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EFTA and Canada Heads of delegation meet to continue exploratory discussions



Ambassador Harald Aspelund from Iceland and Mr Louis Marcotte, Director General for Trade in Services, Investment and Intellectual Property, Global Affairs Canada

Heads of delegations from the EFTA States and Canada met on 13 February 2020 in Ottawa, Canada. They updated each other on recent developments and further discussed a possible modernisation and expansion of their existing Free Trade Agreement. Ambassador Harald Aspelund from Iceland acted as EFTA spokesperson. Mr Louis Marcotte, Director General for Trade in Services, Investment and Intellectual Property, Global Affairs Canada, headed the Canadian delegation.

Both sides exchanged information on their priorities and updates on internal work undertaken since the last meeting. The focus was on trade in goods, trade in

services and investment, trade and sustainable development, government procurement and intellectual property rights. The results of these discussions will serve as a basis for internal consultations on both sides. Heads of delegation will take stock on the way forward once these consultations have been concluded.

Merchandise trade between the EFTA States and Canada reached USD 6.7 billion in 2019. The EFTA States exported goods valued at USD 4.5 billion and imported goods worth USD 2.2 billion. Bilateral economic relations are also characterised by substantial levels of trade in services and investment flows