

REPORT BY THE CHAIR

THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE IN SERVICES

November 2015

Table of Contents

| I. | BACKGROUND4 | | |
|------|---|--|--|
| 1.1. | Establishment of the Subcommittee4 | | |
| 1.2. | Function of the Subcommittee4 | | |
| 1.3. | Structure of the Subcommittee5 | | |
| II. | MEETINGS5 | | |
| 2.1. | Subcommittee on Trade in Services5 | | |
| 2.2. | 2. Negotiating Group on Trade in Services | | |
| 2.3. | Working Group on Trade in Services Statistics7 | | |
| | 2.3.1. CEFTA-UNCTAD Workshop on FDI Statistics8 | | |
| 2.4. | CEFTA-RCC-ERISEE Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications9 | | |
| III. | TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE | | |
| 3.1. | Liberalization of Trade in Services10 | | |
| | 3.1.1. Facilitation of Trade in Services Negotiations10 | | |
| 3.2. | Trade in Services, FATS and FDI Statistics11 | | |
| | 3.2.1 Establishment of a Reporting System for Trade in Services Statistics, FATS and FDI Statistics | | |
| | 3.2.2. CEFTA Investment Report | | |
| 3.3. | Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications13 | | |
| | 3.3.1. Study to Identify Sectors of Mutual Interest for Potential Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications | | |
| IV. | RESULTS | | |
| 4.1. | Coordination with other CEFTA Structures14 | | |
| 4.2. | Liberalization of trade in services by reducing restrictive policies, measures15 | | |
| 4.3. | Improving quality and uniformity of trade in services statistics15 | | |
| 4.4. | I. Ensuring free movement of skilled labor and professionals | | |
| 4.5. | Experience Sharing and Transparency16 | | |
| ٧. | CALENDAR OF EVENTS16 | | |

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of activities undertaken by the CEFTA Subcommittee on Trade in Service during the period of January to 26 November 2015.

During the reference period, nine events have taken place as follows: regular meeting of the Subcommittee on Trade in Services on 1 July; four meetings of the Negotiating Group on Trade in Services (26-27 February, 29-30 June, 17-18 September and on 23 November); regular meeting of the Working Group on Trade in Services Statistics on 6 October; two meetings of the Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (9 July and 25 September); and a CEFTA—UNCTAD Workshop on FDI Statistics on 7-8 October.

I. BACKGROUND

1.1. Establishment of the Subcommittee

With the objective to ensure the smooth implementation of the commitments undertaken in CEFTA Chapter VI A on Services and with the goal of enhancing the intraregional trade in services, the Joint Committee established the Sub-Committee on Trade in Services in November 2014. At that point, the Subcommittee consisted of two working bodies: the Negotiating Group on Trade in Services and the Working Group on Trade in Services Statistics. With a view to ensure successful implementation of the commitments in the CEFTA Agreement and the SEE2020 Strategy, a joint CEFTA-RCC-ERISEE Working group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications has been added to the current structure of the Subcommittee.

1.2. Function of the Subcommittee

The main task of the Subcommittee is to: (i) coordinate, oversee and streamline the work of bodies established under the Sub-Committee; (ii) monitor the progress on liberalisation of trade in services, including but not limited to negotiating the schedule of specific commitments and give directions or guidelines as necessary in order to finalise the process; (iii) facilitate and supervise the implementation and application of Additional Protocol on Trade in Services; (iv) exchange information on regulatory reform in services sectors; Promote intra-regional cooperation between regulatory bodies, governmental agencies and professional associations in charge of services; (v) identify, review and propose measures for elimination of barriers in trade in services among Parties; (vi) coordinate the efforts of CEFTA Parties to increase transparency of their policies, laws and regulations and administrative practices affecting trade in services i.e. by encouraging CEFTA Parties to establish single point of information/enquiry; (vii) act as a forum for exchange of experiences on adoption of the EU Acquis in the context of relevant EU integration process; (viii) Commission studies and analyses in order to fulfil the tasks of these terms of reference; (ix) cooperate with other relevant regional and international structures with a view to deepen the regional cooperation in investment and trade in services.

1.3. Structure of the Subcommittee

The following working bodies are set up in the Subcommittee on Trade in Services:

Negotiating Group on Trade in Services with the objective to ensure progressive liberalisation and mutual opening of the services markets of CEFTA Parties.

Working Group on Trade in Services Statistics with the objective to improve the quality of international trade in services statistics across the CEFTA Region and harmonise the statistics with those of the European Union.

Joint CEFTA-RCC-ERISEE Working Group on Recognition of Professional Qualifications with the objective to enhance the intraregional trade in services by facilitating recognition of professional qualifications.

II. MEETINGS

2.1. SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE IN SERVICES

Subcommittee on Trade in Services held its first meeting on 1 July 2015, in Chisinau. The main items on the agenda were: (i) adoption of the Work Program (ii) reporting of the working bodies on the activities; (iii) possibilities of extension of the Additional Protocol on Trade in Services to include establishment. The Parties recognized the need to have consistent, predictable and transparent rules for investment across the region. They in principle agreed that both services and non-services sectors should be covered by the same investment rules. Given the complexity of issue and lack of official mandate, Parties were not in position to discuss in detail the exact scope, coverage and modes of how to incorporate it in the CEFTA Agreement, i.e. whether as a separate agreement on investment or as an extension of existing Protocol on Trade in Services to include commercial presence (establishment). The Parties agreed to send the official positions before the Joint Committee meeting which will be held in November 2015.

In addition, the members of the Subcommittee had the opportunity to hear on the regional programs in tourism industry conducted under the auspices of the RCC Tourism Expert Group, as well as statistical overview of major trends in services sectors delivered by the OECD. The Parties once again stressed importance of having good quality and comparable data in trade in services in particular for analytical purposes to support the negotiations and assess the impact of achieved liberalization.

2.2. **NEGOTIATING GROUP ON TRADE IN SERVICES**

Ensuring progressive liberalization and mutual opening of the services markets of CEFTA Parties remain one of the main objective of the Negotiating Group on Trade in Services. Pursuing this common goal, CEFTA Parties have kept the dynamic pace of negotiation of liberalization of trade in services respecting the timeline approved by the Joint Committee at the eight Ministerial meeting held on 21 November 2014.

Intensive negotiations were conducted on liberalization of ten services sectors such as business and professional services, tourism, environmental and recreational services, communication and construction services and distribution, education and health services, where significant and substantial achievements has been accomplished.

Thus far, six rounds of negotiations have taken place, four of which were held this year, each round being dedicated to a specific service sector and finalization of the texts of the Additional Protocol and Annex 1 on Temporary Entry and Stay of Natural Persons for Business Purposes.

The third session of negotiations, which took place on 26 and 27 February in Brussels under the Chairmanship of Moldova, was dedicated to the finalization of the draft text of the Annex 1 of the Additional Protocol which deals with the temporary entry of natural persons for business purposes, and negotiations on business and professional services. The negotiating Parties confirmed that the Annex I was agreed ad referendum, i.e. subject to confirmation by the capitals. The time was also dedicated to the discussion on the horizontal commitments and the proposal on standardized language in the horizontal commitments was sent to the Parties for their comments. Also, during this session the Parties exchanged their commitments on business and professional services. Intensive negotiations were conducted in constructive and positive atmosphere and resulted in multilateral agreements across majority of sub-sectors. Parties were invited to investigate in capitals the possibilities for broadening their negotiating margins in several services sub-sectors where there was not possible to reach multilateral agreement on the spot. In conclusion, the negotiating Parties agreed that a common objective had to be a steady progress in each and every negotiating round and expressed the satisfaction for the significant progress achieved during two days.

The fourth meeting took place on 29 and 30 June in Chisinau. The focus of this negotiation session was placed on finalizing the text of the horizontal commitments, exchanging positions on tourism, recreational, environmental and cultural services and aligning positions on business and professional services. Montenegro reserved its position regarding Annex 1 on presence of natural persons. CEFTA parties agreed to send officially a request to Montenegro to consider accommodating their domestic laws with the Annex 1 and if not possible to achieve this at this point of time then to commit for transitional period of 2 years as of entry into force of the Additional Protocol. All Parties agreed that the recognition of professional qualifications is very important for achieving substantial liberalization of trade

in services, in particular in professional services, and that this issue is best placed to be discussed within the Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications. The official letter to reconsider the acceptance of Annex 1 to the Additional Protocol on Trade in Services was sent by the Chair in Office to Montenegro on 12 October 2015.

The fifth session of the Negotiating Group on Trade in Services was held on 17 and 18 September in Chisinau. This round was dedicated to communication services including telecommunications, broadcasting and information supply services, construction and related engineering services, in particular the sectors related to courier and postal services. With regard to the Article 4 of the Additional Protocol on Trade in Services the Parties are still undecided regarding the treatment of MFN exemptions in the negotiations. It was agreed in principle that all efforts should be made to eliminate MFN exemptions for services in the CEFTA. The Parties agreed to consult the capitals and stakeholders to find mutually accepted solutions in this regard.

The sixth negotiating round on trade in services was held on 23 November in Chisinau. The session was dedicated to exchanging the positions on distribution, education and health services. With regard to distribution services, the Parties took into consideration the proposal to group all related services into two categories: wholesale and retail. The final decision will be made after internal consultation. On health services, the negotiations were limited to privately funded services, a number of Parties needed further capital consultations on other human health services and social security, while it was decided that medical, dental and veterinary services would be placed under the scope of business and professional services. The education services were in principle agreed to be liberalized in all modes of supply. The Parties took opportunity to discuss the proposal of the Chair-in-Office to extend the mandate to include non-services sectors. No decision was made at this time. The Parties agreed to include in further discussions on this topic the responsible persons for investment policy and BITs. The last part of the meeting was dedicated to addressing the issues left open from the previous rounds.

The next meeting of the Negotiating Group on Trade in Services is envisaged to take place in the first quarter of 2016 under the Chairmanship of Montenegro and will be dedicated to finance, transport and audiovisual services.

2.3. WORKING GROUP ON TRADE IN SERVICES STATISTICS

The Working Group on Trade in Services Statistics held its first meeting on 6 October in Becici, (Montenegro). The main items on the agenda were: (i) establishment and tasks of the Working Group on Trade in Services Statistics; (ii) reporting and dissemination of trade in

services statistical data; (iii) technical assistance to support the implementation of tasks of the WG. The terms of reference of the Working Group on Trade in Services Statistics were adjusted to include FATS and FDI statistics as well the work on establishing data reporting system and dissemination platform. The Decision No. 10/2015 will amend the Decision No.5/2014 to include changes and will be presented for adoption at the Joint Committee meeting on 26 November 2015.

The Parties presented their current state of play in reporting the statistical data on trade in services to the international organizations as well as their needs for specific data and type of indicators that can be deemed useful in the process of negotiation. The IT consultant who provides the technical assistance to the CEFTA Secretariat presented the development and future implementation of the CEFTA management information system (MIS) that will include, among the others, data on trade in services, FATS and FDI. The best manner to proceed is to set up a software system that fully reflects data provided in Vademecum on implementation of BPM6 respecting the standards of the EU Member States. This, however, would not impede Parties to use the currently available data even if they do not reach the highest standards of quality and availability (such as lack of breakdown on economic activity or by country). With regard to the dissemination platform, the consultant presented the MIS solution which apart from other databases of the Transparency Pack (MADB, SPS and TBT Platform, CEFTA Trade Portal), will include statistical data on trade in goods and services. The issue of double counting in the case of manufacturing services, and the confidentiality of certain data in the process of publishing was also addressed.

Regarding the technical assistance which will be necessary to support the implementation of the Working Group tasks, the Parties expressed their proposals regarding the type of assistance they need from the perspective of both users and compilers of statistical data. The need for reconciliation meetings was also stressed as advisable before publishing of data.

The members in principle agreed to have future meetings scheduled for the second half of October taking into account their obligations towards international organizations.

2.3.1. CEFTA-UNCTAD Workshop on Foreign Direct Investments Statistics

In order to assist the CEFTA Parties in the implementation of the commitments set up in terms of reference of the WG on trade in services statistics, the CEFTA Secretariat in coordination with the UNCTAD organised the Workshop on FDI Statistics on 7 and 8 October 2015, in Becici, Montenegro. The participants were representatives from ministries of trade/economy responsible for trade and investment issues, central banks and statistical offices from CEFTA Parties.

The overall objective of the workshop was to raise awareness of the importance of standards and guidelines regarding the compilation of data on FDI and discuss a two-year work plan of the region on harmonization of data on FDI and activities of foreign affiliates. The end goal agreed was to produce a regional report on investment trends and flows, a so-called CEFTA Investment Report, which will be designed following the UNCTAD methodology. The tentative period for publishing of this Report is set up for mid-2017 and will be widely promoted at the CEFTA Week 2017.

2.4. JOINT CEFTA-RCC-ERISEE WORKING GROUP ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The first meeting aimed at establishing the Joint Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications was held on 9 July in Sarajevo (BiH). The objective of the meeting was to discuss the establishment of the Working Group in particular its mandate and responsibilities. The Working Group consists of the representatives from three ministries in charge of education, trade/economy and labor/employment related issues, who will have active role in designing the scope of work and future activities.

During this meeting the respective chairs informed on the current stage of implementation of the SEE 2020 and the monitoring activities, as well as on the roles and upcoming activities of the Social Agenda Working Group, CEFTA and ERI SEE. The participants reported on the implementation of EU directive 2013/55/EU on the recognition of professional qualifications. All representatives have stated that no bilateral agreements on professional qualifications are/were requested or concluded so far, which leaves space for mutually agreed arrangements to be concluded on the regional basis. The members recognized that without mutual recognition agreements it will not be possible to implement any activities or commitments regarding the liberalization of trade and services. Establishing a regional data base which would be vital for creating evidence based policies was stressed as important task to be achieved in the coming years.

The TAIEX-CEFTA Workshop on Recognition of Professional Qualifications, originally scheduled for 15 and 16 September to be held in Chisinau, was postponed by TAIEX. The next date of the event will be determined in cooperation with the CEFTA Secretariat.

The second meeting of the JWGMRPQ took place on 25 September in Sarajevo. The objective of the meeting was to finalize the terms of reference for establishing the joint regional working group and endorse its mandate and responsibilities, as well as to adopt a

work plan for the implementation of this objective for the next period. A brief outline of the work plan was defined. An assessment study for identifying sectors and professions of mutual interest where potential MRAs might be concluded is to be produced. The study is to be finalized by March 2016, to be followed by the impact study and leading to defining the national priority sectors and professional qualifications of national interest. The third meeting of the JWG is scheduled for end of March 2016 and will be followed by the study on mapping the relevant legislation, key actors, and professional bodies. The purpose of the study is to enable preparing a roadmap on potential conclusion of MRAs. The fourth meeting of the JWG is envisaged for October 2016 with the aim of adopting the guidelines and the roadmap for negotiations, and to discuss the work plan for the 2017.

The CEFTA Ministerial Decision No.10/2015 will amend the Decision No.5/2014 to include the terms of reference of the JWGMRPQ within the structure of the Subcommittee on Trade in Services and will be presented for adoption at the Joint Committee meeting on 26 November.

III. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The tailor made technical assistance has been arranged in order to support the work of the working bodies and facilitate implementation of undertaken commitments.

3.1. Liberalisation of Trade in Services

3.1.1. Facilitation of Trade in Services Negotiations

An independent consultant was engaged by the CEFTA Secretariat to assist in the process of negotiating liberalisation of trade in services.

The objective of this project is to support the activities of the CEFTA Negotiating Group on Trade in Services and within the broader framework to assist in implementation of the CEFTA 2006. The purpose of the assignment is to: (i) assist the Chair of the Negotiating Group on Trade in Services in the negotiation process of liberalisation of trade in services amongst CEFTA Parties; and (ii) assist the Secretariat in administering the negotiations on liberalisation of trade in services.

The consultant provided an assessment of the model that was developed by the Negotiating Group on a harmonised minimum level of specific commitments and suggested some improvements in order to facilitate the negotiating process amongst CEFTA Parties. Further, the consultant also produced guidelines on multilateral negotiations, in order to facilitate the conduct of the services negotiations.

Before each round of negotiations the consultant prepared in cooperation with the CEFTA Secretariat the necessary documents, such as consolidated offers based on individual Parties' offers and background briefs. During the negotiating process the consultant had an active role in steering the negotiations, advising and guiding the negotiators towards achieving a successful outcome. After each round of negotiations, the consultant prepared a report on the progress achieved and highlighted the subsequent steps to be undertaken in order to reach the next level in the process.

Following the completion of five negotiating sessions, significant progress has been achieved both in terms of offers and requests for market opening and finalisation of the draft text of the Additional Protocol on Trade in Services and Annex 1 on Temporary Entry and Stay of Natural Persons for Business Purposes. To date, substantive negotiations have taken place in the following services sectors: (i) business and professional services; (ii) tourism and environmental and recreational services; and (iii) communication and construction services; (iv) distribution, educational and health services.

The support for the negotiations on trade in services has facilitated both the depth and pace of the negotiations. In addition to technical expertise on trade in services, it has provided capacity building support for both the members of the Negotiating Group and the CEFTA Secretariat. Successful liberalization will result in more efficient and better connected services industries and markets and contribute to the deeper intra-regional integration.

3.2. Trade in Services Statistics, FATS and FDI Statistics

Two projects are envisaged to assist the improving of quality and availability of trade in services, FATS and FDI statistical data.

3.2.1. Establishment of a Reporting System for Trade in Services Statistics, FATS and FDI Statistics

CEFTA Secretariat will outsource a statistician expert in 2016 who will provide technical assistance in proposing the roadmap for improving the system of data collection for statistical analysis and integration of data into the dissemination platform (CEFTA MIS) in

order to support the negotiations on trade in services as well as implementation of priorities in CEFTA and SEE2020.

The project will be delivered in two phases.

Phase 1 will comprise:

- A review of the current availability of trade in services and investment data including data regularly reported to the international organisation such as EUROSTAT, IMF and UNCTAD. This will detect any gaps and alert the Parties where the quality of data to be used for analytical and reporting purposes is less than satisfactory;
- ii. Provision of proposals to:
 - o Improve the quality of data and reduce the gaps, following internationally recognised methodologies (e.g. IMF Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6), the fourth edition of the OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment (BD4), MSITS 2010 etc.)
 - o Ensure that data from the individual Parties is comparable and that a regional set of data can be created

Phase 2 requires the experts to:

- Develop a set of indicators that can be calculated on the basis of data available and that can be used by ministries of trade and investment to monitor implementation of CEFTA commitments and SEE2020 Strategy priorities.
- ii. Advise how best to integrate trade in services and investment data with the CEFTA Management Information System (MIS) that provides other relevant data such as trade in goods, NTMs, SPS, etc. and makes this easily available to users.

The result of this assignment will be the establishment of a fully functional and user friendly reporting system featuring individual CEFTA Party data and providing regional data and trade and investment indicators, that feeds seamlessly into the CEFTA Secretariat's dissemination platform (MIS).

The beneficiaries will gain from the availability of good quality and comparable regional data in the area of trade in services and investment. Amongst other things, this will assist them in their trade in services negotiations and potential negotiations in investment. It will also facilitate their efforts to assess the impact of such liberalisations on CEFTA economies.

Furthermore, the system will serve as a valid monitoring tool for measuring progress in the implementation of commitments in the CEFTA Agreement and the priorities of the SEE2020 Strategy.

3.2.2. CEFTA Investment Report

A Workshop on FDI statistics was organized by the CEFTA Secretariat and in cooperation with UNCTAD. The Workshop provided as a good ground for producing the CEFTA Investment Report on investment trends and flows and specific topics related to FDI in services. To facilitate these activities, the CEFTA Secretariat will outsource an expert in 2016 who will assist in preparing this Report. The project will be conducted in several phases:

- Collection of data and detailed analysis. The compilation of statistical data, analysis of investment trends and selected topics related to FDI will be performed by the CEFTA Parties' institutions (central banks, statistical offices, and responsible ministries), the CEFTA Secretariat and independent experts.
- ii. Preparation and presentation of an informative and attractive report. The purpose of this first report is to outline the regional investment trends, FDI stocks and flows, show a breakdown of FDIs by geography, sectors and industries, calculate various indices to measure the attractiveness for FDI and implications of FDI and greenfield investments to both the host and home economies. Specific topics, such as FDI trends in selected services of interest to the whole region may also be included, subject to availability of data.
- iii. <u>Meeting international standards.</u> The various activities will be conducted under the guidance of UNCTAD and the preparation, compilation and presentation of all data will respect the new guidelines of relevant international organisations such as sixth edition of the IMF Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6), and the fourth edition of the OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment (BD4), where available.

It is envisaged that the report will be launched in 2017 and promoted widely throughout the region and internationally.

3.3. Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications

With the view of supporting the activities of the Joint CEFTA-RCC-ERISEE Working Group on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications, the RCC in cooperation with its partners and co-chairs CEFTA and ERISEE will outsource conducting a study with the aim of identifying sectors and professions of mutual interest, thus preparing a ground for potential negotiations on MRAs.

3.3.1. Study to Identify Sectors of Mutual Interest for Potential Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications

The study will map the existing data on mobility of professionals and the eventual gaps in data collection will be also identified. A methodology for overcoming these data gaps and allowing for an assessment of the relevance of sectors and professions for development of MRAs of professional qualifications will be developed. Following the assessment, clear recommendations will be made as to the sectors and professions of mutual interest to the region. Furthermore, a recommendation on data collection and a system of monitoring the data mobility of professionals for both short term and long terms stays in the region will be developed.

It is expected that this study will be complemented by a mapping of the existing legislative and institutional framework for recognition of professional qualifications. This mapping will include identification of the roles and responsibilities of specific bodies in the sectors of interest and will assess the potential impact of MRAs on the economies of the region.

These studies should allow the JWGMRPQ to prepare and agree on a roadmap for the negotiation of specific MRAs. In line with the envisaged schedule, the negotiations on specific MRAs could start in late 2016/early 2017.

IV. RESULTS

4.1. Coordination with other CEFTA Structures

4.1.1. Coordination with other CEFTA Structures

➤ The permanent coordination is achieved throughout 2015, using mechanisms such as consultation processes at the regular meetings, coordination of the work programmes, working documents, etc.

4.1.2. Reporting to the CEFTA Structures

- First meeting of the Subcommittee on Trade in Services is held on 1 July 2015
- ➤ Report to on the activities of the SC on Trade in Services is drafted and sent to the Deputy Ministers and the Joint Committee on 1 July and 26 November 2015 respectively.

4.1.3. Promotional activities

➤ Liberalisation of trade in services within CEFTA Framework is promoted to the wider audience at conferences (CEFTA Week 2015 on 24-25 November), workshops (EUROSTAT Workshop on International Trade in Services in Western Balkans, 2-3 June 2015), other regional organisations (RCC Expert Group on Tourism, 24 April 2015), etc.

4.2. Liberalisation of trade in services by reducing restrictive policies and measures

4.2.1. Activities of the Negotiating Group in 2015

- ➤ Commitments on Trade in Services in the Schedule of Specific Commitments are negotiated in ten sectors (business and professional services, tourism, environmental, and cultural services, communication and construction, distribution, education and health services) and the significant progress in liberalization has been achieved.
- The drafting of the text of the Additional Protocol on Trade in Services and Annex 1 on Temporary Entry and Stay of Natural Persons for Business Purposes is in the stage of finalisation.

4.2.2. Meetings scheduled in 2015

Four negotiating sessions of the Negotiating Group are successfully held in 2015 (27-28 February, 29-30 June, 16-17 September and 23 November) covering ten services sectors as envisaged.

4.3. Improving quality and uniformity of trade in services statistics

4.3.1. Activities of the Working Group in 2015

- ➤ The preliminary review of quality and availability of trade in services statistics, FATS and FDI statistics was performed by CEFTA parties at the first meeting held on 6 October.
- > Statistics of common interest for trade in services negotiations and further work on coordination of investment policies are identified. These include trade in services statistics, FATS and FDI Statistics. The Terms of Reference of the Working Group are accordingly adjusted.
- ➤ A need for system for reporting on trade in services, FATS and FDI statistics to the Secretariat is confirmed and steps for completion of task are developed.
- A dissemination platform for trade in services data, FATS and FDI statistics is agreed to be the CEFTA Management Information System.

4.3.2. Meetings scheduled in 2015

- ➤ The Working Group held its first meeting on 6 October 2015 (Becici, Montenegro) as planned.
- ➤ The work of the group was supported with the CEFTA UNCTAD Workshop on FDI statistics held on 7-8 October, Becici (Montenegro).

4.4. Ensuring free movement of skilled labor and professionals

- ➤ The RCC-CEFTA Working Group on Recognition of Professional Qualifications has been established and became fully operational
- The Joint WG held two meetings (9 July and 25 September) in the course of 2015
- ➤ Appropriate technical assistance has been identified to support the activities in the next two years (2016-2017)

4.5. Experience Sharing and Transparency

- Transparency mechanism on services statistics is agreed (CEFTA MIS).
- ➤ The achievements in trade in services are widely promoted through publications referring to CEFTA Project Mapping, Highlights from the CEFTA Week, etc.

VI. CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN 2015

During the reference period, nine events took place as follows:

| | Meeting/Event | Date | Place |
|----|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Third Session of the CEFTA Negotiating | 26-27 February | Brussels, Belgium |
| | Group on Trade in Services | | |
| 2. | Fourth Session of the CEFTA Negotiating | 29-30 June | Chisinau, Moldova |
| | Group on Trade in Services | | |
| 3. | First Meeting of the Subcommittee on | 1 July | Chisinau, Moldova |
| | Trade in Services | | |
| 4. | First Meeting of the Joint Working Group | 9 July | Sarajevo, Bosnia |
| | on Mutual Recognition of Professional | | and Herzegovina |
| | Qualifications | | |
| 5. | Fifth Session of the CEFTA Negotiating | 17-18 September | Chisinau, Moldova |
| | Group on Trade in Services | | |
| 6. | Second Meeting of the Joint Working | 25 September | Sarajevo, Bosnia |
| | Group on Mutual Recognition of | | and Herzegovina |
| | Professional Qualifications | | |
| 7. | First Meeting of the Working Group on | 6 October | Becici, Montenegro |

| | Trade in Services Statistics | | |
|----|--|-------------|--------------------|
| 8. | CEFTA-UNCTAD Workshop on FDI | 7-8 October | Becici, Montenegro |
| | Statistics | | |
| 9. | Sixth Session of the CEFTA Negotiating | 23 November | Chisinau, Moldova |
| | Group on Trade in Services | | |