

NATIONAL COORDINATION BODY FOR TRADE FACILITATION (NTFC)  
ACTION PLAN FOR 2022 AND 2023

**I - EXPERT WORKING GROUP FOR AGRICULTURE, SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

**Chair: Milanka Davidović**, Head of the Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

The Expert Working Group on Agriculture, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures deals with issues and proposes initiatives that contribute to the promotion and facilitation of foreign trade in agricultural and food products. Within the matters considered and proposed, the expert working group aims at ensuring that veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary measures related to foreign trade in agricultural and food products are adopted and applied only to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health and in a manner that does not constitute barriers in trade.

	<b>Planned activity</b>	<b>Measures for implementation of activities</b>	<b>Competent institutions</b>	<b>Result indicator</b>
1.	Reducing the duration of import procedures for agricultural and food products;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Further improve the functioning of electronic submission of requests for control of goods and supporting documents in order to shorten the time of import controls and improve risk analysis on imports, and, if necessary, organize training for the private sector and customs agents</li><li>• Continue the practice of sampling goods during the import, by randomly selecting authorized laboratories that can perform</li></ul>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management - Veterinary	Assessment of Serbia's progress based on the Report of the European Commission and other relevant international organizations;  Advanced online modules for electronic

		<p>analyzes for all required parameters and are geographically closer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment, maintenance and improvement of efficient electronic communication between laboratories and competent inspections when sampling goods and submitting the results of laboratory analyzes</li> <li>• Publish and regularly update the lists of authorized laboratories according to the types of accredited analyzes conducted on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health, in accordance with the signed agreements, activities agreed within CEFTA and the Open Balkan initiative</li> <li>• Establish an efficient system of supervision and control over authorized laboratories in order to improve and accelerate the performance of laboratory testing services and delivery of test results</li> <li>• Acceptance of test results from EU accredited laboratories and / or from countries with which agreements have been signed which, inter alia, regulate the acceptance of laboratory test results as well as in accordance</li> </ul>	<p>Directorate and Plant Protection Directorate, Ministry of Health, authorized accredited laboratories;</p>	<p>submission of requests for control and exchange of analysis results with laboratories</p> <p>Lists of authorized laboratories and accredited methods published on the websites of the competent ministries;</p> <p>Number of agreements signed and applied on recognition of laboratory test results;</p> <p>Accelerated control procedures by inspection services at selected border crossings</p>
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		<p>with agreed activities within CEFTA and the Open Balkan initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimization of the work of inspection services in order to speed up the flow of goods at selected border crossings</li> </ul>		
2.	<p>Improving the risk analysis system during the control of goods by all inspection services in order to facilitate the international trade of shipments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement and further application of risk analysis model for import of goods based on European practice in import control of shipments (taking into account the risk of the business entity in terms of compliance of goods with regulatory requirements, and / or good business practice and developed internal quality controls)<sup>i</sup> official control plans and monitoring programs based on risk analysis</li> <li>• Development and revision of internal procedures for inspectors' actions</li> <li>• Assessment of available options for improving IT tools for risk analysis and management used to implement import</li> </ul>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management - Veterinary Directorate and Plant Protection Directorate, Ministry of Health</p>	<p>Assessment of Serbia's progress based on the Report of the European Commission and other relevant international organizations</p> <p>Adopted plans for official controls based on risk assessment</p> <p>Number of trainings held on the topic of risk analysis and number of participants attending the trainings</p>

		<p>control of goods and further development of these tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of inspectors on the use of risk analysis tools and the implementation of official control plans and monitoring programs based on risk analysis</li> </ul>		
3.	<p>Reducing the volume of mandatory documentation and formalities in international shipment procedures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand the list of products for which a mandatory decision on compliance with veterinary and sanitary conditions for import and transit is not required and harmonize practice with applicable regulations so that a mandatory decision on compliance with veterinary and sanitary conditions for import and transit is not required for samples of these products, or repeal these decisions altogether</li> <li>• Improve the implementation of international agreements affecting trade in agri-food products, including the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Facilitating the Import, Export and Movement of Goods in the Western Balkans, concluded between the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Albania.</li> </ul>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management - Veterinary Directorate and Plant Protection Directorate, Ministry of Health</p>	<p>Amendments to relevant regulations and / or internal procedures for handling (Veterinary Law and / or Rulebook on conditions for consignments for which no import and transit decisions are required) Reports on the implementation of activities within CEFTA and the Open Balkan initiative</p>

		within CEFTA and the Open Balkan initiative to facilitate trade in agri-food products;		
4.	<p>Implementation of the program of harmonization and mutual recognition of documents, and other initiatives to facilitate trade in agricultural and food products, provided for:</p> <p>- Additional Protocol 5 to the 2006 CEFTA Agreement</p> <p>-Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Facilitating the Import, Export and Movement of Goods in the Western Balkans concluded between the Republic of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active participation in the work of the competent bodies of CEFTA in order to reach an agreement on the harmonization and recognition of mutual documents in trade in agricultural and food products</li> <li>• Implementation of activities necessary for the implementation of the Decision of the Joint Committee of the Free Trade Agreement in Central Europe 2006 No. 1/2020 on the facilitation of trade in fruits and vegetables</li> <li>• Active participation in the implementation of activities agreed within the Open Balkan initiative in order to facilitate trade in agri-food products.</li> </ul>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management - Veterinary Directorate and Plant Protection Directorate, Ministry of Health</p>	<p>Reports on the implementation of activities within CEFTA and the Open Balkan initiative</p> <p>Trade growth in the region</p>

	Serbia, the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Albania - With the Open Balkan Initiative			
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<sup>i</sup> The proposal of the business community to apply risk analysis when controlling agri-food products to GMOs and radioactivity.