

WTO Accessions Newsletter

In this month of August, the WTO has been enlarged with two more Members. The Russian Federation became the 156th WTO Member on 22 August 2012 and Vanuatu followed suit on 24 August 2012. "Both accessions show that joining the WTO remains high on the countries' agenda since trade can bring a predictable and stable basis for economic growth. ... Joining the WTO is a sign of confidence in the Organization and in what it can deliver for its Members", said WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy.

Two new WTO Members

The Russian Federation deposited its Instrument of Acceptance on 23 July 2012 and became the 156th WTO Member on 22 August 2012. Vanuatu deposited its Instrument of Acceptance on 25 July 2012 and became the 157th WTO Member on 24 August 2012.

2012 Accession Priorities

Lao PDR: The Accessions Division circulated two components of Lao PDR's draft Accession Package, namely: the draft Goods Schedule; and the draft Services Schedule on 20 August 2012. The draft WP Report will be circulated shortly. Lao PDR's draft Accession Package will provide the basis for a final Working Party meeting after the summer break.

Yemen: The Director of the Accessions Division chaired a technical verification, as part of the facilitation process, meeting from 2-3 August. This is work in progress.

Tajikistan: Significant developments have been registered on the Accession of Tajikistan. All Bilateral Market Access Agreements have been concluded and deposited with the Secretariat. The Accessions Division circulated the draft Goods and the draft Services Schedules on 20 August 2012. This accession is on course for a 2012 conclusion.

Kazakhstan: The draft Goods Schedule is in the process of technical verification. The draft Services Schedule is being finalized for circulation. These documents will be reviewed in the next round of meetings envisaged for after the summer break (see annexed calendar).

Serbia: The final stage of progress on this technically mature accession awaits the necessary legislative feedback from Belgrade. The next WP meeting could be convened in the last quarter of 2012.

New Working Party Chairmanships

The GC designated Ambassador D'Alotto (Argentina) as Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Algeria. On 6 July, the GC Chairperson announced the designation of Ambassador Himanen (Finland) as Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Kazakhstan (list of all Accession Working Party Chairpersons annexed).

Annual Outreach with WTO Regional Groups

In accordance with annual practice, the Director of the Accessions Division will undertake, prior to the



Eighth Ministerial Conference, 16th December 2011

December General Council, annual outreach with various WTO regional groups: the Arab Group; the African Group; GRULAC; and the LDCs' Consultative Group.

Accessions Commitments Database

The ACDB launched by Director-General Pascal Lamy at the 2012 Beijing Roundtable on LDCs' Accessions is now up and effectively running. Link: <http://webservices.wto.org/acdb/>

The French and Spanish translations of this Newsletter will follow shortly.

Annex 1 – Evolving Calendar of WTO Accessions Working Parties

Date	Working Party	Meeting	Status	Room	Interpretation	
					French Spanish English	Own
[Friday, 21 September 2012]	IGA	Informal Group on Accessions	Convening Notice Pending (AM)	S3	no	-
From Mon. 24 to Wed. 26 September – Public Forum						
[Thursday, 27 September 2012]	Kazakhstan	HS 2007 Technical Verification	Convening Notice Pending (AM only)	S3	no	tbc
[Friday, 28 September 2012]	Lao PDR	10 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending (AM only)	CR I	yes	tbc
[Monday, 1 October 2012]	Kazakhstan	Plurilateral on SPS	Convening Notice Pending (AM only)	S3	no	tbc
		Plurilateral on TBT	Convening Notice Pending (PM only)	S3	no	tbc
[Tuesday, 2 October 2012]	Kazakhstan	Plurilateral on Agriculture	Convening Notice Pending (AM)	S3	no	tbc
[Wednesday, 3 October 2012]	Kazakhstan	Plurilateral on TRIMs	Convening Notice Pending (AM)	S2	no	tbc
[Thursday, 4 October 2012]	Kazakhstan	13 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending (AM/PM)	CR II or WMO	yes	tbc
Wed. 3 and Thu. 4 October – General Council						
[Monday, 8 October 2012]	Tajikistan	Goods Schedule Verification	Convening Notice pending (AM only)	S3	no	tbc
		Services Schedule Verification	Convening Notice pending (PM only)	S3	no	tbc
[Tuesday, 9 October 2012]	Tajikistan	9 th Working Party	Convening Notice pending (PM only)	CR II	yes	tbc
[Week of 15 October 2012]	Algeria	Informal/Formal WP meeting	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	no
[Week of 15 October 2012]	Bosnia and Herzegovina	10 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc
[October/November 2012]	Yemen	11 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending (AM/PM)	tbc	yes	tbc
[Last week of November 2012]	Azerbaijan	10 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	tbc
[Last Quarter 2012]	Belarus	Informal Consultations	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	no	no
[Last Quarter 2012]	Serbia	13 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	no
[Last Quarter 2012]	Ethiopia	4 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending	tbc	yes	no
[Week of 10 December – Second Geneva Week]						
Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 December 2012 – General Council						
[Thursday, 21 March 2013]	The Bahamas	3 rd Working Party	Convening Notice Pending (AM/PM)	tbc	yes	no
[First Quarter 2013]	The Seychelles	4 th Working Party	Convening Notice Pending (AM only)	tbc	yes	no

Dates are suggested to assist planning by Members, Acceding Governments and the Secretariat. However, listed meetings are not automatic and will only go ahead on the basis of inputs from Acceding Governments, received with sufficient time for review by Members, normally a period of 4 weeks.

Enquiries related to this calendar should be addressed to:

- Ms. Souda Tandara-Stenier (Tel: 022 739 6321; e-mail: Souda.Tandara-Stenier@wto.org);
- Ms. Nadia Ferdi Demierre (Tel: 022 739 6560; e-mail: Nadia.Ferdi@wto.org); or
- accessions@wto.org

For all enquiries related to the contents of the Newsletter, please contact Ms Petra Beslać (Acceding-Government-Newsletter@wto.org; Tel: +41 22 739 60 94; and Fax: +41 22 739 57 76).

Annex 2 – WTO Accessions Working Party Chairpersons

No.	Government	Date Working Party established	WP Chairperson
1.	Afghanistan	13 December 2004	H.E. Mr. Roderick <u>van Schreven</u> (Netherlands)
2.	Algeria	17 June 1987	H.E. Mr. Pedro <u>D'Alotto</u> (Argentina)
3.	Andorra	22 October 1997	Pending
4.	Azerbaijan	16 July 1997	H.E. Mr. Walter <u>Lewalter</u> (Germany)
5.	The Bahamas	18 July 2001	H.E. Mr. Wayne <u>McCook</u> (Jamaica)
6.	Belarus	27 October 1993	H.E. Mr. Bozkurt <u>Aran</u> (Turkey)
7.	Bhutan	6 October 1999	H.E. Dr. Wolfgang <u>Petritsch</u> (Austria)
8.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	15 July 1999	H.E. Dr. István <u>Major</u> (Hungary)
9.	Comoros, Union of the	9 October 2007	Pending
10.	Equatorial Guinea	5 February 2008	Pending
11.	Ethiopia	10 February 2002	H.E. Dr. Steffen <u>Smidt</u> (Denmark)
12.	Iran	26 May 2005	Pending
13.	Iraq	13 December 2004	H.E. Mr. Omar <u>Hilale</u> (Morocco)
14.	Kazakhstan	6 February 1996	H.E. Mr. Vesa <u>Himanen</u> (Finland)
15.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	19 February 1998	H.E. Mr. <u>Yi Xiaozhun</u> (China)
16.	Lebanese Republic	14 April 1999	H.E. Mrs Laurence <u>Dubois-Destrizais</u> (France)
17.	Liberia	18 December 2007	H.E. Mr. Joakim <u>Reiter</u> (Sweden)
18.	Libya	27 July 2004	Mr. Victor <u>Echevarría Ugarte</u> (Spain)
19.	Sao Tomé and Príncipe	26 May 2005	Pending
20.	Serbia	15 February 2005	H.E. Mrs. Marie-Claire <u>Swärd Capra</u> (Sweden)
21.	Seychelles	11 July 1995	Ms. Hilda Ali <u>Al-Hinai</u> (Oman)
22.	Sudan	25 October 1994	Pending
23.	Syrian Arab Republic	4 May 2010	Pending
24.	Tajikistan	18 July 2001	H.E. Mr. Clyde <u>Kull</u> (Estonia)
25.	Uzbekistan	21 December 1994	Pending
26.	Yemen	17 July 2000	H.E. Mr. Hartmut <u>Röben</u> (Germany)