

**Address by Mr. Sabrija Šerifović**  
**Assistant Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations**  
**of Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
**at the Second Meeting of the CEFTA 2006 Joint Committee**  
**(Chisinau, October 8, 2008)**

Mister Chair,  
Distinguished Ministers,  
Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and honour to address you today on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina. First of all, let me convey Minister Zirojevic's greetings and sincere apologies for not being in a position to attend this meeting in person.

Here we are today, holding a second meeting of the CEFTA Joint Committee, almost a year after the Agreement entered into force for all Parties. Even though the first meeting presented an important event as a starting point in the CEFTA Agreement's life, we hold this second, nearly a birthday meeting, to be even more important. We are today in a position to review its implementation and activities taken to that end.

Many of them have already been taken and many yet to take place. All of us hold great responsibility and remain under specific attention of public, in particular business community.

The year behind us had not been wasted. The necessary infrastructure is in place and first effects could be seen. The three sub-committees were established and the Secretariat started with its work. Under the Chairmanship of our hosts, the Government of the Republic of Moldova, ambitious action plans were created. Experts took their tasks very seriously and worked diligently throughout the year.

Could it have been better? Yes, but we all know there is no template recipe and sometimes we have to work and learn throughout the process.

Today, I would like to point out that now, we have to direct our full attention and put our efforts to core issues. Put in use and adequately dealt with, they can make the difference and lead us to accomplishment of objectives set already in the dawn of negotiations. Although baby steps taken, we have a long road ahead of us to go. This requires commitment of all, and I hereby invite you to do so.

Bosnia and Herzegovina actively participated in all activities by now, and intends to continue in the same manner. It is our strong belief that true results of our work and benefits offered by the Agreement itself will be recognized only once those, to whom they are intended to, can actually feel and utilize them.

Last but not least, let me thank our hosts for their warm welcome and excellent organisation. Chairing modernized and enlarged CEFTA turns out to be challenging and extremely demanding. Therefore, I would like to thank our Moldovan friends for efforts invested.

Thank you for your attention.