

Executive Summary

Eighth Meeting of the CEFTA Working Group on Trade in Services 17 June 2013, Sarajevo

The eight meeting of the Working Group on Trade in Services was held on 17 June 2013 in Sarajevo. Representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo* attended the meeting.

The Chair, Ms. Zada Muminovic welcomed all the participants and stressed the importance of this meeting for the future work of the Working Group. Following the priorities of the Work Programme for 2013, the objective of the BIH chairing is to have the text of the Additional Protocol endorsed at the Joint Committee in November, as well as to start the first round of negotiations in liberalization before the end of this year.

The Parties continued their work on drafting the text of the Additional Protocol on Trade in Services.

The Chair informed that all Parties submitted the composition of their negotiating team, with exception of Croatia, which will not participate in the negotiations due to their accession to the EU as of 1 July 2013.

The Parties agreed that the Secretariat would be present at the meetings of the Negotiating Group providing the administrative and technical support where needed.

The Chair recommended that the Negotiating group should take as a basic document the harmonised minimum levels of specific commitments and continue with the same approach in next steps of negotiation.

The Chair informed that the TAIEX Workshop on Trade in Services was planned to be organised in October in Sarajevo. The Secretariat distributed the provisional agenda before the meeting with the objective to inform on key items and discuss on potential new themes to be addressed. The experts to the workshop would include the WTO representatives who already confirmed their participation.

* 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