

## Executive Summary

### Seventh Meeting of the CEFTA Subcommittee on Non-tariff Barriers to Trade and Technical Barriers to Trade

21 May, 2013 Skopje, Macedonia

The seventh meeting of the Subcommittee on Non-tariff Barriers to Trade and Technical Barriers to Trade was held in Skopje, on 21 May 2013. The participants to the meeting were representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo\*, while the invited guests included Ms. Katarina Djermanovic-Largenton from the OECD, Ms. Zorica Kucic, an independent expert, Ms. Ljubica Nuri and Mr. Vlatko Stojanovski from Macedonian Chamber of Commerce.

In his capacity of the Chair, Mr. Anche Trifunov, State Secretary in the Ministry of Economy welcomed the participants and praised the intensive work conducted within the scope of this Subcommittee. He expressed his hopes that the results of the undertaken actions in this Subcommittee will contribute to the conceptualization and programming of priorities and objectives of the approaching Macedonian Chairmanship of CEFTA next year. Mr. Trifunov extended his gratitude to the OECD, IPA Quality Infrastructure Project, IFC Trade Logistic Project, CEFTA SPS Database Project and the GiZ Market Surveillance project for supporting the implementation of the Subcommittee Work Programme. In addition, he invited members to take active part in the discussion on the Strategy SEE 2020, especially two dimensions of interest to this Subcommittee namely, trade liberalization and trade facilitation.

#### **Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of NTBs:**

- *Recommendations on elimination on NTBs*
- *Assessment on administrative barriers to trade, presented by the OECD*

The *Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of NTBs* has been developed in cooperation with the OECD. The objective of this Framework is to provide the Parties with the mechanisms that would alert on new NTBs before they happen and to work on creating the environment without barriers. It is expected that the recommendations would be endorsed by this Subcommittee and submitted to the Joint Committee for adoption.

So two cycles of assessments have been conducted: one on intermediary goods, the other on selected final products in three identified types of NTBs: SPS, TBT and administrative barriers. The assessment of SPS and TBT has been completed, the preliminary results were presented

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\* 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

before the members of the Subcommittee on Agriculture and SPS on 18 April in Sarajevo, and recently to the members of the Working Group on TBT on 13 May. The assessment on administrative barriers is underway.

### **Report of the Working group on Technical Barriers to Trade**

Ms. Nona S.Sokolovska on behalf of the Chair of the WG on TBT presented the activities of the Working Group on TBT by reporting on two meetings held on 1 February in Brussels and 13 May in Belgrade.

In continuation, Ms. Zorica Smileva from Macedonia reported on the launching of the so-called Market Surveillance Networking Project which runs under the auspices of the GiZ Regional Open Fund. The concept paper and the paper on activities is attached to the Minutes.

### **Transparency: Notification of TBT**

The Chair reminded Parties on their obligation to notify regularly the technical regulations, conformity assessment and national standards in accordance with the Article 13.3 (b) of the Agreement. This information will be reported to the Joint Committee and will serve as official document. The format of the notification was designed to be compliant with the format in use in WTO so to facilitate the task of the Parties when notifying to both institutions.

### **Transparency II: CEFTA Trade Portal**

The Chair invited Parties to report on any potential problems in uploading data on the CEFTA Trade Portal. He also mentioned a possibility that the GiZ could support a small task force for managing the Portal, but since the previous project leader left and the new is under the selection, there is still no official information whether this is possible.

### **Strategy SEE 2020 -First Draft Program Document on Integrated Growth**

Ms. Vitez presented the objectives and goals of the first draft of the strategic document on Integrated Growth Pillar I. She explained that the draft version is under consultation within all CEFTA Structures and will be adopted at the Deputy Ministers meeting in Sarajevo. In addition, she presented the document recently in Pristina, Tirana and Montenegro while in Serbia it is scheduled in two weeks time.

She further explained the role of RCC IC in drafting the SEE 2020 Strategy for all five pillars and division of work in the area of investment. Namely the working group on investment will be established under the CEFTA framework to support the implementation of the investment part in the Strategy.

Presentation of the Strategy is attached to the Minutes.

### **Cooperation with the private sector on elimination of NTBs**

The Chair invited representatives from the Economic Chamber of Commerce of Macedonia to present their activities within the CEFTA forum and opened floor for discussion on potentials for cooperation.