

Sixth Meeting of the CEFTA Working Group on TBT Brussels, 1 February 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The sixth meeting of the CEFTA Working Group was held in Brussels on 1 February 2013 under the Chairmanship of Macedonia.

The meeting focused on drafting the text of the *Agreement amongst CEFTA Parties on Conformity Assessment Issues and on Easing Access of Industrial Products to the markets of other CEFTA Parties*”, endorsement of the Work Programme of the SC on NTBs and TBT and the report on the harmonisation of technical legislation with relevant EU legislation and notifications.

MAIN POINTS OF THE SIXTH MEETING

The Parties worked intensively on drafting the text of the *“Agreement amongst CEFTA Parties on Conformity Assessment Issues and on Easing Access of Industrial Products to the markets of other CEFTA Parties”*. A couple of items remain to be further elaborated and agreed.

The Chair presented the Work Programme of the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT to the members and asked for their comments before the SC meeting in Budapest scheduled for 7 February 2013.

The Parties reported on the progress on transposition of the legislation as well as on the adoption of EU harmonised standards related to the selected products.

Related to the activity on bilateral Agreements among National Accreditation Bodies, it was agreed that Mr. Norris from the IPA Quality Infrastructure Project would circulate a list of existing bilateral agreements amongst Parties drawing from his previous work under the framework of the OECD assessments, and provide the so-called checklist on key elements needed for a potential mutual agreement. The deadline is 1 March 2013.

The CEFTA Secretariat presented the outline of the new transparency instrument called TBT Platform to be developed towards the end of 2013. The Platform will consist of two components: (i) one that would allow for online notification of technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and national standards according to the adopted formats; (ii) the other that would relate to all relevant information on quality infrastructure in the region (technical regulations, accreditation, metrology, conformity assessment, market surveillance). It was agreed that the component which deals with quality infrastructure would be developed in collaboration with the IPA Quality Infrastructure Project.

The CEFTA Secretariat presented the SEE 2020 Strategy including its objectives and the role of CEFTA Structures in the programming and implementing phase. Members of the Working Group were invited to take an active part in the process.