NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION BODY 2018 AND 2019 ACTION PLAN

II. Expert Group on Technical Barriers to Trade and Equivalent Measures

Chair: Zoran Bakić, Head of Unit, Division of Product Quality and Safety, Ministry of Economy

Proposed actions:

- 1) Establish an effective risk assessment system for all inspections services (sanitary, phytosanitary, and veterinary inspectorates) to reduce barriers and facilitate imports and exports by companies following good business practices, goods that comply with conformity requirements, and well-developed internal quality control mechanisms.
- 2) Align Serbian regulations with EU law, especially for construction products (including the publication of the complete list of EU standards to accompany future national regulations); toys; radio equipment (new Directive should be transposed); and general products (where, for instance, national regulations setting out health standards for cosmetics and other general products are more than 30 years old, and lists of monitored substances, including microbiological, physical, and chemical parameters, are not regularly aligned with EU standards).
- 3) Reduce delays in issuing and renewing authorizations for new medicines (ranging from two to five months relative to statutory periods) and consider simplifying administrative procedures (by amending the Medicines Law). Also examine whether the effective fee increases made in 2017 for medicine-related applications (from 30 to 300 percent, depending on service) reflect the actual costs of these services.
- 4) Facilitate recognition of foreign certificates of conformity (by making this automatic), especially those issued by Notified Bodies designated to carry out conformity assessment (EU New Approach Notified and Designated Organizations, NANDO) and signatories of the European Accreditation (EA) Multilateral Agreement (MLA) where these certify conformity with EU technical regulations transposed into Serbian law (or where Serbian technical regulations have been harmonized with EU law) for placement of goods on the Serbian market.