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Mercosur and EFTA move closer to finalisation of their FTA negotiations

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Delegations from EFTA and Mercosur convened in Geneva on 11 to 14 June to continue their talks on a broad-based free trade agreement. During the ninth round the Parties moved closer to the finalisation of their negotiations in all the remaining areas.

With some chapters of the free trade agreement already concluded, the working groups convening this round were: Trade in Goods; Rules of Origin; Trade in Services;

Investment; Intellectual Property Rights; Government Procurement; and Legal and Horizontal Issues. In addition, exchanges took place during the round regarding Trade and Sustainable Development, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS).

Both EFTA and Mercosur aim for a speedy conclusion of the negotiations.

The negotiating teams were led by Mr Jan Farberg, Director General at the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, on the EFTA side, and Victorio Carpintieri, Deputy Secretary for Mercosur and International Economic Negotiations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, on the Mercosur side.