



The purpose of the Newsletter is to provide Acceding Governments a summary report of the meetings of the Informal Group on Accessions and to assist them with preparations for meetings and negotiations associated with their accessions. It is one of several practical steps by the WTO Secretariat to ensure transparency on accessions matters.

NEWSLETTER FOR ACCEDING GOVERNMENTS

The Fifth Meeting of the Informal Group on Accessions (IGA) took place yesterday, Thursday, 26 May 2011. At yesterday's meeting, the Secretariat consulted with Members on the evolving calendar of accessions meetings for 2011.¹ Nineteen delegations attended the meeting.

The Secretariat briefed the IGA on: (i) the progress of the seven 2011 Accession Priorities, namely, the three LDCs of Samoa, Vanuatu and Yemen; as well as Kazakhstan; Montenegro; the Russian Federation; and, Serbia; (ii) the recent developments in eight other active accession processes; (iii) the calendar of meetings; (iv) WP Chairmanships and appointments; and finally (v) technical assistance activities, capacity-building and outreach.

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

Consensus is forming to designate Ambassador Francisco Pirez (Uruguay) as Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Algeria. This would be announced at the next meeting of the General Council (27-28 July). Members were informed that the Chairmanships of two Accession Working Parties remained vacant (Iran and Uzbekistan).

The IGA was informed that: (i) the Regional Seminar on Accessions for the CEECAC Region would take place from 12 to 14 July 2011, in Vienna; and (ii) the Geneva-based Workshop would take place during the second half of 2011. Because of capacity constraints, Members were also informed that the Accessions Division was essentially declining requests for accession-specific national TA activities so as to focus on the substance of Working Parties. However, the Accessions Division would continue to organize periodic Accession Regional Workshops; the Geneva-based Seminar on Accessions for Acceding Governments; and, invest significant resources in the new accession platform established within the framework for "Geneva Week". WTO E-Learning also provides real opportunities for training and capacity-building (contact: ellearning@wto.org). WTO E-Learning material is freely available on the WTO E-Learning website at: <http://etraining.wto.org>. Participants may use the resources existing in WTO Reference Centres worldwide. An updated list of WTO Reference Centres is also available on the E-Learning Website. Furthermore, the Secretariat is working to produce, as soon as possible, a customized WTO Accessions E-Learning module.

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ACCESSIONS MEETING SCHEDULE – EVOLVING CALENDAR²**25 May 2011**

Date	Working Party	Meeting	Status	Room	Interpretation		Conf Office Advised
					French Spanish English	Own	
31 May 2011	Russian Federation	Informal Chair Consultations	Fax dated 11 May refers (AM only)	W	no	no	√
[23 June 2011]	Samoa	Informal Meeting	Convening Notice Pending	E	no	no	√
[29 June 2011]	Lao PDR	7 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	E	yes	tbc	√
[5 July 2011]	Tajikistan	6 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√
[6-14 July 2011]	Bosnia and Herzegovina	8 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√
[12-14 July 2011]		Regional Seminar for the CEECAC Countries (in partnership with the JVI)					
[week of 18 July 2011]	Russian Federation	Informal/Formal	Convening Notice Pending (AM/PM)	tbc	yes/no	tbc	√
[after summer break 2011]	Seychelles	3 rd Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√
[after summer break 2011]		Geneva-based Seminar	Convening Notice Pending	tbc			√
[Date TBC]	Yemen	Informal/Formal Meeting	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√
[Date TBC at any moment]	Montenegro	8th 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.