

This is an information note to assist acceding governments with preparations for meetings and negotiations associated with their accession. It is one of several practical steps by the WTO Secretariat to improve transparency on accessions matters.

NOTE ON ACCESSIONS INFORMATION FOR ACCEDED GOVERNMENTS

The end-of-year meeting of the Informal Group on Accessions took place today, 13 December. At today's meeting, the Secretariat consulted with Members on a work plan and the evolving calendar of accessions meetings for 2011.¹ Nineteen delegations attended the meeting. The Secretariat briefed the Group on the progress of the 2010 accession priorities, namely, the three LDCs of Samoa, Vanuatu and Yemen; Montenegro; the Russian Federation; and, Serbia. The Group was also briefed on recent developments in ten other active accession processes.

Members were informed on the circulation of the Second Director-General's Annual Report on Accessions (http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news10_e/acc_08dec10_e.htm).

Members were notified that agenda items 7 (a) and 7 (b) of the 14 December General Council covered the Second Director-General's Annual Report on Accessions and LDCs' Accessions.

Members agreed with the proposed calendar of accession meetings for 2011 (annexed). However, Members converged that Meetings could only go ahead on the basis of inputs received with sufficient time for consideration and review, normally a period of 4-6 weeks.

¹ Accessions-related meetings are scheduled, based on the submission of substantive and qualitative inputs on the multilateral track of accession negotiations; and, meaningful offers and progress on bilateral market access negotiations.

ACCESSIONS MEETING SCHEDULE – EVOLVING CALENDAR²

13 December 2010

Date	Working Party	Meeting	Status	Room	Interpretation		Conf Office Advised
					French Spanish English	Own	
13 December		Informal Group on Accessions	Fax dated 9 December refers (AM only)	E	no	no	√
13 December	Yemen	Informal WP Meeting	Fax dated 26 November refers (PM only)	CRII	yes	tbc	√
14-15 December	General Council	Final meeting		CR			√
[25 January 2011]	Bosnia and Herzegovina	8 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending (AM only)	E	yes	no	√
[26 January 2011]	Vanuatu	Informal/Formal Meeting	Convening Notice Pending (AM only)	W	yes	no	√
[26 January 2011]	Russian Federation	Informal Chair Consultations	Convening Notice Pending (PM only)	W	no	no	√
[27 January 2011]		Informal Chair Consultations	Convening Notice Pending (AM/PM)	W	no	no	√
[28 January 2011]		Plurilateral on Agriculture	Convening Notice Pending (PM only)	D	no	no	√
[31 January 2011]	Afghanistan	1 st Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	D	yes	no	√
[February 2011]	Samoa	Working Party Consultations	Convening Notice Pending (AM only)	E	yes	no	√
[early February 2011]	Yemen	Informal/Formal Meeting	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√
[22-23 February 2011]	General Council			CR			√
[17 March 2011]	Serbia	10 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending (AM only)	CRI	yes	no	√
[29-30 March 2011]	Russian Federation	Informal Chair Consultations	Convening Notice Pending (AM/PM)	D	no	no	√
[31 March 2011]				E	no	no	√
[2–6 May 2011]	Geneva Week						
[3 May 2011]	Samoa	2 nd Working Party	Convening Notice Pending (AM only)	E	yes	no	√
[4-5 May 2011]	General Council						
[After summer break 2011]		Geneva-based Seminar	Convening Notice Pending	tbc			√
Date TBC at any moment	Montenegro	8th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√
Date TBC	Ethiopia	2nd Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√

²Dates are suggested to assist planning by Members, Acceding Governments and the Secretariat. However, meetings will only go ahead on the basis of inputs received with sufficient time for consideration and review by Members, normally a period of 4 to 6 weeks.

ACC/GOVT-INFO-2010-04