

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
CEFTA Deputy Ministers Meeting
8 July 2014, Skopje

The CEFTA Deputy Ministers meeting was held on 8 July 2014 in Skopje. The representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo* attended the meeting.

In capacity of the Chair in Office, Ms. Biljana Dodevska, State Counsellor in the Ministry of Economy and Trade and Economic Relations opened the meeting. She welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of the successful implementation of CEFTA for the economic development in the Region. Success in liberalisation of trade and its further facilitation are main positive triggers for attracting foreign direct investments, intensifying bi-lateral and multilateral cooperation, and therefore fostering economic growth.

Ms. Biljana Dodevska reported on the activities of the Chairmanship which have been directly undertaken by the Chair in Office during the reporting period January – June 2014. She informed that two Special Joint Committee meetings were held by the Macedonian Chairmanship. The first Special Joint Committee meeting was held on 23 January 2014, and the second on 9 June 2014. Both meetings were dedicated to adoption of a Ministerial decision on the budget and staffing of the Secretariat for the year of 2015 and onwards where consensus needed could not be reached. In the Special Joint Committee meeting in June, the CEFTA Secretariat presented state of play regarding the negotiations with the EU on the financing of CEFTA in the period between 2015 and 2017.

In the framework of the Report by Chair in Office, the Chair in Office presented the main messages from the Report of the Joint Working Group on Investment which has been established in cooperation with RCC earlier this year.

The Chair in Office drew the attention to the three draft documents to be submitted to the Ministers -decision establishing working group on electronic exchange of information, the draft decision establishing Committee of Trade Facilitation and the draft strategy on CEFTA Authorised Economic Operator Programme.

Priorities of the CEFTA Chair-in-Office for 2015. The Chair in Office invited Moldova to present the Chairmanship priorities for 2015.

Ms. Inga Ionesii gave an insight into the major objectives and priorities of the Moldovan Chairmanship. The four priorities are: (i) Free Trade Area; (ii) Competitive Economic Environment; (iii) Integration into Global Economy; and (iv) sustaining synergy between implementation of CEFTA and the South East Strategy 2020.

Ms Inga Ionesii confirmed that Moldova will continue to maintain close contacts with all current partners who support the implementation of the CEFTA Agreement, including the OECD, EU, World Bank IFC, etc.

Parties expressed the full support for the future inclusion of Moldova and Kosovo* in the PEM Convention. Ms Vitez informed that according to the latest information by the EC Moldova is eligible for IPA funds in the framework of CEFTA implementation, as well as could benefit from TAIEX assistance which will add value to the successful Chairmanship of CEFTA for 2015.

* 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

