

## **EU – Bosnia and Herzegovina Stabilisation and Association Agreement**

### **8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Trade, Industry, Customs and Taxation**

**29 April 2025 – Brussels [+Videoconference]**

#### **EU Recommendations**

1. The Commission recommended to the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities that the drafting of strategies and legislation aimed at aligning with the EU *acquis*/EU standards needs to demonstrate a common vision and countrywide ownership, favour quality over speed, be accompanied by a proper stakeholders' consultation and by the allocation of resources adequate for the implementation of the objectives of the strategy/legislation. Furthermore, the collection of relevant data/statistics should be improved and a monitoring mechanism put in place for the implementation of the strategy/legislation for the whole country.

#### **1. TRADE**

2. Bosnia and Herzegovina should finalise its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) as soon as possible. Bosnia and Herzegovina should share with the Commission the draft text of the Decision on Quality of Liquid Fuels and the table of concordance/Energy Community assessment and adopt this decision (Q2 2025).
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina should implement the Common Regional Market Action Plan 2021-2024 in particular by implementing CEFTA Additional Protocol (AP) 5 on trade facilitation and CEFTA AP 6 on trade in services (Q3 2025); and ensure a swift adoption of CEFTA AP 7 on dispute settlement.
4. Bosnia and Herzegovina should take immediate action to cease the discriminatory practice by the Una-Sana canton to exclude certain imported medicines from the lists of medicines that can be prescribed and dispensed at the expense of the compulsory health insurance (Q2 2025).
5. Bosnia and Herzegovina should adopt as soon as possible the new Law on Excise Duties to bring it in line with the EU *acquis*, in particular in relation to the definition of small breweries (Q1 2026).
6. Bosnia and Herzegovina must respect the provisions of the SAA with regard to trade and refrain from introducing any new, unjustified trade restricting measures and risking the additional market access provided under the autonomous trade measures (ATMs).

## **2. FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS**

7. Bosnia and Herzegovina should adopt a countrywide strategy for quality infrastructure having first consulted the European Commission (Q3 2025). *(commitment from the 6<sup>th</sup> TICT subcommittee meeting)*
8. Bosnia and Herzegovina should establish a list of technical regulations in force and start to repeal countrywide the domestic legislation that conflicts with EU legislation, including ex-Yugoslav standards that conflict with those aligned with European standards (Q1 2026). *(commitment from the 6<sup>th</sup> TICT subcommittee meeting)*
9. Bosnia and Herzegovina should examine all existing legislation and administrative practices in the non-harmonised area to assess if they comply with Articles 34-36 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Q1 2026) together with a plan on how to address all non-compliant elements (Q1 2026). *(commitment from the 6<sup>th</sup> TICT subcommittee meeting)*
10. Bosnia and Herzegovina should adopt a new Law on Accreditation in line with the most recent EU *acquis* (Q1 2026) having shared the draft including tables of concordance with the European Commission. *(commitment from the 6<sup>th</sup> TICT subcommittee meeting)*
11. Bosnia and Herzegovina should adopt a new Law on Market Surveillance in line with the most recent EU *acquis* (Q4 2025) having shared the draft including tables of concordance with the European Commission.

## **3. INDUSTRIAL POLICY and SMEs**

12. Bosnia and Herzegovina should compile a comprehensive inventory of all administrative and technical steps needed for domestic and foreign companies to register and/or operate countrywide, in order to abolish those requirements that hamper the creation of a single economic space and simplify and harmonise business registration in both entities in order to reduce the administrative burden on entrepreneurs, by centralising company registration (i.e., abolishing the requirement for double registration) and licensing under one-stop-shops and by making online registration available (Q4 2025).
13. With a view to harmonising countrywide, Bosnia and Herzegovina should identify the divergences among the industrial policy strategies and action plans of the various levels of government, ensuring coordination and involvement of industrial enterprises in policy formulation and implementation (Q4 2025).

14. Regarding publicly owned enterprises, Bosnia and Herzegovina should plan and budget the creation of a separate register of such enterprises in the Republika Srpska and operationalise the oversight units in the Federation (Q1 2026)
15. Bosnia and Herzegovina should assess the needs of businesses, particularly SMEs, when it comes to modernising skills and adopt strategic guidelines for harmonisation of SMEs and entrepreneurship support (Q4 2025).
16. Bosnia and Herzegovina should provide a single analysis, including concordance tables, which shows that the entity-level laws effectively transpose the Late Payment Directive until such time as a single, State-level law is in place transposing the directive (Q3 2025).

#### **4. TAXATION**

17. Bosnia and Herzegovina should bring the legislation on VAT and on excise duties in line with the EU *acquis*, notably on excise duties on beer, and avoid further deviation from the EU *acquis*, notably with regard to excise on petroleum products (Q1 2026).
18. Bosnia and Herzegovina should eliminate the administrative burdens in the area of electronic signature (e-signature) in order to ensure its interoperability and a harmonised countrywide system (Q1 2026).

#### **5. CUSTOMS**

19. Bosnia and Herzegovina should reinforce the administrative and operational capacity of the Indirect Taxation Authority (Q3 2025).
20. Bosnia and Herzegovina should increase post-clearance controls based on risk analysis, expand use of simplified procedures for reliable economic operators and upgrade interconnectivity and interoperability with EU IT systems and requirements (Q3 2026).
21. Bosnia and Herzegovina should submit its National Plan for joining the Common Transit Convention (Q3 2025).
22. Bosnia and Herzegovina should provide updates on the ongoing work related to Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters (MAA) and the fight against fraud, in particular against tobacco smuggling (Q2 2025).