

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CEFTA Deputy Ministers Meeting 2 July 2015, Chisinau

The CEFTA Deputy Ministers meeting was held in Chisinau on 2 July 2015. The representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo* attended the meeting.

In his capacity of the Chair in Office, Mr. Octavian Calmac, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Economy of Moldova, opened the meeting. He gave a summary of the activities and meetings that took place in the period between 1 January – 2 July 2015 and which are not falling directly under the scope of CEFTA Subcommittees and Trade Facilitation Committee. In his speech, Mr Calmac particularly emphasised the conclusions of Special Joint Committee meeting held on 25 February in Brussels, the adoption of Decisions from the Joint Committee held on 21 November 2014 in Skopje, the full liberalisation of trade in agricultural goods, the start of the National Experts Programme and activities undertaken by the CEFTA Working Group on Investment Policy and Promotion.

Mr Calmac introduced two draft Ministerial decisions which are to be submitted to CEFTA Ministers at the CEFTA Joint Committee. The first draft was related to the terms of reference of CEFTA Article 44 Contact Points. Preparation of this draft was requested by Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Special Joint Committee Meeting held in Brussels on 25 February 2015. The Parties supported the proposal of Bosnia and Herzegovina to develop Terms of Reference for the Article 44 Contact Points as an institution, which has vital importance for the functioning of CEFTA Structures.

The second draft ministerial decision introduced by Mr. Calmac was about amending Decision 3/2013 regarding Annex 4 of the CEFTA, in order to allow full cumulation and drawback in the regional trade. The draft has been an initiative of CEFTA Parties on the basis of Joint Position which has been agreed to be presented in the Joint Committee of PEM Convention as the regional position of CEFTA. The draft was presented to the Subcommittee of Customs and Rules of Origin in its latest meeting.

Mr Octavian Calmac informed that in reference to the implementation of CEFTA National Experts Programme it commenced in the time frame as planned in the second quarter of 2015, after the relevant financial support has been secured from the EU. On 30 April 2015, the contract for financing of the so called “Action Support” which was signed with the EC comprises financing of the secondment programme. After completing selections of secondees by the CEFTA Parties chairing CEFTA Structures, Montenegro, Serbia and Moldova seconded their national experts to the CEFTA Secretariat in Brussels. The first secondee from Montenegro joined the Secretariat on 8 June, the secondee from Serbia came on 22 June while the two secondees from Moldova are expected to come on 6 July.

Ms. Svetlana Bozovic from Montenegro gave an insight of the major objectives and priorities of Montenegrin Chairmanship. The priorities are: (i) further liberalization of trade in services; (ii) trade facilitation; (iii) facilitation of free flow of investment through coordination of investment police and better protection of investment and investors;(iv) facilitation of free movement of experts, professionals and skilled, v) trade promotion, vii) sustaining synergy between implementation of CEFTA and the SEE 2020 and viii) capacity building in trade policy formulation, coordination, and implementation.

* 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