

## ***Challenges of the CEFTA Structures in the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy***

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to be with you today and great honour to greet you on the behalf of the Government of Montenegro.

First of all, allow me to apologize for the absence of the Minister of Economy Mr. Vladimir Kavarić. On his behalf, I apologize that, due to previous arrangements, he was not able to attend the JC Meeting.

I would like to express my satisfaction that we have met today to discuss such important topic that SEE 2020 Strategy represents for our Region.

Stemming from the Europe 2020 Strategy, SEE Strategy creates a solid base for the recovery of our economies and their approaching to the European standards in most important fields. It represents an important challenge on our way towards European Union and the definition of the development path for South Eastern Europe. It aims to achieve high and sustainable economic growth as well as to increase prosperity and job creation through the strengthening of regional cooperation and relationship with the European Union. The Strategy is clearly focused on improving the competitiveness of South East Europe.

As we stated many times before, it is necessary that exists a political commitment of all countries in the Region for formalizing joint cooperation in the fields specified in the Strategy.

Introducing CEFTA Structures as a programming and implementation body of the pillar ***Integrated Growth*** is of high importance for the SEE 2020 Strategy. Through the CEFTA 2006 implementation, CEFTA Structures are more than familiar with the

advantages and weaknesses of the regional economies. Members of the CEFTA working bodies are representatives of our governments who are directly involved in creating targets for development of the national economies as well as drafting of the national legislation. Therefore, they are right persons to be involved in creation of the instruments for reaching SEE 2020 Strategy targets, especially taking into account pillar ***Integrated Growth***.

Creating a regional free trade area has been our goal for the previous six years. Introducing SEE 2020 Strategy will only accelerate this process through involving all respectable institutions in its realization. Liberalization of trade in services among the CEFTA Parties will be the core target of our activities in the years to come.

One of the most important conditions for country's prosperity is competitive economic environment. We could say that this aspect of our economies that needs most improvement through strengthening of competition rules, protection of trademarks and creation of a fully liberalised public procurement market.

Since our economies are too small for single appearance on the EU market it is more than necessary to participate in global supply network through creating a strategy for common international trade policy as well as for attracting foreign investors as Region.

By concluding, I would like to thank Bosnia and Herzegovina for having done a great job through being Chair in Office for 2013 and wish the Republic of Macedonia a successful chairmanship for the next year.

At the end, let me wish all of us a very productive dialogue and a successful work.

Thank you for your kind attention.