

THE DANUBE REGION AND POSTMODERN SOCIOECONOMIC COEXISTENCE OF THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST EUROPE

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Summary

The Danube Region is a new geopolitical phenomenon, which is of particular importance to major political entities in a wider ambience. The area Southeast Europe is permanently burdened with traditional conflicts, but also with postmodern challenges to the existence of states. This is a modern project of the European Union in the context of achieving dominance over people and resources of the wider Black Sea - Caspian macro-region. Geographical determinants of the Danube River Basin means conglomerate authentic phenomenon and a significant cross-border co-operation in the economic development of the state. Multilateral cross-border cooperation of the Danube Region and the Balkan countries is the basic condition for progress and integration into the modern trends. Problems unresolved borders and political relations complicate the process of cooperation in the region. This can be solved by building new initiatives and institutions for the promotion of inter-state territorial cooperation, relying on agreements in the framework of European integration.

Keywords: *Danube region, postmodern challenges, economy coexistence, Southeast Europe, Serbia*



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1 INTRODUCTION

The Danube Region and Balkan geopolitical guidelines indicate significant human and physical resources. Traditionally tender of world actors present in the long term, with implications in all areas of public life in the countries of the region. Those regions connecting Europe with Central Eurasia, and the Black Sea - Caspian macro-region. Related to energy resources and aspirations for domination of the great powers, initiate new confrontation between the great powers, which makes it the most unstable area of the wider macro-regions in the world.

The Danube Region has been established by the will of the European Union and adoption of the Convention on the Protection of the Danube River 29.06.1994. in Sofia, which entered into force in 1998. Similar to the previously formed Baltic region, the aim is intergovernmental cooperation in managing water areas with broader economic and political point of view states that belong to the Danube basin. The political dimension of the Danube region is based on humanistic strategy of connecting people and places in the wider area of the purpose of social development. It is a new geopolitical term with the aim of implementing foreign policy aspirations. The adoption of the Strategy for the Danube region by the European Parliament 21.01.2010. was encouraged regional cross-border cooperation in the economic development. Here are mentioned all ten direct Danube countries, with Serbia, which was first mentioned. In addition, four other countries, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro as the country's entire Danube river basin.

South Eastern Europe, the area Balkan, has always been burdened by numerous anomalies, primarily on the historical, religious and national level. Different value systems of the countries of the Southeast Europe are barriers to problem solving, as

well as integration into the European Union. The problems of multi-ethnicity and multi-heterogeneous in this area, especially present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Macedonia. In addition, exist numerous political, economic and security initiatives in the form of cross-border cooperation between the countries. Foreign cooperation projects, in addition to aggravating circumstances, have the obvious positive connotations. CEFTA agreement in the area of free trade and foreign investment, marks the most important economic integration, and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe in the wider context. Serbia and other Balkan countries has significantly overcome the problem by building adequate institutions for the implementation of cross-border cooperation.

2 THE DANUBE REGION-SIMILARITIES AND CONTRADICTIONS

Danube is the second longest river in Europe, right after Volga. It is 2860 km long and on its path, from its path from Donaueschingen in Germany to Black Sea, it passes through ten European countries. These countries are: Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldavia, Ukraine.

The Danube region is a functional area which is defined by its river basin. Lately, there have been some dramatic changes. After two waves of enlargement of European union in 2004. and 2007. and Croatian entry into the European union this "the most international" river basin is now by its largest part area of the Europe union. That opens new possibilities when it comes to overcoming the challenges and earning potentials of this space. Social-economic prosperity, competitiveness, environmental management and efficiency in resource management could now be improved and safety and transport in the region could be modernized. In the region, there is a need to connect people, ideas and their needs. The

development of the region must be balanced with the protection of the environment. Joint effort is required to avert disaster and minimize risks, such as floods, drought and industrial accidents. This region could be in the top of Europe union in the areas of trade and entrepreneurship. The gap in education and unemployment rates could be overcome and The Danube region could become safe and secure area. (Nešković, 2017)

In the past The Danube region has past many tumultuous events, many conflicts, with the movements of population and undemocratic regimes. However the fall of Iron curtain and expand of Europe union have opened opportunity for better future. It also means possibility for dealing with some great challenges, such as:

- Mobility- The Danube is, by its self, the main trans-European transport network, however its potentials are still not fully utilized. Freight transport on the Danube represents only ten to twenty percent of freight transport on the Rhine. Water transport has great meaning for improving effectiveness and environment protection, so the way for exploiting all potentials of the Danube in this area must be found.
- Energy- the price of fuels in region is high. Fragmentation of markets leads to bigger costs and loss of competition. Reliance on the small number of external suppliers increases vulnerability, periodical winter crises show us that. Greater choice in supply of energy through mutual relation and real regional market would have positive effect on increasing energetic security of this region's countries.
- Environment- every year planet gets more and more polluted, so it is not a surprise that the questions about environment protection are becoming more and more important. Pollution does not know national borders, so this is one more problem that requires joint efforts. Great problems, such as

inadequate utilization of waste water, unnecessary fertilization and land exploitation are constantly present and they make the Danube very polluted. Also, we must consider the influence of transport connections, tourism and energy facilities on the environment.

- Risks- massive and common floods, droughts, industrial pollution are significant problems of the Danube region. Prevention and effective reaction are not possible without adequate cooperation and information exchange of all countries.
- Social-economic- in this region there are big differences in these areas. There are some of the richest and the most successful, but also some of the poorest areas in Europe. There are not enough contacts and cooperation between countries, financial and institutional. The percent of highly educated people in the region is lower than in this percent in Europe, again with significant differences from country to country, noting that the best are leaving the region.
- Security and organized crime- problems in this area are still there. Human trafficking and smuggling goods are specifically expressed.

Joint approach is the best to these challenges, with defining priorities, agreements and joint actions. For example experts for development and experts for environment must work together in order to find the best solutions and solve some of the most important questions for the benefit of the whole region.

Beside challenges, the Danube region also has some opportunities. Many of its areas have outstanding natural beauty, wealth history, legacy and culture. Development potential is very large, especially in the countries most affected by transition since 1989.

There are creative ideas and quality work force:

- Region is the area in which Europe opens to East. The Danube region links Europe with Black sea- Caspian region, which is one of the richest parts of the world with fuels. From the standpoint of Europe union, this region could be marked as gate and corridor in the area of central Asia- an important geostrategic space for Europe union. (Jeftić, Šarčević, 2012) Existing transport and trade links must be developed (for example TRACECA traffic connection connects Europe union over Black sea with Caucasian region and central Asia. (Nešković, 2013)
- The region has solid education system with large number of universities. However, their quality varies. Education and profession must be organized according to needs of the market and student mobility between countries must be motivated and helped.
- Region has outstanding cultural, ethnic and natural variety. It has a number of global cities and heritage, including the fact that the Danube runs through the most of the capital. This advantages of the Danube region requires construction of modern tourist offers and infrastructure, so that both tourists and hosts could enjoy and make profit out of it.
- The region could better use the renewable energy sources, whether it is biomass, water, wind or solar energy. Taking activities in this area and better management of energy requirements would lead to switch to economy with lower level of carbon emissions, and with that lower damaging of environment.
- The region has significant natural resources: diverse of plant and animal world, water resources and beautiful sights (The Danube delta, Carpathians, Uvac...). These resources should be

better protected and restored in sustainable way. (Nešković, 2017)

To take advantage of these opportunities are needed better cooperation, planning and larger joint investments and develop of the key relations in the region. That's why the European commission at the request of European Council prepared Strategy for Danube region.

This strategy has four defined goals which constitute the core of this strategy and they are essential for the implementation of activities in territory of the whole Balkan. Countries included in The Danube strategy are: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Moldavia and Ukraine. (Stojović, Knežević, Bogdanović, Knežević, 2012)

The Danube region is composed by many different countries. Its members are distinguished by size, strength, wealth, there are different cultures, ethnic differences... The relations between them were not always the best in the past. Conflicts and differences between them were always the cause of distrust and reluctance, which are still present. But the past is behind us. We must turn to the future and to what she wears. To the future, which will be much better for all of the countries if they realize the meaning of mutual cooperation and start to apply in practice what they recite and agree in theory. (Nešković, 2016)

3 CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION OF SOUTHEAST EUROPE STATES

Defining of Southeast Europe region, or Balkan, what name is much more popular lately, is not easy task at all, both in geopolitical and geographic meaning. In widest geographical meaning Balkan

includes space than makes eleven states. Except six former Yugoslavian republics (Serbia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina) there are: Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece and Turkey. However many socio-economic studies about Balkan excludes Turkey and Greece, because they are not countries in transition and they are integrated in Western Europe political, military and economic structures for a long time. Also Slovenia is often excluded from this region, because it is not in neither geographical nor cultural-economic sense a Balkan country. On the other side there is question about Kosovo, which is not solved yet, but many countries from region and also the most members of Europe union have recognized it as independent country. Except term Southeast Europe, narrower term West Balkan is also in the use in geopolitics. Countries of West Balkan are five ex Yugoslavia republics, without Slovenia, and Albania.

Despite its turbulent history and major problems arising in not so distant past, countries of this region are turning to cooperation and connections because in this cooperation they see a way to recover and to improve the situation and quality of life of its citizens. Many international organizations are playing important roles in this process of cooperation. These international organizations could be separated in two groups by geographical criteria: in the first group are organizations that exclusively cover Southeast Europe states. In the second one we have those organizations which except Balkan cover some other parts of Europe.

Southeast Europe cooperation process- by Sofia Declaration of June 1996. was renewed initiative on cooperation of the Balkan countries at the end of the eighties, but now with a new name. The first is called The Conference on good neighborly relations, stability, security and cooperation in South eastern Europe, followed by South

east Europe cooperation process (SEECF). Unlike other initiatives, from the beginning this was an attempt of South eastern Europe countries to organize their mutual relations at a multilateral lever by themselves.

Sofia Declaration defined goals of possible cooperation and divided them into four large groups: (Lopandić, Kronja, 2012)

- Political relations (improving good neighborly relations and confidence measures)
- Regional economic cooperation (cross-border cooperation, infrastructure trade and investment, environment)
- Humanitarian cooperation and human rights
- The question of internal affairs and justice (such as fight against smuggling, terrorism, immigrations...)
- The conference in Sofia and she SEECF summits had certain results. They are maintained at the highest state level of Heads of states or Government or Foreign Ministers, which in the time before process was impossible. In this way was created a prerequisite for improving the general atmosphere in the region, especially after a difficult period followed by the dissolution of the Eastern Bloc, the transition, the violent smashing of Yugoslavia and the wars and poor economic conditions in the region. The meetings had a positive impact on the public in the region.

Stability pact for Southeastern Europe- in fact represents the third generation of the various attempts to encourage cooperation in the Balkans and pave the way for the integration of this unstable region. The first generation consisted of initiatives arising on the eve of the Eastern Bloc and shortly after that, such as the Central European Initiative and Black Sea Economic Cooperation. The second generation entered the initiatives that are connected with the disappearance of Yugoslavia, for example, project co-operation in Southeast Europe, SECI.

Another interesting thing about the pact is that it was one of the few initiatives that disappeared by itself.. This was not the result of failure, but rather a consequence of the good results and the wishes of donor countries to limit the existence of a forum which was from the beginning planned as temporary. In addition, the abolition of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe has led to the creation of a new regional organization - Regional Cooperation Council. (Nešković, 2014)

Members of the pact are divided in three groups (Lopandić, Kronja, 2012):

- first group consists of the participating countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Macedonia, Turkey. Among them there is a division between "users of pact", countries that can expect financial assistance from projects in the pact and other countries (Hungary, Slovenia, Turkey). FRY is included in the full-fledged participation in 2000 and after a separation of Montenegro it also has become a full member.
- Countries "helpers": members of the EU, US, Russia, Canada, Japan. In 2000 a decision was taken on the full participation of Canada, Japan, Switzerland and Norway in the pact.
- Other: international organizations (UN, NATO, OECD, Council of Europe, OSCE), financial institutions (World Bank, IBRD, IMF, EIB, EBRD), regional initiatives (SECI, CMES, South east Europe cooperation process.

The aim of the pact is the long-term stabilization, security, democratization, and economic reconstruction and development of the region. Participants committed themselves to cooperate with each other due to the reduction of tensions, of strengthening democracy, development of well neighbor relations, the fight against organized crime, preventing illegal

migration, preservation of multiethnic societies, refugee return and integration into European structures.

Central European free trade agreement-unlike previous initiatives, which have a comprehensive character, CEFTA is limited to trade among its members, so that presents a thematic organization.

Today when we talk about CEFTA, we should make distinction between the old CEFTA (1992-2006) and the new one from 2006. Although the two organizations continue to one another yet they have significantly altered the membership and legal basis. First CEFTA was initially included only central European countries (Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary) and later spread to the south and south-east Europe (Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Macedonia). The new CEFTA was created in the process of expanding the European Union and included the countries of the Western Balkans (Croatia, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and UNMIK-Kosovo) and Moldova.

Entering its members to the EU, CEFTA in 2004 remained with only three members (Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria). Taking into account the perspective of the accession of Romania and Bulgaria into the European Union, it was clear that CEFTA was on the verge of dissolution, and to avoid that it must expand its membership. Problem in the expansion were very rigid requirements for membership. The order shall become part of the CEFTA countries it was necessary to be a member of the World Trade Organization that signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union and has previously signed bilateral free trade agreements with each of the existing members of the organization.

However, in April 2006, after receipt of Macedonia, a decision was made on the rapid expansion of CEFTA to the countries of the Western Balkans. This decision was taken at the initiative of the Stability pact for south east Europe, and under the influence of the European Union and its understanding of the further development of trade and political relations in the region. (Lopandić, Kronja, 2012) CEFTA 2006 came into force on 26 July 2007 (Serbia 24.10.2007.). The first summit was held in Skopje in November 2007. Permanent Secretariat of CEFTA was established in 2008 with headquarters in Brussels.

Black sea economic cooperation- was created at the instigation of Turkey and Russia, which were resolved to pave the way for a new "non-hegemonic cooperation in the neighborhood." In 1998 was completed the Charter of BSEC to becoming an international organization. Although since 2000 in Thessaloniki started its operation and the Black Sea Bank for Trade and Development as part of a wider system of the Organization, while only organization to function more project-oriented, BSEC is largely represent a kind of "declarative cooperation." At the same time, concrete results and projects significantly behind the formally institutionalized forms of cooperation. Multilateral cooperation, however, has not helped to overcome numerous group conflicts plaguing the situation in the Black Sea. The founders of the BSEC are: Albania, Jermenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.

Central European initiative- was formed in 1989 from the "four countries cooperation" (Italy, Austria, the former Yugoslavia and Hungary). CEI has eighteen member states: Austria, Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Italy, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, Ukraine and Montenegro.

The strategic objective and the basis of all activities is "regional cooperation for European integration". Central European Initiative consists of two groups of countries: members of the European Union and the countries members of CEI by its membership in the European Union have not yet been achieved. For the CEI can be said that it plays the role of "bridge" between the countries of Europe that are in the EU and those outside it.

Commission of Danube river- is an international organization established by the Convention concerning the regime of navigation on the Danube, and which was signed in 1948. The primary tasks of the Danube Commission activities relating to the development of free commercial navigation of the Danube flows under the flags, in accordance with the interests and sovereignty of states parties of the Belgrade Convention and the strengthening and development of economic and cultural relations between Member States and Member States with third countries.

Members of the Danube Commission are: Russia, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria. Germany, Croatia and Moldova became a full member of the Danube Commission in 1988. Observer status in the Danube Commission have: Belgium, Greece, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Turkey, France, Montenegro and the Czech Republic. (Lopandić, Kronja, 2012)

Trade exchange with other members of the international community is one of the preconditions for economic prosperity in the modern world. After the breakup of Yugoslavia normal trade relations between the companies of the former Yugoslav republics fell apart. Wars, sanctions that were introduced to our country, reducing border, loss of markets led to a severe contraction of GDP and falls mutual trade. Similar effects also had a breakup of the

Eastern bloc in some countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Since the end of the twentieth century are undertaken significant efforts to rebuild and strengthen trade links Balkan countries. In this regard were signed dozens of bilateral agreements which were later replaced by CEFTA Agreement in 2006. The most important foreign trade partner of most of the Balkan countries is the European Union. The share of EU imports in certain countries ranges from 44% in the case of Macedonia, and up to 68% of imports Albania. The percentage of export products in the EU ranges from 55-56% in the case of Serbia up to 81% in the case of Albania. Next in importance, behind Europe union is regional trade. Regional trade is particularly significant for the former Republic of Yugoslavia, while it is much less important for Romania, Albania and Bulgaria. In 2006, Albania in the region exported only 7.3% of its products, Romania 5.1 and Bulgaria 13.5. On the other hand, Macedonia exported in the other Balkan countries 39% of its products, Serbia 35 and Bosnia and Herzegovina 34%. (Nešković, 2013)

Notwithstanding the growth in trade, export from the Western Balkan countries is still below the potential that could be realized. This fact is confirmed by the statistics of intra-industry trade in the region, indicating the degree of integration into the local and global economy. Intra-industry exchanges accounted for less than 22% in trade between the countries of the CEFTA agreement, which is much lower than the European average. (Nešković, 2013) Except organization CEFTA, which is certainly the most important forms of regional cooperation in trade and economy, there is still a lot of different forums for cooperation, for the regulation or promotion of trade and the like. Some of these forums are:

- Agreement on Investment for South Eastern Europe
- Business Advisory Council
- Electronic initiatives in South Eastern Europe
- Adriatic Region Employers' Centre
- A trade union forum of Southeast Europe
- CEFTA Forum of Chambers of Commerce.
- Network PPP (Public Private Partnership) in Southeast Europe
- Regional network of agencies to promote investment in Southeast Europe
- Association of Balkan Chambers of Commerce. (Lopandić, Kronja, 2012)

In addition to these in the region are formed other forms of cooperation between the various professions that are directly related to economic activities, such as economic policy makers Networks, a network of business women, the network of Regional Development, networks for employment and welfare policy, Health Network for South Europe, etc. The economic crisis of the nineties, the collapse of the common market, conflicts and wars devastated the physical and financial capital in the region, and foreign direct investment has become necessary to ensure sustainable economic growth, the introduction of technical innovation and job creation.

Infrastructure development is also an area which is devoted significant attention. Stable energy supply, developed transportation and energy infrastructure and environmental protection are of special importance for the overall economic development and quality of life of the region. Regional cooperation in the fields of energy, transport and the environment is quite improved in the last ten years. In favor of that speak off series of projects that are generally initiated by the European Union: Energy Community Treaty, the Treaty on the Transport Community based on cooperation within the Transport

Observatory for South Eastern Europe. European common area, RENA, etc.

Energetic - energy infrastructure is very important for the economic recovery of South-Eastern Europe. At the initiative of the European Union in Athens on 25 October 2005 signed the Energy Community Treaty and thus created the largest internal market for electricity and gas in the world, with the effective participation of 34 states and entities, and to the then 25-member European Union and nine SEE countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and UNMIK-Kosovo). Energy Community Treaty represents an effective pre-accession instrument of Europe Union for South Eastern Europe, as it aims to extend the benefits of the internal energy market of the European Union on the countries of the region before becoming its members. The contract is significant from the point of view of stability of the region and its future role in the transit of energy.

Traffic- at the Conference in Crete in 1994 is identified ten Pan-European transport corridors, of which four of them is significant for the Western Balkans. These are the 5 corridor, Corridor 7, which coincides with the flow of the Danube Corridor 8 and Corridor 10, which was first proposed after the end of hostilities in the former Yugoslavia. In the field of transport first phase of regional integration started with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the development of basic transport network in South Eastern Europe and Luxembourg in 2004. The Parties to this Memorandum are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia, UNMIK-Kosovo and the European Commission. On the basis of this memorandum are established the Regional Monitoring Committee as well as the Transport Observatory for South Eastern Europe. (Nešković, 2013)

Another very important agreement in the field of transport is ECAA Agreement. The European Commission, working with partners from Southeast Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Macedonia, Croatia, Romania, UNMIK-Kosovo) in 2005 reached an agreement on the creation of a European Common Aviation Area (ECAA Agreement). It provides for full harmonization of national legislation with EU regulations in the field of aviation safety, security, air traffic management, airport management, protection of the rights of passengers and other services in the field of air transport. (Nešković, 2013)

Environmental protection- environmental degradation is a problem that knows no national boundaries, so international cooperation in this field is imperative. In this area since 1990, there is the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe. The center was founded by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary. Center has offices in seventeen countries, including the Republic of Serbia.

Another very important project is a project initiated by the European Commission, called The investment program for environmental priorities. His task is that by using a uniform methodology for the whole region define the main threats to the environment in the region for which the investments are necessary. Using the map of crisis points have been identified sites with environmental problems, as well as parts in which the environment is in a much worse situation than in the rest of the region and made up a list of priority projects in the region.

Also important initiative in this area is the Regional Network for Accession in the field of the environment (RENA). The focus of this initiative is on regional cooperation in the area of strategic planning and investment, including monitoring progress

and compliance, then on climate change, cross-border cooperation and multilateral agreements in the environmental field.

4 CONCEPT OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION OF REPUBLIC SERBIA

Region Southeast Europe is a region with a large number of landlocked countries. A particular limitation of these countries is in the fact that in addition to the obligation of building their own infrastructure, which is in itself a major challenge, depend on the degree of development of infrastructure of other, neighboring countries through whose territory the goods must transit. Among these countries is Serbia, as well as countries in its immediate neighborhood and with which performs intensive foreign trade cooperation. The goods transit through territories of Central and South east Europe. That is why they welcome all initiatives driven in order to accelerate the flow of foreign trade.

Improving relations in the region can be partially achieved by increasing the mutual trade of the region, and to achieve this it is necessary to facilitate the running of as many foreign trade flows. In this context it is particularly important to improve the work of institutions, which should contribute to the acceleration of foreign trade flows, among which the most important is certainly the customs service. To enhance their customs services is responsibility of each country, but the increase of mutual trade in the region is caused by the improvement of customs services of all countries in the region. It is sufficient that the reform process does not implement a single country and that the goods at the borders of that country keeps longer, after which foreign relations are slowing down and not only when the data of the countries concerned, and the efforts of other countries do not provide the desired results. (Đukanović, Trapara, 2013)

Of particular importance for Serbia's foreign trade in CEFTA region. For example, in the export of Serbia in 2011. Bosnia and Herzegovina participated with 10.1%, Montenegro with 7.5%, Macedonia 4.45% and Croatia 4%. In addition to these, several other neighboring countries that have joined the European Union are also important foreign trade partners of the Republic of Serbia and in the structure of Serbian exports accounted for: 6.9% Romania, Bulgaria 2,76% and Hungary 2,04%.

CEFTA agreement represents a continuation of the earlier bilateral agreements. It has positive effect on the intensification of trade. As with the bilateral agreements, duty-free trade with CEFTA is possible only for goods that have the status of domestic origin. However, unlike bilateral agreements where it is applied only bilateral cumulation of origin of goods, which means that raw materials imported for example. from Bosnia and Herzegovina and incorporated into the final product in Serbia can be exported duty-free only in Bosnia and Herzegovina but not other countries of the region, CEFTA enables diagonal cumulation. The possibility of application of diagonal cumulation of origin of goods in trade between the countries of the region and the region with the European Union should contribute to a greater range of duty-free trade of goods. This further leads to the increase of production and export capacity and presents a potentially cohesive factor of regional cooperation.

Within the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and UNMIK on behalf of Kosovo concluded in 2006 Free Trade Agreement and the Central Southeastern Europe-CEFTA 2006. One part of this Agreement applies to agricultural products and it also states that the Parties may conclude agreements on

sanitary and phytosanitary issues, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and other international agreements.

The Republic of Serbia concluded with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia bilateral agreements in the field of veterinary medicine, a contract with Macedonia in the field of plant protection. Similar agreements should be terminated and with other members of CEFTA, due to their great importance, especially for the promotion of foreign trade in agricultural products. (Đukanović, Trapara, 2013)

Bilateral agreements in the veterinary field, Serbia has concluded with Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 1/11) and Macedonia (Official Gazette of the FRY - International Agreements, No. 1/98) The signatories agreed to cooperate to protect against infectious diseases of animals during import, export or transit of animals, products and raw materials of animal origin and animal feed, as well as objects that can transmit germs of infectious animal diseases and protect against imports of unsafe products of animal origin and animal feed. To import and transit of animals and products of animal origin may be performed only if it meets the veterinary-sanitary conditions laid down by national legislation of the contracting parties and with prior approval of the competent authority of the importing country or countries through which the transit takes place.

Agreement with the Republic of Macedonia in the field of plant protection was completed in 1977. (Official Gazette of the FRY - International Agreements, No. 1/98) With this agreement states have committed themselves within their powers to take all appropriate measures to prevent the occurrence of the introduction and spread of plant diseases, pests and weeds (harmful organisms), which are included in the

national list of quarantine pests for each of the countries, which are annexed to the Agreement.

CONCLUSION

The Danube Region and Southeast Europe represent new political and security phenomena. Among the countries of origin to destination countries victims are transferred in different ways. High-level criminal groups are tasked to organize and manage the transport of victims and usually not directly involved in this phase of the trade. They prefer legal means of transferring victims, with a prepared travel documents, visas when necessary, although this method of transferring a victim associated with high costs. Lower-ranking criminal groups use illegal means of transport victims. It was through the "green border", outside border crossing points or border crossings or covertly, in cars, trucks, passenger vehicles. This way of traveling lasts much longer, is more dangerous for the victims, as they often during the trip are the exploited, exposed to violence, blackmail and threats, and thus exercise control over them.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia in 2010 took significant steps to improve the response to trafficking. Serbia is a leader in the Balkans in the identification of victims, which is a prerequisite for their protection, according to a State Department report. In this report, Serbia is placed in the second category of states. The first category includes countries that fully comply with minimum standards to protect victims of trafficking, the second group consists of those countries that do not meet minimum standards but are making great efforts to correct this, a third group are countries that do not make efforts to reach the minimum. According to these countries, the United States reserves the right to impose sanctions.

As a member Southeast Europe region, in the Republic of Serbia is adopted a strategy

to combat human trafficking. The strategic objectives are divided into five areas, and these are: the institutional framework, prevention, assistance, protection and reintegration of victims, international cooperation and monitoring and evaluation of results. The Republic of Serbia by preparing a Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and other activities that manifest in this area has shown a willingness, strength and political will to join international efforts to combat this crime.

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