

## **Executive Summary**

### **Sixth Meeting of the CEFTA Subcommittee on Non-tariff Barriers to Trade and Technical Barriers to Trade**

7 February, 2013 Budapest

The sixth meeting of the Subcommittee on Non-tariff Barriers to Trade and Technical Barriers to Trade was held in Budapest, on 7 February 2013. The meeting was attended by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo\*.

In his capacity of the Chair of the Subcommittee, Mr. Anche Trifunov, the State Secretary in the Ministry of Economy of Macedonia welcomed the participants and thanked the government of Hungary and the OECD for supporting the organization of the meeting. He wished to BiH a successful chairing of CEFTA in this year.

In 2013, the priorities of Macedonia will be focused on further implementation of Article 13 of CEFTA Agreement as well as the implementation of Ministerial conclusions and Recommendation of the Joint Committee No.1/2012, which are adopted in 2012. In addition, Macedonia will engage efforts to implement the recommendations of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework in the area of technical barriers to trade. In order to execute these tasks, along with the available resources in CEFTA Parties, the Chair envisaged the technical support and coordination of activities with relevant regional partners.

#### **Work Programme of the Subcommittee on TBT and NTBs**

The Chair presented the Strategic Work Programme of the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT, which covers the period from 2013 to 2015 and proposes a one-year Work Programme for 2013 under the Chairmanship of Macedonia.

The Programme priorities, the main expected results and the timeline of activities have been further elaborated. Apart from this meeting, Macedonia plans to hold another meeting of the Subcommittee scheduled for May. Working Group on TBT held its first session on 1 February in Brussels; the second meeting is scheduled for 13 May while third meeting could be organized back to back with the Joint Committee meeting in November 2013.

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

## **Elimination of NTBs**

- Future activities followed by the recommendations of the OECD

Following the presentation of the OECD on the results of the second assessment of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework concerning TBT and the SPS area and the envisaged assessment of the administrative barriers to trade, the Chair invited Parties to consider the further actions in order to eliminate the NTBs.

- Accurate information on the Market Access Data Base as of January 2013

The Market Access database, which serves for collecting and presenting the cases of NTBs, is currently in the process of upgrading. The newly developed web-based system will allow direct online introduction of the cases by a Party without having Secretariat as an intermediary.

In order to assist the Parties in uploading the new cases correctly, a potential training (e.g. workshop) on the proper classification of NTBs could be organized. The Parties deemed useful to include the Chamber of Commerce representatives in the training since they are the ones to first alert on the appearance of NTBs.

## **CEFTA Trade Portal**

The Chair reminded the Parties that the GIZ project to support the CEFTA Trade Portal was terminated and that management of the Portal is transferred to the Parties. It has been agreed that starting from January 2013; all activities related to updating and upgrading of the Portal are direct responsibility of the Parties while maintenance and proofreading in English is taken over by the Secretariat.

## **CEFTA Market Access Database**

The new format (web-based information system) of the MADB was presented by the IT company DM Consulting.