

**3^d Meeting of MAP REA Coordinators
Draft Operational Conclusions
9 October 2018, Brussels**

Appointed MAP REA Coordinators and their representatives gathered for the third meeting of MAP REA Coordinators, organized by the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat on 9 October 2018 in Brussels. The following Operational Conclusions were agreed upon by participants (*listed in Annex 2*):

- MAP REA Coordinators reaffirmed their full commitment to the implementation of MAP REA and presented their views on ways forward. They also introduced an overview of the key developments after London Summit in areas related to MAP REA;
- EC welcomed the continuous efforts invested by WB6 in implementing MAP REA and for agreeing on some very ambitious forward looking commitments along all components. The meeting took note on the new letters from Commissioner Hahn to be sent to economies soon and the upcoming Sherpa's meeting planned for November;
- CEFTA and RCC Secretariats informed on the achieved deliverables along the four MAP REA components, setting the scene for the strategic discussions on the forward looking commitments/deliverables;
- WB CIF introduced private sector perspective in regard to the achieved deliverables whilst putting focus on the need to intensify cooperation at national and regional level in issue related to MAP REA implementation. Participants took note on some of the planned activities of WB CIF in support to MAP REA implementation (i.e. participation to a high level Conference on competitiveness and economic reforms to be held in late October in Podgorica promoting benefits of SMEs from digitalization, national consultation in all six economies to discuss joint activities, TAEIX workshop on SMEs internationalization, activities on skills and access to finance, etc.);
- The meeting benefited from the views and highlights of all participants on key challenges related to the implementation of the achieved deliverables and reaffirmed the necessity to step up efforts in implementing national/regional activities related to MAP REA implementation;
- RCC and CEFTA Secretariats presented the proposed forward looking commitments/deliverables along the four MAP REA components to be implemented prior to the next year Western Balkan Summit and pointed out key milestones for each deliverable (*listed Annex 1*);
- MAP REA Coordinators contributed with their strategic views on the feasibility of the proposed deliverables, addressed political and technical challenges connected with the implementation of the deliverables and reaffirmed the stated commitments. MAP REA Coordinators expressed their commitment to engage in implementation of any other new proposed deliverables to be agreed by all WB6 economies. Any new proposal on

deliverables will be communicated to RCC and CEFTA Secretariats within two weeks. On this note, Montenegro has put forward proposals for new deliverables that refer to strengthened digital skills and implementation of the European Interoperability Framework in WB;

- CEFTA Secretariat highlighted the need for EU to assess the possibility to extend the benefits that the CEFTA Parties are obtaining by harmonising and implementing the legislation with the EU under the CEFTA framework. An example would be an extension of benefits of the CEFTA AEOs to EU. The WB economies may explore the possibilities to get a legal basis for such actions in the framework of their SAA Subcommittees with the EU;
- RCC and EC invited national administrations to intensify and strengthen their efforts in MAP REA implementation, in particular in:
 - a. Trade: completing ratification of Additional Protocol 5 on trade facilitation in all CEFTA Parties, with a request for Kosovo*¹ to speed up this process internally; adopting Additional Protocol 6 on trade in services liberalization; advancing with the negotiations on Additional Protocol 7 on trade dispute resolution mechanism and promptly nominating the negotiators; promoting application of full cumulation and duty drawback with economic operators; addressing competition and state aid issues, in particular reporting, prior WB Summit; starting of the SEED+ implementation;
 - b. Investment: finalizing and adopting action plans aimed at RIRA implementation in each economy by the end of 2018 and closely coordinate with private sector in this regard; continuing work on regional capital markets integration and considering the expansion of the proposed deliverable related to capital markets so as to include wider aspects of financial market diversification;
 - c. Mobility: ensuring completion of the negotiations on the recognition of professional qualifications by the next Western Balkan Summit; agreeing on the model of recognition of academic qualifications;
 - d. Digital integration: working on a new Regional Roaming Agreement covering the whole region with a view to have a text by the time of the BEREC meeting in December, and signing of the agreement at the Digital Summit in Belgrade in April 2019 and intensified preparations of the next Digital Summit.
- RCC and CEFTA Secretariats will facilitate the work of regional platforms to enable successful implementation of the proposed deliverables;
- MAP REA Coordinators agreed to send their comments of the draft operational conclusions within two weeks. In case no comments are submitted the silent consent principle will apply.

¹ * This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Annex 1 – List of forward looking commitments/deliverables

Trade

- Completed ratification process of Additional Protocol 5 on trade facilitation in all CEFTA Parties;
- Fully populated CEFTA Statistical Portal ;
- Additional Protocol 6 on trade in services liberalisation adopted by all Parties;
- Advanced stage of negotiations on Additional Protocol 7 on a trade dispute settlement mechanism;
- Defined time-frame for a joint risk Strategy;
- Mutual recognition on Authorised Economic Operators (AEOs) adopted by the Joint Committee; and
- Identified e-commerce barriers in CEFTA
- Entry into force of the full cumulation and duty drawback within CEFTA.

Investment

- Regional Investment Reform Agenda (RIRA) implementation in place through the adoption of individual-economy action plans; RIRA impact assessment;
- RIRA promotion to private sector intensified, as well as targeted outreach to investors in priority sectors, promoting the WB6 as unique investment destinations;
- Potential instrument for RIRA proposed; and
- Financial diversification (incl. capital markets) regional diagnostic is developed and recommendations are endorsed.

Mobility

- Concluded ambitious Mutual Recognition Agreement on Professional Qualifications in four professions;
- Agreed model for Recognition of Academic Qualifications, Joint Information System to facilitate Recognition of Academic Qualifications launched and completed joint exercise on Recognition of Academic Qualifications;
- Joint Guides on Recognition of Academic Qualifications drafted;
- Raised capacities to participate in EU research programmes and integrate fully into the European Research Area;
- Joint Guides to address Open Access to Research Results and Data prepared.

Digital

- Maintained high-level regional dialogue on digital transformation of WB and organization of WB Digital Summit 2019;
- Lowered roaming costs for full coverage of WB6 consumers and implementation of WB-EU Roaming Roadmap;
- Advanced Implementation of WB Digital Agenda;
- Strengthened cybersecurity capacities and information exchange; and
- Sustained regular ICT regulatory dialogue between WB-EC.

Annex 2 - List of Participants

Western Balkans Delegations

1. Ms. Florensa HAXHI
2. Ms. Brunilda KOCO
3. Mr. Hamdo TINJAK
4. Mr. Marko RADOVANOVIĆ
5. Ms. Arta HASIMJA EFENDIJA
6. Mr. Albinot Bimbashi
7. Ms. Jovana KRUNIĆ
8. Ms. Milica ADŽIĆ
9. Mr. Gojko STANIVUKOVIĆ
10. Mr. Marko PETROVIĆ
11. Mr. Vancho UZUNOV
12. Ms. Elena GRABUL
13. Mr. Dzenk SEJFULA

European Union

14. Mr. Nicholas CENDROWICZ
15. Mr. Felipe DE LA MOTA
16. Mr. David RINGROSE
17. Mr. Gabriel BLANC
18. Mr. Pedro OBANDO
19. Mr. Christophe MASSON
20. Mr. Youssef TADROS
21. Ms. Sara MEIC
22. Mr. Martin SCHIEDER
23. Mr. Jesus LAVINA

CEFTA Secretariat

24. Mr. Emir ĐIKIĆ

Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum

25. Mr. Safet GERXHALIU
26. Mr. Zdravko ILIC

World Bank Group

27. Mr. Matija LACO

Regional Cooperation Council

28. Mr. Goran SVILANOVIĆ

29. Mr. Gazmend TURDIU
30. Ms. Vesselin VALKANOV
31. Ms. Maja HANDJISKA-TRENDAFILOVA
32. Ms. Ivana PETRIČEVIĆ
33. Ms. Pranvera KASTRATI
34. Ms. Dragana ĐURICA
35. Ms. Vanja IVOŠEVIĆ
36. Ms. Mimika DOBROSHI
37. Ms. Nađa GREKU
38. Ms. Bojana ZORIĆ