

ACTION PLAN OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATING BODY FOR 2024 and 2025 TRADE FACILITATION

IV - EXPERT WORKING GROUP FOR COORDINATION OF TRADE FACILITATION ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

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The expert working group for the coordination of trade facilitation activities within the framework of international and regional trade agreements provides support to the structures provided for in these agreements in the coordination and prioritisation of activities pertaining to the trade facilitation issues at the national levels, with the aim of faster harmonisation with good international and regional practice and reducing costs for the private sector due to insufficiently efficient procedures.

	Planned activity	Measures for the implementation of activities	Competent institutions	Outcome indicator
1.	Coordination and monitoring of the implementation of commitments in the area of trade facilitation arising from the free trade agreement and cooperation with international organisations Coordination of responses to inquiries from research in the field of trade facilitation conducted by international	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitoring the implementation of free trade agreements in the context of trade facilitation within the SAA, CEFTA, EFTA, EAEU, UK, Turkey and the Open Balkans.Coordination of the implementation of measures of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation and preparation of notifications in accordance	Secretariat of the National Trade Facilitation Body (NTFB) - Ministry of Domestic and Foreign Trade (MDFT)/NTFB member institution	Assessment of Serbia's achieved progress based on reports from the European Commission and other relevant international organisations, including independent research on compliance with the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation - the UN Global Review on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation and/or the World Bank's <i>Tracking Tool</i>

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	organisations	with the dynamics of Serbia's accession to this organisation		
2.	Acceleration of the flow of goods at border crossings with the EU through integrated management of crossings, harmonisation of working hours of border services and improvement of infrastructure, as well as expansion of the "Green Corridors" mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation with the Coordinating Body for Border Crossings in order to solve the problem of long delays of freight vehicles at border crossings towards Hungary, Croatia and Bulgaria. • Activities aimed at the competent directorates of the European Commission and the Transport Community • Bilateral cooperation with the competent institutions of the EU member states in order to increase the infrastructural and other capacities of road and railway border crossings • Improvement of infrastructure on the Serbian side and increase in the number of officials at the railway and road border crossing BC Šid - Tovarnik (establishment of separate lanes in both 	<p>Coordinating body for border crossings, Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure (MCTI),</p> <p>National Property Directorate</p>	<p>Accelerated flow of goods at the border and reduced dwell time of freight vehicles at border crossings with the EU (progress verification mechanism based on the Time Measurement Study, as well as verification through the EC's Annual Progress Report)</p> <p>Improved infrastructure at border crossings</p>

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		<p>directions for freight traffic).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the bilateral level, initiate the establishment of integrated border crossings with the EU at the most frequent points. 		
3.	Acceleration of the flow of goods at border crossings within the WB6 region through integrated management of crossings, harmonisation of working hours of border services and improvement of infrastructure,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On a bilateral level, continue work on the establishment of integrated border crossings with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro (Sremska Rača - B&H, Gostun - Montenegro), as well as improvement of the establishment of joint check points at the BC with North Macedonia - Preševo - Tabanovce (introduction of one document scan). Establishment of joint railway stations within the region in order to exercise joint control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Implementation of the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on 	<p>MCTI,</p> <p>CEFTA Trade Facilitation Committee,</p> <p>National Property Directorate,</p> <p>Customs Administration, Inspection Services, Border Police, Railways of Serbia,</p>	<p>Accelerated flow of goods at the border and reduced dwell time of freight vehicles at border crossings with the region (progress verification mechanism based on the Time Measurement Study)</p> <p>Improved infrastructure at border crossings</p> <p>Joint border control of passenger and freight vehicles, which would be carried out by the competent national authorities of Montenegro, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Serbia.</p>

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		<p>Establishing the Border Procedure for the Preševo - Tabanovce Railway Border Crossing (agreement from 2015); Implementation of the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Montenegro on Establishing the Border Procedure for the Bijelo Polje Railway Border Crossing</p> <p>b) Signing of the same agreement with B&H (negotiations in progress, Brasina joint station)</p>		
4.	Harmonisation of requirements and facilitation of trade in goods within the framework of CEFTA/Berlin Process/EU Western Balkan Growth Plan*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiation of the following activities within CEFTA: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an Action Plan in terms of harmonising requirements for safety, quality and labelling of products with EU requirements 	NTFB member institutions	<p>Action Plan at the CEFTA level was drawn up for harmonising the requirements for safety, quality and labelling of products with EU requirements</p> <p>Drafted proposal for simplification,</p>

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	<p>*Note: The EU Growth Plan for the Western Balkans did not enter into force until the adoption of the Action Plan</p>	<p>2. Cross-sectional report and development of an action plan for the harmonisation of fees and charges pertaining to trade in goods within CEFTA</p>		<p>consolidation and elimination of certain fees and charges</p> <p>Reduction of business operation costs for the economy</p>
5.	<p>Removal of obstacles to the improvement of foreign trade exchange between Serbia and the United Kingdom regarding the rules on the origin of goods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the framework of the Council for Partnership, Trade and Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the UK, continue work on the amendment of the Protocol on Origin, in such a way as to enable the cumulation of origin with the EU. 	<p>Ministry of Finance, Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia, MDFT, Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Serbia (CC) / UK side</p>	<p>Agreed amendments to the Protocol on the Origin of Goods</p> <p>Increase in total trade between the United Kingdom and Serbia and the European Union</p>

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6.	Application of digitisation and operational utilisation of announcement data obtained through SEED and SEED+ with the EU and the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting and implementation of binding operational instructions for data processing before the arrival of goods • Mutual recognition and introduction of electronic signatures in trade in the region in the field of phyto and veterinary medicine. • Full implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia on Mutual Recognition of Qualified Trusted Services provided in the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of North Macedonia • Full implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Montenegro on Mutual Recognition of Qualified Trusted Services provided in the Republic of 	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM), Customs Administration, Veterinary Administration and Plant Protection Administration, Ministry of Information and Telecommunications, e-Government	<p>Functionality of the SEED+ system</p> <p>Recognition of export certificates with qualified digital signatures and seals.</p> <p>Elimination of paper documentation (printed version) and transition to fully electronic documents of export documents accompanying the SPS shipment.</p> <p>Digital signing of issued certificates.</p> <p>Improving the quality and structure of data from the phytosanitary certificate.</p> <p>Signed agreements on mutual recognition of qualified trusted services with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania</p>

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		<p>Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign such agreements with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania. 		
7.	Abolition of the Green Card insurance requirement for motor vehicles for entering the territory of North Macedonia and Albania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing of the Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Compulsory Insurance Policies with North Macedonia and Albania. 	Association of Serbian Insurers	Reduction of business operation costs for the economy
8.	The CC initiative to enable veterinary inspection of goods on both sides at the “Šid - Tovarnik” railway border crossing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with the initiative and the CC, in June 2023, the Minister of Domestic and Foreign Trade and the President of the NTFB, sent an official letter to the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of the Republic 	NTFB/ Ministry of Domestic and Foreign Trade	<p>Facilitating the transportation of goods by rail that are subject to phytosanitary and veterinary inspection at the Tovarnik border crossing</p> <p>Defined border inspection check point at the Tovarnik - BIP (Border</p>

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		of Croatia with the request to resolve the given issue and to establish veterinary and inspection supervision on the Šid-Tovarnik railway BC. The final response from the Croatian side is pending	Standing Secretariat of the Transport Community	Inspection Point) railway border crossing Relief of road border crossings Reduced transport costs
9.	Informing the public and business representatives about the implementation of trade facilitation measures,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of seminars, round tables and conferences for representatives of the business community and administration • Participation in workshops organised by international organisations • Regular updating of the NTFB website in order to provide timely and accurate information to the interested and professional public in accordance with the principle of transparency and accessibility • Provision of donor support for the implementation of these activities 	Secretariat of the National Trade Facilitation Body (NTFB) - Ministry of Domestic and Foreign Trade (MDFT)/NTFB member institution	<p>The number of activities held and the number of participants present at seminars and workshops</p> <p>The number of new posts on the NTFB website and the growth in the number of visitors to the NTFB</p>