



# EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

Ref. 25-1165

## **EFTA – MERCOSUR**

### **13<sup>th</sup> ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS**

*Buenos Aires, 28 – 30 April 2025*

#### **I. Context and General Overview**

The 13th negotiation round between EFTA and MERCOSUR took place in Buenos Aires from 28 to 30 April 2025. EFTA and Mercosur actively resumed their work at heads and expert level, picking up from the meetings in March 2025 and the follow-ups and exchanges having taken place since. During the round, delegations held several meetings on issues related to Rules of Origin, Trade and Sustainable Development, Trade in Services, and Government Procurement. The constructive meetings provided useful clarifications and reiterated the Parties' willingness to finalise the negotiations. To this end, further written exchanges and virtual meetings have been agreed to take place at expert and Heads level before the next round which is scheduled later this spring.

#### **II. Rules of Origin**

Rules of Origin experts met in a hybrid format during this week's negotiations to continue their productive discussions on the remaining open issues, building on the significant progress achieved in the previous round and working toward finalising texts.

#### **III. Intellectual Property Rights**

Experts on intellectual property rights engaged in constructive discussions, actively resuming their work and addressing outstanding issues in the intellectual property texts. They made additional textual progress and agreed to hold further videoconferences to resolve the remaining open issues.

#### **IV. Trade and Sustainable Development**

Experts on trade and sustainable development continued their discussion on sustainability elements to be included in the agreement. Considerable progress was made on topics such as sustainable forest management and associated trade, trade and biodiversity, trade and sustainable agriculture, trade and labour standards, as well as inclusive trade.

## **V. Trade in Services**

During this round, experts held virtual meetings on the last remaining technical issues on Trade in Services. Textual progress was achieved on a possible provision regarding low-carbon emission electricity production, and joint discussions with investment experts took place regarding investment screening measures. Issues which could not be concluded at the technical level were referred to Heads of Delegations.

## **VI. Government Procurement**

Government procurement experts discussed in an online meeting, held in parallel to the round, issues related to market access. Further discussions will be convened to find a solution on the remaining matters.