

# Monitoring the Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers in CEFTA -2006



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

## **3<sup>RD</sup> ROUND TABLE ON ELIMINATING NON-TARIFF BARRIERS AND DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPLY CHAINS IN CEFTA 2006**

### Agenda

Co-organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Hungary and the OECD  
with the financial support of the European Commission

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**Opening remarks**  
**by H.E. János HÓVÁRI, Deputy State Secretary**  
**of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs**

**(Budapest, November 4, 2011)**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to welcome you to this meeting of the Round Table on Eliminating Non-Tariff Barriers and Development of Supply Chains in CEFTA 2006. This is now the third meeting of the Budapest Round Table, and I hope that these meetings will continue in the future as well.

As you are well aware, in 2008 the Hungarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as part of its 'Aid for Trade' assistance, decided to facilitate the efforts of the CEFTA parties to reduce and eliminate non-tariff and other administrative barriers to trade, mainly to help to increase trade flows and investments among the countries in the region and with third parties, in particular the neighbouring EU Member states.

First of all it was important to identify and prioritise the non-tariff barriers and what proved to be even more relevant, the administrative procedures hindering trade flows. It has become evident that compliance with international and EU technical standards, and to an even larger extent, sanitary and phytosanitary measures appear to be the single most serious impediment to the expansion of trade with the EU. An increasingly multi-speed adoption of EU standards results, however, in the creation of additional technical barriers in intra CEFTA trade.

An important step forward is the development of a monitoring instrument by the OECD Secretariat, which is now the basis for concrete multi- and bilateral measures to be taken both within the CEFTA and by individual members of the region.

The present economic, financial and social crisis makes it even more important for the countries of South Eastern Europe to strengthen their integration, to increase intra trade flows and to create an even more attractive environment for foreign direct investment.

Enhancing the integration process of the region to the European Union is a shared political and economic objective. At the same time, we all know well that political determination alone is not sufficient, we also have to do the less spectacular, but indispensable technical groundwork.

I hope that the Hungarian project, which came to fruition last year and the new EU financed one will contribute to these goals.

I wish you all a productive meeting and an enjoyable stay in Budapest.

Thank you for your kind attention.