

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

Ministerial Conclusions

30 April 2020

WE, the authorized representatives of the CEFTA Parties, present in the Special Joint Committee Meeting,

COMMEND the Parties and the Secretariat for preserving uninterrupted trade flows within the region amid COVID-19 outbreak by the means of intra CEFTA Green Corridors. An efficient joint response to the challenges caused by spreading of the COVID-19 has proved that the regional cooperation is pivotal, particularly in times of crisis and uncertainty.

INVITE the European Commission to work with CEFTA and the Transport Community to facilitate connectivity and trade flow between CEFTA and the EU.

URGE the Secretariat to expedite the activities on upgrading the System of Electronic Exchange of Data (SEED) since it has been instrumental in operationalization of Green Corridors. In light of importance of timely access to data, COMMIT to enable exchange of SEED data between competent authorities and CEFTA Secretariat and expand cooperation on statistics.

INVITE the Parties to apply for the mutual recognition of their AEOS programmes having in mind recent entry into force of the Decision of the Joint Committee No. 1/2019, whilst taking into account that finalization of the process will depend on development of circumstances caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

Given the current health situation in the region and in the EU, INSTRUCT the Secretariat to carry out as many CEFTA activities as possible via online platforms.

WELCOME the achievements of the CEFTA Parties in implementing Trade Pillar of Multiannual Action Plan for Regional Economic Area and COMMIT to contribute to development of ambitious trade agenda within the 2021 – 2024 policy framework centered around facilitation of trade in goods and services, electronic commerce and horizontal trade related activities.

Considering the importance of strengthening capacity of the CEFTA Secretariat and its proper functioning, APPROVE the Report on Selection of the CEFTA Secretariat's Staff and INSTRUCT the Director of the Secretariat to conclude the contracts with the selected candidates, in line with the Decision of the Joint Committee No. 2/2019.

WELCOME the Memorandum of Understanding between CEFTA Secretariat and RCC Secretariat and INSTRUCT the CEFTA Secretariat to sign the document. The Memorandum seeks to solidify strategic partnership and identify and exploit synergies between two regional platforms by establishing framework for enhanced cooperation.

Adopted on 30 April 2020, in the presence of all CEFTA Parties.