

Executive Summary

3rd CEFTA Working Group on Customs Risk Management

June 11, 2014, Belgrade

The CEFTA Working Group on Customs Risk Management meeting was held in Belgrade on 11 June 2014. The delegates from Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia along with the representatives of Moldovan Chairmanship were present during the meeting. The Chair of Subcommittee on Customs and Rules of Origin invited representatives from the IFC Trade Logistics Project who have exclusively attended the meeting, and also made a presentation during the discussion related to 2nd Questionnaire of Risk Management.

The Chair informed the Working Group about the joint workshop with the IFC regarding their work in documentary mapping to take place outside the margins of the Working Group meeting. The Chair confirmed that such report of the IFC was important for the future efforts of CEFTA for trade facilitation.

Agenda 1: Presentation of Questionnaire on Customs Risk Management

The Chair stated that a new questionnaire was circulated in March. This questionnaire is the second questionnaire which was prepared to facilitate exchange of information on the current state of play with regard to the implementation of customs risk management.

The Parties may consider signing national, bilateral, and regional memorandum of understandings on exchange of information as the easiest texts to conclude or may sign agreements at each level which may have stronger provisions. The framework of existing International Agreements under the World Customs Organization, and World Trade Organization, and the EU practice may also be benefited.

The CEFTA Parties which were present during the meeting agreed that a letter including questions should be sent by the Chair and also inform the Parties that a tentative agreement to go for a framework cooperation agreement was reached. In the same letter, it can tentatively be announced that a working group meeting with the participation of management level and legal services of Customs Authorities. The deadline of having the answers to those questions can be set as June 30, 2014.

Agenda Item 2: Presentation of CEFTA Trade Facilitation Concept and New CEFTA Structures and Discussion on the Format of Mutual Recognition Agreement between Customs Administrations in CEFTA

The Chair informed that all trade related efforts in CEFTA have been targeting facilitating the legitimate trade while keeping the deterrent customs controls and inspections. The Chair said that risk is therefore the key to trade facilitation. Without having proper information exchange tools and their seamless functioning, efforts on risk management may not reach its targets. The Chair stated that it is the same approach the Moldovan Chairmanship took in the actions related to CEFTA AEO Programme. The Chair confirmed that the Region would be ready soon to establish a Mutual Recognition AEO Programme on the basis of EU acquis soon.

The Chair thanked all the delegates of CEFTA Parties participated in the Working Group and informed that a letter is to be addressed to all Customs Authorities in CEFTA related to risk management. Furthermore, a TAIEX workshop on risk management which had to be postponed would be organised in Chisinau to give a start the discussions on framework administrative cooperation agreement. In that meeting, representatives from risk, IT and legal services of Customs Authorities would be invited.