

AGREEMENT
ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF VETERINARY, FOOD AND FEED
SAFETY AND PHYTOSANITARY IN THE WESTERN BALKAN

In order to facilitate trade of live animals, food and feed of animal, non-animal and composite origin, plants and plant products in such a way that does not pose restriction to mutual trade,

To protect their territories from introduction and spreading of quarantine harmful organisms and to limit the entry of regulated non-quarantine harmful organisms through imported consignments, as well as to limit the losses that occur as a result of their introduction and spreading,

To prevent introduction and spreading of contagious animal diseases, products and food of animal origin, which are not safe and could be harmful to the health, in aim of protection of human and animal health,

To reduce to a minimum the phytosanitary, veterinary and health risks and at the same time to facilitate cooperation and ensure improvement of international trade,

Inviting the other Western Balkan participants to join this agreement in the spirit of inclusiveness, regional cooperation and with a view to improving the lives of all within region,

Have agreed on the following:

Article 1

The import – transit - export of live animals, food of animal origin, food of non-animal origin, composite products, feed, animal by-products, plants, plants products and other objects and items may be carried out only in compliance with the requirements laid down in the normative acts on food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary which are in force in the respective countries and in agreed technical documents between Parties.

List V Part B, which determines the type of plants, plant products and other objects which must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate agreed and harmonized between the Parties, is an integral part of this Agreement

Article 2

The parties agree that the competent authorities of their countries will recognize the reports on testing of live animals, food of animal origin, food of non-animal origin, composite products, and feed of animal origin, animal by-products, food from non-animal origin and

composite products, plants, plant products and other objects and items by accredited methods or internationally recommended methods for plant regulated harmful organisms by authorized/accredited laboratories.

The Parties agree to apply the transition period for the methods accreditation in food safety and veterinary areas in Albania until the end of November 2022.

Article 3

The Parties agree that the competent authorities of their countries will carry out the physical checks for plants, plant products and other objects and items in a nearest place outside the border inspection point at the customs terminal.

Article 4

The Parties agree that the competent authorities of their countries will carry out the physical checks for food of non-animal origin, directly to the destination point, at the customs terminal.

Confirmation of compliance with the prescribed requirements for food of non-animal origin of the importing country shall include:

- basic information on the consignment (country of origin, product name, manufacturer's name, production lot, shelf life);
- the results of tests carried out by accredited methods, issued by authorized laboratories, which are on the list of laboratories of the Parties' countries.

Article 5

The Parties agree that the competent authorities of their countries will carry out the physical checks for food of animal origin, feed, live animals, composite products, directly to the destination point at the customs terminal. Compliance with the defined requirements for live animals, food of animal origin, feed, composite products, animal by-products of the importing country shall be confirmed by the relevant health certificate that accompanies the consignment.

Article 6

The parties agree that an additional protocol will be signed for the matters of costs related to import export control.

Article 7

In the case of import-export, consignments of food of non-animal origin must be accompanied with the results of laboratory analyses, not older than four (4) months, which shall be carried out by accredited methods and issued by authorized laboratories.

Article 8

In order to develop cooperation in the field of veterinary, food safety and phytosanitary, the competent authorities of the Parties shall exchange regulations and professional publications related to these fields.

Article 9

If in the case of import – export the consignment of live animals, food of animal origin, food of non-animal origin, composite products, and feed, animal by-products, plants, plants products does not comply with the defined veterinary, food safety and phytosanitary requirements of the importing country, the competent authority of the importing country shall immediately inform the competent authority of the exporting country and take measures in accordance with the relevant national legislation of its country.

Article 10

Disputes arising from the implementation of this Agreement shall be settled between the competent authorities of the Parties.

Article 11

The Agreement shall not apply to the rights and obligations of the Parties arising from other international agreements to which they are contracting parties.

Article 12

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the receipt of the last written notification by which the Parties notify each other, through the Depositary, of the completion of the procedures as required by their domestic legislation for the entry into force of this Agreement. The Republic of Albania shall act as the Depositary of this Agreement.

This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years. After this period, the Agreement shall automatically be extended for subsequent one-year periods.

Each Party may withdraw from the Agreement at any time by notifying the other two Parties, in writing through the Depositary, no later than six (6) months prior to the date of withdrawal. In such a case, the Agreement shall remain to be in force for the remaining two Parties.

This Agreement may be amended upon mutual consent of all Contracting Parties.

The original of this Agreement in a single copy in the English language shall be deposited with the Depository which shall transmit a certified copy to each Contracting Party.


Done in Tirana, on the twenty-first December, two thousand twenty-one.

On behalf of the Council of Ministers of
Republic of Albania



Frida Krifca
Minister of Agriculture and Rural
Development

On behalf of the Government of
Republic of Serbia



Branislav Nedimović
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Agriculture, Forestry and Water management

On behalf of the Government of
Republic of North Macedonia



Trajan Dimkovski
Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy