



Aid for Trade: Implementing CEFTA

Overcoming Non-Tariff
Barriers

Implementing CEFTA : Overcoming Non-Tariff Barriers

- Project funded by the Government of Hungary, initiated in January 2009

Specific objectives

- Identify, classify and prioritise those NTBs that affect the main trade flows among the CEFTA Parties with particular emphasis on those identified by the business community as the most pressing
- Identify the main NTBs affecting trade and investment with neighbouring EU Member States
- Provide the CEFTA sub-committee on NTBs and the CEFTA Joint Committee with a draft action programme to reduce/eliminate the prioritised NTBs.

Progress to Date

- Established and strengthened relations with CEFTA structures and other related projects e.g. GTZ and EC
- Identified and verified predominant NTBs affecting trade among the CEFTA Parties and with EU partners
- Classified priority NTBs to be addressed and developed an outline framework for a “CEFTA Scoreboard”
- Presented policy recommendations and implementation options for consideration of CEFTA Parties at a Roundtable held in Budapest on 8 October 2009
- Submitted report to the CEFTA Joint Committee

Key Findings

- At present, technical barriers are not a significant obstacle in intra-regional trade - administrative procedures are.
- Compliance with technical standards and SPS measures are significant impeding factor in expanding trade with the EU
- Multi-speed adoption of EU standards results in the creation of additional technical barriers to trade in intra-CEFTA trade
- Key issue is implementation: including lack of administrative capacity, fragmented institutional responsibility, pace of legislative change, inadequate or outdated equipment
- Lack of technical knowledge on the part of the business community in identifying and documenting different NTBs. Compounded by lack of representative bodies/industry associations.

Recommendations for Action under auspices of CEFTA (1)

- **CEFTA Structures**

- Create two separate working groups under the Sub-Committee on TBTs and NTBs
- Align work programmes of the three sub-committees
- Greater co-operation and co-ordination among sub-committees
- Use ad hoc meetings to address specific topics

Recommendations for Action under auspices of CEFTA (2)

- **Enhance transparency and improve information exchange**
 - Agree on independent monitoring and content of the “CEFTA Scoreboard”
 - Establish/reactivate National Contact Points in government and private sector organisations
 - Develop web-portal to provide information on relevant legislation and procedures in CEFTA Parties
 - Increase knowledge and awareness to identify and document TBTs and NTBs

Recommendations for Action under auspices of CEFTA (3)

- **TBTs and SPS**

- Expedite adoption of EU/international standards, based on prioritised sectors/product groups
- Activate national enquiry points and co-ordinate with WTO enquiry points

- **Administrative Barriers**

- Enhance transparency of overall trade facilitation framework (Sub-Committee on Customs)
- Simplification of border procedures

Immediate Next Steps

- Identify support required to implement the various recommendations, determine what support is currently available and where additional support will be have to be secured
- Support the Sub-Committee on TBTs and NTBs in the development of their work programme for 2010
- Prepare the so-called CEFTA Scoreboard based on the decision of the CEFTA Joint Committee and agreement on an independent monitoring process

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