

## **Statement of the UNMIK/ Kosovo Delegation**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Joint Committee Meeting of CEFTA 2006 Ohrid, 28 September 2007**

---

UNMIK and the Government of Kosovo, represented here through the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. Bujar Dugolli, express their appreciation to the Macedonian Presidency for hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Committee Meeting of the enlarged CEFTA today in Ohrid.

We strongly believe that the enlarged CEFTA will promote trade and investment in the whole South East Europe, and foster economic cooperation and good-neighbourly relations between the Parties. UNMIK and the Government of Kosovo are fully committed to making CEFTA a success for the whole region. In line with the intentions expressed during CEFTA negotiations, UNMIK and the Government of Kosovo pledge (i) to continue participation in the Stabilisation and Association process, (ii) to progressively converge local legislation and institutions to the EU *acquis*, and (iii) to apply WTO rules in the conduct of the mutual trade relations. Moreover, Kosovo's trade regime does not apply any quota on trade.

Already today, trade with CEFTA members is substantial – in 2006 Kosovo exchanged about 46% of its imports and 56% of its exports with the other seven CEFTA signatories. Both exports and imports to CEFTA Parties continue to grow. This benefits Kosovo consumers and the development of a competitive export sector. In Kosovo, CEFTA participation has become a key objective of Kosovo's economic development strategy.

From this perspective, the creation of joint institutions and mechanisms, foreseen to be adopted by this Joint Committee, are essential to foster these goals. We are therefore confident that this 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Committee Meeting is an important step forward to make the new CEFTA a cornerstone of our region's development.

Andreas Wittkowsky  
Head of UNMIK/ Kosovo Delegation