

REPORT

**Subcommittee on Agriculture Including
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues**

January - December, 2016

The report is prepared for the purpose to give a summary of actions undertaken under the Kosovo* Chairmanship of CEFTA Subcommittee on Agriculture and SPS during the period of 1st of January to December 2016.

I. BACKGROUND

Establishment of the Committee

In its last meeting in November 2015, the CEFTA Ministers, recognizing the present priorities in implementation of CEFTA requires a high level coordination between CEFTA structures and the relevant national authorities of CEFTA Parties; and effective inter-Ministry coordination in each CEFTA Party, decide to adjust the CEFTA Subcommittees and amend their Terms of References.

In this regard, the CEFTA Subcommittee on Agriculture including Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues established by the Joint Committee Decision No. 1/2015, has the task to contribute the promotion of trade and facilitate trade in agricultural products within the region and to discuss and coordinate to the maximum extent the policies on agriculture and the protection of plant health, animal health and food safety and other relevant areas in accordance with CEFTA Agreement.

Its main mandate is to:

- Ensure instruments to facilitate the exchange of information between the CEFTA Parties and informing the CEFTA Joint Committee regarding changes in their respective agricultural policies pursued or measures applied, which may affect the conditions of agricultural trade among them as provided for in CEFTA 2006
- Review the implementation of Additional Protocols among CEFTA Parties liberalizing trade in agricultural products
- Deal with complaints by a Party concerning the possible discriminatory application by other Parties of measures contrary to the CEFTA Agreement
- Recommend steps and solutions to remedy the problems
- Bring the unresolved issues to the attention of the Joint Committee
- Propose initiatives in CEFTA to promote regional trade in agricultural products
- Promote development of regional supply chains in agriculture sector in CEFTA
- Act as focal point in CEFTA structures to coordinate technical assistance initiatives in CEFTA in relation to trade promotion in agricultural products.

Members of the Sub-committee will be senior civil servants from Ministries responsible for agriculture and/or from respective administrations responsible for these issues.

II. PRIORITIES OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP

Kosovo* as Chair of the Subcommittee is committed to work on the activities started in previous years by its predecessors and will introduce some new ones in order to secure the fulfilment of its objectives.

Main Priorities:

1. Trade Promotion

Priority 1: Ensure assistance in analyzing supply chains in CEFTA for the purpose of promoting trade.

2. Enhancing Transparency

Priority 2: Enhancing transparency of the existing database and through extending statistical data base in agricultural trade in CEFTA

III. ACTIVITIES

In line with its mandate, the CEFTA Secretariat provided necessary technical and administrative support to the Chair for the implementation of the Work Programme for 2016 and assisted the CEFTA Parties in the organisation of the regular meetings of the working bodies of the Subcommittee.

Action	Current state of play	Remarks	Risk
Activity 1: Follow-up the GIZ Project on Promotion of Trade in the Wine Sector	In progress	On GIZ project Report only Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia commented. The project team was invited to make a presentation on SC meeting on Agriculture and SPS, were data from Moldova were included in report and recommendations were based on 7 steps.	Medium
Activity 2: Analysing new supply chains in CEFTA to promote trade in agriculture	In progress	During SC meeting on Agriculture and SPS, held in Prishtina on 18th of October. All CEFTA Parties proposed the groups of products from fruits and vegetables as supply chain for analyzing market access through CEFTA Parties in order to provide CEFTA Parties with recommendations on policy tools and instruments to promote competitiveness and export performance of the CEFTA.	High
Activity 3: Updating SPS Database	In progress	Matrix with SPS agreements of CEFTA Parties which is submitted in their local languages is finalized and published on CEFTA website, and during the SC meeting on October, all Parties are agreed to update the SPS database until the end of November.	Low
Activity 4: The development of a statistical database for agricultural trade within CEFTA	In progress	The Secretariat presented during Subcommittee meeting on October the proposal of development of new statistical database for agricultural trade within CEFTA, the main objective of the database is to have the data collected on agricultural trade products among CEFTA. Questionnaire prepared for CEFTA Parties regarding the new statistical database is concluded.	Low

IV. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEETING/EVENT	DATES	PLACE	STATUS
Tenth meeting of the Subcommittee on Agriculture and SPS	18 October	Pristina	Done

* 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