



Non-tariff barriers in CEFTA: proposed recommendations for the consideration of the CEFTA parties

Roundtable on Non-Tariff Barriers in the CEFTA area
Budapest, 8 October 2009

Content of the presentation

- Monitoring system to measure progress in the agreed recommendations
- Recommendations and how recommendations can be translated into action
- Where the scoreboard can play a role

Progress should be monitored through a CEFTA Scoreboard

- It is proposed that CEFTA Parties agree on an independent monitoring of progress made in reducing/eliminating those NTBs that they have recommended for action
- This would allow the Parties to highlight progress made, to identify obstacles to implementing agreed procedures to reduce/eliminate NTBs and determine if new NTBs have arisen
- The Scoreboard would have the following benefits:
 - Increase transparency of where Parties stand in implementing CEFTA
 - Concrete suggestions on steps Parties can take to make progress
 - Provide all Parties with common language on how to assess where they stand
 - Internal management tool for all Parties to give progress updates

Progress should be monitored through a CEFTA Scoreboard

Non-Tariff Barriers

TBTs

**Standards
Institutional settings**

- Status of membership in international standardisation bodies
- Status of approximation of standardisation legislation to EU acquis
- Status of adoption of EU and international standards
- Status of membership in international accreditation bodies
- Status of application to EA MLAs
- Number of companies certified

SPS

Institutional settings

- Status of membership in international SPS bodies
- Status of approximation of SPS legislation to EU acquis
- Status of adoption of EU and international SPS measures

Administrative Barriers to Trade

Involvement of the trade community

- Single windows for licensing procedures
- Internet publication
- Possibility to ask supplementary information
- Establishment of an Enquiry Point for trade related legislation and procedures
- Possibility of electronic customs declarations
- Publications of advance rulings
- Public availability of information on customs fees and charges
- Existence of single document covering all customs formalities
- Maintenance of single window for data submission
- Single location/time for one-time documentary controls
- Single location/time for physical inspection

Example of an indicator: structure

Non-Tariff Barriers
Technical barriers to Trade
Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures
Administrative Barriers to Trade



Administrative Barriers to Trade
Involvement of the trade community
Internet publication
Establishment of an Enquiry Point for trade related legislation and procedures
Possibility of electronic customs declarations
...



Administrative Barriers to Trade					
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Involvement of the trade community	There is no structure of consultation between traders and the government	Consultations are carried out on an ad-hoc basis and involve some of the following categories: SMEs, large traders, transposters and freight forwarders, customs brokers, citizens	Permanent consultation structures are in place	Level 4 + consultations include all of the following categories: SMEs, large traders, transposters and freight forwarders, customs brokers, citizens	Level 4 + the government organises specific consultations when introducing or amending trade related laws, regulations, and administrative rulings of general application

Summary of proposed recommendations: TBTs and SPS

Draft Recommendation	Responsible structure (s)	Key Issues Arising	Application
<p>Expedite adoption of EU and/or international standards, ideally based on prioritised sectors/product groups</p>	<p>Sub-committee on TBTs and NTBs</p>	<p>Agree on priority sectors</p> <p>Share information on individual schedules for adoption of EU standards</p> <p>Exchange of experience to date</p> <p>Agree on programme of withdrawal of old standards</p>	
<p>Activate national enquiry points network & determine level of co-ordination with WTO enquiry points</p>	<p>Sub-committee on TBTs and NTBs</p>	<p>Decide whether to have separate TBT and NTB contact points</p> <p>Decide if WTO and CEFTA TBT contact points should be the same</p> <p>Agree on information exchange mechanisms (formats/templates/deadlines)</p>	

Summary of proposed recommendations: Administrative Barriers to Trade

Draft Recommendation	Responsible structure (s)	Key Issues Arising	Application
<p>Transparency of overall framework for trade facilitation</p>	<p>Sub-Committee on Customs in consultation with Sub-Committee on NTBs and TBTs</p>	<p>Agree on information requirements and identify gaps</p> <p>Agree on communication mechanisms to circulate information</p>	
<p>Simplification of border procedures</p>	<p>Sub-Committee on Customs in consultation with Sub-Committee on NTBs and TBTs</p>	<p>Carry out necessity tests</p> <p>Share results of ex ante RIA reviews</p>	

Summary of proposed recommendations: Improve Information Exchange

Draft Recommendation	Responsible structure (s)	Key Issues Arising	Application
<p>Establish/reactivate National Contact Points in private sector organisations to facilitate the identification, documentation and notification of TBTs and NTBs to governments</p>	<p>Private sector representative organisations</p>	<p>Ensure selected personnel has appropriate mandate and necessary support</p> <p>Publicise service to the private sector</p> <p>Agree on mechanisms for communication with relevant ministries</p>	
<p>Increase knowledge and awareness to identify and document TBTs and NTBs</p>	<p>Sub-committee on TBTs and NTBs in co-operation with private sector representative organisations</p>	<p>Develop project concept</p> <p>Determine national and regional elements</p> <p>Determine where joint training would be appropriate</p> <p>Secure donor support</p>	

Summary of proposed recommendations: Structure and Functioning of Sub-Committee on TBTs and NTBs

Draft Recommendation	Responsible structure (s)	Key Issues Arising	Application
Review operating procedures of the CEFTA Sub-committees	CEFTA Joint Committee Sub Committee on Agriculture and SPS Sub-Committee on Customs Co-operation and Rules of Origin Sub-Committee on TBTs and NTBs	Create two working groups under the Sub-Committee on TBTs and NTBs Identify issues of common interest between two or more sub-committees Sub-Committee on TBTs and NTBs to meet twice in 2010 Each customs and agriculture sub-committee meeting to include representative from Sub-Committee on TBTs and NTBs and have a standing item on NTBs on agenda Consider joint meetings on specific topics Use ad hoc meetings for urgent issues	
Enhance transparency and public availability of information	Sub-committee on TBTs and NTBs	Agree on independent monitoring Agree on content of "CEFTA Scoreboard"	