



EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

17 September 2024

EFTA-UKRAINE

SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS

Geneva, 27 – 28 August 2024

PUBLIC REPORT

I. Context and General Assessment

The second negotiation round between EFTA and Ukraine towards the modernisation of their existing free trade agreement (FTA) took place in Geneva from 27 to 28 August 2024. Thordur Jonsson, Director of Trade Agreements at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, acted as the EFTA Spokesperson. Taras Kachka, Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Economy and Trade Representative of Ukraine, headed the Ukrainian delegation.

During the round expert discussions were held in the areas of trade in goods, intellectual property rights, and legal and horizontal issues. The parties made good progress and finalised nearly all open issues. The few remaining issues related to trade in goods and intellectual property rights will be clarified in the coming months.

II. Trade in Goods

Experts discussed and made significant progress during the round. The provisions in the chapter could be finalised in all but one substantial point. With regard to market access, the agricultural concessions of the EFTA states in particular gave rise to discussions. While Ukraine highlighted the importance of these products for their economy, EFTA states reiterated their sensitivities in this area. Both sides presented possible improvements and agreed on next steps to finalise the remaining work on market access and the chapter text.

III. IPR

Experts discussed and resolved remaining substantive issues. The work on the negotiating text has been completed in principle. Consultations are needed only on a few points for a final confirmation of the solutions found. Experts determined the next domestic steps that have to be taken in order to finalise the exchange of lists of geographical indications to be mutually recognised and protected in Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Ukraine. Following publication and after a two-month consultation period, the lists will need to be revised in the light of the consultation results.

IV. Legal & Horizontal

The Delegations met and confirmed that the texts of the Preamble, the Article on Objectives as well as the Final Provisions have been finalised. Agreement was found after discussion on all other outstanding issues including the Article on Territorial Application and the form and language of the modernised Agreement.