



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC
RELATIONS

CEFTA 2006
Deputy Ministers Meeting
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Address by Mr Hamdo Tinjak
Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations
of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Madam Chair,
Esteemed heads of delegations,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to attend this meeting and have an opportunity to greet you all on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina delegation. Following entry into force of the CEFTA Agreement a range of different meetings set pace in its implementation and provided excellent forum for regular reviews, exchange of information, discussions and adoption of necessary decisions.

Slowly, but according to well established dynamics, these meetings resulted with important decisions and mutual solutions in various fields covered by the Agreement. To that end, efforts brought to tangible and multiple effects primarily for the business community. The visibility and corporate image of the Agreement is greater each day showing that we are taking the right course.

All this should be recognised and praised but it does not leave space for break. On the contrary, it can present a strong motive and engine which would push us continue better and harder. Trade statistics show we share immense business interests in this region and from a very pragmatic point of view the interest for optimal, mutual and all-beneficial solutions should be at least at the same level.

What are the challenges for the implementation in 2011? Each phase of the Agreement's life was marked with specific challenges and consequently 2011 will surely bring its own. Whether of world, regional or individual nature, all of them affect implementation of the Agreement one way or another. The world economic and financial crisis or its consequences will remain one of the challenges this region will have to face in a mid-term period of time. On a regional level, we could also identify number of challenges. Finally, on individual level, each Party has its own priorities and specificities.

Nevertheless, if we want to pursue a common goal, all these have to be taken into account and further activities planned accordingly.

From Bosnia and Herzegovina perspective, there are a number of specific challenges we should pay attention to in 2011. Some of them are:

- Making sure that work of all structures established under the Agreement continues in an efficient and undisturbed manner;
- Continuing and strengthening efforts in eliminating unnecessary non-tariff barriers including systemic solutions throughout CEFTA. As future Chair-in-Office for Subcommittee on NTBs and TBTs, Bosnia and Herzegovina intends to pay specific attention to this area;
- Investigating ways and tools for further improvement of trade flows among CEFTA Parties and with third countries' markets.

I remain confident that we gained necessary maturity over the last four years to adequately face challenges ahead of us. We in Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue in giving active and constructive contribution throughout the process.

To conclude, let me thank our hosts for their hospitality and excellent organisation of the meeting.

Wishing successful work today I am greeting you once again.

Thank you.