

Executive Summary

Tenth meeting of the Working Group on TBT

Brussels, 3 June 2014

The tenth meeting of the CEFTA Working Group on TBT was held in Brussels on 3 June 2014 under the Chairmanship of Montenegro. Representatives of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo* participated. The guests to the meeting included Mr. David Norris from the IPA Quality Infrastructure Project.

The Chair, Mr. Dragan Vukcevic, Senior Advisor from Ministry of Economy of Montenegro welcomed the participants and introduced items on the agenda. He reported to the members on the ninth meeting of the SC on NTBs and TBT held in Podgorica on 27 May 2014.

The Chair explained to the members the rationale behind the proposed priorities. Namely, the enhanced cooperation amongst the standardisation bodies would revolve around the common important issues such as translation of standards, Eurocodes, etc. while in the area of accreditation, the focus might be placed on creating the common register of assessors in the region. Regarding the initiative to establish the CEFTA Lab modelled on a EUROLAB, a majority of parties already responded positively, at the meeting of the lab associations in Opatija in November 2013.

Agreements amongst CEFTA Parties on Conformity Assessment Issues and on Easing Access of Industrial Products to the markets of other CEFTA Parties

Concerning the technical support of drafting the text of the Agreement on Conformity Assessment Issues, the Secretariat proposed to organize in cooperation with TAIEX the workshop on principles and practice of mutual recognition agreements.

Notifications

The Secretariat reported on received notifications from CEFTA parties. Macedonia submitted five notifications related to national standards, while Serbia notified 90 also related to national standards. No new notifications on technical regulation and conformity assessment procedures were submitted as of beginning of 2014.

Transparency in TBT

The Secretariat informed the members on the status of establishment of the TBT Platform.

* 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

The required information was collected from the Parties and classified by the expert outsourced by the IPA QI project. The Parties were asked to verify the data before publishing it on the website. The whole process was performed within set deadlines.

The Secretariat presented to the members the outlook of the TBT Platform prepared by the IT Company. Once the verification process by the Parties is finished, the whole package of data will be handed over to the IT Company. The TBT Platform can be accessed via the CEFTA Secretariat website.

The TBT Platform is divided in two components: notifications and quality infrastructure part. The Secretariat invited Parties to nominate one person who will be responsible for the notifications on technical regulation, conformity assessment procedures and national standards according to the previously agreed formats. The Parties will be able to submit their notifications by uploading the data directly on the TBT Platform once the TBT Platform becomes operational (envisaged in autumn 2014).

By mid September, the Secretariat in cooperation with the IT Company will organize a tailor made workshop in order to teach the responsible persons how to submit the notifications online. The deadline for nominating the responsible persons is 5 September 2014.