

Honorable Ministers,
Dear Ladies and Gentleman,

It's a pleasure to participate in CEFTA meetings as usual. As part of CEFTA Agreement we are committed strongly to increase the cooperation between our countries with the objective of enhancing free movement of goods, services, capital and people. I believe Kosovo was a very cooperative member of CEFTA Agreement through giving our professional experience in sense of economic cooperation.

Kosovo until now and in future, as well, is very interested to see regional economies as much opened ones and region without impediments and obstacles in economic development.

Let me say few words about Kosovo economy. It is an economy still in recovery and restructuring phase and is very stable in its growth through these last years. The GDP growth rate for last years was 4-5% which is not enough if we recall the unemployment rate. The process of privatization is in its end. The Kosovo government is in continuation making efforts to improve the business environment through different incentives in a way of getting growth of private sector as an engine for Kosovo economy.

The main deficiency of Kosovo economy is negative trade balance which is arising as a result of current unfavorable economic structure where the main economic sector is trading. Even though during 2010 we have improved to some degree the coverage of import by export, still we are very far to be satisfied. Current, main partner of Kosovo is EU while the CEFTA countries are in the second place.

Our expectations as member of CEFTA Agreement were very high looking for an internal regional market as it case with EU Internal Market. But, despite the Kosovo commitments for the fair implementation of CEFTA Agreement we are not having foreseen economic benefits and we are still facing crucial obstacles. You are well-known regarding the obstacles set for flow of goods originating from Kosovo by some CEFTA members who are in contradiction with the mission and vision of CEFTA Agreement.

However, this very crucial issue remains unchanged and until it will not be resolved we believe that CEFTA Agreement in practice is far of being equal instruments for economic benefits of all countries.

Many international institutions have gave their opinions recognizing customs stamps of Kosovo as are acceptable and in accordance with CEFTA provisions. The Government of Kosovo is considering seriously the issue, and expects soon overcoming of barriers for trade.

I would like to mention strong commitment of Kosovo to Chair CEFTA in 2011 and give a modest impact in CEFTA development, of course having in mind the assistance by CEFTA Secretariat.

At the end I would like to thank you for your attention and looking forward for seeing all of you during 2011 meetings in Kosovo.

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