



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY
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Companies of food processing industry and
agriculture in China and CEE Countries

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**Subject: Invitation to the Business Conference of the Central and Eastern
European Countries and China (16 + 1), Gornja Radgona, Slovenia,
26 August 2017**

Dear Sir / Madam,

Slovenia will host the **12th Agri-Trade Forum between the countries of Central and Eastern European (CEEC) and the People's Republic of China (16 + 1 Initiative)** between 24 and 26 August 2017. This will be one of the most important political and business events that will take place in Slovenia in 2017.

The Agri-Trade Forum is the highest-ranking agricultural event within the 16 + 1 Initiative. It is held at the ministerial level once a year, every year in another country. We are expecting the participation of political and business delegations from the 16 + 1 Countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia and China).

The political part of the event will be held in Brdo pri Kranju, on Friday, 25 August 2017. Ministers will participate in a Ministerial Conference entitled "The Importance of Food Supply Chains at Local and Global Level". In the afternoon, bilateral meetings between political delegations will be held.

The business part of the event will take place on the opening day of the 55th International Fair of Agriculture and Food AGRA, **in Gornja Radgona, on Saturday, 26 August 2017**. The countries of the 16 + 1 group have been invited to present themselves at the Fair with the national pavilions (a common exhibition space for the presentation of 16 + 1 is arranged). A special role at the Fair will be designated to the People's Republic of China, which will be the Partner Country. On Saturday afternoon the Business Conference of the Central and Eastern Europe Countries and China (16 + 1) will be held. Exhibitors and business persons from agriculture, food and correlated industries are invited to the Business Conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me kindly invite you to attend the Business Conference, which will take place **on Saturday 26 August 2017, from 15:00 to 18:00, in Hall 1 at the AGRA exhibition in Gornja Radgona, Cesta na stadion 2.** The Program of the Business Conference could be found in the Annex.

In particular, I would like to emphasize that this conference represents an excellent business opportunity, so I would like to invite the management and representatives of marketing of your companies.

You can apply to the Business Conference at the E-mail address: **agra-ceec.mkgp@gov.si**

Please find attached **the company profile** that is required for the application to the conference.

We are expecting your applications **by Monday, 10 July 2017.** We will forward the company profiles to all registered participants of the Business Conference by the Tuesday, 22 August 2017.

I look forward to your participation.

Dejan Židan, MSc.
Minister



Annex: Program of the Business Conference

**Business Conference of the Central and Eastern European
Countries and China (16 + 1),
Gornja Radgona, Slovenia, 26 August 2017**

Venue:

Hall 1 of AGRA Fair, Gornja Radgona, Cesta na stadion 2

Program:

- 15:00 - 15:20 Opening addresses of the Ministers (each 6 minutes)
Minister Dejan Židan (Slovenia)
Minister Han Changfu (China)
Minister Rumen Porodzanov (Bulgaria)
- 15:20 - 15:30 Opportunities for cooperation of the Slovenian food processing industry
with the 16 + 1 countries and an example of good practice
*Tatjana Zagorc, Director of the Chamber of Agricultural and Food
Enterprises*
- 15:30 - 15:40 Potential for cooperation between China and Central and Eastern
Europe Countries in the field of food industry
*Trade Promotion Agency - Ministry of Agriculture of the People's
Republic of China*
- 15:40 - 16:15 Potentials and possibilities of 16 + 1 countries in the field of trade with
agricultural products and the activities of the Association for Promoting
Cooperation in Agriculture between China and the countries of Central
and Eastern Europe
Vasil Gelev, Head of APAC CEEC 16 + 1 (Bulgaria)
- 16:20 - 18:00 Free flow B2B networking event and food tasting
*Venue: Exhibition pavilion of the Chamber of Agricultural and Food
Enterprises, Hall A*

Note: The working language at the conference will be English, the opening speeches of the ministers will be simultaneously interpreted in English.