

DECLARATION OF PRIME MINISTERS OF THE CEFTA COUNTRIES (WARSAW, THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND, NOVEMBER 15, 2000)

The Prime Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Slovenia, conscious of the importance of mutual trade co-operation within the framework of the Central European Free Trade Agreement and wishing to promote further development of the economic co-operation among the CEFTA countries, met in Warsaw, the Republic of Poland, on November 15, 2000.

The Prime Ministers reconfirmed their belief that the co-operation within the framework of CEFTA contributes to the economic development of the Parties and promotes the process of their integration in the European Union.

The Prime Ministers expressed their satisfaction

- with the start of the activity of the Subcommittee on Agricultural Trade and with the first results of its work;
- with the application of the Additional Protocol No. 8 to the Central European Free Trade Agreement concerning the modification of the rules of origin of goods in accordance with the amendments of these rules in trade relations with the European Union and other countries participating in the pan-European cumulation;
- with the results of the analysis on the fulfillment by the Parties of the obligations arising from the provisions of Article 24 of CEFTA concerning public procurement;
- with the signing of the Additional Protocol No. 9 to the Central European Free Trade Agreement related to further adjustment of rules of origin of goods in conformity with the modifications agreed by all countries participating in the pan-European cumulation.

The Prime Ministers evaluated the general trends in deepening of the co-operation and continuous development of mutual trade among the Parties and appreciated the progress made in finding amicable solutions concerning existing safeguard measures. At the same time, they noted that besides these results some problems still exist, mainly in the field of agricultural trade.

The Prime Ministers underlined that further common efforts meant to reach such solution that would take into consideration the interest of all Parties are needed. In this respect, the conclusions of the Joint Committee and the analysis under preparation within the Subcommittee on Agricultural Trade would provide an appropriate framework.

Regarding further development and deepening of the economic and trade co-operation in the framework of CEFTA, the Prime Ministers considered useful the carrying-on of the following activities:

- identifying the appropriate ways of improving CEFTA functioning;

intensification of bilateral negotiations concerning the mutual recognition of certificates and test results;

– supporting trade promoting events and contacts between business communities and professional associations.

The Prime Ministers were informed about the start of bilateral consultations between interested CEFTA countries on further liberalization of agricultural trade.

The Prime Ministers reconfirmed that CEFTA remains open and is ready to examine applications of countries fulfilling the necessary requirements.

Within the context of the future EU enlargement, the Prime Ministers appreciated as useful the continuation of the exchange of information among the CEFTA countries on the stage of their accession negotiations. At the same time, they underlined the importance of the completion of the internal EU institutional and decision-making reforms meant to accelerate the preparation of the conditions for the future enlargement.

The Prime Ministers appreciated the co-operation of the CEFTA countries in the WTO and agreed to intensify the common efforts of these countries in order to promote the successful launching of a comprehensive new round of negotiations.

The Prime Ministers agreed that the next meeting of the Prime Ministers of the CEFTA countries shall take place in Romania in the fall of 2001.

Done in Warsaw, on November 15, 2000.

[Quelle: <http://www.cefta.org/meetings/summits/2000/declaration.htm>]