

# **PRESS REVIEW**

## **BALKAN REGIONAL CENTER FOR TRADE PROMOTION**

**OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup> 1998,**

**ANTALYA**

**AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING "BALKAN REGIONAL CENTER FOR TRADE PROMOTION" HAS BEEN SIGNED ON 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1998, IN ANTALYA**

As a result of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs that was convened in Thessaloniki, in 9-10 July 1997, it was decided to establish "Balkan Regional Center for Trade Promotion" in Turkey. The referred Center targets to improve the economic and commercial cooperation among Balkan countries. With regard to the establishment of the Center which is planned to begin its activities officially at the headquarters Export Promotion Center of Turkey in Ankara at the beginning of 1999. The Agreement Establishing "Balkan Regional Center for Trade Promotion" has been signed on October 13<sup>th</sup> 1998 in Antalya/TURKEY during the Summit of Head of States of South East European Countries.

In this context "Export Promotion Center of Turkey" will be the secretariat of "Balkan Regional Center for Trade Promotion". The Center is expected to be an information center and convey the accumulated commercial information on Balkan countries to the related parties at once and realize certain promotion activities.

The Center will be in the service of business committees and other foreign trade related parties in Balkan countries on various issues via Foreign Trade Promotion Organizations with the principle of improving regional welfare through better economic and commercial relations. The corresponding institutions determined for the coordination of the activities of the Center, in Balkan countries are as follows:

The Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Trade, Tirana

The Export Promotion Center (BEPC), Sofia

The Foreign Trade Board (HEPO), Athens

The Economic Chamber (MEC), Skopje

The Foreign Trade Center (CRCE), Bucharest

The Ministry of Foreign Trade, Belgrade.

Some of the activities that could be realized with the coordination of the Center are;

- Organizing yearly coordination meetings in member countries to evaluate;
  - performed studies,
  - economic and trade developments and planning,
  - other activities that could be carried out in the following year to enhance trade among South East European Countries.
  
- Creating a database in which all the necessary information and statistics concerning the South East European Countries are stored,
  
- Regular exchange of trade information: Exchange of publications to enhance trade between South East European Countries,
  
- Preparing a web site, in which all the trade information and trade inquiries concerning SEE Countries are transmitted to the world via internet,
  
- Preparing and distributing a Bulletin entitled "Balkan Trade Promotion Bulletin" in which all the trade information, trade inquiries, tender and joint venture requirements from the SEE Countries are published periodically,
  
- Organizing seminars and workshops in the member countries on several issues of "Trade Opportunities Among South East European Countries",
  
- Organizing on the job training for the staff, targeting experience sharing between the organizations, in coordination with the Trade Development Organizations in South East European Countries,
  
- Organizing market surveys aiming at the marketing of selected product/product groups in South East Europe,
  
- Organizing the participation in fairs and exhibitions that will be held in SEE Countries in coordination with the Trade Development Organizations in South East European Countries, Organizing trade missions in South East European Countries.