

Executive Summary

Ninth Meeting of the CEFTA Working Group on Trade in Services
1st Meeting of the Negotiating Group
9 July 2014, Skopje

The ninth meeting of the Working Group on Trade in Services and the first meeting of the Negotiating group was held on 9 July 2014 in Skopje. Representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo* attended the meeting. The guest to the meeting was Mr. Ramesh Chaitoo, a consultant who has been recruited to provide technical assistance to the Secretariat and to the Working Group.

Ms. Rakovic from the Secretariat presented the proposal for reporting on intra-regional trends in trade in services. The objective is to support the process of negotiation on liberalization of services as well as to complement the statistics for trade in goods that are already reported to the Secretariat. She gave a short overview of the draft templates developed in cooperation with the UNCTAD and the WTO.

Mr. Chaitoo proposed to revise the draft Additional Protocol on Services to become a complete and coherent text by including the language from the GATS in all the articles that reference the GATS, and to include detailed provisions on the movement of natural persons since the current draft (Article 10) only referred to the GATS Annex on the Movement of Natural Persons which in turn, simply reiterates the right of governments to control immigration and labour movement. Most modern trade agreements have specific provisions on the movement of natural persons which specify the different eligible categories for temporary access to each parties jurisdiction. Also, given the critical role of Mode 4 in the supply of some services, it is important to have consistent, transparent and comparable rules regarding temporary entry of natural persons in each CEFTA Party.

Parties opted to include definitions in the format of an Annex to the Protocol.

In summary, the meeting agreed as follows:

The Additional Protocol on Trade in Services is to be amended by the Consultant in compliance with results of discussion at the meeting.

The Secretariat also announced that would submit an application to TAIEX to organize a Workshop on Services Directive, as requested by the Chair of the Working Group. If possible, the Workshop could be held back to back with the next meeting of the Negotiating Group in October 2014.

* 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