



"Post Accession Needs of Tajikistan"

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Third China Round Table on WTO
Accession

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 2-4 June 2015

- * The Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the UNECE recommended in February 2010 carry out three trade needs assessment studies in selected UNECE member countries with economies in transition
- * Studies focus on procedural and regulatory barriers to trade in goods, with an eye to on-going development efforts in the areas of trade facilitation, technical regulations and standardization policies
- * Assist countries in their efforts to achieve greater regional and global economic integration
- * Inform donors as to where assistance might be required
- * Strengthen policy discussions within the Committee on Trade and its subsidiary bodies on where additional work is required

* Tajikistan efforts to remove barriers to trade

- * Study was conducted in 2013 pursuant to a request by the Government
- * Based on a review of trade facilitation and quality assurance development efforts as well as the results of a survey-based assessment of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, which was conducted in 2013 using the UNECE evaluation methodology
- * Private and public sector stakeholders, including traders operating in strategic export industries identified in consultation with the Government, representatives of trade support institutions, providers of transport and logistics services and State agencies
- * Preparations for accession have involved comprehensive reforms to improve trade facilitation conditions
- * Reform measures have been designed to:
 - * (i) align trade-related legislation with the requirements of the WTO-administered multilateral trading system
 - * (ii) simplify, standardize and automate customs clearance procedures
 - * (iii) develop the transport system
 - * (iv) modernize the system of standardization, quality assurance, accreditation and metrology (SQAM)

* Regulatory and procedural barriers

- * Align customs regulations with internationally recognized rules
- * Modernize and automate customs administrative procedures
- * Strengthen customs points with modern facilities and equipment
- * Foster regional cooperation in the areas of customs and transport
- * Establish a clear demarcation between the functions of technical regulations, standardization, conformity assessment, accreditation and metrology. These functions will be divided and entrusted to separate entities

* Priorities and achievements in the area of trade facilitation

- * Lack of up-to-date information on procedures to be taken, timelines, locations and the fees for services
- * Lack of information sharing among involved agencies, so that traders repeatedly apply to various government agencies to register the documents
- * Administrative difficulties during interaction among subdivisions within one agency (remote location, a need to obtain several signatures, etc.)
- * An unreasonably large number of documents required by the government agency, which is outside the competence of this agency
- * The long time required for consideration and issuance of trade documents
- * Procedures require the physical presence of the applicant
- * Difficulties in accessing the transport facilities in neighbouring countries
- * Poor overland transport infrastructure
- * Lack of adequate logistical services

* **Bottlenecks**

*** WTO Members concluded negotiations on the TF Agreement in Bali**

- December 7, 2013 9th Ministerial Conference in Bali

*** Upon entry into force, the TFA will create:**

- Binding obligations for WTO members to improve customs procedures
- Transparency and efficiency
- Cooperation amongst border regulatory agencies and private sector

*** The developing and least developed Members shall:**

- Self-designate, on individual basis the provisions of the TFA into
- Category A (implementation upon entry into force)
- B (deferred implementation)
- C (linked with acquisition of capacity through assistance and support)
- And the date of their choice for the implementation of respective provisions

*** IMPLEMENTING THE WTO
TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT**

- *To reduce trade transaction costs (TTCs)
- *LLDCs have the highest TTCs (Direct TTCs amount to 2-15% of the value of goods)
- *For integration into global value chains efficient importation is as important as exportation
- *Inefficient customs practices and complex procedures
- *Trade costs are a crucial ingredient for competitiveness and FDI

* Why is the Trade Facilitation important for LLDCs?

CURRENT GOVERNMENT EFFORTS

- * Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “About Digital Signature”
- * Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “About electronic documents”
- * On May 3, 2010 the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan approved the Program on implementation of the system of “Single Window” on export-import and transit operations
- * In 2011, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan established the State Unitary Enterprise “Single Window Center”
- * Program of adjustment of the economy of the RT related to the membership in the WTO
- * As a member of WTO Tajikistan has ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement on May 6, 2015
- * Simultaneously, the Government is establishing National Trade Facilitation Committee

- * **By 31 July 2014:** Notify Category A provisions (Notified)
- * **By 31 July 2015:** Deposit acceptance of the Protocol to the WTO (implied)
- * **Upon entry into force**
 - Implement Category A provisions
 - Notify Category B and C provisions along with **indicative dates**
 - Inform the CTF on **arrangements required** for implementation of Category C provisions
- * **Within one year of entry into force**
 - Inform the CTF on **arrangement made** or entered into for implementation of Category C provisions
- * **Within two and a half years after entry into force**
 - Provide information to the CTF on the **progress made** on provision of assistance and support
 - Notify the **definitive dates** for implementation of Category C provisions

*Timeline for Tajikistan

- * Article 1.3 Enquiry Points (2/3 years)-MEDT
- * Article 2.1 Opportunity to comment and information before entry into force (2/3 years)-MEDT/Justice
- * Article 2.2 Consultations (2/3 years)-MEDT/Justice
- * Article 3 Advance Rulings (2/3 years)-Customs Service
- * Article 5.1 Notification for enhanced controls or inspection (2 years) MEDT/Customs Service
- * Article 7.2 Electronic Payment (2/3 years)-Customs Service
- * Article 7.7 Trade Facilitation for Authorized operators (3/4 years)-Customs Service
- * Article 8 Border Agency Cooperation Paragraph 2 (4/5 years)-MEDT/MFA
- * Article 10.4 Single Window (3/4 years) MEDT/Customs Service
- * Article 12 Customs Cooperation (3/4 years) MEDT/Customs Service

* **Category C provisions**

 **Thank you for your
attention!**