

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

6th Meeting of CEFTA Subcommittee on Customs and Rules of Origin

6 June 2013, Skopje

The Subcommittee on Customs and Rules of Origin meeting was held in Skopje with the participation of all CEFTA Parties except Croatia. Two representatives of DG TAXUD of the European Commission attended the meeting as observer.

The meeting was opened by Mr Vanco Kargov, Director of the Macedonian Customs Administration, he briefly mentioned about the three main priorities of the Macedonian Chairmanship Work Programme which include the issues related to alignment with the EU, WTO, and WCO, and facilitating the regional trade through promoting risk management, and simplification of customs procedures, and strengthening capacity particularly on the implementation of diagonal cumulation

First point of agenda was Draft CEFTA Joint Committee Decision on Modification of the CEFTA Annexe 4 to establish a link to the implementation of the Pan-Euro Mediterranean Convention. The Chair invited Mr Gjorgi Iliev from the Macedonian Customs Administration to present the main highlights of the draft decision.

In his presentation, Mr Iliev explained each article of the main text of the draft decision and its annexe. Accordingly, it was stated that Article 5 of the annexe foresaw a transitional period for the CEFTA Parties who have not signed and ratified the Convention. The existing origin protocols of CEFTA will be in place until the Convention enters into application for the Parties not signed and ratified. The CEFTA Secretariat informed that the draft decision was prepared in line with the text proposed by DG TAXUD for all bi-lateral FTAs under the PEM System.

The Chair invited Ms Biljana Gadzovska to present the results of the Workshop on Authorised Economic Operators Programme, during the presentation, Ms Gadzovska displayed the current state of play in each CEFTA Party with regard to the AEO legislation. Ms Gadzovska also stated that the Macedonian Customs has currently been working with two potential pilot operators and informed the Subcommittee that the most difficult part was so far about safety and security arrangements by the companies.

The Chair invited Mr Dragan Jolevski from the Macedonian Customs Administration to present the results of the 1st Working Group of CEFTA Customs Risk Management and to introduce their work programme. Mr Jolevski presented the draft work programme, and actions required to be taken by the end of this year. It was stated that the Working Group has collectively drafted the work programme and agreed with the actions, means, expected outputs and timing corresponding to each activity.

The Chair also invited Ms Irina Nelkovska from the Macedonian Customs Administration to present the current state of play with regard to the implementation of the Work Programme. According to the main highlights of Ms Nelkovska's presentation, a study is to be initiated to measure the implementation of diagonal cumulation in CEFTA. The study is to be financed by GIZ. The main objective of this study is to recommend both customs administration and private sector of CEFTA Parties short-term measures so as to facilitate functioning all available diagonal cumulation applications in the Region.

CEFTA Secretariat to present the draft text of the integrated growth pillar of the SEE Strategy 2020.