

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

9th CEFTA Subcommittee Meeting on Agriculture and SPS,

November 5, 2015 Belgrade

The 9th CEFTA Subcommittee Meeting on Agriculture and SPS was held in Belgrade, on 5th November 2015.

The participants to the meeting were representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo*, together with Ms. Susanne Hartmann, and Mr. Morten Kvistgaard from the GIZ as the invited guests.

At the beginning, Chair presented the results of work programme of Moldovan Chairmanship of CEFTA Subcommittee on Agriculture and SPS. In his presentation, Mr. Loghin underlined the main objectives identified by Moldovan Chairmanship and stated priorities under these objectives of the Work Programme, as follow:

- Ensuring the participation of SPS Authorities in negotiation of the Framework Agreement;
- Addressing the main trade distortive non-tariff measures and Enhancing Transparency;
- Advocating the Pan-Europe Mediterranean Convention and its opportunities for diagonal cumulation as a tool for promotion of trade in agricultural sector.

Addressing Market Access Barriers in Selected Supply Chains in CEFTA regarding this issue, Ms. Susanne Hartmann from GIZ to present the first outcomes of the project on “Addressing Market Access Barriers in the Selected Supply Chains”. CEFTA Parties welcomed the implementation of the project and acknowledged the importance of raising the problems that the private sector is facing.

GIZ project: Trade Promotion in the Wine Sector the pilot initiative to analyze the wine value chains in CEFTA, which is supported by the Open Regional Fund Foreign Trade Promotion in order to sustain the CEFTA Trade Facilitation Agenda. In this regard, the Chair invited Mr. Morten Kvistgaard, to present the initial results of the initiative “Trade Promotion in the Wine Sector”, and the outcomes of the interviews with relevant stakeholders and international organization. CEFTA Parties expressed their gratitude for Mr. Kvistgaard effort to undertake so many activities in such short period of time. Parties stated their willingness to obtain the presented report and share it with their national wine producers and other relevant authorities in respective sector. Regarding **updates on non-tariff barriers in the agricultural trade and Market access databases cases**, CEFTA Parties shared their updates on non-tariff barriers in the agricultural trade and market access databases cases. CEFTA Parties stated no new cases are recorded in MADB and give a short update on the existing ones.

The adjustment of CEFTA Structure, Taking into consideration the interaction between the three Subcommittees (Agriculture and SPS, TBT and NTBs, Customs and Rules of Origin), the Secretariat proposes to establish the Subcommittee on Agriculture, which task is to contribute the promotion of trade and facilitate trade in agricultural products within the region in accordance with Article 11 of CEFTA 2006. While the policy on the protection of plant health, animal health and food safety, in accordance with Article 12 of CEFTA 2006, will be related under the Working Group on Technical Measures. In this context, CEFTA Parties took advantage of this opportunity and expressed their view regarding the proposal on the adjustment. All Parties agreed that it is inappropriate to separate SPS issues, which are the part of Agriculture. Also, Parties suggested to remove from Draft Decision regarding the establishment of Subcommittee on Agriculture, the paragraph related to transparency in the use of export subsidies, considering the fact that all CEFTA Parties have already eliminated export subsidies in compliance with the Article 11.3 of CEFTA 2006.

* 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