

CEFTA WEEK 2021

AGENDA

13 - 16 December 2021
Hotel Limak Skopje, North Macedonia

Monday, 13 December 2021

12:00 - 14:30 SEED+: Facilitating trade and improving transparency

Online webinar

Public

Tuesday, 14 December 2021

10:00 - 11:15 WB6 CIF - Monitoring the Implementation of the Common Regional Market Action Plan (2021-2024) - Key Business Insights on Priority Action Points

Online

Public

11:00 - 14:30 31st CEFTA Committee of Contact Points Meeting

Invitations only

Meeting Room Atlantis

14:30 – 18:00 Technical workshop for the CEFTA framework with the intellectual property offices of the CEFTA parties

Invitations only

Meeting room Arcadia.

Wednesday, 15 December 2021

09:30 – 13:30 E-Commerce, Parcel Delivery Customs E-commerce Expert Group Meeting

Invitations only

Meeting room Atlantis

09:30 – 17:45 Technical workshop for the CEFTA framework with the intellectual property offices of the CEFTA parties - continuation

Invitations only

Meeting Room Arcadia

10:00 - 15:00 Enhancing Trade Cooperation in the Western Balkans/CEFTA: Implementing Joint Border/Common Crossing Points and Joint Controls

Invitations only

Meeting Room Sky Lounge

15:00 - 16:45 15th CEFTA Joint Committee Meeting

Invitations only

Meeting Room Atlantis

Thursday, 16 December 2021

CEFTA Week 2021 Conference

15 YEARS MAKING TRADE HAPPEN

Hybrid conference/ Conference Room Limra, Limak Skopje Hotel

09:30 - 10:00 Registration of the participants onsite

10:00 - 10:45 Opening of the Conference and Welcome Remarks

Kreshnik Bekteshi, Minister of Economy, North Macedonia
Oliver Varhelyi, Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, EC
Marko Cadez, President of the Managing Board, WB6 CIF (tbc)
Majlinda Bregu, Secretary General, RCC (tbc)
Emir Djikic, Director, CEFTA Secretariat

Moderator: Aleksandra Spasevska, Ministry of Economy, North Macedonia

10:45 - 11:15 Best Papers Competition Award Ceremony

11:20 - 12:00 Press Conference

Invitation only

11:30 - 12:30 Panel discussion - Trade Facilitation through Recognition of Certificates and Procedures

Speakers:

Nadica Dzerkovska, Phytosanitary Directorate, North Macedonia
Ibrahim Xhaka, Customs Administration, Kosovo*
Philippe Portalier, GIZ Project
Edna Karadza, SEED+ Project, CEFTA Secretariat
Jelena Jovanovic, Chamber of Commerce, Serbia

Moderator: Danijela Gacevic, CEFTA Secretariat

Additional Protocol 5 provides for recognition of legislation and trade related inspections if those are aligned with the EU acquis. Alignment with the EU legislation is to be validated according to the procedures agreed between the Parties. Subsequently, several actions have been initiated aiming to simplify and streamline inspections and to reduce formalities to the maximum possible extent, but also to set the relevant procedures of validation. They are beneficial for both, business community and the competent authorities of the Parties, making trade less costly and more predictable. The panel will provide the opportunity to look closer into the current and future activities, with particular emphasis on trade in fruit and vegetables and industrial products. The system of electronic exchange of data will be presented as well, including the possibilities of introducing e-certificates leading eventually to paperless trade.

12:45 - 13:45 Panel discussion - Trade in Services and Licences, qualifications, permits

Speakers:

Agron Pullumbi, National Employment and Skills Agency, Albania
Dzenan Omanovic, Centre for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Admir Eminovic, Euro-Asfalt
Sosanna Lisgara, GIZ Project

Moderator: Zdravko Ilic, CEFTA Secretariat

Following adoption of the Additional Protocol 6 on Trade in Services, CEFTA Parties have made a huge step towards free movement of services. Extensive commitments on market access and national treatment have already taken effect, shifting the emphasis on issues related to domestic regulation. The first on the CEFTA list of priorities are authorisations which are known by different names and forms: licenses, qualifications, permits, approvals, i.e. basically everything where businesses are required to get an approval before being allowed to supply the service. CEFTA has launched several initiatives which aim at simplifying business operations based on EU acquis, in particular Service Directive and Professional Qualifications Directive. The panel will zoom into these activities, as well as, discuss potentially new ones, seeking to further facilitate trade in service and bring Common Regional Market to life.

13:45 - 14:45 Lunch break

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

14:45 - 15:45 Panel Discussion - Intellectual property rights in boosting trade and investment

Speakers:

Mladen Vukmir, Jasmina Suljovic, CEFTA IPR Project

Ignacio de Medrano Caballero, EUIPO

Dragana Ranitovic, Ministry of Economic Development, Montenegro

Georgi Filipov, Intellectual Property Agency BERIN, North Macedonia

Marija Bozic, Intellectual Property Office, Serbia

Moderator: Aurelia Ieseanu, CEFTA Secretariat

The panel will discuss the approach towards establishing a framework for furthering cooperation on IPR within CEFTA as part of the priorities of North Macedonia's 2021 CEFTA Chairmanship and the adopted actions under the Common Regional Market 2021-2024. This will be done through the findings and recommendations of the recent study that was completed under the CEFTA project on IPR that covers the assessment of the IP regulatory and institutional framework in CEFTA Parties in areas related to identified key trade barriers and untapped trade potential related to IPR, as well as the development of the CEFTA document that will set up the harmonised rules or minimum standards of legal protection in different areas of IPR, as well as enforcement rules taking into account EU and global (TRIPS) practices, while at the same time ensuring a closer cooperation among IP offices and other organizations dealing with IP in the region. The panel will also discuss and provide recommendations for potential areas of cooperation in the IP field between the EU and CEFTA Parties, namely those that could be implemented in cooperation with EUIPO.

15:50 - 16:30 CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE: Key takeaways and road ahead

Speakers:

Kreshnik Bekteshi, Minister of Economy, North Macedonia (tbc)

Sergiu Gaibu, Minister of Economy, Moldova (tbc)

Emir Djikic, Director, CEFTA Secretariat

16:30 - 17:00 Cocktail