

EXECUIVE SUMMARY

8th CEFTA Subcommittee meeting on Customs and Rules of Origin

12 June 2014, Belgrade

The CEFTA Subcommittee on Customs and Rules of Origin meeting was held in Belgrade on 12 June 2014. The delegates from Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Kosovo* along with the representatives of Moldovan Chairmanship were present during the meeting.

The meeting was opened by Deputy Director General of the Serbian Customs Authority. In his opening statement, Mr Duško Marinković said that the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement CEFTA 2006 was of great importance for all Parties. The Chair highlighted the Moldovan chairmanship objectives as challenging but reachable, and listed them once more for the information of delegates from other CEFTA Parties:

- to simplify customs and other trade related procedures in the Regional trade, to the possible extent, in particular for the operators which are functioning in full compliance with customs and other relevant laws and procedures. It refers to our extensive work to create a CEFTA AEO Programme,
- to facilitate the Regional trade through promoting and increased use of risk management in customs and other border agencies, to the possible extent,. It refers to our work in risk working group meeting, and also to facilitate exchange of information. This action will also be further elaborated, if a new working group on information exchange is created.
- to strengthen capacity in smooth functioning of diagonal cumulation between the CEFTA Parties and other trading partners in the framework of the Pan-Euro Mediterranean Convention. This is our collective efforts which we made in the last year by adopting the Decision 3/2013. We are here also to discuss further the implementation of that decision.

The Chair emphasised that the Republic of Moldova has decided to adjust the structure of its Chairmanship Work Programme in a way to integrate the relevant dimensions of the Integrated Growth Pillar into its priorities. At first point of agenda were discussion on current state of play regarding the implementation of CEFTA Decision 3/2013

- Implementation of Decision 3/2013 by the CEFTA Parties which ratified the PEM Convention
- Expected dates of signing and ratification of PEM Convention by other CEFTA Parties
- Verification of proof of origin in the implementation of CEFTA Decision 3/2013

The Chair invited the delegates of Macedonia and Montenegro to confirm the current state of play as regards for applying CEFTA Decision 3/2013.

During the tour de table discussion it was agreed that in case trade data for the selected sectors could not be extracted from the customs data warehouses, such information would be asked from the main operators in those sectors. In determining the operators to be contacted the list of top 100 exporters for each CEFTA Party is to be used.

The Subcommittee agreed to establish a communication group which will be composed of CEFTA Contact Points and a member of CEFTA Origin Experts Network. The communication group is to be tasked to facilitate the communication between the Customs and the Project Team, and with the private sector.

* 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.