



The purpose of the Newsletter¹ 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 Ninth Meeting of the Informal Group on Accessions (IGA) took place today, Tuesday, 18 October 2011. At today's meeting, the Secretariat consulted with Members on the evolving calendar of accessions meetings for end 2011/early 2012, and provided a comprehensive briefing on the end-game calendar of the Accession of the Russian Federation for the envisaged October/November meetings. Twenty-five Delegations, including Ambassador McCook (Jamaica), Ambassador Suescum (Panama) and Ambassador Al-Otaibi (Saudi Arabia), attended the meeting.

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

Members noted the proposed calendar of accession meetings (annexed). 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. The Secretariat was advised by Members to appropriately pace the scheduling of Working Party meetings, so as not to overburden both the Secretariat and Members, particularly in this intensive period leading to the Eighth Ministerial Conference.

On the 2011 LDCs' Accession Priorities, Members were informed that the Draft Accession Package of Samoa (containing the revised Draft Working Party Report; the Draft Consolidated Services Schedule; and, the Draft Consolidated Goods Schedule) had been circulated on 22/23 September. The final formal meeting of the Working Party on the Accession of Samoa was scheduled for 28 October. Members were further informed that the Accession of Vanuatu has been placed on the agenda of the 26-27 October General Council.

On Montenegro, the Secretariat briefed Members that positive progress has been registered in the bilateral negotiations between Montenegro and Ukraine. The Secretariat informed Members that once the results of these bilateral negotiations were deposited, the Secretariat would circulate the Accession Package and organize a meeting of the Working Party in the month of November.

The IGA was informed that the Chairmanship of the Working Party on the Accession of Algeria remained vacant. DDG Alejandro Jara has invited Members, on behalf of the Chairman of the General Council, to a separate session of the Informal Group on Accessions to discuss this vacancy.

The IGA was informed that the Geneva-based Workshop would take place in 2012.

¹ Please contact Ms Petra Beslać (Acceding-Government-Newsletter@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**18 October 2011**

Date	Working Party	Meeting	Status	Room	Interpretation		Conf Office Advised
					French Spanish English	Own	
[19 October 2011]	Russian Federation	Plurilateral on TRIMs	Convening Notice Pending (AM-PM)	TBC	no	tbc	√
20-21 October 2011		Informal Technical Verification (Goods)	Fax dated 26 September refers (AM only)	D	no	tbc	√
[26 October 2011]		Informal Chair Consultations	Convening Notice Pending (AM-PM)	TBC	no	tbc	√
[27 October 2011]		Informal Chair Consultations	Convening Notice Pending (AM only)	TBC	no	tbc	√
28 October 2011	Samoa	2 nd Working Party	WTO/AIR/3820 refers	E	yes	tbc	√
[10-11 November 2011]	Russian Federation	Formal Working Party Meeting	Convening Notice Pending	W	yes	tbc	√
[November 2011]	Belarus	Informal/Formal Meeting	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√
[November/December 2011]	Algeria	11th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	E	yes	tbc	√
[November/December 2011]	Azerbaijan	9 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√
[January/early February 2012]	Seychelles	3 rd Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√
[early 2012]	Ethiopia	3 rd Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√
[Date TBC]	Yemen	Informal/Formal Meeting	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√
[Date TBC at any moment]	Montenegro	8 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc	√
26-27 October 2011	General Council						
1-2 December 2011	General Council						
15-17 December 2011	Eighth Session of the Ministerial Conference						

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.