

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

7th Meeting of the CEFTA Working Group on Trade in Services

8 February 2013, Budapest

The seventh meeting of the CEFTA Working Group on Trade in Services was held in Budapest on 8 February 2013. The meeting was attended by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo*.

The Chair, Ms. Zada Muminovic explained that the model of negotiations was discussed and agreed last year, during the chairing of Albania. Once agreed, the Protocol on Trade in Services will allow us to have the same level of openness across the Region. This means that in some sectors Parties who are more liberalized would not have to do much, while the Parties who are less open will need to take more commitments.

Under the framework of the Negotiating Group, the Parties should focus only on negotiations, i.e. exchange positions and come to the agreement on specific commitments granted to each other.

In order to establish the Negotiating Group, the Chair invited Parties to nominate officially the negotiating persons until the end of March. Once the negotiating group is formed, a first meeting could be organized and the formal exchange of positions on specific commitments can start. Until the formal start, the Parties can continue to exchange their views under the informal consultation process (the same approach was taken during the negotiations in agriculture).

The Chair proposed to have at least one meeting prior to the Deputy Ministers Meeting, potentially in April/May, so that we can report to the DM on achievements.

All the Parties agreed to establish the negotiating group and to inform the Chair (cc the Secretariat) on negotiators until the end of March.

The Additional Protocol on Trade in Services, Parties proceeded with work on the finalisation of the text of the Additional Protocol.

BiH informed Parties that their independent TA expert for services prepared some observations and comments on the text and the model and they will be happy to share it with others.

Regarding the sectors proposed by the OECD for the next cycle of assessment and calculation of STR indices, the Parties confirmed all three sectors: transport, construction, and distribution services.

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