



Project no.  
02/MAC/01/06/001

Техничка помош за изработка на трговски закони  
Technical Assistance to draft Trade Laws  
An EU-funded Project managed by the European Agency for Reconstruction



Consultant: Thalés E&C - Ghelber Law Firm

### Executive summary - Third Quaterly Report

As usual this period comprised intensive approximation and drafting assistance from Projects' Experts (twenty five experts representing nine EU nationalities). But it saw in addition training, study missions, public awareness and dissemination events. The Project also assisted launching the implementation of newly adopted legislation on State aid. The progress as well as DTL comments were confirmed by remarks provided to the MoE by the European Commission in January 2004. For sake of comprehensiveness and efficiency DTL support was enlarged to draft a most needed International Commercial Arbitration Law and to contribute to the reform of the Chamber of Economy. In order to increase stakeholders understanding, information and participation in the process DTL activities included focus groups, dissemination of fact sheets; preparing a training video, organising two study missions ( 23 to 30 November 2003, 2 to 8 February 2004) in four countries; and finalising the draft ToR for Training in liberalised trade; About 1000 persons participated in DTL debates, workshops, round-tables, conferences and similar events. The project supported the development of the **State aid** framework. The new legislation was distributed on the occasion of a public meeting organised on 22 January 2004 by the DTL Project. This meeting started the process of creating the first annual report on State aid. The **company law** and the **consumer protection** law are now both in compliance with EU law and are on the agenda of the Parliament. The experts developed, among others, the tables of correspondence. In relation to the draft law on **trading activities** a distinctive feature of the DTL project is the attention given to implementation issues such as modernising the **market inspectorate**. Other drafts are in an advanced conception phase in particular on **Competition**, on the **Chamber of economy** and on **international commercial arbitration** (UNCITRAL model based). The Project Expert on competition has been a key factor to enhance the institutional set up of the independent administrative body (suggested to be called *Competition Commission*). The DTL Expert on **Personal Data protection** seems to have triggered with his own comments those of the EC on the draft law and will come back in March to help finalise the draft. A rational approach to the reform of the law on **public enterprises** is being followed. On the basis of comparative analysis and options the work is progressing with the involvement of national and EU Experts. Proper and consistent linkages are being established with other relevant laws (concessions, utilities, local self government). **Better intra-and inter ministerial synergies** have been promoted. Most stakeholders, above all the direct beneficiary, express positive comments on the DTL Project. At this stage the recommendations of the previous quarterly report remain. But most of the objectives of the ToR and Inception report are already met.