

DECISION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

No. 5/2025

Acting Director

Adopted on 20 June 2025

The Joint Committee,

Pursuant to Article 40.2 and 40.4 of Annex 1 to the Agreement on Amendment of and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement (hereinafter “CEFTA 2006”), done in Bucharest on 19 December 2006;

Having regard to Joint Committee Decision No. 1/2018 (functioning of the Secretariat), as adopted on 27 April 2018 and last amended by Joint Committee Decision No. 10/2024 adopted on 9 October 2024 (hereinafter “Decision No. 1/2018”);

Having regard to the fact that, further to the end of its previous Acting Director’s tenure on 2 June 2025, the CEFTA Secretariat does not currently have a Director or an Acting Director, in accordance with Decision No. 1/2018;

With the objective to ensure the continuous and efficient functioning of the CEFTA Secretariat as well as the full implementation of the CEFTA 2006, the Additional Protocols to the CEFTA 2006 and all decisions taken in execution of or by virtue of the CEFTA 2006;

Has decided as follows:

Article 1 **Appointment**

The Joint Committee notes that the CEFTA Secretariat does currently not employ any senior expert. As a result, no staff member currently employed by the CEFTA Secretariat is eligible to appointment as Acting Director under the terms of Article 2.4 of Decision No. 1/2018.

In light of the foregoing, the Joint Committee exceptionally decides to deviate from the conditions set out in Article 2.4 of Decision No. 1/2018. The Joint Committee subsequently decides to appoint Ms. Carine Henoque (Head of Administration) as Acting Director of the CEFTA Secretariat, with retroactive effect as from 3 June 2025 at 00.01 am.

Ms. Carine Henoque’s appointment as Acting Director:

- shall remain in force until the date on which a new Director’s appointment takes effect;
- without extending beyond the maximum period of employment (6 years) set out in Article 3 of Joint Commission Decision No. 2/2019 (establishment of a Selection Committee for the recruitment of staff of the Secretariat other than the Director).

Article 2
Implementation of this decision

The Joint Committee authorizes and mandates the Chair in Office to sign any addendum to Ms. Carine Henoque's employment contract and, more generally, take any steps and sign any documents, to the extent needed or useful to give effect to the terms of this decision.

Article 3
No permanent deviation from Decision 1/2018

This decision involves an exceptional deviation from the conditions set out in Article 2.4 of Decision No. 1/2018. This deviation only applies to Ms. Carine Henoque's appointment. It does not purport to otherwise amend or modify Article 2.4 (or any other provision) of Decision No. 1/2018 on a permanent basis, beyond Ms. Carine Henoque's appointment.

Article 4
Entry into force

This decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption, with exception of Article 1, which shall retroactively enter into force as from 3 June 2025 at 00.01 am.

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This decision was adopted in Pristina on 20 June 2025, in the presence of all CEFTA Parties.