

**BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
MINISTARSTVO VANJSKE
TRGOVINE I
EKONOMSKIH ODNOSA**



**БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
МИНИСТАРСТВО СПОЉНЕ
ТРГОВИНЕ И ЕКОНОМСКИХ
ОДНОСА**

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND
ECONOMIC RELATIONS**

CEFTA 2006
Deputy Ministers Meeting
Priština, 30 June 2011

**Address by Mr Dragan Milović
Assistant Minister for Economic Development and Entrepreneurship of the Ministry of
Foreign Trade and Economic Relations
of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Mister 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 the CEFTA's entry into force, its implementation has been progressed by a range of different meetings which have provided an excellent forum of regular reviews, exchange of information, discussion and where necessary decisions have been adopted.

Main challenges regarding the implementation of this Agreement in 2011 are still connected with the recent global economic and financial crisis which has negatively affected all CEFTA Parties at variable degrees. We also note that there are many possibilities to improve our mutual relationship and foster economic growth in the region.

From Bosnia and Herzegovina perspective, there are a number of specific challenges we should pay attention in the future. 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 their solutions structurally throughout CEFTA;
- Investigating ways and tools for increasing trade flows among CEFTA Parties and between the Parties and third countries' markets;

As Chair-in-Office of the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBTs in 2011, Bosnia and Herzegovina pays specific attention to the following:

- Increasing awareness of the CEFTA as a regional free trade agreement in the business community.
- the proper implementation of the Agreement
- the need for greater political support as a sine qua non.
- the reduction and elimination of NTBs remain one of the core activities on which BiH focuses its attention within the CEFTA, especially after the large share of the regional trade has been liberalized and the majority of tariffs abolished.

In that field, BiH again calls for more action and taking adequate approach to fight negative impacts of the newly introduced barriers. Since the greater part of those barriers is caused by the uneven pace of each Party's economic development and level of alignment with the EU, the systematic approach would definitely lead to better solutions. The CEFTA is not isolated, and therefore is part of the EU integration although the Parties' accession processes are of different pace. This has negative implications on the region - the most visible are unnecessary barriers!

- As one of the major results from the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT (held in Sarajevo on the 2nd and 3rd June 2011.) was the conclusion about the cooperation between the CEFTA parties on mutual recognition of conformity assessment bodies' testing and documents.

I remain confident that we reached a level of maturity over the last five years in order to adequately face with challenges ahead of us. Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue in giving its 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.