

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

**No. 10/2025**

**on Digital Cooperation**

The Joint Committee,

Having regard to Article 40.4 of Annex 1 to the Agreement on Amendment of and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement, done in Bucharest on 19 December 2006 ("CEFTA 2006");

Having regard to the CEFTA Parties' commitments under the Additional Protocol 6 on Trade in Services ("AP 6") and, in particular, its Article 18 on '*Electronic commerce*', which affirms the CEFTA Parties' obligation to maintain a dialogue on regulatory issues raised by electronic commerce, which is to address, *inter alia*, the recognition of certificates of electronic signatures issued to the public and the facilitation of inter-Party certification services;

Considering that the *CEFTA Roadmap for Regulatory Dialogue on Electronic Commerce* foresees the creation of a general framework for the recognition of electronic signatures and other trust services, which would set up general standards and be modelled according to the European Union's regulations in this field;

Recalling that CEFTA Parties have identified as a priority the recognition of electronic signatures and other trust services as key enablers of electronic commerce;

Emphasising the important role of the CEFTA Parties' ongoing approximation to the EU *acquis* with respect to rules on digital identity and trust services;

Has decided as follows:

**Article 1**

**The CEFTA Working Group on Digital Cooperation**

- (1) In order to support and facilitate the CEFTA Parties' cooperation and exchange of information on digital services, including but not limited to trust services and electronic identification, a CEFTA Working Group on Digital Cooperation shall be established.
- (2) The tasks of the Working Group on Digital Cooperation are defined by the Terms of Reference provided in the Annex to this Decision.

**Article 2**

**Amendment of Decision No. 1/2015**

- (1) In Article 2 of Decision No. 1/2015 under "*Sub-committee on Trade in Services*", a further bullet point indicating the "*Working Group on Digital Cooperation*" shall be added.

- (2) The Terms of Reference for the “*Working Group on Digital Cooperation*” provided in the Annex to this Decisions shall be provided as Annex 15 to *Decision No. 1/2015*.
- (3) The CEFTA Secretariat shall make available a consolidated version of *Decision No. 1/2015*.

**Article 3**  
Entry into force

This decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

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Adopted in Pristina on 2 December 2025 in the presence of all CEFTA Parties.

## **Annex**

### **Terms of Reference for the CEFTA Working Group on Digital Cooperation**

#### **1. TITLE**

The title shall be “CEFTA Working Group on Digital Cooperation” (hereinafter referred to as: “Working Group”).

#### **2. TASK**

The task of the Working Group is to facilitate the CEFTA Parties’ cooperation and exchange of information on digital services, including but not limited to trust services and electronic identification.

#### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

- (1) Members of the Working Group shall be representatives/officers from the administration responsible for policy development and/or implementation of digital services.
- (2) Each CEFTA Party shall communicate the name of its member and a substitute to the other CEFTA Parties and to the CEFTA Secretariat within one month of the entry into force of these Terms of Reference and following the nomination of any replacement. The CEFTA Secretariat shall maintain an up-to-date list of the members of the Working Group.
- (3) The representatives from each CEFTA Party shall actively participate in performing the tasks and functions of this Working Group.
- (4) Other experts from administrations of the CEFTA Parties, or from outside of the CEFTA Parties, or from international organisations may be invited to attend the meetings at the request of the Chair of the Working Group to provide advice or introduce best practices where needed. Their contributions are consultative in nature and aimed at supporting discussions and consensus-building among CEFTA Parties.
- (5) The Working Group shall make recommendations by consensus of all members. If a member is absent from the meeting, he/she should communicate his/her position in writing within a period of no longer than 20 working days from the date of a receipt of a request. If a position is not communicated within the set period, it shall be deemed that the member concerned has no objection and agrees to proceed further.

#### **4. CHAIRPERSON**

- (1) The CEFTA Party chairing the CEFTA Sub-Committee on Trade in Services shall chair the Working Group, as the Working Groups is established under the CEFTA Sub-Committee on Trade in Services.
- (2) The responsibilities of the Chair include:
  - (a) Scheduling meetings and notifying the members;

- (b) Inviting guest experts to attend the meetings when requested by members;
- (c) Guiding the meetings and other activities during chairing;
- (d) Ensuring that all discussion items end with a conclusion, action, or definite outcome.

## **5. MINUTES TAKING**

A representative of the CEFTA Secretariat shall take notes and draft minutes of the meetings of the Working Group within 10 working days from the day of the meeting. Recipients of the meeting minutes/conclusions shall have 5 working days to submit comments. If no comments are submitted, the minutes shall be considered final.

## **6. MEETINGS**

- (1) The Working Group shall meet as necessary but at least once per year, preferably before the meeting of Sub-Committee on Trade in Services.
- (2) All members may propose items for inclusion on the agenda to the Chair of the Working Group no later than 21 working days in advance of the next meeting.
- (3) The CEFTA Secretariat shall provide all the necessary logistical and organisational support for the Working Group under these Terms of Reference.

## **7. FUNCTION**

The specific functions of the Working Group shall be:

- (1) Support discussions and actions in aligning the rules regarding digital services, including but not limited to trust services, electronic identification, and CEFTA Recognition Frameworks.
- (2) To support the CEFTA Parties in any further tasks allocated by the Sub-Committee on Trade in Services or by any other CEFTA Body concerning digital solutions.

## **8. ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING**

- (1) The agreed minutes of the meetings shall be submitted to the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Trade in Services and shall be integrated into the report of the Sub-Committee.
- (2) The Chair of the Working Group shall report on the discussions and outcomes in the plenary session of the regular meetings of the Sub-Committee.
- (3) The Working Group shall prepare an annual report, which shall be submitted to the Sub-Committee on Trade in Services and shall be an integral part of the Annual Report of the Sub-Committee on Trade in Services, which is to be presented at the Joint Committee meeting.