



**Republic of Macedonia**  
**Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy**

***Trade facilitation and fast green lines at the  
borders for the agro-food products in SEE  
countries***

***Struga, 15 November 2018***

# *Introduction*

A decorative graphic featuring a yellow circle at the top, a green hand-like shape in the middle, and a blue hand-like shape at the bottom, all set against a light green background.

## Legal procedure

- Member of the WTO on 4 April 2003
- TFA ratified by the Parliament on 31 July 2015
- Published in the Official Journal of RM no. 130/2015
- CEFTA Additional Protocol 5 ratified by the Parliament at the beginning of 2018

# Objective



- To simplify inspections related to all clearance procedures and reduce formalities to the possible maximum extent
- To exchange data between authorities to the extent that each national legislation allows
- mutually recognise the national Authorised Economic Operators' Programmes in each CEFTA Party, provided that both the legislation and implementation of each national programme is fully in line with the relevant EU *acquis*

# Scope



*composed of 3 Sections*

- Publication and availability of Information
- Specific and differentiated treatment by members
- Institutional arrangements and final provisions

**National Trade Facilitation Committee** - Decision for establishing National Committee on Trade Facilitation (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 140/2017 from 4 October 2017)

**Enquiry Point** - Government Decision in September 2017; Contact point is the Custom Administration, established relation with contact persons from other countries and public institutions competent for trade facilitation in its domain

# Scope



## Article 8

Formalities Connected with Importation, Exportation and Transit

## Article 9

Common Border Procedures and Uniform Documentation Requirements

9.2. Nothing in this Article shall prevent a CEFTA Party from:

(e) differentiating its procedures and documentation requirements in a manner consistent with the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

# Scope

## CEFTA Additional Protocol 5 (AP 5)

### Annex I

- Electronic Exchange of Data in order to simplify of inspections related to clearance procedures and reducing formalities to the maximum extent possible
- Data exchange between CAs involved in the clearance of goods

Defines:

- Institutions that shall exchange data;
- Types of documents that shall be exchanged between CEFTA Parties;
- Relevant international standard / model used

### Annex II

Matrix of Memoranda of Understanding signed between Customs Authorities and Competent Authorities regarding electronic exchange of data

# *Institutions involved*

A stylized graphic in the background shows a hand in shades of green and blue holding a bright yellow sun. The hand is positioned as if supporting the sun from below.

## **Agro-food products**

### **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy**

- Phytosanitary Directorate
- State Agriculture Inspectorate –Border Phytosanitary Inspections

### **Food and Veterinary Agency**

- Border Veterinary Inspections

# *Memorandum of Cooperation*

- Customs Administration and State Agricultural Inspectorate signed Memorandum of Cooperation which enables trade facilitation of agro-food products,
- Customs Administration and Bureau of Public Security have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation which enables fast flow of goods on a special line for fast export of agricultural and food products,
- Customs Administration and Bureau of Public Security signed a new Protocol for the regulation of procedures for faster flow of live animals, dangerous material and goods (May 2018) that enables a 24-hour free corridor for the movement of these goods, ensuring fast and safe flow of goods on the two BIPs, Tabanovce and Bogorodica.



# *Integrated Border Management*



- **One Stop Shop** project started with implementation; established mutual controls between CAs from Macedonia and Serbia (BiP Tabanovce – Presevo) achieving more attractive corridor 10 for export, import and transit of goods
- Introduced **fast green line** for food and perishable goods aiming to rapid release and clearance of goods, reducing the time and costs of compliance for traders and operators

# Data exchange



## ➤ EXIM

system ensures reduction of the time spent at the border control, and availability 24 hours, 7 days in the week which ensures trade facilitation; web-based system that enables to obtain all the documents (licenses, approvals, and tariff quotas) needed to perform customs procedures for import, export, and transit to and from Macedonia in a simple electronic application with complete security and transparency.

## ➤ **INAP Information system on food of non-animal origin**

software system secures additional upgrading of the functionalities of the application, aiming to simplify and speed up the process of issuing the permits by FVA; used exclusively in case of import of consignments with food of non-animal origin and food contact materials ; enables traceability and extraction of data and reports about the total number of imported consignments, etc.

# Data exchange

- **PIS - Phytosanitary Information System** provides better communication, coordination and more efficient functioning of the Competent Authorities (PD, SPL, SSMD, SAI) which will increase the efficiency of their work
- Technical assistance for designing and establishing in PIS is planned within the planned IPA 2015 project *Improved implementation of animal and plant health, food safety and corresponding of Information Systems*
- The project will start in January 2019, with duration of 24 months.

# ***Bilateral cooperation***

- Signed the Agreements between the Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro for veterinary, food safety and phytosanitary cooperation
- Signed the Protocol between the Plant Health Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment of the Republic of Serbia and the State Agriculture Inspectorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of the Republic of Macedonia for border control on the railway traffic at the border checks Presevo - Tabanovce
- Prepared draft Agreement between the Food and Veterinary Agency of the Republic of Macedonia and Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia In the field of food safety
- Prepared draft Agreement between the Food and Veterinary Agency of the Republic of Macedonia and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of the Republic of Serbia in the veterinary field
- Prepared draft of the Agreement between the CAs of Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia for phytosanitary cooperation, which is the final phase of adoption
- On-going negotiations on the draft text on Agreements for phytosanitary cooperation with Albania and Kosovo

# Key challenges



- Adjustment of the working hours of inspectors at the border crossings
- Establishment of mutual controls at border inspection points
- Harmonization of the legislation in the veterinary, food safety and phytosanitary area,
- Mutual recognition of the phytosanitary certificates/electronic certificate and other relevant documents,
- Mutual recognition of the results of laboratory analyzes from accredited laboratories on taken samples from the consignments, which are subject to import
- Improve coordination, communication and cooperation between all CAs
- Multi-Agencies approach and cooperation
- FAO, GIZ support



***Thank you for the attention***