



EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

EFTA – VIET NAM 17TH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS

Geneva, 8–10 September 2025

PUBLIC REPORT

I. Context

EFTA and Viet Nam met for the 17th round of negotiations from 8 to 10 September 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. Delegates discussed trade in goods, trade in services, intellectual property rights (IPR), investment, and trade and sustainable development (TSD). Based on the progress made during the round, both sides reiterated their objective to advance the negotiations, with the next round expected to take place before the end of the year.

II. Trade in Goods

The two sides exchanged views on the most recent market access offers and agreed on the next steps towards an exchange of improved offers. They also discussed the open articles in the chapter text and possible approaches to bridging the remaining gaps.

III. Trade in Services

Experts made progress in the services chapter, agreeing among others on the article on payments and transfers related to services activities. They further discussed potential ways forward for the annex on financial services and the provisions related to the movement of natural persons. Delegations also reviewed their respective market access requests and agreed to exchange revised offers, as well as to hold a follow-up meeting to maintain the momentum and prepare the ground for the next round.

IV. Intellectual Property Rights

Experts from EFTA and Viet Nam engaged in constructive discussions on issues within the area of IPR, building on progress made in earlier rounds of negotiations. Recognising texts that had already been agreed, experts took stock of the remaining open issues, with particular focus on previously identified priorities and areas that required further exchanges. Experts agreed to maintain contact and continue work on these areas ahead of the next round of negotiations.

V. Investment

The EFTA States and Viet Nam held investment negotiations, discussing all of the provisions in the investment chapter and the forthcoming exchange of reservation lists. Building on the positive momentum from the June intersessional meeting, experts engaged in constructive discussions and achieved textual progress on several key articles. Experts also agreed on a comprehensive set of follow-ups, including the exchange of reservation lists, to lay the groundwork for the next round of negotiations.

VI. Trade and Sustainable Development

EFTA and Viet Nam held constructive discussions on the TSD chapter and agreed on follow-ups to be provided before the next round of negotiations, paving the way for further progress in the 18th round.