

STRATEGIC WORK PROGRAMME

CEFTA Subcommittee on Agriculture Including Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues

2012-2014

Proposed under the Albanian Chairing of the Subcommittee in 2012

January 2012

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| 1. THE SUBCOMMITTEE AS A PART OF CEFTA STRUCTURES | 3 |
| <i>1.1.Mandate and Scope</i> | 3 |
| <i>1.2.Organisation of Work</i> | 4 |
| 2. PRIORITIES OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP | 5 |
| <i>2.1.Coordination with other CEFTA Structures</i> | 5 |
| <i>2.2. Harnessing the benefits of the Liberalisation in Agricultural Trade</i> | 6 |
| <i>2.3. Strengthening Cooperation in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Area</i> | 6 |
| <i>2.4. Elimination of Non-tariff Barriers in Trade with Agricultural products.....</i> | 8 |
| <i>2.5. Experience Sharing and Transparency.....</i> | 9 |
| 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RELATED REGIONAL PROJECTS | 11 |
| <i>3.1. Identification of common areas that require technical assistance</i> | 11 |
| 4. EXPECTED RESULTS | 13 |
| 5. CALENDAR OF EVENTS | 16 |
| 6. Annexes | |
| <i>Annex 1: Action Plan for 2012.....</i> | 17 |
| <i>Annex 2: Logical Framework Matrix.....</i> | 20 |

INTRODUCTION

The objective of this document is to outline the three-year Strategic Work Programme of the CEFTA Subcommittee on Agriculture and SPS for the period 2012-2014 and to propose a one-year Work Programme for 2012 under the Chairmanship of Albania.

The paper summarizes the mandate and scope of the Subcommittee, underlines its active collaboration with other CEFTA Structures and spells out the major activities planned for the three-year as well as for one-year period.

In its capacity of the Chair, Albania is fully committed to carry on with with the work of its predecessors in both areas – facilitation of the agricultural trade and improvement of cooperation in sanitary and phytosanitary domain. The priorities of the Chairmanship include a number of additional activities that will support and ensure achievement of new objectives in the span of the next three years. The Parties are welcomed to contribute to the accomplishment of our mutual goals with their knowledge, dedication and support, while on the other side the Chair will employ additional efforts to secure outsourced expertise and guidelines for specific areas of a regional interest.

Speaking of year 2012 at least one regular meeting of the Subcommittee is envisaged, which does not *a priori* exclude holding of other *ad hoc* meetings, workshops and roundtables that could be convened to discuss any item based on the expressed interest. The Chair/members will also be invited to present the work of the Subcommittee at the meetings of the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT (tentatively April), Deputy Ministers meeting (June) and Joint Committee meeting (October/November). The results achieved are expected to be promoted at the CEFTA Week 2012, at international conferences and forums as well as published at the CEFTA Secretariat's website and the CEFTA Trade Portal.

1. THE SUBCOMMITTEE AS A PART OF CEFTA STRUCTURES

1.1.Mandate and scope

The CEFTA Subcommittee on Agriculture including Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues established by the Joint Committee Decision No. 3/2007, has for the task facilitation of trade in agricultural products and improvement of cooperation in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary matters under the framework of the CEFTA Agreement. The senior civil servants responsible for agriculture and sanitary and phytosanitary issues from the CEFTA Parties hold one meeting per

year, but can meet on an *ad hoc* basis if needed.

Its main mandate is to:

- Encourage negotiations among the CEFTA Parties to further liberalise trade
- Encourage negotiations to conclude, where appropriate, agreements on coordinated harmonisation or mutual recognition of sanitary and phytosanitary measures
- Review internal legislation in force or in the process of being introduced to ensure that it is fully consistent with provisions of the CEFTA Agreement
- Deal with complaints by a Party concerning the possible discriminatory application by other Parties of measures contrary to the CEFTA Agreement
- Recommend steps and solutions to remedy the problems
- Bring the unresolved issues to the attention of the Joint Committee.

1.2.Organisation of Work

The members of the Subcommittee are officially appointed senior civil servants responsible for agriculture and sanitary and phytosanitary issues from the CEFTA Parties. Usually, the meetings provide for two parallel sessions - one is a forum for debate on further liberalisation of agricultural trade while the other gathers the experts from sanitary and phytosanitary fields to discuss the most important issues on a regional basis.

The meetings are generally held once per year, but the members can meet on an *ad hoc* basis if and whenever needed. Moreover, the number of workshops, roundtables or consultations can be organised on the request of interested Parties.

In 2012, at least one official meeting of the Subcommittee members is envisaged, tentatively for May 2012. It will be held according to the rules and procedures of CEFTA Agreement by the responsible government institution - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection of Albania in Tirana. The Chair will also accommodate any need from the Parties to organize additional events to support the fulfilment of its objectives.

2. PRIORITIES OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP

The Chair of the Subcommittee is committed to work on the activities started in previous years by its predecessors and will introduce some new ones in order to secure the fulfilment of a set of objectives:

2.1. 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. According to the Joint Committee Decision No 2/2007 the Party that chairs CEFTA also chairs the Subcommittee on Agriculture including Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues in a given year. In line with these rules, Albania and its responsible Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection has assumed the Chairmanship of the Subcommittee starting from 1 January 2012.

According to its mandate, the Subcommittee communicates regularly with two Subcommittees established under CEFTA: on Customs and Rules of Origin and on TBT and NTBs as well as other CEFTA Structures such as Working Group on Trade in Services and Working Group on TBT with a view to avoid duplication of efforts and activities.

In the course of 2012, Albania as a Chair is ready to engage efforts in enhancing the cooperation of the Subcommittee with the other CEFTA structures, especially with the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT on elimination of non-tariff barriers. This will include the following activities:

Activity 2.1.1 Coordination with SC on NTBs and TBT on areas with common objective

- coordination of activities in implementation of the recommendations for the SPS to reduce potential NTBs in order to ensure synergies and avoid any overlapping (*Key dates: throughout of a current year*)

Activity 2.1.2 Reporting to other CEFTA Structures

- reporting on the pace of implementation to the SC on NTBs and TBT (*Key dates: April and October*)
- reporting on results achieved to the Deputy Ministers meeting and the Joint Committee (*Key dates: June and October/November*)

Activity 2.1.3 Participation at the CEFTA meetings

- Participation of the Chair at the SC on NTBs and TBT meetings (*Key dates: April and October*)

- Participation of the members to the Regional Roundtable on NTBs (*Key dates: October*)
- Participation of the Chair at the Deputy Ministers meeting and sixth Joint Committee Meeting (*Key dates: June and October/November*)

Activity 2.1.4 Promotion of the achieved results

- Promotion to the business community through events such as CEFTA Trade Portal, CEFTA Week 2012, etc (*Key dates: throughout the year, October/November*)
- Exchange of information with the members of the CEFTA Forum Chambers of Commerce (*Key dates: throughout the year*)

2.2. Harnessing the benefits of the Liberalisation in Agricultural Trade

The objective set up in the Article 10.3 of the Agreement on granting further concessions in agricultural trade has been fully achieved in 2011. The Additional Protocol and Annex 10 which deal with the further liberalisation among six CEFTA Parties was signed on 11 February 2011 and entered into force in 2011 for Albania, Croatia and Macedonia (13 November), for Serbia (15 December) and in 2012 for Montenegro (6 January 2012).

Activity 2.2.1 Pursuit of trade liberalization in agricultural products

- Continuous monitoring of the implementation of the Additional Protocol and Annex 10 (*Key dates: continuous*)
- Exploring the possibilities to remove the remaining tariffs and quotas among CEFTA Parties, where applicable, in order to achieve full liberalisation of agricultural products (*Key dates: 2012-2014*)

Activity 2.2.2 Assessment of impact of liberalization on the CEFTA Economies

- The effects of the liberalisation will closely be followed through periodical analysis (*Key dates: semi-annual*)
- Reporting to the Joint Committee on the assessment (*Key dates: annually at the JCM*)

2.3. Strengthening Cooperation in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Areas

The Chair recognizes the need for closer regional collaboration of the national agencies in the sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary area. Based on analysis done by the OECD in 2011, the capacities of these agencies vary from Party to Party, but some common weaknesses can be identified that can welcome the joint action by all the Parties. The areas of the strongly advised joint collaboration are the institutional framework, the legislation framework, the transposition of EU SPS measures and joint representation in international organizations, forums etc.

In the area of **institutional framework** the most prominent weaknesses are: (i) lack of trained staff; (ii) inadequate equipment of inspection units for field inspection either on border posts, or equipment for sampling and dispatching samples; (iii) restricted access to electronic means of communication in certain areas of the country and (iv) restricted financial resources.

In order to contribute to the improvement in the **institutional framework**, the Chair proposes the following activities and necessary steps in the period of 2012-2014:

Activity 2.3.1 Assessments on possibilities for common framework on the SPS

- Assessment of current bilateral agreements in the SPS field;
- Develop mechanisms for consultations on formulating strategies in the specific SPS areas of interest

Activity 2.3.2 Institutionalized transfer of knowledge and joint training

- Establishing of focal points in the Parties that can transfer their knowledge and expertise to other less developed Parties in the specific field of SPS;
- Organizing regional trainings on harmonization of legislation and practices in phytosanitary area
- Preparing joint trainings in the risk based inspection methodology and approach
- Building capacities for notification to the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)
- Improving capacities in SPS agencies for development and maintaining of relevant databases

In the framework of the SPS **legislation**, the situation among Parties differs in relation to the stage in the EU and WTO accessions. The principles of risk assessment, harmonization and transparency are usually fully integrated in the legislation, and in majority of Parties, documents are published on websites. However, it is also evident that capacities for risk analysis are limited in some of the Parties and transparency still needs to be improved.

To address these issues, the Chair proposes set of activities, which has to be dealt with on a longer-term basis (2012-2014):

Activity 2.3.3 Increase the transparency of legislation

- Create permanent notification mechanisms on SPS legislation;
- Ensure that a new legislation is available for consultation before the process of final adoption

Activity 2.3.4 Speeding up the process of harmonization of relevant SPS legislation

- Assessment of current level of harmonization of national with the EU legislation;
- Harmonization of by-laws in line with WTO-SPS and EU requirements

Activity 2.3.5 Consolidation of capacities for full implementation of risk analysis

- Sharing information and experiences for control and inspection procedures and risk analysis;
- Regional trainings and joint bidding for outsourced technical assistance in this area

In the area of the **transposition of SPS measures** the situation among Parties varies in relation to the pace and stage of the EU accession process. However, the Parties already identified the products, which have highest priority in terms of transposition of EU measures.

Activity 2.3.6 Coordination of actions in the process of transposition of EU legislation

- Follow the best experiences on necessary capacities for transposition of EU regulations
- Adopt only measures which are fully harmonized with EU and WTO-SPS principles
- Circulate a questionnaire on new legislation/practices harmonized with EU requirements on the annual basis and publish the information regularly on the CEFTA Trade Portal

In the area of **representation in the international organisations**, all CEFTA Parties, except UNMIK/Kosovo are members of the CAC (Codex Alimentarius Commission), OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) and IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention). Financial resources of the CEFTA Parties limit the number of participants attending the work of international agencies and committees. The negotiating power of the region was not recognized and participations at the CAC, OIE, IPPC, WTO-SPS meetings mans so far only presenting the national information without expressing the regional interests and concerns.

The Chair proposes a number of activities that could improve the image of the region and strengthen its negotiating power in the relevant international organisations.

Activity 2.3.7 Joint representation of CEFTA SPS agencies in international organisations, forums

- Identify the areas where CEFTA Parties experts can jointly participate in work of different committees of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, OIE, IPPC
- Identify regional representatives for each of the committee where they have strategic interest to participate as a region,
- Strengthen capacities of the Parties for negotiating in SPS standings at international organizations' meetings

2.4. Identification and elimination of non-tariff barriers in trade in agricultural products

Based on many studies, analysis and reports done in a recent past the sanitary and phytosanitary issues remain one of the major concerns that create unnecessary non-tariff barriers to trade in the CEFTA Region. The divergence that stem from the different pace and stage in the EU and WTO accession processes, absence of mutual recognition agreements, supplementary sampling at the border crossings are identified as most common.

The Chair invites Parties to engage additional efforts to work on these issues on a regular basis and to abstain from imposing new and unnecessary restrictions in mutual trade.

To address these issues, the Chair proposes several activities and necessary steps to achieve them in the period of 2012-2014:

2.4.1 Implementation of the obligation under Article 12.3 of CEFTA Agreement

- Explore possibilities for concluding bilateral/multilateral recognition agreements
- Identification of areas of interest for these agreements
- Undertake necessary analysis to assess the impacts of the mutual recognition agreements
- Conclude bilateral/plurilateral mutual agreements where appropriate
- Report to the Joint Committee on the achievements and implementation

2.4.2 Implementation of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of the NTBs

- Implement the recommendations from the cycles of assessment of the MMF on intermediary and final products
- Report regularly on the achievements to the SC on NTBs and TBT as well as to the Joint Committee

2.4.3 Cooperation with the SC on NTBs and TBT

- Perform regular exchange of information with the SC on NTBs and TBT
- Participate at the meetings of the SC on NTBs and TBT and report on the developments in eliminating the NTBs in the field of SPS
- Engage actively in the process of assessment of the MMF performed by the outsourced experts and independent institutions
- Regularly update the information on the CEFTA Trade Portal which relates to the sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary regulation and legislation

2.4.4 Cooperation with the SC on Customs and ROO

- Explore potentials to have a common regional approach for cooperation among SPS agencies and customs authorities;
- Participate in meetings of SC on customs issues and ROO when border agencies issues are to be addressed

2.5. Experience Sharing and Transparency

Drawing on the Article 12.2 of the Agreement, which sets commitment that each Party will cooperate in the sanitary and phytosanitary area including the veterinary issues and provide

necessary information upon the request, the Chair is ready to engage efforts in enhancing the current transparency over the next three-year period.

A set of activities with a number of necessary steps are developed in order to achieve upgrading of the transparency and information of measures sharing to the next level.

Activity 2.5.1 Collecting data on food safety, plant and animal health measures

- Identify types of the sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary measures that could potentially impede the intra-regional trade
- Collect information on food safety, plant and animal health measures in each of the Parties
- Obtain information on other relevant regulation that can complement the SPS list of measures and will provide full picture on the SPS environment

Activity 2.5.2 Database on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

- Establish the information platform to support the uploaded data and be user friendly to the wider circle of beneficiaries
- Standardize the documentation and procedures for entering data
- Perform the uploading of data at the first stage in a non-interactive format with the possibility of transforming it into the online notification system
- Ensure permanent updating of data by the Parties
- Secure periodical upgrading of the system in order to maintain the high speed and quality of the notification system
- Promotion of database to the wider circle of users

Activity 2.5.3 Promotion and information sharing on SPS regulation

- Regular update of the CEFTA Trade Portal on the SPS section
- Presentation of achievements in SPS (agencies cooperation, removal of NTBs, conclusion of mutual recognition agreements, etc) in the CEFTA Week, international conferences, forums, etc.

3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RELATED REGIONAL PROJECTS

The implementation of the Work Programme for 2012-2014 will require the active participation of all the CEFTA Parties, and will be supported adequately by the technical tailor-made assistance.

3.1. Identification of common areas that require technical assistance

Activity 2.1.1 Implementation of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of NTBs

The Multilateral Monitoring Framework is developed with the assistance of the OECD Private Sector Development Division. The main objective of this assistance is to conduct regular independent monitoring of the elimination of NTBs, perform the extensive analysis of trade flows in intermediary and final goods among CEFTA Parties with the aim of identifying a set of priority sectors and goods for NTBs elimination. The MMF is in implementation from 2010, the first assessment analysis on intermediary goods was conducted in the course of 2011 and the results with the recommendations presented before the members of the Subcommittee and the Joint Committee in November 2011.

With the financial assistance from the European Commission the OECD–CEFTA MMF project on elimination of NTBs will extend to another three years. The assessment will cover the final goods in all areas where the NTBs are identified: (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. 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.

Activity 2.1.2 Reporting to other CEFTA Structures

The CEFTA Structures (Chair of the Subcommittee with the assistance of the Secretariat) will do reporting on the pace of implementation of the recommendations from the MMF to the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT and Joint Committee and there is no technical assistance envisaged or required.

Activity 2.1.3 Participation at the CEFTA meetings

Participation at the official CEFTA meetings is at the cost of each CEFTA Party. The participation at the Regional Roundtable is financed by the OECD.

Activity 2.1.4 Promotion of the achieved results

Promotion of achieved results does not require specific technical assistance.

Activity 2.2.1 Pursuit of trade liberalization in agricultural products

There is no specific technical assistance envisaged for the implementation of the Additional Protocol and Annex 10.

Activity 2.2.2 Assessment of impact of liberalization on the CEFTA Economies

The CEFTA Parties will do the assessment of the results of the liberalisation and there is no need for outsourced technical assistance.

Activity 2.3.1 Assessments on possibilities for common framework on the SPS

No assistance need.

Activity 2.3.2 Institutionalized transfer of knowledge and joint training

Technical assistance will be needed in organizing and holding the regional training. This would include the financing as well as outsourcing the technical experts.

Activity 2.3.3 Increase the transparency of legislation

Creation of permanent notification systems might require additional technical and financial support by interested donors.

Activity 2.3.4 Speeding up the process of harmonization of relevant SPS legislation

Technical expertise might be needed.

Activity 2.3.5 Consolidation of capacities for full implementation of risk analysis

Technical expertise will be required in organization of regional trainings.

Activity 2.3.6 Coordination of actions in the process of transposition of EU legislation

Technical expertise will be required in organization of regional trainings.

Activity 2.3.7 Joint representation of CEFTA SPS agencies in international organisations, forums

Technical expertise might be needed in identifying the areas of interest and capacity building of experts who will participate in the various committees of FAO, IPPC, OIE.

Activity 2.4.1 Implementation of the obligation under Article 12.3 of CEFTA Agreement

Technical guidelines and expertise needed.

Activity 2.4.2 Implementation of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of the NTBs

The OECD team of experts provides technical assistance on assessments, recommendations and

guidelines. Implementation of recommendations might require additional technical support.

Activity 2.4.3 Cooperation with the SC on NTBs and TBT

Exchange of information, participation of representatives on SC on NTBs and TBT meetings do not require additional technical support.

Activity 2.4.4 Cooperation with the SC on Customs and ROO

No additional technical assistance required.

Activity 2.5.1 Collecting data on food safety, plant and animal health measures

Technical expertise might be needed.

Activity 2.5.2 Database on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Technical expertise and financial assistance in creating and updating the database is needed.

Activity 2.5.3 Promotion and information sharing on SPS regulation

Information sharing on the CEFTA Trade Portal currently is supported by the GIZ project but it is envisaged as from 2013 that the CEFTA Parties take over the uploading and updating of information.

4. EXPECTED RESULTS

The expected results of our Chairmanship are outlined in the span of the three-year period.

Activity 2.1.1 Implementation of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of NTBs

- Recommendations in the area of SPS are implemented

Activity 2.1.2 Reporting to other CEFTA Structures

- Annual and semi-annual Report of SC on Agriculture and SPS submitted to Joint Committee

Activity 2.1.3 Participation at the CEFTA meetings

- CEFTA Parties are regularly participating at the official CEFTA meetings

Activity 2.1.4 Promotion of the achieved results

- Implemented recommendations and results are promoted at the CEFTA Trade Portal, CEFTA Secretariat's website, CEFTA Week, at international conferences, forums, etc.

Activity 2.2.1 Pursuit of trade liberalization in agricultural products

- The Additional Protocol and Annex 10 are fully implemented and monitored

Activity 2.2.2 Assessment of impact of liberalization on the CEFTA Economies

- Report on the assessment of the impact of the liberalisation on CEFTA economies is submitted to the Joint Committee

Activity 2.3.1 Assessments on possibilities for common framework on the SPS

- Mechanisms for consultations among CEFTA SPS agencies on formulating the national strategies are developed.

Activity 2.3.2 Institutionalized transfer of knowledge and joint training

- Focal points for dissemination of knowledge in more advanced CEFTA Parties are established
- Regional training is held in the areas such as: harmonization of legislation and practices in phytosanitary area, risk based inspection methodology and approach and notification to the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

Activity 2.3.3 Increase the transparency of legislation

- Permanent notification mechanisms on SPS legislation is developed
- A new legislation is available for consultation before the process of its final adoption

Activity 2.3.4 Speeding up the process of harmonization of relevant SPS legislation

- Assessment of current level of harmonization is completed
- Harmonization of by-laws in line with WTO-SPS and EU requirements is ensured

Activity 2.3.5 Consolidation of capacities for full implementation of risk analysis

- The system of information and experiences exchange for control and inspection procedures and risk analysis is in place

Activity 2.3.6 Coordination of actions in the process of transposition of EU legislation

- Questionnaire on new legislation/practices harmonized with EU requirements is published annually on the CEFTA Trade Portal

Activity 2.3.7 Joint representation of CEFTA SPS agencies in international organisations, forums

- regional representatives for participation at the meetings of CAC, IPPC and OIE are identified
- Parties are trained for negotiating in SPS standings at international organizations' meetings
- Common standings on certain measures that are or should be proposed on the international level are adopted

Activity 2.4.1 Implementation of the obligation under Article 12.3 of CEFTA Agreement

- The necessary analysis on potential interest for concluding the mutual recognition agreements are performed

- The analysis on the fields of interest and potential impact of the mutual recognition agreements are performed
- The bilateral/plurilateral agreements among respective Parties are concluded where appropriate
- The report on achievements and implementation is submitted to the Joint Committee

Activity 2.4.2 Implementation of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of the NTBs

- The recommendations in the area of SPS are implemented
- The report on successful implementation is submitted to the Joint Committee

Activity 2.4.3 Cooperation with the SC on NTBs and TBT

- Exchange of information is performed regularly
- The Chair/members of the SC on Agriculture and SPS are present and report on the achievements at the regular meetings of the SC on NTBs and TBT
- The members are actively involved in the assessments process of the MMF in the SPS field
- The members are active in updating of the SPS section of the CEFTA Trade Portal

Activity 2.4.4 Cooperation with the SC on Customs and ROO

- The joint areas of cooperation between the SPS agencies and customs authorities in the region are identified
- The participation at the SC on customs and ROO meetings secured

Activity 2.5.1 Collecting data on food safety, plant and animal health measures

- Types of the sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary measures to enter the database are identified and endorsed by the CEFTA Parties
- Information on SPS measures and other relevant regulation is collected by the Parties and outsourced assistance

Activity 2.5.2 Creation of a Database on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

- Information platform to support the uploaded data is developed
- Documentation and procedures are standardized
- Periodical upgrading of the system is secured
- Updating of data by the Parties is ensured
- Data are uploaded in a non-interactive format
- the online notification system is in place

Activity 2.5.3 Promotion and information sharing on SPS regulation

- the SPS section of the CEFTA Trade Portal is updated regularly with the new regulation in CEFTA Parties
- The achievements in the SPS cooperation are widely promoted at the conferences, forums, workshops.

5. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The tentative calendar for the year 2012 is as follows:

| MEETING/EVENT | DATES in 2012 |
|---|----------------------|
| Fifth meeting of the Subcommittee on Agriculture and SPS | May |
| Participation at the meetings of the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT | April and October |
| Fourth Regional Roundtable on Elimination of NTBs | October |
| CEFTA Week 2012 | October/November |
| Sixth Joint Committee Meeting | October/November |

Annex 1: ACTION PLAN FOR 2012

| OBJECTIVE | PHASES | ACTION | KEY MILESTONES | TIMEFRAME |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Coordination with other CEFTA Structures | 1. Coordination of activities with SC on NTBs and TBT on common areas | 1.1. Coordination of activities in implementation of the recommendations for the SPS with the SC on NTBs and TBT in order to ensure synergies and avoid any overlapping | Recommendations in the area of SPS are implemented | January-December2012 |
| | 2. Reporting to the other CEFTA structures | 2.1. reporting on the pace of implementation to the SC on NTBs and TBT (<i>Key dates: April and October</i>) 2.2. reporting on results achieved to the Joint Committee | Annual and semi-annual Report of SC on Agriculture and SPS submitted to Deputy Ministers and Joint Committee | June 2012 October 2012 |
| | 3. Participation at the CEFTA Meetings | 3.1. Participation of the Chair at the SC on NTBs and TBT meetings 3.2. Participation of the members to the Regional Roundtable on NTBs 3.3. Participation of the Chair at the sixth JCM | CEFTA Parties are regularly participating at the official CEFTA meetings, roundtables. | April 2012 October 2012 October/November |
| | 4. Promotion of the results | 4.1. Promotion to the business community through events such as CEFTA Trade Portal, CEFTA Week 2012 4.2. Exchange of information with the members of the CEFTA Forum Chambers of Commerce | Implemented recommendations and results are promoted at the CEFTA Trade Portal, CEFTA Secretariat's website, CEFTA Week, at international conferences, forums | Continuous October/November |
| Harnessing the benefits of the liberalisation in agricultural trade | 1.Pursuit of trade liberalization in agricultural products | 1.1. Continuous monitoring of the implementation of the Additional Protocol and Annex 10 | The Additional Protocol and Annex 10 are fully implemented and monitored | January- December |
| | 2.Assessment of impact of liberalization on the CEFTA Economies | 2.1. The effects of the liberalisation will closely be followed through periodical analysis 2.2. Reporting to the Joint Committee on the assessment | Report on the assessment of the impact of the liberalisation on CEFTA economies is submitted to the Joint Committee | October/November |
| Strengthening the cooperation in SPS area | 1.Assessments on possibilities for common framework on the SPS | 1.1.Assessment of current bilateral agreements in the SPS field; 1.2.Develop mechanisms for consultations on formulating strategies in the specific SPS areas | Assessment of bilateral agreements done Discussion on mechanism for consultations held | May – December 2012 |
| | 2.Institutionalized transfer of knowledge and joint training | 2.1. Establishing of focal points in the Parties that can transfer their knowledge to other less developed Parties in the specific field of SPS; 2.2.Organizing regional trainings on harmonization of legislation and practices in phytosanitary area | Discussions on potential focal points in some of the Parties discussed Identification of regional trainings need completed | May -December2012 |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | 3.Increase the transparency of legislation | 3.1.Create permanent notification mechanisms on SPS legislation; 3.2.Ensure that a new legislation is available for consultation before the process of final adoption | The type and frequency of notifications discussed and common solutions agreed | May –December 2012 |
| | 4.Speeding up the process of harmonization of relevant SPS legislation | 4.1.Assessment of current level of harmonization of national with the EU legislation; 4.2.Harmonization of by-laws in line with WTO-SPS and EU requirements | The Parties' stage and dynamics in EU, WTO accession processes reported | May -December 2012 |
| | 5.Consolidation of capacities for full implementation of risk analysis | 5.1.Sharing information and experiences for control and inspection procedures and risk analysis; 5.2.Regional trainings and joint bidding for outsourced technical assistance in this area | Information shared, needs for training in specific areas at the regional level agreed | May-December 2012 |
| | 6.Coordination of actions in the process of transposition of EU legislation | 6.1.Follow the best experiences on necessary capacities for transposition of EU regulations 6.2.Adopt only measures which are fully harmonized with EU and WTO-SPS principles 6.3.Circulate a questionnaire on new legislation/practices harmonized with EU requirements on the annual basis and publish the information regularly on the CEFTA Trade Portal | Questionnaire on new legislation/practices harmonised with the EU requirements published on the CEFTA Trade Portal | By December 2012 |
| | 7.Joint representation of CEFTA SPS agencies in international organisations, forums | 7.1.Identify areas of interest and regional representatives for each of the committee where they have strategic interest to participate, 7.2.Explore possibilities of having common standings on certain measures that are or should be proposed on the international level | Discussions on possible regional representation of the CEFTA SPS agencies at the international organisations meetings discussed | May 2012 |
| Elimination of NTBs in trade with agricultural products | 1.Implementation of the obligation under Article 12.3 of CEFTA Agreement | 1.1.Explore possibilities for concluding bilateral/multilateral recognition agreements 1.2.Identification of areas of interest for these agreements | The possibilities and areas of interest for concluding bilateral/multilateral recognition agreements discussed and joint actions agreed | May 2012 |
| | 2.Implementation of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of the NTBs | 2.1.Select final products for the first cycle assessment of MMF 2.2.Report on the achievements to the SC on NTBs and TBT as well as to the Joint Committee | Members of the SC on Agriculture and SPS actively involved in determining the final products for elimination of NTBs under MMF Report on activities submitted to the SC on NTBs and TBT and to the JC | January-December April 2012 May 2012 October/November |
| | 3.Cooperation with the SC on NTBs and TBT | 3.1.Perform regular exchange of information with the SC on NTBs and TBT | Exchange of information performed Participation of chair/members secured | January - December |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| | | <p>3.2.Participate at the meetings of the SC on NTBs and TBT and report on the developments in eliminating the NTBs in the field of SPS</p> <p>3.3.Engage actively in the process of assessment of the MMF performed by the outsourced experts and independent institutions</p> <p>3.4.Regularly update the information on the CEFTA Trade Portal which relates to the sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary regulation and legislation</p> | <p>Members of the SC actively involved in assessment of MMF in final products</p> <p>Members regularly update CEFTA Trade Portal in SPS section</p> | |
| Improved experience sharing and transparency | 1.Collecting data on food safety, plant and animal health measures | <p>1.1.Identify types of the sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary measures that could potentially impede the intra-regional trade</p> <p>1.2.Collect information on food safety, plant and animal health measures in each of the Parties</p> <p>1.3.Obtain information on other relevant regulation that can complement the SPS list of measures and will provide full picture on the SPS environment</p> | <p>The types of SPS measures identified and endorsed for uploading in the database</p> <p>Information on SPS measures and additional information collected with assistance of outsourced technical assistance</p> | May-December 2012 |
| | 2.Database on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures | <p>2.1.Establish the information platform to support the uploaded data and be user friendly to the wider circle of beneficiaries</p> <p>2.2.Standardize the documentation and procedures for entering data</p> <p>2.3.Perform the uploading of data at the first stage in a non-interactive format with the possibility of transforming it into the online notification system</p> <p>2.4.Promotion of database to the wider circle of users</p> | <p>The information platform to support the uploaded data set up</p> <p>The documentation and procedures standardized</p> <p>First uploading of data performed</p> <p>Database promoted to users</p> | Second half of 2012 |
| | 3.Promotion and information sharing on SPS regulation | <p>3.1.Update SPS section of the CEFTA Trade Portal with the new regulation in CEFTA Parties</p> <p>3.2. The achievements in the SPS cooperation are widely promoted at the conferences, forums, workshops.</p> | <p>CEFTA Trade Portal regularly updated</p> <p>Achievements of the SPS cooperation widely promoted</p> | January-December October/November |

ANNEX 2: Logical framework matrix

| LOG FRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR PRIORITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON Agriculture and SPS | | Period: 2012 -2014 | |
|---|---|--|--|
| 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 Chapter III of the Agreement, in specific Articles 10, 11 and 12; improve the cooperation in the SPS area; work on eliminating NTBs and strengthen the cooperation with other CEFTA Structures. | All meetings of the Subcommittee are held with the active participation of CEFTA Parties | Report of the Subcommittee | |
| Priorities | Indicators of Achievement | Sources of Verification | Assumptions |
| 1) Coordination with other CEFTA Structures 2) Harnessing the benefits of the liberalisation in agricultural trade, 3) Strengthening the cooperation in the sanitary and phytosanitary area, 4) Elimination of NTBs in trade with agricultural products 5) Improved experience sharing and transparency | 1) The full synergies among the CEFTA Structures achieved with no overlapping of activities and efforts 2) The positive impact of liberalisation is proved 3) The number of transposed SPS legislation is increased 4) The number of NTBs that have origin in SPS area have decreasing tendency 5) The CEFTA Parties are timely informed about the new regulations with a potential hindering impact on trade | Report of SC on Agriculture and SPS Report of SC on NTBs and TBT CEFTA MADBase | 1) Each CEFTA Party remains committed to the CEFTA process and its provisions. 2) Bilateral 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Implementation of the MMF 2) Reporting to the other CEFTA structures 3) Participation at the CEFTA Meetings 4) Promotion of the results <p><u>Priority 2:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Pursuit of trade liberalisation in agricultural products 2) Assessment of impact of liberalisation on the CEFTA economies <p><u>Priority 3:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Assessment on possibilities for common framework on the SPS 2) Institutionalized transfer of knowledge and joint training 3) Increase the transparency of legislation 4) Speeding up the process of harmonization of relevant SPS legislation 5) Consolidation of capacities for full implementation of risk analysis 6) Coordination of actions in the process of transposition of EU legislation 7) Joint representation of CEFTA SPS agencies in international organisations, forums | <p><u>Priority 1:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Recommendations from the MMF implemented 2) Annual and semi-annual reports of the SC on Agriculture and SPS submitted to the JC 3) Parties are regularly participating at the official CEFTA meetings 4) Implemented recommendations and achieved results are promoted at the CEFTA Trade Portal, Secretariat's website, CEFTA Week, international conferences, forums <p><u>Priority 2:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Additional Protocol and Annex 10 are fully implemented 2) Report on the assessment of the impact of the liberalisation on CEFTA economies is submitted to the JC <p><u>Priority 3:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mechanisms for consultations among CEFTA SPS agencies on formulating the national strategies are developed 2) Focal points for dissemination of knowledge in more advanced CEFTA Parties are established 3) Regional training is held in the areas such as: harmonization of legislation and practices in phytosanitary area, risk based inspection methodology and approach and notification to the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) 4) Permanent notification mechanisms on SPS legislation is developed 5) A new legislation is available for consultation before the process of its final adoption 6) Assessment of current level of harmonization is completed 7) Harmonization of by-laws in line with WTO-SPS and EU requirements is ensured 8) regional representatives for participation at the meetings of CAC, IPPC and OIE are identified | <p>SC on Agriculture and SPS SC on NTBs and TBT meetings Regional Roundtable on NTBs OECD MMF Project CEFTA Trade Portal CEFTA Secretariat website</p> <p>SC on Agriculture and SPS meetings</p> <p>SC on Agriculture and SPS External donors</p> <p>IPPC, CAC, OIE, WTO</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p><u>Priority 4:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Cooperation with the SC on NTBs and TBT 2) Implementation of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of the NTBs 3) Implementation of the obligation under Article 12.3 of CEFTA Agreement | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9) Parties are trained for negotiating in SPS standings at international organizations' meetings 10) Common standings on certain measures that are or should be proposed on the international level are adopted 11) Questionnaire on new legislation/practices harmonized with EU requirements is published annually on the CEFTA Trade Portal 12) The system of information and experiences exchange for control and inspection procedures and risk analysis is in place <p><u>Priority 4:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The necessary analysis on potential interest for concluding the mutual recognition agreements are performed 2) The analysis on the fields of interest and potential impact of the mutual recognition agreements are performed 3) The bilateral/plurilateral agreements among respective Parties are concluded where appropriate 4) The report on achievements and implementation is submitted to the Joint Committee 5) The recommendations in the area of SPS are implemented 6) The report on successful implementation is submitted to the Joint Committee 7) Exchange of information is performed regularly 8) The Chair/members of the SC on Agriculture and SPS are present and report on the achievements at the regular meetings of the SC on NTBs and TBT 9) The members are actively involved in the assessments process of the MMF in the SPS field 10) The members are active in updating of the SPS section of the CEFTA Trade Portal | <p>SC on NTBs and TBT</p> <p>SC on Agriculture and SPS</p> <p>OECD MMF Project</p> <p>CEFTA Trade Portal</p> | |
|--|---|--|--|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p><u>Priority 5:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Promotion and information sharing on SPS regulation 2) Creation of a Database on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures 3) Collecting data on food safety, plant and animal health measures | <p><u>Priority 5:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Types of the sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary measures to enter the database are identified and endorsed by the CEFTA Parties 2) Information on SPS measures and other relevant regulation is collected by the Parties and outsourced assistance 3) the SPS section of the CEFTA Trade Portal is updated regularly with the new regulation in CEFTA Parties 4) The achievements in the SPS cooperation are widely promoted at the conferences, forums, workshops. 5) Information platform to support the uploaded data is developed 6) Documentation and procedures are standardized 7) Periodical upgrading of the system is secured 8) Updating of data by the Parties is ensured 9) Data are uploaded in a non-interactive format 10) the online notification system is in place | <p>SC on Agriculture and SPS</p> <p>Outsourced technical assistance</p> | |
|---|---|---|--|