

### **CEFTA – Recent Activities**

Three Sub-Working groups were established in August 2008 to improve Kosovo's coordination of CEFTA implementation. These groups cover agriculture, tariffs and trade barriers, and custom operations. The three new working groups complement Kosovo's Trade Policy Working Group that was established in 2006.

#### **Sub-Working Group in Agriculture**

On 7 August 7 2008, MAFRD met to establish a Sub-Working group on agriculture, related to further implementation of CEFTA agreement. The meeting was chaired by the minister's adviser Mr. F. Isufaj. He said that there is an immediate need to coordinate activities between various institutions in agriculture sector, collect information about problems, and discuss them in higher levels. In particular, Kosovo exports are facing problems.

Participants at the meeting came from MAFRD, Customs Service, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Chamber of Commerce, Kosovo Veterinary and Food Agency, and representatives from the following producers' associations: Milk Producers, Milk Processors, Poultry, Vegetable Growers, Millers, Fruit Growers and the Tobacco Industry. The Sub Working Group for agriculture includes representatives of the associations mentioned, as well as from MAFRD and the Directors of the Policy/Statistics Department, Animal Production Department and Veterinary and Food Agency. The chairman of the working group is Mr. Isufaj. All participants were requested to identify and report on problems and obstacles that they face with a view to reporting on issues and problems at the next CEFTA meeting (Sub-Committee for agriculture) in September 2008.

#### **Sub-Working Group for Tariffs and Trade Barriers**

This group was established at a meeting held on 6 August 2008 in the Ministry of Trade and Industry to be chaired by a representative of that ministry. Members of the group include representatives from:

- Ministry of Trade and Industry;
- Alliance of Businesses of Kosova;
- Custom Service;
- Prime Minister Office;
- Chamber of Commerce of Kosova;
- MAFRD;
- Kosovo Veterinary and Food Agency;
- Ministry of Economy and Finance;
- Public Procurement Agency;
- Council for Competitiveness;

#### **Sub-Working Group on Custom Operations**

A Sub-Working group on customs operations, chaired by a representative from the Custom Service, was established at the beginning of August 2008.