

Your excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to share with you the five years of the CEFTA agreement. I can say now that we were right to conclude such Agreement. During the years all of us has been benefited from the CEFTA. Some people in my country were reluctant to the integrations under the conditions of CEFTA agreement and in its first years of the implementations it looks they were right. But now only those who has no information or have bad intentions will speak against the CEFTA.

Today, at this place and at this occasion I want to stress our strong support to the work has been done within the various subcommittees. We got clear recommendations what direction we should take in order to achieve our common goals within the CEFTA.

This time I want to thank to the OECD, EC, WB, Hungary, IFC, BAC, and all others international institutions and organisations, that assisted crucially to the better understanding, implementation and future activities of CEFTA.. If I forgot somebody I apologise.

Yes, if we speak only about the trade the results are quite satisfied for the every single member. Of course, additional liberalisation, removal of the NTBs, cooperation in the various fields of activities will further improve the trade results and we should do everything to support this activities.

But today I want to say that I expect much more from the CEFTA, I would be brave and say I expect a kind of the EU integrations within the CEFTA and at least internal market integrations for the beginning. I believe this goal is realistic if we do have in mind the all members positions towards EU integrations. But there is a small problem to it. If we wait to all members to match the EU criteria this process will fall under the bilateral accession to the EU and we will not have an internal market of CEFTA as I dream about. We should be more brave in that sense and if we are late about the processes when it comes to trade then certainly we have a good chance to do much more when it comes to services, public procurement, investments state aid and other aspects of internal market within the CEFTA.

Living in the days and years of the huge economic crises, having in mind that we in majority share the destiny of the major players in EU, we are dependent on them, there is a chance to use much more from CEFTA and at least make our position in a such situation less default.

It is a time to think much more on the future and joint destiny than ever.

I hope that this thoughts will one day be reality.

Thank you all.