

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Trade in Services**

**9 June 2010, Belgrade**

The first meeting of the Working Group on Trade in Services was held in Belgrade on 9 June 2010. All the CEFTA Parties were presented at the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Ms Jadranka Zenic-Zeljko, Head of Department, Ministry of Economy and Regional Development of Serbia.

Ms. Jadranka Zenić-Zeljko, the Chair in Office, gave a comprehensive presentation on the purpose and objectives of establishing a Working Group on Trade in Services and briefly introduced the EC outsourced Project that would support the facilitation of the Working Group activities in the next period under the framework of the CEFTA (in compliance with Articles 27 and Article 29).

Mr. Dimitrij Grčar, an expert commissioned by the European Commission to conduct a Study on the Potentials for the Liberalization of Trade in Services among CEFTA Parties, briefly introduced the Project, its main goals, expected results and a timeline. The CEFTA Chair-in-Office explained the rationale for establishing the Working Group contained in the ministers conclusions of the third Joint Committee meeting held on 29 October 2009 and based on the Article 41.5 and Articles 27 and 29 of the CEFTA Agreement dealing with liberalization of trade in services.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. The launching of the negotiations on services trade liberalization was supported by almost all the CEFTA Parties. Those Parties that did not support the launching of the negotiations at this meeting were not against it per se. Their intention was to see the results of the EC Study on the "Potentials for the Liberalization of Trade in Services among CEFTA 2006" Parties first and then to decide on further steps.
2. The CEFTA Parties welcomed the EC Study encompassing (i) the review of the significance and role of services in each Party economy, (ii) proposal of the priority services sectors and (iii) the model of negotiations with potential road map and timetable for negotiations. The Parties expect that the Study would be prepared and distributed to the Working Group members duly in advance to the next Working Group meeting scheduled to be held in the beginning of October or/and November.
3. Parties discussed the first version of the Working Group ToR and agreed to send their comments to the Chair-in-Office (copy to the Secretariat) by 21 June 2010.
4. The area of statistics on services is generally a weak point in CEFTA Parties. Available statistical data are structured by country and type of services based on IMF methodology. One of the main activities is to enhance cooperation on exchange of statistical data on services among Parties. The possibility of harmonizing the methodology of collecting the data with EU will be explored.
5. All the necessary information regarding the analysis of the level of the liberalization will be submitted to the EC experts who are conducting the Study by 16 June. Consolidated information will be prepared by the experts and submitted to the CEFTA Parties until 1 July 2010.
6. A 2-year Action Plan of the Working Group on Trade in Services will be submitted to the CEFTA Parties - once the Study on the Potentials for the Liberalizations of Trade in Services among CEFTA 2006 Parties is completed, but not later than December 2010.