



# EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

## **EFTA-CHILE INTERSESSIONAL EXPERT MEETINGS AND HEADS MEETING**

*Videoconference*

*9-22 October 2020*

### **REPORT**

A meeting of Heads of delegations from the EFTA States and Chile on the modernisation and expansion of the existing EFTA-Chile free trade agreement (FTA) was convened on 22 October 2020 via video conference. Mr Erik Andreas Underland, Specialist Director at the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries acted as the EFTA spokesperson, while Mr Felipe Lopeandia, General Director of Bilateral Economic Affairs at the Chilean Undersecretariat of International Economic Affairs headed Chile's delegation.

Heads of delegations took stock of the intersessional meetings at expert level, which had taken place from 9-22 October 2020, namely trade in goods, rules of origin, trade facilitation, financial services, intellectual property rights, government procurement, trade and sustainable development and legal and horizontal issues. Furthermore, Heads of delegations exchanged views on technical barriers to trade, trade remedies and the institutional framework.

Regarding trade in goods, experts made good progress in the draft chapter and in the modernisation of the structure of the schedules of specific commitments. Furthermore, experts continued their discussions on the market access offers.

In the area of rules of origin, experts met to review and modernise the Annex on rules of origin and the Appendix on product-specific rules.

With regard to trade facilitation, experts met to negotiate new provisions to be included in the Agreement, building on trade facilitating commitments undertaken in other multilateral agreements.

Concerning financial services, experts had constructive discussions and made good progress on several text proposals. They agreed to continue their work and exchange follow-ups before the next meeting.

Turning to intellectual property rights (IPR), experts had a constructive exchange of information in relation to textual proposals within areas of copyright and related rights, trademarks, patents, geographical indications, indications of source and country names, and on enforcement. The exchange took place in a productive atmosphere where issues requiring further discussion were highlighted in an effort to support continued progress in future meetings.

In the area of government procurement, experts reviewed the draft chapter and annex and made steady progress by cleaning up several Articles. Experts had constructive discussions on the limited issues outstanding and agreed on follow-ups to be exchanged before the next meeting.

With regard to trade and sustainable development, experts reviewed the draft chapter. The meeting allowed for a better understanding on the text proposals submitted by the two sides. Experts were able to agree on a number of follow-ups including text proposals to be submitted before the next meeting.

In the area of legal and horizontal issues, experts held productive discussions and made very good progress on the draft protocol amending the EFTA-Chile Free Trade Agreement and the amendments to certain horizontal provisions.

Regarding the way forward, delegations will look into dates for meetings in spring 2021.