



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
STATE OFFICE FOR TRADE POLICY

WORK PROGRAMME

CEFTA Subcommittee on TBT and NTBs in 2012

Proposed under the Croatian Chairing of the Subcommittee

January 2012

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1. INTRODUCTION

The objective of this document is to outline the Work Programme of the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT for 2012 under the Croatian chairmanship. The Programme is in line with the three-year Strategic Work Programme developed by Albania and adopted at the second meeting of the Subcommittee on 8-9 April 2010 in Durres in Albania.

The document summarizes the mandate and scope of the Subcommittee, underlines its collaboration with the other CEFTA Structures and spells out the major activities planned for a one-year period.

Croatia is committed to continue with the work of its predecessors on the activities of identification and reduction of NTBs in mutual trade among CEFTA Parties while initiating additional ones with the main aim of supporting the implementation of the CEFTA Agreement. In order to ensure the proper and timely realisation of planned objectives, Croatia will use the available resources but will also make synergies with the existing and potential international projects focusing on the same topics in the region. Finally, in 2012 at least one regular meeting of the Subcommittee and one meeting of the Working Group on TBT are envisaged, which does not *a priori* exclude holding of other *ad hoc* meetings that could be convened to discuss the specific items of a mutual interest.

1.1. Mandate and scope of the Subcommittee

The task of the CEFTA Subcommittee on Technical Barriers to Trade and Non-tariff Barriers to Trade, which was established by the Joint Committee Decision No. 5/2007, is to identify, review and propose measures for elimination of technical and non-tariff barriers to trade among the CEFTA Parties. The senior civil servants responsible for these issues hold one meeting per year, but can convene it on an *ad hoc* basis if needed.

Its main mandate is to:

- exchange information on a regular basis to identify and review complaints in each Party concerning NTBs and propose appropriate procedures to eliminate barriers to trade;
- propose timetables for elimination of NTBs;
- exchange views, on a systematic basis, on appropriate domestic institutional arrangements to eliminate NTBs in each Party in order to ensure the adoption of best practices;
- identify and oversee the elimination of unnecessary technical barriers to trade in accordance with Article 13.2 of the Agreement;

- encourage harmonisation, where appropriate, of technical regulations, standards and procedures for assessment of conformity with those of the European Union;
- encourage recognition of conformity assessment documents made by the accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies;
- prepare and present an annual report on identifying, reviewing and proposing measures for eliminating TBTs and NTBs, based on the individual reports prepared by the Parties in accordance with a common structure/template.

The Working Group on TBT is functioning under the framework of the Subcommittee. Its mandate is, among others, to: (i) keep under review the achieved harmonization of technical regulations, standards and procedures for assessment of conformity with those of the EU, in accordance with the Article 13:3.b; (ii) encourage the negotiations to conclude the plurilateral agreements among the Parties in the area of mutual recognition of the conformity assessment; (iii) timely inform the Joint Committee on any notification received by the CEFTA Party on new technical regulation or standard prior to its adoption in accordance with the Article 13:3.b; (iv) improve the technical cooperation and networking in all quality infrastructure disciplines (metrology, standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation and market surveillance).

1.2. Coordination with other CEFTA Structures

The Chairmanship of the Subcommittee is taken on a rotational basis with the tenure of office of one calendar year. In line with these rules, Croatia has taken over the Chairmanship of the Subcommittee from Bosnia and Herzegovina on 1 January 2012.

According to its mandate, the Subcommittee communicates regularly with two other Subcommittees established under CEFTA: on Customs and Rules of Origin and on Agriculture and SPS in order to avoid duplication of efforts in many overlapping areas of activities.

Croatia as a Chair of the Subcommittee is committed to employ efforts in enhancing the cooperation among the CEFTA structures, with the main goal to have better coordination when dealing with reduction and elimination of non-tariff barriers. This particularly applies for implementing the recommendations from the first cycle assessment of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on the Elimination of the NTBs endorsed at the fifth Joint Committee meeting held on 23 November 2011 in Paris. The collaboration will include the participation of the respective chairs on each other meetings in order to report on the activities done in achieving the main objectives of the Chairmanship.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP

In 2012, the Chair of the Subcommittee will follow on the activities from the previous years in the area of elimination of the non-tariff barriers and technical barriers to trade:

2.1. Elimination of Non-tariff Barriers to Trade

The core activity of the Subcommittee's work – the identification and the elimination of the non-tariff barriers to trade will be further developed and advanced.

Drawing on the Ministerial Conclusions from the fifth Joint Committee meeting held on 23 November 2011, *"... Acknowledging that setting up the joint framework for ex-ante elimination of the NTBs will lead to the more transparent, rapid and effective removal of identified barriers that hamper intraregional trade" and "... We recommend the Chairs of the respective subcommittees to take into consideration the recommendations from the OECD first assessment cycle when preparing their respective work programmes for the next year"*, Croatia, as a Chair of the Subcommittee, is determined to ensure full implementation of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of the NTBs that started in 2010.

In that respect, the Subcommittee will focus its attention on coordination of its work with other relevant CEFTA Structures in order to ensure implementation of the recommendations in three identified areas that cause the NTBs: technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and administrative barriers (please see Annex 1).

Since the set of recommendations are spanning over the short and medium term, its follow up will need to be assured also with our successors. Croatia is committed to create the positive and dynamic environment for achieving this goal.

In addition to the implementation of the set recommendations, one part of the activities in 2012 will be focused on the conduct of assessment on the final goods that could create potential and unnecessary barriers to trade. This assessment will be supported by the detailed statistical analysis of the most traded final goods and identification of the criteria for selection of categories of the final goods to be assessed in the first cycle. The vital assistance of the OECD Private Sector Development Division is foreseen during these phases.

2.2. Reduction and Elimination of Unnecessary Technical Barriers to Trade

In accordance with the endorsed recommendations of the first assessment cycle of the MMF, the Working Group on TBT, which operates under the framework of the Subcommittee on TBT and NTBs, will work to ensure the realisation of the activities envisaged for the short-term period.

This specifically relates to the identification of a set of final products that fall under the scope of the New Approach Directive. This would include at least one for which the testing by the third independent body is not prescribed according to the applicable legislation for that product and the other for which testing by the third independent body is prescribed according the applicable legislation for that product. Ideally, the Parties should agree on products that are exported to the EU and to the CEFTA Parties (Please see the Annex 1)

In 2012, the members of the Working Group on TBT will engage their efforts to come to the agreement on launching ACAA (Agreements on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of industrial products) negotiations with EU in these final products under the scope of the New Approach directives area. In that sense, the ACAAs would serve as the equivalent of multilateral agreements on mutual recognition among the CEFTA Parties.

All these activities have for a final objective the elimination of the current technical barriers to trade and the creation of the favourable environment that will lead to the reduction of the new ones.

More specific activities of the Working Group on TBT in 2012 will include:

- Identifying the main product categories for which relevant standards and technical regulations should be adopted by all CEFTA Parties as priority,
- Reviewing product categories of common interest where old non-harmonised national standards are still in force, and preparing draft recommendation for adoption EU harmonised standards,
- Preparing a Draft Recommendation on priority legislation to be harmonised in selected sectors,
- Preparing a list of accredited Conformity Assessment bodies which meet the requirements set by harmonised standards and, where applicable, any additional requirements including those set out in relevant sectoral schemes, to carry out a specific conformity assessment activity (testing, calibration, certification or inspection) relating the product categories of common interest,
- Encouraging National Accreditation bodies to meet requirements for signing EA MLA for specific accreditation scopes and participate in specific EA technical committees, working groups and task force groups,
- Encouraging National Accreditation bodies to meet requirements for signing ILAC MRA,
- Encouraging Market Surveillance bodies to share information they have obtained from sampling and testing product categories of common interest.

2.3. Enhancement of Transparency, Information Exchange and Notification

The exchange of information on the existing non-tariff barriers to trade remains one of the priorities of the Croatian Chairmanship. Several instruments are foreseen to support the effective and transparent flow of data with a view to enhance the efficacy of tackling the NTBs in the region.

In the area of overall transparency, **the CEFTA Trade Portal** has a significant influence on raising awareness of the potentials for regional trade providing the required export and import information of all eight CEFTA Parties in seven most important categories. A number of activities are planned to improve the management and layout of the Portal, including the updating of the web pages in a more standardized way, upgrading of the technical performances and promotion to the wider circle of users. Currently, the GIZ team of experts manages the portal, but its complete transfer to the CEFTA Parties is envisaged by the end of 2012. To achieve this goal, the Parties are expected to sign the *Memorandum of Understanding on Transfer of the Portal to the CEFTA Parties* that will regulate the major issues such as ways of further technical management, updating and financing of the Portal. The ad hoc established Task Force will have a facilitating role in this process.

The **notification of the technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and standards** in accordance with the Article 13.3b of the CEFTA Agreement allows for the regular exchange of the data on drafted and new regulation that could unnecessarily restrict trade. Croatia as a Chair will urge Parties to continue with notifying the relevant regulation respecting the previously agreed and prescribed format for notification in order to enable transparency and effectiveness in the process.

2.4. Improved Cooperation with Business Community

During the Croatian Chairmanship the specific attention will be given to strengthening the relations with the business community in the region. Traditionally, the permanent exchange of information on trade barriers reported by the business community in the region will be secured through the organisation of CEFTA Forum of Chambers of Commerce and Committee meetings within the Forum. Through the participation and reporting of the representatives of the CEFTA Forum of Chambers of Commerce on trade barriers at the regular and ad hoc meetings of the Subcommittee this information will be transmitted to the Subcommittee. Furthermore, the members of the Subcommittee on TBT and NTBs will work closely with contact persons within chambers of commerce/economy on collecting and resolving the complaints received from the businesses. For that purpose the format that the CEFTA Forum of Chambers developed last year will be used. After the complaint by the business community is lodged with the Chamber of Commerce it will be forwarded to the representative in the Subcommittee who will put this information to the Trade Access Database regularly exchanged among the CEFTA Parties, and who will try to resolve it bilaterally.

3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RELATED REGIONAL PROJECTS

3.1. Technical assistance in the Area of NTBs

The work on the elimination of the NTBs is supported by the expertise provided by the OECD team of experts. The main objective of this assistance is to conduct regular independent monitoring of the elimination of NTBs building on a previous project commenced in 2008 and done in cooperation of the Government of Hungary under the project "Aid for Trade". The project started with the extensive analysis of trade flows in intermediary goods among CEFTA Parties with the aim of identifying a set of priority sectors and goods for NTB elimination. The result was a so-called Multilateral Monitoring Framework for Eliminating the NTBs based on the set of indicators for each of the key NTBs area with the aim of establishing an instrument for coordination of actions for eliminating the NTBs at the multilateral level. The MMF is in implementation from 2010. After the approval of all Parties, the first assessment analysis was conducted and the results with the recommendations presented before the members of the Subcommittee and the Joint Committee.

With the financial assistance from the European Commission the OECD–CEFTA project on elimination of NTBs will extend to another three years. It is expected the estimated outcomes from this project include: structured quantitative and qualitative data combined with the detailed policy and practitioner-oriented guidance and recommendations how to continue the NBTs reduction process conducted under the Multilateral Monitoring Framework and how to extend its coverage to a new set of traded goods.

The assessment will cover all areas of NTBs covered by the CEFTA Agreement, namely: (i) technical barriers to trade (standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment); (ii) sanitary and phytosanitary measures; (iii) administrative barriers to trade. For each category of the NTB the specific guidance and recommendations will be prepared. The findings of the assessment will be taken into consideration when the report of the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT is prepared and submitted to the Joint Committee.

The process of monitoring includes a number of stakeholders. Apart from governmental officials, the business community and other relevant stakeholders will be involved on a permanent basis. A regional roundtable will be organized among the representatives of the government of the CEFTA Parties and the private sector to discuss and follow up on the actions deriving from the findings of the monitoring.

3.2. Technical assistance in the Area of TBT

Cooperation with the IPA 2011 Project on Quality Infrastructure in the Western Balkans and Turkey will continue since this project has a scope to provide in-depth training in the areas of TBT as well as networking opportunities.

The overall objective of the project is to facilitate harmonisation of the legislative framework and implementing mechanisms in the field of free movement of goods (Chapter 1 of the *EU acquis*).

The purpose of this project is to enable regional networking initiatives and training to improve capabilities of ministries, quality infrastructure bodies and other institutions implementing strategies to comply with Chapter 1 of EU acquis, enabling them to offer industry services to provide tools to trade in EU market, as well as in beneficiaries' markets. Furthermore, through regional proficiency testing schemes, confidence in products tested in beneficiary countries' laboratories will improve, and their performance will be benchmarked with each other and with EU counterparts. The project will also contribute to the removal of technical barriers to trade between beneficiaries and EU; and, through CEFTA Working Group on TBTs, contribute to removal of TBTs between beneficiaries.

One of the project tasks is for beneficiaries to define two (to maximally three products) under the scope the New Approach directives, which are exported to EU and CEFTA Parties, and obtain an agreement amongst Parties to launch ACAA (Agreements on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products) negotiations with EU for these products.

3.3. Other Related Projects

The GIZ project on market surveillance focuses on strengthening of cooperation and coordination in the field of market surveillance in the South-East European Countries (SEE).

Different market surveillance systems in SEE increase transaction costs and limits competitiveness of products on the market due to repeated border inspections. Therefore, the objective of the project is to establish a sustainable network of market surveillance institutions in SEE and to develop common activities in the area of market surveillance focused on coordination, cooperation and harmonisation.

GIZ also supports CEFTA Structures in managing the CEFTA Trade Portal. This cooperation relates to providing the consultancy services in regular updating the web pages with new information, upgrading the content with additional categories, standardizing the text, financing the host of the Portal, providing the web statistics, performing permanent assessments, etc. The GIZ will manage Portal until the end of 2012 when it will be finally transferred to the CEFTA Parties.

4. EXPECTED RESULTS

The results in the course of the one year term are expected as follows:

In the area of NTBs:

1. The revision of the MMF indicators endorsed and applied
2. The first assessment of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of NTBs in final goods completed
3. The report on the conclusions and recommendations from the first assessment on final products presented and endorsed by the Joint Committee meeting
4. Memorandum of Understanding on CEFTA Trade Portal among CEFTA Parties signed
5. CEFTA Trade Portal regularly updated and successfully transferred to the CEFTA Parties
6. The standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment regularly notified according to the agreed notification format
7. The cooperation with the business community improved

In the area of TBT:

1. Main product categories selected by all CEFTA Parties
2. Draft recommendations for the adoption of EU harmonised standards related to product categories prepared
3. Draft recommendations on harmonisation of legislation in selected product categories adopted
4. Overcoming differences in the area of quality infrastructure and conclusions of agreement on mutual recognition of conformity assessment procedures relating to product categories of common interest,
5. Involved and informed governments, the business community and other relevant stakeholders of the permanent and sustainable process for elimination of NTBs.
6. Increase awareness and develop specific knowledge on NTBs,
7. Strengthen intra-regional trade, trade with EU and competitiveness of SMEs

5. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The 2012 tentative calendar of events is the following:

MEETING/EVENT	DATE	Venue
Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on TBT	1 February 2012	Malmo, SWEDEN
Fifth meeting of the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT	May 2012	Zagreb, CROATIA
Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on TBT	September	TBC
Sixth meeting of the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT	October 2012	Budapest HUNGARY
Fourth Regional Roundtable on Elimination of NTBs	October 2012	Budapest HUNGARY

Annex 1: Actions to be implemented on a Short Term for Elimination of NTBs in Specific Fields

FIELDS	INDICATORS	ACTIONS
Technical Barriers to Trade	Institutional framework	→ <i>organize joint meetings of technical committees in priority areas</i>
	Transposition of EU legislation	→ <i>ensure full transparent lists of ministerial responsibilities for transposing EU technical regulations</i>
	Transposition and adoption of EU standards	→ <i>continue rapid pace of adopting European standards and withdrawing conflicting national standards;</i> → <i>make available in the CEFTA Trade portal the list of national and European/international standards</i>
	Institutional framework for accreditation	→ <i>encourage national accreditation bodies to continue striving for EA membership and signature of EA MLA in all appropriate scopes</i>
	Conformity assessment procedures and infrastructure	→ <i>review accredited conformity assessment capacities across CEFTA Parties to identify duplication and gaps related to the priority sectors</i>
	Information and notification mechanisms	→ <i>implement CEFTA notification procedure and reporting format that is aligned with the WTO</i>
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	institutional framework	→ <i>regional trainings and workshops on harmonization of legislation and practices; risk based inspection methodology and approach</i>
	cooperation among SPS agencies	→ <i>exchange programs on annual/multiannual basis between agencies;</i> → <i>involve private sector in development and evaluation of impacts of new regulations/measures</i>
	framework SPS legislation	→ <i>early notification of by-laws drafts at CEFTA web portal;</i> → <i>use capacities existing in CEFTA region for dissemination of knowledge and experiences in specific areas</i>
	transposition of European SPS measures	→ <i>initiate rounds of discussion among SPS agencies to recognize other key products where national regulations in CEFTA do not pose NTBs</i>
	notification mechanism	→ <i>collect all relevant documents which are available for the SPS area, private standards especially;</i> → <i>develop channels to disseminate information to all stakeholders</i>
Administrative Barriers to Trade	Establishment and functioning of the customs web portal	→ <i>creation of a dedicated/special page within the CEFTA Trade Portal for (i) the information on advance rulings and penalties for breaches of import and export formalities, (ii) appeal procedures, (iii) the type and level of fees and charges applied in each CEFTA Party</i>
	Establishment and functioning of the enquiry points	→ <i>A Single Enquiry Point for customs, dealing exclusively with enquiries on trade related legislation and procedures, should be established and implemented</i>
	Involvement of a trade community	→ <i>Enhance consultation by involving the trading community at the drafting stage of customs laws and regulations</i> → <i>Ensure that the input of the CEFTA Forum of Chambers of Commerce are taken into consideration in national consultations</i>
	Advance rulings	→ <i>Advance ruling mechanism for the information on the method that will be applied for customs valuation to be introduced and designed</i>
	Customs procedures and processes	→ <i>The average clearance time should be published on the customs websites</i>

Annex 2: ACTION PLAN FOR 2012

OBJECTIVE	PHASES	ACTION	KEY MILESTONES	TIMEFRAME
Elimination of NTBs – MMF	1. <i>Endorsement of Revised MMF indicators</i>	1.1. Revision of MMF indicators 1.2. Agreement on revised indicators	Revised indicators of MMF are endorsed	By written procedure End of February
	2. <i>Selection of priority sectors and associated products</i>	2.1. Agreement on methodology of selecting the final products	Methodology on selecting the final products chosen by the members of the SC	Proposals by end February
		2.2. Evaluation of selected products based on statistical analysis	Evaluation of selected products done by the OECD	March
		2.3. Endorsement of selected products	Selected products endorsed by the members of the SC	At the fifth SC meeting in May
	3. <i>Launching the Assessment Cycle</i>	3.1. Launching the first assessment cycle on final products	First Assessment Cycle on final goods launched	At the fifth SC meeting in May
3.2. Filling in the Assessment Questionnaires		Assessment Questionnaires filled in by the Parties	May	
3.3. Verification of the Assessment Questionnaires		Assessment Questionnaires verified by the independent experts	May-June	
4. <i>Presentation and endorsement of results of the MMF assessment</i>	4.1. Presentation and discussion on the results of the first assessment cycle on final goods	The results of the assessment presented. Parties comment and propose changes	October At the fourth Regional Roundtable on NTBs	
5. <i>Elaboration of the report on NTBs and reporting to the Fifth CEFTA Joint Committee Meeting</i>	5.1. Elaboration of the report on NTBs elimination based on MMF 5.2. Presentation of the conclusions of the first assessment cycle 5.3. Promotion of the results	Report on NTBs elimination elaborated	October/November	
		Report on conclusions and recommendations presented to the JCM Presentation of results to the wider audience	Sixth Joint Committee Meeting	
			CEFTA Week 2012	
Reduction and elimination of unnecessary TBT	1. Transposition and adoption of relevant EU standards and technical regulations	1.1. Identification of product categories of common interest for which relevant standards and technical regulations should be adopted as a priority	A list of products categories selected by CEFTA Parties drafted	February 2012
		1.2. Revision of product categories of common interest where old non-harmonised national standards still in force	A list of old non-harmonised national standards drafted Recommendation for adoption of EU harmonised standards relating to product categories of common interest	September/October Sixth Joint Committee Meeting

	2. Overcoming differences in quality infrastructure, conformity assessment procedures and ACAA negotiation with EU	2.1. Identification of accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies relating to product categories of common interest 2.2. Selection of priority sectors/product categories for NTBs elimination as a first step to start negotiating ACAA 2.3. Elaboration of phases which leads to the negotiation of ACAA with the EU	A list of accredited CABs that meet requirements set by harmonised standards is drafted Final products that fall under the scope of New Approach directive have been selected Action Plan on negotiation procedure of ACAA is drafted	February 2012 September/October Sixth Joint Committee Meeting
	3.Improving cooperation among national accreditation bodies, joint actions on regional level	3.1. Encourage NABs to meet requirements for signing EA MLA 3.2. Encourage NABs to meet requirements for signing ILAC MRA	The options how to allow the NABs to participate in specific EA technical committees, working and task force groups are presented	February 2012 September/October
	4. Improving cooperation in the area of market surveillance among inspection bodies of the CEFTA Parties	4.1. Encourage market surveillance bodies to share information of products of common interest 4.2. Establishment of coordinative body for market surveillance	A list of information of sampling and testing product categories of common interest is presented The coordinative body is established	February 2012 September/October Beyond 2012
	Enhancement of Transparency, Information Exchange and Notification	1. <i>Memorandum of Understanding on the CEFTA Trade Portal</i>	1.1. Consultations on text of the Memorandum 1.2. Agreement on the final text 1.3. Signing of the MoU	Final text of the Memorandum agreed The MoU on the CEFTA Portal signed
	2. <i>Managing the CEFTA Trade Portal</i>	2.1.Selection of new information, translation into English, uploading the texts 2.2. Contracting of the host, providing the web statistics 2.2.Promotion of the Portal to the business community	The Portal is regularly updated The host to the portal is selected The Portal is promoted to the wider audience	Continuous July continuous
	3. <i>Notification of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessments</i>	3.1. Submitting the notifications according to the agreed format to the Chair and Secretariat	The notifications received and distributed to the members of the SC	continuous
Improved Cooperation with Business Community	1. <i>Cooperation with the CEFTA Forum of Chambers of Commerce</i>	1.1. Exchange of information on notified NTBs with the private sector 1.2. Representation of Chambers at the meetings of SC	Information is regularly exchanged on elimination of NTBs Representatives of CEFTA Forum present their reports at the SC meetings	Continuous At the SC meetings

ANNEX 3: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

LOG FRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR PRIORITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TBT and NTBs		Period: January – December 2012	
Overall objective	Indicators of Achievement	Sources of verification	
to develop further actions, particularly in the following priority areas, with the objective to fully implement the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of NTBs, ensure transparency, deeper collaboration with the private sector and strengthen the cooperation with other CEFTA Structures.	All meetings of the Subcommittee and the Working Group on TBT are held with the active participation of CEFTA Parties	Report of the Subcommittee Report of the WG on TBT	
Priorities	Indicators of Achievement	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
1) Elimination of the identified non-tariff barriers to trade, 2) Elimination of the unnecessary technical barriers to trade, 3) Enhancement of the transparency, information exchange and notification 4) Improved cooperation with the business community	1) Number of identified non-tariff barriers to trade among the CEFTA Parties has a decreasing tendency 2) Number of unnecessary technical barriers to trade decreased 3) The CEFTA Parties are timely informed about the new regulations with a potential hindering impact on trade 4) Relations with the private sector improved with regular exchange of data	Report of SC on NTBs and TBT Report of SC on Agriculture and SPS Report of SC on Customs and Rules of Origin Report of the Working Group on TBT Report of the Working Group on Trade in Services CEFTA MADBase	1) Each CEFTA Party remains committed to the CEFTA process and its provisions. 2) Bi-lateral problems between the CEFTA Parties which do not have any direct relevance to the implementation of the Agreement do not affect the smooth functioning of the Agreement, 3) International donors keep committed to support financially the CEFTA.

Activities	Results	Means	Assumptions
<p><u>Priority 1 :</u></p> <p>1) Endorsement of Revised MMF indicators</p> <p>2) Selection of priority sectors and associated products</p> <p>3) Launching the Assessment Cycle</p> <p>4) Presentation and endorsement of results of the MMF assessment</p> <p>5) Elaboration of the report on NTBs and reporting to the Fifth CEFTA Joint Committee Meeting</p>	<p><u>Priority 1:</u></p> <p>1) Agreement on the revision of indicators reached and revised indicators endorsed</p> <p>2) Methodology on selecting the final products chosen by the members of the SC; evaluation of selected products done by the OECD; selected products endorsed by the members of the SC</p> <p>3) First Assessment Cycle on final goods launched; assessment Questionnaires filled in by the Parties; Assessment Questionnaires verified by the independent experts</p> <p>4) The results of the assessment presented; Parties comment and propose changes</p> <p>5) Report on NTBs elimination elaborated; report on conclusions and recommendations presented to the JCM; Presentation of results to the wider audience</p>	<p>SC on NTBs and TBT meetings Regional Roundtable on NTBs OECD MMF Project</p> <p>SC on NTBs and TBT meetings</p> <p>Joint Committee Meeting</p>	<p>1) Each CEFTA Party remains committed to the CEFTA process and its provisions.</p> <p>2) Bi-lateral problems between the CEFTA Parties which do not have any direct relevance to the implementation of the Agreement do not affect the smooth functioning of the Agreement,</p> <p>3) International donors keep committed to support financially the CEFTA.</p>
<p><u>Priority 2:</u></p> <p>1) Transposition and adoption of relevant EU standards and technical regulations</p> <p>2) Overcoming differences in quality infrastructure, conformity assessment procedures and ACAA negotiation with EU</p> <p>3) Improving cooperation among national accreditation bodies, joint actions on regional level</p> <p>4) Improving cooperation in the area of market surveillance among inspection bodies of the CEFTA Parties</p>	<p><u>Priority 2:</u></p> <p>1) A list of products categories selected by CEFTA Parties presented to the SC on NTBs and TBT, and JC</p> <p>2) Recommendation for adoption of EU harmonised standards relating to product categories of common interest is commonly agreed and presented to the JC members</p> <p>4) A list of accredited CABs that meet requirements set by harmonised standards is made available to the SC members</p> <p>5) Final products that fall under the scope of New Approach directive have been selected</p> <p>6) Action Plan on negotiation procedure of ACAA is drafted and commonly agreed</p> <p>7) A coordinative body for market surveillance is established</p>	<p>IPA Quality Infrastructure Project</p> <p>SC on NTBs and Task Force meetings</p> <p>GIZ Project on Market Surveillance</p>	

<p><u>Priority 3:</u></p> <p>1) Transfer of the CEFTA Trade Portal to the CEFTA Parties</p> <p>2) Managing the CEFTA Trade Portal</p> <p>3) Notification of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessments</p> <p><u>Priority 4:</u></p> <p>1). Cooperation with the CEFTA Forum of Chambers of Commerce</p>	<p><u>Priority 3:</u></p> <p>1) Final text of the Memorandum agreed; the MoU on the CEFTA Portal signed</p> <p>2) The Portal is regularly updated; the host to the portal is selected; the Portal is promoted to the wider audience</p> <p>3) The notifications received and distributed to the members of the SC</p> <p><u>Priority 4:</u></p> <p>1) Information is regularly exchanged on elimination of NTBs; representatives of CEFTA Forum present their reports at the SC meetings</p>	<p>GIZ Project on CEFTA Trade Portal</p> <p>CEFTA Parties notifications</p> <p>CEFTA Forum of Chambers meetings</p>	
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