



**NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TRADE TITLE OF THE EU – UZBEKISTAN
COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT
FIRST ROUND**

TASHKENT, 4-7 FEBRUARY 2019

JOINT REPORT

Summary:

After the negotiations of the “Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement” (EPCA) between the EU and Uzbekistan (modernizing the existing PCA signed in 1999) were formally launched on 23 November 2018 (in the margins of the EU - Central Asia Ministerial), the first formal round of EPCA negotiations took place in Tashkent from 4 to 7 February, split into three working groups, with Working Group 2 (WG2) on “Trade and Economic relations” led by DG TRADE.

This round was instrumental, as no joint scoping exercise had been carried out prior to negotiations.

Twelve chapters of the Trade title were discussed (Trade in Goods; Trade remedies; Customs; Technical Barriers to Trade; Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Matters ; Intellectual Property Rights; Competition and State-Owned Enterprises; Public Procurements; Trade and Sustainable Development; Transparency; Services and Investments; Capital Movements, Payments and Transfers and Safeguard Measures). The Chapter on Dispute settlement was not discussed due to time constraints, while Chapters on Competition and State-Owned Enterprises (Competition part) and on Services and Investments were only presented in their concepts, as the final draft chapters were still under preparation. Chapters on Exceptions and on General provisions had also not been tabled at this stage and were not discussed.

The general level of engagement was very good, with wide participation of experts from relevant agencies, and Uzbekistan is clearly keen to understand and consider EU’s requests.

The next round is to take place in Brussels. In conclusion, Uzbekistan and EU will exchange with written comments on discussed draft texts.

Detail

Twelve chapters were discussed, and progress achieved varied substantially reflecting also on length and complexity of each subject.

The Intellectual Property Rights chapter, for which a one and half day parallel session had been foreseen given the complexity of the chapter, was probably the one where most progress was achieved, thanks to a good level of preparation and expertise from the Uzbek side.

For the majority of other chapters (*Customs*; Technical Barriers to Trade; Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Matters; Trade and Sustainable Development; Capital Movements; Transparency) the Commission presented the EU's proposals and answered technical questions. The sides agreed that all Uzbek comments and questions, including those, which could not be addressed during the round, would be answered in writing after consultations with the relevant services in Brussels.