

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

PRIORITIES

**of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Chairmanship of CEFTA
1 January - 31 December 2013**

Priority 1: Further liberalisation of trade

1.1. Gradual liberalization of trade in services

The Chair in Office is willing to support the negotiating process on the liberalisation of trade in services as of January 2013. This effort will be made in the framework of Article 27 and 29 of the Agreement. The final objective is to have an Agreement/Additional Protocol on liberalisation of trade in services. During its Chairmanship, Bosnia and Herzegovina will dedicate its work on further upgrading of the regulatory database created together with the OECD. In addition, BiH will work on deepening cooperation among the regulatory bodies, governmental agencies and professional associations in the region. The special attention will be given to the upgrading of trade in services statistics.

1.2. Boosting regional trade of agricultural products

Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue with monitoring of the economic effects of achieved liberalisation of trade in agricultural products and urge the Parties to remove remained tariffs and quotas in order to reach fully liberalised agricultural market.

Priority 2: Facilitating the regional trade

2.1. Enhancing cooperation in SPS matters

Bosnia and Herzegovina will engage efforts to implement the recommendations of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of NTBs related to SPS measures, in order to reduce negative effects on the regional trade.

2.2. Promoting free trade without barriers

Recognizing the importance of trade without barriers, Bosnia and Herzegovina as Chair in Office together with the Chair of the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT is ready to work on eliminating NTBs. Full support will be given to the next cycle of assessment of identified NTBs and the implementation of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Eliminating the NTBs (MMF).

2.3. Reducing technical barriers to trade

Together with the Chair of the Working Group on TBT, Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to work on eliminating the identified technical barriers to trade. We will give special emphasis to the implementation of the Ministerial recommendation on recognition of test report of CABs as well as on concluding the agreements on conformity issues.

2.4. Developing regional non-risk profiles in customs

The Chair in Office will consider the possibilities of taking joint actions related to the customs risk management at the regional level and regard exchange of data necessary to effectively implement the CEFTA diagonal cumulation. In addition, data exchange through using the existing tools will allow the Parties to coordinate their risk assessment and develop, as far as possible, joint identification of risk or non-risk profiles in the future

2.5. Elimination of redundant or duplicate data submission requirements

In consistency with the above, the Chair in Office considers that the Parties would have a list of redundant and duplicate data submission requirement once the non-risk profiles are determined at the regional level. In that context, the Parties will be encouraged to eliminate those data requirement for the sake of further facilitation and simplification.

2.6. Encouraging simplification of customs procedures

Bosnia and Herzegovina underlines the necessity to develop joint actions in the areas where the regional actions and projects are fully justified on the grounds of trade facilitation and simplification customs procedures, and where those actions and projects are economically feasible.

Priority 3: Increasing transparency,

3.1. Increasing the level of transparency in SPS measures

Bosnia and Herzegovina expects that the CEFTA SPS Database will become fully operational next year. Based on the principals of transparency and comprehensiveness, the database will provide with information on regulations in three relevant fields (sanitary, phytosanitary and

veterinary) in the CEFTA region. We believe that easily accessible database will significantly contribute to the reduction of SPS related non-tariff barriers.

3.2. Increasing transparency in TBT

In order to improve transparency of technical barriers to trade, the new format of notification of national standards was developed during last year. Under our Chairmanship it will be implemented. In addition, a TBT platform, which will include the online notification of TBT and other relevant information on quality infrastructure, will be developed in cooperation with IPA Quality Infrastructure Project.

3.3. Keeping CEFTA Trade Portal fully functioning

Bosnia and Herzegovina will invest efforts in ensuring full functioning of the CEFTA Trade Portal in its first year of a region-owned operation.

3.4. Enhancing transparency of state aid schemes

Bosnia and Herzegovina will be the second chairmanship following the adoption of the Ministerial Decision on State Aid Reporting Scheme. This would be used as an occasion to organize an event where some highlights of the CEFTA State Aid Report are displayed. In this event the relevant authorities in each Party can also meet to discuss further cooperation.

3.5. Strengthening the involvement of private sector

Bosnia Herzegovina will enhance further involvement of private sector in the activities of CEFTA Subcommittees.

Priority 4: Strengthening the capacity of trade policy,

4.1. Monitoring implementation of the Trade Policy Capacity Development Project

The Chair in Office aims to monitor closely the implementation of Trade Policy Capacity Development Project once it is contracted. It is fully aware of the fact that strengthened capacity in trade policy formulation, coordination, and implementation is one of the key factors for the implementation of economic policies targeting growth.

Priority 5: Active participation of CEFTA Structures in regional economic development agenda

The Chair in Office considers that a stronger emphasis should be put on the relation between the implementation of CEFTA and strategic prospective of the economic growth in the Region. Thus, it is considered necessary to conceptualise how the CEFTA Structures would take part in programming and implementing regional action to be foreseen in the future with regard to the upcoming Strategy for the Western Balkans.

5.1. Improving intra-CEFTA coordination

It is therefore required to improve coordination between CEFTA Subcommittees, as they might be required to prioritize some of their activities towards a number of economic growth related targets in the future.

As a sub-objective of this priority it is also aimed - further strengthening links between the Chairmanship work programme and the work programmes of CEFTA Subcommittees.

5.2. Generating synergies from CEFTA related actions

Bosnia and Herzegovina considers an utmost necessity to map the existing and expected outputs of all CEFTA related actions with a view to generating synergies through displaying possible interactions that might be established with each other. Mapping those interactions and determining synergies would also help the CEFTA Structures to define how to maximise the benefit expected from CEFTA related actions.