

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CEFTA Deputy Ministers' Meeting

30 June 2011, Pristina

The Deputy Ministers' meeting was held in Pristina with the participation of all CEFTA Parties except Montenegro and Moldova. The representatives of the World Bank have also attended the meeting upon their invitation by the Chair exclusively for the meeting.

The meeting was opened by the introduction of UNMIK representative and thereafter continued with the welcoming address of Mr. Cuneyd Ustaibo as the Chair of the meeting.

Regarding the implementation of CEFTA, the Chair invited chairs of each subcommittee to give a short summary of their meetings held.

As the chair of Subcommittee on Agriculture and SPS, Kosovo* informed about the current state of play regarding the ratification of the Additional Protocol and Annexe 10 of the CEFTA 2006. Accordingly, Albania and Croatia have ratified the Protocol and Annexe. In Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, and Serbia the ratification process was in progress. Albania along with Montenegro and Croatia would be able to start the application of the Protocol as of 1 July. Regarding the other issues discussed during the Subcommittee meeting, the Chair of Subcommittee on Agriculture and SPS referred to the report of the meeting submitted to the attention of the Deputy Ministers.

Bosnia and Herzegovina as the chair of Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT noted that an assessment report to be prepared in the framework of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework for Elimination of NTBs would be completed in late October. It was also stated that the regular Budapest Roundtable would be held in early November with an objective to agreeing on the assessment report that might thereafter be reported to the Joint Committee. Bosnia and Herzegovina stated that the Parties took a decision to improve the structure of the Matrix on Raised Issues and agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a proposal in this regard. Regarding the CEFTA Trade Portal, Bosnia and Herzegovina stated that the GIZ proposed to establish an ad-hoc Task Force to deal with the transition of the Portal to the Parties after 2012. It was underlined that a MoU was required to be signed by Parties who would agree to take over maintaining and updating the Trade Portal once it was transferred from the GIZ and the expected time of the transfer was mentioned as September 2012. Special emphasis has been given to an organized attempt to introduce mutual recognition schemes wherever applicable. Regarding the other issues discussed during the Subcommittee meeting, Bosnia and Herzegovina referred to the report of the meeting submitted to the attention of the Deputy Ministers.

During the meeting it was discussed also, for liberalisation on Trade in Services, proposal for a reporting format in the field of state aids, Government Procurement and Contingency Protection Rules, CEFTA Trade Portal, Priorities of The CEFTA Chair In Office for 2012, Joint Committee Meeting and CEFTA Week 2011.

* 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