

**Address by H.E. Željko Kuprešak,
Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the Republic of Serbia
on the occasion of Joint Committee Meeting of the CEFTA 2006 Agreement**

12 November 2010, Belgrade

Dear Deputy Prime Minister, Dear Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honor to greet you on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

At the beginning, allow me to congratulate Serbia on the implementation of the very ambitious programme.

Over the last three years the word „**ambitious**“ has been widely used to describe the nature of the new CEFTA Agreement.

Serbia, as the chair implementing this programme, provided a necessary step forward.

That's why today we can say that the Agreement is really implemented.

I was involved in CEFTA practically from point zero, I witnessed every phase of its evolution, so let me express satisfaction with the fact that we are not talking any more only about trade in commodities.

We started to deal with a number of more complex issues on many levels.

These issues are crucial for enabling and securing sustainable growth of the CEFTA area.

Sustainable growth means: make possible CEFTA investment area, as a region, we have higher/stronger chances to launch the new investment cycle.

Chances to attract export oriented investments, investments that bring new technologies and enable development of industries which produce commodities with higher added value.

Allow me to express myself in technical language and quote one of the basic laws of physics: 1st law of thermodynamics. That law says that perpetuum mobile is not possible.

Now I will translate it to the language of the economy: **healthy industry is *conditio sine qua non* for sustainable growth.**

Furthermore, we are aware of the fact that the Parties of the Agreement will need more time to synchronise in some other areas such as: public procurement, trade in services, harmonisation of technical regulation, elimination of trade barriers of different origin and so on.

But, I'm convinced that we have strength to make it possible.

Allow me to express our gratitude to Ms Renata Vitez and her colleagues from the Secretariat for their contribution in the successful implementation of the Agreement.

Last but not least, let me express the satisfaction with the fact that we will finally benefit from further liberalisation of agricultural trade.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for your attention.