTA and Kosovo was held in Geneva (and online) from 3 to 5 June 2024.

II. General Assessment

Delegations continued their work and made further progress in all negotiation areas. The articles on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) matters and technical barriers to trade (TBT), as well as the Financial Services Annex, were concluded. The Annex on the Mandate of the Subcommittee on Trade in Goods and the Annex on Rules of Origin, reviewed to reflect recent developments related to the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Convention, had already been concluded through intersessional exchanges ahead of the round. Offers on agricultural products were exchanged, and negotiations on market access for fish and industrial products are now well advanced. The newly included area of trade in services also had a very positive start, with considerable textual progress made during the round. This positive momentum, along with the agreed follow-ups by experts, brings the conclusion of the overall negotiations within reach for the next round.

III. Trade in Goods (NAMA/Agriculture)

Significant progress was achieved in the trade in goods chapter and market access for agriculture, fish and industrial products. Experts agreed to maintain the positive momentum.

IV. TBT/SPS

EFTA and Kosovo continued to discuss TBT and SPS matters. Both sides agreed on the open issues concerning review clauses, thereby concluding the discussion on the articles.

V. Intellectual Property Rights

Experts on intellectual property rights (IPR) worked constructively throughout the round, with the aim of finalising the few remaining issues. Agreement has now been reached on almost all issues in the IPR Annex and the bilateral appendix between Liechtenstein and Switzerland on the one side and Kosovo on the other on geographical indications, appellations of origin, and indications of source and country names. In this context, experts focused their discussions

on substantive provisions to protect such indications, and on preparing for the necessary public consultation of each side's lists of geographical indications in order to facilitate the finalisation of negotiations.

VI. Services

During the round, experts engaged in a very constructive exchange and made substantial headway. It was thus possible to conclude the Annex on Financial Services and achieve considerable textual progress on the Annex on Telecommunication and the draft chapter, with only a few remaining issues left open. Experts further discussed market access, with Parties asking clarifying questions on each other's domestic regulations and systems, and signalling their commercial interests. Building on this positive momentum, experts agreed to continue their work in writing and to exchange offers before the next round.

VII. Trade and Sustainable Development

The text of the chapter on trade and sustainable development has been agreed. To reflect Kosovo's particular status as a non-party to the relevant international organisations and instruments referred to in the chapter, EFTA and Kosovo agreed to draft a side instrument to acknowledge Kosovo's commitment to align its legislation with these international standards.