



# EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

## EFTA–MERCOSUR

### 11<sup>TH</sup> ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS

*Buenos Aires, 15-18 April 2024*

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

The 11<sup>th</sup> negotiation round between EFTA and Mercosur took place in Buenos Aires from 15 to 18 April 2024. Jan Farberg, Special Adviser at the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, acted as the EFTA spokesperson. Gabriel Martínez, Under Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship in Argentina, headed the Mercosur delegation.

After five years without in-person meetings, EFTA and Mercosur actively resumed their work at heads and expert level, picking up from the August 2019 round and the follow-ups and exchanges having taken place thereafter. During the round, delegations held several meetings at heads level on issues related to Market Access, Rules of Origin, Trade and Sustainable Development, Government Procurement and Services, while at expert level, groups met to discuss more technical issues for Trade in Goods, Intellectual Property Rights and legal matters including the ongoing legal review.

The constructive meetings provided clarifications on both old and new issues raised and confirmed the Parties' willingness to move forward. To this end, further written exchanges and virtual meetings have been agreed to take place at expert level, followed by a virtual heads meeting to take stock and decide on the next steps.

#### **II. Trade in Goods**

Experts on Trade in Goods met to resume work on the remaining pending issues. Discussions helped to clarify technical issues and provided further understanding on national administrative matters. Preliminary discussions on open market access issues also took place. Further exchanges are foreseen ahead of a next full round of negotiations.

### **III. Intellectual Property Right**

Over the course of three days, the experts on IPR primarily focused on outstanding GI issues and exchanged different points of view in order to facilitate the finalization of the relevant texts. Further exchanges are foreseen ahead of the next full round of negotiations.

### **IV. Legal Review**

EFTA and Mercosur held constructive discussions on the few pending legal review issues in the FTA texts and made further progress.