

Seventh Meeting of the CEFTA Working Group on TBT Belgrade, 13 May 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The seventh meeting of the CEFTA Working Group was held in Belgrade on 13 May 2013 under the Chairmanship of Macedonia.

The purpose of the meeting was drafting of 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*, analysis of the bilateral agreements amongst national accreditation bodies, elimination of technical barriers to trade and improvement of transparency tools.

MAIN POINTS OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

The representative from the *IPA QI Project* reported on the survey conducted on the existing bilateral agreements concluded amongst NABs in the region and elaborated on the potential for concluding a multi party agreement. The overall results of the survey show that the majority of agreements signed are of a general nature and refer to cooperation rather than recognition of accreditation. The format of the agreement is similar and many of them make a specific reference to CEFTA. In conclusion, the Parties agreed that it would be difficult to see an all encompassing agreement, but there was space for an agreement on cooperation with wider scope with certain areas of interest to all.

The Parties continued to work on 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*. It was agreed that the list of notification authorities who do the designation should be also included in the agreement. Other information such as regulations, notification authorities, marks and types of documents should be part of the Agreement.

The representatives from the OECD presented the results of the second cycle of assessment on the six preselected products. This was followed by the recommendations and the trade scenarios for future regional action in. The Chair invited Parties to send their comments at the latest by 17 May. The recommendations will be presented at the Subcommittee meeting on NTBs and TBT, which will be held in Skopje on 21 May.

The Secretariat presented the first draft of the text of the SEE Strategy 2020 Pillar 1 on Integrated Growth especially highlighting the actions envisaged in the area of TBT. The deadline for comments and suggestions on potential regional cooperation is 1 June. After that the draft text of the Strategy will be endorsed by the CEFTA and the RCC Deputy Ministers meeting on 18 June.

In the area of improvement of transparency the members were reminded to notify regularly the national standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures according to the adopted formats. The Secretariat informed participants that the creation of the TBT Platform is

underway and that online notifications will be a part of it. This will certainly ease the notification process by the Parties.
