

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1st Meeting of the CEFTA Subcommittee on Trade in Services

1 July 2015, Chisinau

The first meeting of the Subcommittee on Trade in Services was held in Chisinau, on 1st of July 2015. The participants to the meeting were representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo* and representatives from the OECD and RCC.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Vadim Gumene, Head of Trade Policies and WTO Division from the Ministry of Economy, Chair of the Subcommittee. In his opening remarks, Mr. Gumene briefly mentioned about the importance of establishing the Subcommittee which has the objective to ensure the smooth implementation of the commitments undertaken in Chapter VI A on Services of the CEFTA Agreement. The task of the Subcommittee is to coordinate, oversees and streamlines the work of two bodies established under this Subcommittee: one dealing with progressive liberalisation and mutual opening of the services markets of CEFTA Parties and the other that focuses on improving the quality of international trade in services statistics across the CEFTA Region and harmonise the statistics with those of the European Union.

The Chair reported on the activities of the Negotiating Group taken during the period of 1st of January and 1st of July.

Regarding the activities of this Working Group, Mr. Gumene stated that during the reference period there has not been any meeting scheduled in the first half of the year. The first meeting of the Working Group on Trade in Services Statistics is expected to be held on 6th of October, 2015 in Sarajevo.

Ms. Aleksandra Rakovic from the CEFTA Secretariat, to provide a brief description on what the expected objectives and outcomes will be. Consequently, she explained that the aim of this meeting was to exchange the information on the availability of statistics in services, identify the technical assistance needs to address the challenges as well as to agree on roadmap to create the sustainable system of reporting to the Secretariat. Ms. Rakovic stressed the importance of nominating the members of the Working Group not only from the statistical offices/central banks, but also from the ministries of trade/economy in charge of CEFTA. services statistics across CEFTA Region.

Also during the meeting were discussed about Extension of the Protocol of Trade in Services for Extension of Establishment (Mode 3 of supply) to the non-services sector, The Chair opened discussion on the extension of the mandate of the Protocol on Trade in Services to include non-services sectors. The Chair reiterated that this is a usual practice in the EU and many other regional agreements to enlarge the coverage the FTA in order to include the establishment (in this context understood only as a commercial presence/MA and not investment).

The Chair invited also Mr. Edo Omic, representative from OECD, to have a presentation on statistical analysis of the trade services within CEFTA and also to present the regional trends in services. The last item of the agenda the Chair invited Ms. Dragana Djurica, Expert on Integrated Growth from the RCC, who is also the Chair of the Tourism Expert Group to give information on their scope of work and planned activities in the next period.

* 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