

Asociace pro mezinárodní otázky Association for International Affairs



V4 and the Internal Market: the Benulux of the 21th century?

Kryštof Kruliš Prague 17-Mar-2016



Smooth functioning of the Internal Market between V4 countries.

3

Main thesis: "The proper functioning of the EU internal market is a key to

- i) economic convergence of the V4 countries to the EU GDP average;
- ii) bottom-up cooperation among V4 countries."

Main questions:

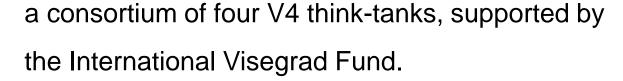
- 1) How the V4 countries can cooperate in improving their position on the EU internal market and the internal market itself (*outward perspective*)? and
- 2) How the internal market functioning among the V4 countries can be improved (*inward perspective*)?



Smooth project

4







_





_



Four workshops with four different groups of stakeholders with impact over functioning of the internal market among V4 countries

National public authorities responsible for internal market agenda	 Ability to provide remedy in cases of breaches of internal market regulations (e.g. SOLVIT). Their smooth cooperation within the region (e.g. swift inspection of the producer) can prevent affairs associated with failed quality of products (e.g. RAPEX, RASFF). Knowledge of cross-border features of private transactions triggering activity of public law (e.g. IMI System).
Consumer protection groups	 Representation of consumers' interests in international framework organizations with possibility of identifying specific consumer interests of the V4 region. Experience with provision of advisory services to consumers regarding issues with cross-border features.
	■ Ability to calm down cross-border animosities of businesses from different countries

The Main Reasons for Selection

Target Group

Ability to calm down cross-border animosities of businesses from different countries within the region, with particular stress on preventing the spiral of campaigns promoting national production against foreign production.
 Common representation of business interests of the V4 region at the EU level and in markets outside the EU.

Economic journalists who report on the internal market agenda to the public.
 Ability to inform about quality failures of products from different countries which would be proportional to the severity of the failure in question.



Way forward

- 6 Possible common strategies of the V4 countries (three categories):
 - a) joining forces in **influencing single market integration** of the EU at both governmental and sub-governmental levels;
 - b) proactive pursuing of **practical steps** that would increase smooth functioning of the internal market among the V4 countries; and
 - c) consider deeper market integration among the V4 countries.



V4: Deeper market integration?

Could V4 integrate where progres is blocked at the EU level?

- a) free movement of services based on the **country of origin principle**;
- b) The Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB);
- c) The **Mini One Stop Shop** (MOSS) VAT for online shopping applied for all goods (not just in electronic form);
- d) provide an even playing field for **P2P and sharing economy platforms** by coordinated regulátory steps.



References

8

• For references of this presentation, please, see the reference list in the project policy paper, available at:

http://www.amo.cz/smooth-functioning-of-the-internal-market-between-v4-countries/.



Asociace pro mezinárodní otázky Association for International Affairs Thank you for your attention.