

Summary of trade barriers imposed on the Republic of Kosovo by Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina

The Kosovo Ministry of Economy, Employment, Trade, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Strategic Investments has set up a national-level working group to identify trade barriers the Republic of Kosovo faces with Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The group has emphasized the following non-tariff barriers in trade and the movement of persons and goods, among others:

- **Transit barriers** — Serbia treats exports to Kosovo like exports to Serbia. Kosovo-bound goods made in third countries must comply with Serbian licensing and documentation requirements when transiting through Serbia. Kosovar manufacturers are also subject to such requirements when exporting to third countries.
- **Technical barriers** — Kosovo exports are required to comply with standards for goods made in Serbia.
- **Labeling and stamps** — Serbia and Bosnia require product labeling or use custom stamps that are not in line with the form and content agreed upon under the auspices of the European Union.
- **Movement and credentials** — Serbia and Bosnia do not admit vehicles registered in the Republic of Kosovo, and do not recognize Kosovar manufacturing licenses, identity documents, or academic and professional qualifications.

The working group has supported its findings with documentary evidence from the Ministry's Department of Trade.¹

The working group notes that Kosovo has not benefited from CEFTA or its dispute-resolution mechanisms. The Republic of Kosovo does not impose any barriers on Serbia or Bosnia, all while facing severe losses due to Serbian and Bosnian barriers and the ensuing trade imbalance. The working group, therefore, has submitted a draft-proposal on reciprocity measures pursuant to WTO principles.²

In addition to barriers identified by the working group, Serbia does not admit goods and nationals of third countries entering Serbia through a border crossing with the Republic of Kosovo.³ Serbia has also imposed barriers in transportation, electronic and postal communication, and energy, among other areas.

1 Draft-proposal on reciprocity measures to govern trade with Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, p. 5.

2 Ibid. p. 11.

3 They must leave Kosovo and enter Serbia through a neighboring country, such as North Macedonia or Montenegro.