

Executive Summary
2nd meeting- CEFTA Committee of Contact Points
22 June, 2016
Herceg Novi-Igalo, Montenegro

The second meeting of the CEFTA Committee of Contact Points (CCP) was held in Herceg Novi, on 22nd June 2016. The participants to the meeting were representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo*.

Ms Milica Šćepović, Head of Department for Regional Cooperation, Regional Initiatives and European Integration in the Ministry of Economy of Montenegro in her capacity as Chair of the Committee welcomed the participants. She highlighted the importance of the Committee and emphasized that this meeting will be a good opportunity to plan the relevant programming in 2016, and to monitor the progress made in the implementation of CEFTA relevant decisions and Ministerial Conclusions. She emphasized this year focused on giving substantial support to progress in the negotiations on trade facilitation and liberalisation of trade in services and praised the results succeeded in both areas. She thanked all CEFTA Parties for their support to the Chairmanship of Montenegro and particularly the Chairs of CEFTA Subcommittees in their efforts to help undertaking further steps in the proper implementation of the Agreement.

Implementation of CEFTA

The Chair in Office invited the Chairs of the respective CEFTA structures to highlight their activities and issues.

The Parties agreed that the CEFTA Secretariat provides the agreed minutes from RCC-CEFTA Joint Working Group on Investment Policy and Promotion and the project fiche related to the regional programme on investments to be executed with technical assistance of the World Bank and financial support of the European Commission.

All Parties agreed for further documents to use the term “temporary” for free movement of skilled labour and professionals as footnotes in future Terms of References related to services.

Parties agreed on the reports to be endorsed by the Deputy Ministers updated by new activities. All Reports are attached to the Agreed Minutes.

Preparation of CEFTA Joint Committee

The Chair introduced the draft ministerial decision about the procurement and programming in CEFTA which has as the legal ground relevant Articles of CEFTA as well as is recalling the CEFTA Joint Committee Conclusions from 2014 and 2015 on financial assistance provide to CEFTA Structures both in operational and activity based supports and the need to strengthened the monitoring capacity of CEFTA structures of the implementation of the Agreement and the procurement rules of CEFTA Secretariat should be fully in line with the procurement rules of the European Commission. The Chair appreciated the active involvement of CEFTA Parties in discussing constructively the draft decision and thanked the Secretariat for the compilation of the comments submitted by the meeting.

The Parties finalised the majority of the text of the decision and agreed to provide further comments by 15 July.

* 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

All Parties agreed to have a zero draft programming document to be presented in the Joint Committee based on the draft priorities of the upcoming chairmanship reflecting the areas and the tentative allocation of funds to the priority areas.

Parties discussed the organisation of the workshop on dispute settlements in September 2016.

CEFTA Programming - update and issues

The CEFTA Secretariat brought two issues to the attention of the Contact Points namely the creation of an online Roster where the experts can register themselves automatically and the preparation of the CEFTA Barometer thus contracting the GfK.

CEFTA Secretariat

The Chair invited Mr Umut Ergezer to present the short and medium term challenges in front of CEFTA structures and in particular what could be the possible implications of the WB 6 Summit in France on CEFTA Secretariat. Parties discussed on challenges proposed and the financial sustainability which is conditional by EC.

Presentation of CEFTA contributions to the Western Balkans Summit in France of 04 July 2016

All Parties agreed with a text to be proposed as CEFTA contribution to the Western Balkan Summit in France on 4 July.