United States Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN
Global Agricultural Information Network

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution **Date:** May 12,2020

Report Number: RB2020-0004

Report Name: Green Corridors Among CEFTA Cuntries to Facilitate Trade During COVID-19 Pandemic

Country: Serbia

Post: Belgrade

Report Category: Country/Regional FTA's, Trade Policy Incident Report, Trade Policy Monitoring, WTO Notifications, Agricultural Situation, Agricultural Situation, Country/Regional FTA's, Trade Policy Incident Report, Trade Policy Monitoring, WTO Notifications

Prepared By: Tatjana Maslac

Approved By: Frederick Giles

Report Highlights:

On April 13, CEFTA member countries implemented a regional green corridors system at certain border crossings. The system was introduced to facilitate the transport and trade of goods within the region, as new border and citizen protection measures to combat the coronavirus pandemic have greatly slowed traffic. Border crossings and green lanes within this system will be open for all goods, with humanitarian goods having higher priority, which requires pre-arranged coordination.

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Trade Association:

On April 13, CEFTA member countries implemented a regional green corridors system at certain border crossings. The system was introduced to facilitate the transport and trade of goods within the region, as new border and citizen protection measures to combat the coronavirus pandemic have greatly slowed traffic. Border crossings and green lanes within this system will be open for all goods, with humanitarian goods having higher priority, which requires pre-arranged coordination. The list of goods and border crossings are listed at https://www.carina.rs/lat/Stranice/CEFTACovid19.aspx.

The CEFTA (Central European Free Trade Agreement) Secretariat officially announced that the system of green corridors in the Western Balkans region began to operate as of April 13.

CEFTA is a trade association of European countries that are non-EU member states. The free trade area encompasses seven nations that together cover a combined area of 97,463 square miles. There are six official languages in the region, but English is recognized as the region's working language. The free trade area is home to over 22 million people. The bloc has a robust economy, with a gross domestic product of $400 billion, and a GDP per capita of $14,102.

Current members of CEFTA are as follows:

- Serbia
- Macedonia
- Albania
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Kosovo (indirectly, represented by the UNMIK)

Green Corridor System:

The border crossings in the green corridor system will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as well as customs and other border services. In order to further ensure the rapid flow of the most essential products, CEFTA parties adopted a list of essential goods. Food and animal feed are deemed most important followed by personal protective products to fight against the coronavirus. Depending on the needs of CEFTA parties, this list may be modified.

The Systematic Electronic Exchange of Data for Customs Administrations (SEED) system has been upgraded and will be used to pre-code products from the core product list. The SEED system will send data electronically to customs and other border services (customs directly through the system, while the system will generate emails automatically forwarded to phytosanitary, veterinary and sanitary services for each crossing).

CEFTA countries are expecting that the established use of green corridors will continue to even after the coronavirus pandemic is over, thus enabling all the benefits of simplified and expeditious border crossing.

Attachments:

No Attachments.