

## EFTA and Mercosur hold fourth round of free trade negotiations



*Victorio Carpintieri, Deputy Secretary for Mercosur and International Negotiations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, and Jan Farberg, Director General at the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries.*

Delegations from the EFTA and MERCOSUR States met for the fourth round of free trade negotiations from 2-6 July 2018 in Geneva. The EFTA-Mercosur negotiations were launched in January 2017 with four rounds held so far. During this round, the parties had in-depth discussions and made good progress in all fields. The negotiating groups convening this round notably covered: Trade in Goods; Rules of Origin; Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; Technical Barriers to Trade; Trade Remedies; Trade in Services; Investment; Intellectual Property Rights; Government Procurement; and Legal and Horizontal Issues.

In addition to intersessional meetings, the respective expert groups will follow-up on topics ahead of the next round. Two additional rounds of negotiations are planned to take place before the end of the year, in Buenos Aires and Geneva respectively.

Mr Jan Farberg, Director General at the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, acted as the EFTA Spokesperson while the Mercosur side was led by Victorio Carpintieri, Deputy Secretary for Mercosur and International Negotiations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina.