



DECLARATION

THE ASSOCIATION OF BALKAN CHAMBERS (ABC)

We, the Presidents of the Association of Balkan Chambers, gathered in Sarajevo, March 24th, 2010,

Recalling the initiatives made during the establishment of the Association of Balkan Chambers in 1994,

Noting that our common goal has remained the same – to support growth and prosperity in the Region through open trade and investments,

Reaffirming the needs and willingness to enhance the economic cooperation and prosperity for our people;

Do hereby declare:

We will work together to strengthen the momentum towards strong, sustainable and balanced regional economic growth.

Emphasis will be placed on the following specific areas:

1. Development of the quality infrastructure on the Balkans – mutual recognition of accreditation bodies

- In this regards, governments and chambers will work together to overcome the tariff barriers in trading and to harmonize quality infrastructure with the EU standards
- The ABC chambers will undertake efforts for increasing the competitiveness of their member companies and the Region as a whole
- Chambers and the CEFTA Secretariat will disseminate information on the infrastructure of quality and introduce wide education in this regard
- Activities on the recognition of certificates and accreditation bodies should be a priority both for the chambers and the governments for the benefit of respective economies
- Necessary tools may be provided by the chambers

2. Cooperation with Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

In order to develop and improve the cooperation between the ABC and the RCC, the presidents of the ABC chambers agree to:

- organize meetings with respective RCC national coordinator to clarify development of mutual relations
- The ABC member chambers unanimously agree upon giving the authorization to the Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina to undertake efforts for establishing better cooperation with RCC (defined through a corresponding Agreement on Cooperation)
- The overall information will be delivered to the respective governments

3. Strengthening the women entrepreneurship by creating the Women Entrepreneurs Council within ABC by unanimous decision from all presidents.

4. Increasing the competitiveness of the companies' members through The Project "Implementation of CEFTA in order to improve the internalization of the SEE Economy" sponsored and financed by DIHK, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, SEQUA. The Project will cover Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, FYR of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey. The Overall Objectives are: to strengthen SEE Intra-regional trade, to strengthen trade with EU, to make SEE Region more attractive for foreign investors and to strengthen the competitiveness of SME-s.