



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 Seventh Meeting of the Informal Group on Accessions (IGA) took place today, Tuesday, 19 July 2011. At today's meeting, the Secretariat consulted with Members on the evolving calendar of accessions meetings for 2011.<sup>1</sup> Fourteen Delegations, including the GRULAC Coordinator (Mexico), attended the meeting.

The Secretariat briefed the IGA on: (i) the progress of the seven 2011 Accession Priorities; (ii) the recent developments in other active accession processes; (iii) WP Chairmanships and appointments; and finally (iv) 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.

On the 2011 LDC Accession Priorities, Members were informed that a Secretariat Team was in Samoa finalizing the Draft Accession Package. The Secretariat was in the process of preparing the Draft Goods and Services Schedules. Substantive progress had also been registered on the multilateral track. The complete Draft Accession Package should be circulated to Members by the end of next week. Members were informed that the Government of Vanuatu addressed a letter to DG Lamy requesting that its accession be placed on the agenda of the meeting of the General Council in October. This letter would be circulated as a document of the General Council. On the 2011 non-LDC Accession Priorities, Members were given a comprehensive briefing on the next cycle of meetings on the Accession of the Russian Federation (21 to 29 July).

The IGA was informed that consensus had emerged to designate Ambassador Yi (China) as Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Lao PDR. The appointment of Ambassador Yi 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 had taken place from 12 to 14 July 2011, in Vienna; and (ii) the Geneva-based Workshop would take in 2012. Regarding outreach activities, Members were informed that the Annual Round of Briefings and Outreach on Accessions for Groups was under way. Briefings for the LDCs' and African Groups had already taken place. Further briefings for the Informal Group of Developing Countries, the Arab Group and GRULAC were envisaged to take place after the Summer break.

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**ACCESSIONS MEETING SCHEDULE – EVOLVING CALENDAR<sup>2</sup>****19 July 2011**

Date	Working Party	Meeting	Status	Room	Interpretation		Conf Office Advised
					French Spanish English	Own	
21 July 2011	Russian Federation	Plurilateral on Agriculture	Fax dated 7 July refers (3PM)	E	no	no	√
27 July 2011		Informal Consultations by the Chairperson	Fax dated 6 July refers (10AM-6PM)	D	no	no	√
28 July 2011			Fax dated 6 July refers (3-6PM)				
[28 September 2011]	Bosnia and Herzegovina	9th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	E	yes	tbc	√
[30 September 2011]	Serbia	11 <sup>th</sup> Working Party	Convening Notice Pending (AM only)	D	yes	tbc	√
[after summer break 2011]	Seychelles	3 <sup>rd</sup> Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√
[after summer break 2011]	Belarus	Informal/Formal Meeting	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	√

<sup>2</sup>Dates 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.