

Executive Summary

1st meeting of the CEFTA Subcommittee on Non-Tariff Measures

March 3rd, 2016, Brussels

The first meeting of the Subcommittee on Non-Tariff Measures was held in Brussels, on 3rd March 2016. The participants to the meeting were representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo*.

In her capacity of the Subcommittee Chair, Ms. Danijela Gacevic, Advisor in Ministry of Economy of Montenegro, welcomed the participants to the first meeting of this Subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Montenegro. She highlighted the importance of regional cooperation for the elimination of NTMs and emphasised that this meeting would be a good opportunity to evaluate and to plan future activities. She praised the fruitful cooperation with the CEFTA Secretariat in preparation of this Subcommittee meeting.

The Chair gave to the Subcommittee a quick overview of the draft agenda, and highlighted main points. She proposed the changes in earlier circulated Agenda accordingly with the request received from colleagues from Kosovo* regarding measures applied by Serbia and proposed to introduce the point of the agenda Any Other Business where these issues could be discussed. Representative from Serbia added that under this item Serbia will submit the information on barriers in trade with Kosovo* and Macedonia.

Agenda Item 1: Presentation of Work Programme of Montenegrin Chairmanship

The Chair presented the work programme of Montenegrin Chairmanship of CEFTA Subcommittee on Non-Tariff Measures. She emphasised that mandate of the CEFTA Subcommittee on Non-tariff Measures was determined by the CEFTA Ministerial Decision 1/2015.

In her presentation, the Chair stated the following as the objectives of the Chairmanship:

- I. To enhance transparency in order to identify NTMs substantially affecting the regional trade and to eliminate NTBs distorting trade between CEFTA Parties
- II. To increase the efficiency of dispute settlement mechanism of CEFTA
- III. To contribute the negotiation process on Additional Protocol 5 on trade facilitation through its working groups.

Agenda Item 2: Establishing a List of Non-Tariff Measures which Subcommittee on NTMs will deal with in 2016

All Parties agreed **to**:

 ***Update the status of cases in MADB within 2 weeks;***

* 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

- ✚ ***Submit the trade data by tariff lines for the products stated in the presentation within 2 weeks***
- ✚ ***Decide which trade data shall be used in the CEFTA MIS i.e. either statistical only or both statistical and customs data extracted from SEED.***

Agenda Item 3: Involvement of UNCTAD in the functioning of the MADB

The Chair invited Ms Lapcevic, representative of CEFTA Secretariat to present the Synopsis prepared for the future advisory involvement of UNCTAD in the functioning of MADB.

Representatives from Serbia stated that it might be more useful to sign the contract with the UNCTAD for one year and then if the CEFTA Parties are satisfied with the results it can be extended.

The representative of CEFTA Secretariat pointed that Parties previously agreed in principle about the involvement of UNCTAD in the MADB, but the contracting with UNCTAD will not be launched until the a decision on the scope shall be met by the Parties.