

Executive Summary

2nd meeting of the CEFTA Subcommittee on Non-Tariff Measures

November 10th , 2016, Podgorica

The second meeting of the Subcommittee on Non-Tariff Measures was held in Podgorica, on 10th November 2016. The participants to the meeting were representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo².

In her capacity of the Subcommittee Chair, Ms. Danijela Gacevic, Advisor in Ministry of Economy of Montenegro, welcomed the participants to the second meeting of this Subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Montenegro. 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 as an update on NTMs database, Market Access Databases cases, feedback from CEFTA Parties regarding recommendations prepared in the framework of the project "Addressing Market Access Barriers in Selected Supply Chains in CEFTA" (UNCTAD Report), and exploratory talks on implementation provisions of AP5 regarding the Mutual Recognition of conformity assessment in TBT and SPS.

Agenda Item 1: Recommendations for the Elimination of NTMs which are identified as NTBs need to be submitted to the Committee of Trade Facilitation for Monitoring, update on NTMs database, Market Access Databases cases

Chair stated that the MADB currently comprised 139 cases where 43 are not solved and she invited the delegates to discuss about presented MADB cases. Representatives of presented CEFTA Parties gave their feedback on the cases where they are solved. Feedbacks from Parties showed that more than one third of cases already solved but MADB is not updated. The representative from Bosnia and Herzegovina pointed out that their responsible official in most of these cases was notified to the reporting Party that Bosnia and Herzegovina as solved.

The representative of CEFTA Secretariat, Ms Liudmila Nistor Mihailova explained that technical steps need to be done to update any bilateral case from pending to sold includes not only notification done by one Party but also receiving Party need to confirm their acceptance of that notification. For this reason CEFTA Parties agreed to confirm/update names/contacts of their officials responsible to access to date base of cases.

All presented Parties agreed **to**:

- ***Update the status of cases in MADB within 2 weeks, after receiving Agreed Minutes ;***
- ***Confirm/update the names/contacts of their officials responsible for MADB;***
- ***Serbia and Montenegro to notify new cases in MADB***

Agenda Item 2: Recommendations prepared in the framework of the project "Addressing Market Access Barriers in Selected Supply Chains in CEFTA" (UNCTAD Report), which are to be submitted to the Committee of Trade Facilitation for monitoring, state of play.

The Chair invited Ms Milosevic, representative of CEFTA Secretariat to present List of Recommendations prepared in the framework of the project "Addressing Market Access Barriers in Selected Supply Chains in CEFTA" (UNCTAD Report). Ms Milosevic pointed out that Subcommittee on NTMs has taken the list of recommendations identified by this Project and which are validated by all CEFTA Parties. Even the List was sent three weeks ago CEFTA Secretariat doesn't received any feedback from Parties. On the expressed Bosnian representatives reservation on nature of recommendations she explained that recommendations were validated by all CEFTA Parties in a way that they became obligatory for authorities in charge. Because of her involvement in the Project the Chair used the opportunity reminded CEFTA Parties that List compiles the recommendations of the national reports and provides a regional framework to address market access barriers from the non-tariff measures (NTM) and trade facilitation (TF) point of view in the CEFTA region.

All Parties agreed to:

- ***CEFTA Secretariat to request GIZ to send a final version of UNCTAD Report***
- ***CEFTA Secretariat prepare a revised table of recommendations specifying them as national or regional;***
- ***CEFTA Parties to send their feedbacks within 2 weeks after receiving Agreed Minutes***

Agenda Item 3: Exploratory talks on implementation provisions of AP5 regarding the Mutual Recognition of conformity assessment in TBT and SPS

On this Agenda Item it was pointed out on successfully negotiations on Additional Protocol 5. As known, the final drafts of this Protocol and its three Annexes, which have been legally proofread, are in the phase of CEFTA Parties internal procedures in order to have the AP 5 and Annexes adopted during the Joint Committee meeting in December.