

CEFTA WEEK 2022

AGENDA

9 DECEMBER 2022

CEFTA Week 2022 Conference CEFTA: A stepping stone to the EU Single Market

Brussels (hybrid conference, Hotel NHOW Brussels Bloom)

Zoom link <https://avp-be.zoom.us/j/86726552594>

09:00 – 09:30 Extension of Green Lanes with the EU - Memorandums of understanding signing ceremony

Invitations only

09:30 - 10:00 Registration/ Networking

10:00 - 11:10 Opening session

Dumitru Alaiba, Minister of Economy, Moldova

Oliver Varhelyi, Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, EC (video message)

Matej Zakonjsek, Director, TCT

Tatjana Shterjova Dushkovska, Secretary General, WB6CIF

Pranvera Kastrati, RCC (online)

Emir Djikic, Director, CEFTA Secretariat

11:15 - 12:30 Panel I: EU modelled facilitation of trade in goods – Shaping the CEFTA Parties' EU future

Keynote speakers:

Mario Demirovic, Director of Customs Administration of Croatia

Zagorka Gojkovic, Head of the Department for IPR, Prohibitions and Restrictions, Customs Sector Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Vladimir Bulajic, Acting Director of Revenue and Customs Administration of Montenegro

Marcello Minenna, Director General of the Italian Excise, Customs and Monopolies Agency (online)

Speakers:

Lidia Ababi, Customs Service, Moldova

Klotilda Neziri, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania (online)

Marko Mandic, Chamber of Commerce, Serbia

DG TAXUD, EC

Moderator: Danijela Gacevic, Senior Expert on Trade in Goods, CEFTA Secretariat

European Union is the first trading partner of CEFTA. Entry into force of the Additional Protocol 5 and endorsement of the Action Plan for establishing the Common Regional Market laid the foundation for facilitation of trade in goods in CEFTA based on the EU standards. More specifically, the key requirement to reform the procedures and cut through the red tape is alignment with the EU acquis. Recognition of the programmes of authorized economic operators, improving performance of the fruit and vegetables sectors, reduction of the costs of placing industrial products in the CEFTA market and supporting the growth of electronic commerce have been in focus for a while. The System of Electronic Exchange of Data (SEED+), which is inaugurating digitalization of trade and is the key tool for establishing the Green Lanes in CEFTA and with the EU members states, is also being developed in line with the best EU practices. The panel will discuss the planned next steps and explore how the progress in trade facilitation agenda can contribute to closer integration with the EU and phasing-in to EU policies.

12:30 - 13:45 Lunch hosted by CEFTA

13:45 - 15:00 Panel II: Electronic commerce: CEFTA and European Union

Keynote speaker:

Enrico Camilli, Policy Officer, DG CONNECT, EC (online)

Speakers:

Marina Markovic, Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism, Montenegro

*Marcelë Ponosheci, Ministry of Economy, Kosovo**

Orhan Gazibegovic, Ecommerce Association, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Boyan Ivanov, Libre Research Group (online)

Moderator: Zdravko Ilic, Senior Expert on Trade in Services, CEFTA Secretariat

European Union has created Digital Single Market to remove obstacles for people and businesses when using online tools and services. On the other side, CEFTA being a free trade area of the EU (potential) candidates have followed suit in order to facilitate electronic commerce within and enable easier connections with EU market. Additional Protocol 6 on Trade in Services have provided legal basis while Common Regional Market Action Plan and CEFTA E-commerce Roadmap and Common Regio policy directions. Until today, with the support of the GIZ, CEFTA has agreed three ground-breaking decisions on facilitation of e-commerce, parcel delivery and removing unjustified geo-blocking. The panel will discuss what is the added value of these

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICI Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

decisions for the digital trade in CEFTA and what are the missing pieces of this puzzle to be in the focus in 2023.

15:10 - 16:00 Closing Panel: Stock-taking of the 2022 CEFTA Chairmanship and passing the mantle of 2023 Chairmanship to Montenegro

Speakers:

Dumitru Alaiba, Minister of Economy, Moldova

Armend Milla, State secretary, Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Montenegro

Moderator: Emir Djikic, Director, CEFTA Secretariat

What 2022 have brought to CEFTA? What achievements have been reached and what challenges have been faced? - are some of the questions to be addressed at the panel. Panel will further discuss the objectives set up in 2023 Chairmanship Priorities and opportunities that lie ahead of us.

16:00 - 16:30 Cocktail

19:00 Dinner hosted by CEFTA