



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 Sixth Meeting of the Informal Group on Accessions (IGA) took place today, Thursday, 30 June 2011. At today's meeting, the Secretariat consulted with Members on the evolving calendar of accessions meetings for 2011.¹ Twenty-three delegations, including the LDC Coordinator (Bangladesh) and the incoming GRULAC Coordinator (Mexico), attended the meeting.

The Secretariat briefed the IGA on: (i) the recent visit to Algiers by DDG Alejandro Jara; (ii) the progress of the seven 2011 Accession Priorities; (iii) the recent developments in other active accession processes; (iv) the calendar of meetings; (v) WP Chairmanships and appointments; and finally (vi) technical assistance, capacity-building and outreach activities.

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.

DDG Alejandro Jara reported on his visit to Algiers, where he spoke at the *Journée d'études parlementaire*, with the participation of Parliamentarians, Senior Government officials, business and trade union representatives, and the civil society. He also briefed Members on the request by Algiers to organize outreach activities for the civil society and journalists, as well as an academic programme with a local university. Members welcomed the report. As part of DDG Jara's report, the statement by the Algerian Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Idriss Jazaïry, at the *Journée d'études parlementaire* was distributed to Members.

On the 2011 LDC Accession Priorities, Members were informed that Samoa had completed all Bilateral Market Access Negotiations on goods. The Secretariat was in the process of preparing the Draft Goods Schedule. Substantive progress had also been registered on the multilateral track. A Secretariat Team would travel to Apia in the second week of July to finalize the Draft Accession Package with a view to hold the final Meeting of the Working Party after the Summer break. On the 2011 non-LDC Accession Priorities, Members were given a comprehensive briefing on the Accession of the Russian Federation, covering substance, documentation and the next cycle of meetings (21 to 29 July).

The IGA was informed that consensus has emerged to designate Ambassador Yi (China) as Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Lao PDR. This would be announced at the next meeting of the General Council (27-28 July).

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. Today also, the Secretariat provided a briefing on accessions to the LDCs' Consultative Group at Heads-of-Delegation level. The Accessions Division recently participated in the Information Session at the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL) (contact: <http://www.acwl.ch/e/index.html>). The ACWL acts as an impartial institution and is not part of the WTO. It offers services and activities to its member states, namely developing countries and LDCs. It has three main areas of duty, which encompass: (i) legal advice; (ii) WTO Dispute Settlement support; and (iii) capacity-building. The ACWL specifically invited the Accessions Division in light of the fact that the ACWL provides an opportunity for Acceding Developing Countries and Acceding LDCs to seek legal assistance and advice.

¹ Please contact Ms Petra Beslac (Petra.Beslac@wto.org; Tel: +41 22 739 60 94; and Fax: +41 22 739 57 76) for all enquiries related to the contents of the Newsletter.

ACCESSIONS MEETING SCHEDULE – EVOLVING CALENDAR²**30 June 2011**

Date	Working Party	Meeting	Status	Room	Interpretation		Conf Office Advised
					French Spanish English	Own	
5 July 2011	Tajikistan	6 th Working Party	WTO/AIR/3775 refers	D	yes	tbc	√
12-14 July 2011		Regional Seminar for the CEECAC Countries (in partnership with the JVI)					
[21-29 July 2011]	Russian Federation	Informal/Formal	Convening Notice Pending (AM/PM)	tbc	yes/no	tbc	√
[28 September 2011]	Bosnia and Herzegovina	9th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√
[30 September 2011]	Serbia	11 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending (AM only)	D	yes	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.