



WTO OMC

# WTO Accessions Newsletter

*...safeguarding and strengthening the rules-based multilateral trading system*

## IGA-AGENDA:

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Informal Group on Accessions (IGA) in 2013 took place today, 30 May. It was chaired by Mr Chiedu Osakwe, Director of the Accessions Division. The IGA was briefed on: (i) the overall picture on accessions pace of work and timelines for MC9; (ii) LDCs' Accessions, including those for MC9 and LDCs Consultative Group meeting; (iii) 2013 accession WP focus; (iv) accession WP maintenance work; and, (v) outreach and technical assistance. The IGA also bade farewell to Mr Michael Wei, current Deputy Representative at the Mission of Chinese Taipei, and thanked him for his contributions to WTO Accessions. The WTO Secretariat consulted Members on the Evolving Calendar of Accessions Meetings for 2013 (annexed).

## **LDCs ACCESSIONS AND CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING**

The IGA was briefed on the LDCs Consultative Group meeting that took place on 22 May at the Heads of Delegation level. The meeting was chaired by Nepal and attended by Ambassador Steffen Smidt, Facilitator of LDCs Deliverables for MC9 and Chairman LDCs' Sub Committee. The deposited Accession Packages of Article XII LDC Members and LDCs' vital role were highlighted as strengthening and safeguarding the WTO rules-based system. Yemen and Afghanistan were two LDC accessions basically on track for a 2013 completion. LDCs commended the results on accessions and thanked Members and the Secretariat for their continued support.

## **2013 ACCESSION WP FOCUS**

Afghanistan: Kabul was dedicated to a 2013 accession completion. The delegation of Afghanistan met with the Chairman of the General Council on 4 May to confirm Afghanistan's commitment to conclude its accession at the 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia. The Afghan negotiating team remained committed to concluding all bilateral market negotiations before the 4<sup>th</sup> Working Party Meeting, scheduled for July. The Afghan team, assisted by Members and working with the Secretariat on a weekly basis, was currently updating the Draft Working Party Report.

Yemen: The Draft Accession Package was ready *de facto*, subject only to the conclusion of legislation-based domestic processes in Ukraine regarding its bilateral negotiations with Yemen.

## **ACCESSIONS - TOOLBOX**

> Click here for a list of current [Accession Working Parties](#) and [Accession Working Party Chairpersons](#)

> Evolving Calendar of Accession Meetings (ECAM)

> [WTO Director-General Annual Reports on Accessions](#)

> Find all Article XII Members' specific accession commitments and related information provided in the Working Party Reports and Accession Protocols - in the [Accession Commitments Database \(ACDB\)](#)

> [Handbook on Accessions to the WTO](#)

> WTO Accessions Internship - "[China Programme](#)"

> For all official (de-restricted) documents relating to the accession processes of Article XII Members, click [here](#)

> Accession Portal on the WTO Website ([En](#), [Fr](#), [Es](#))

> All earlier [WTO Accessions Newsletters](#) are available on the Accession Portal of the WTO website, in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

> For enquiries related to the contents of the WTO Accessions Newsletter, send an e-mail to: [Acceding-Government-Newsletter@wto.org](mailto:Acceding-Government-Newsletter@wto.org)

Bosnia and Herzegovina: This accession was on track. The Agriculture Plurilateral Meeting and the 12<sup>th</sup> Working Party Meeting were scheduled for 6 June. The visit to Sarajevo, by the WP Chairman and the Secretariat team, was scheduled for the 26 May. On Bilateral Market Access negotiations, the negotiating team was working closely with Members to conclude the remaining negotiations.

Kazakhstan: The next cycle of meetings would take place in the week of 3 June. Trilateral consultations on adjustment (Kazakhstan + Russian Federation + Member X) were underway. Astana was reviewing the draft Services Schedule consolidated by the WTO Secretariat. A verification meeting would be convened in June once the review was concluded. Another cycle of meetings was envisaged for July to take stock.

Serbia: Belgrade has submitted an updated Legislative Action Plan based on the new format. Other relevant legislative inputs were still pending.

Seychelles: Seychelles had submitted a massive amount of technical inputs for its next cycle of meetings. Only updated Agriculture Supporting Tables (AGSTs) were outstanding. Victoria was working round the clock with Working Party Members. The Secretariat has prepared the Elements of the Draft Working Party Report. Draft specific commitment paragraphs have been prepared by Victoria and circulated for Members' review. A revised Legislative Action Plan and associated technical inputs have been circulated. Seychelles was committed to concluding as many Bilateral Market Access negotiations as possible by the next cycle of meetings, scheduled for 21 June. Its target was to work for the emergence of its Draft Accession Package as soon as possible.

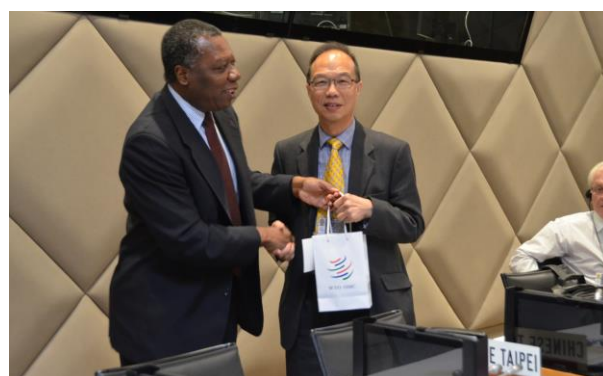


*Informal Group on Accessions, Geneva, 30 May 2013*

## MAINTENANCE WORK

The IGA was briefed on the progress in 4 other active accessions (Algeria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; and The Bahamas). On Algeria, a negotiating

team from Algiers was in Geneva from 21 to 23 May for Bilateral Market Access negotiations with Members. Algiers has submitted revised AGSTs. On Azerbaijan, a negotiating team will be in Geneva from 3 to 7 June for bilateral meetings with Members. On Belarus, an Informal Consultations of the Working Party took place on 16 May. The submission of relevant inputs was still pending. The Bahamas, has submitted replies to questions by Members.



*Mr Michael Wei, Deputy Representative at the Mission of Chinese Taipei, Informal Group on Accessions, 30 May 2013*

## OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The IGA was informed that the Global Seminar on WTO Accessions would take place in Geneva, from 23 to 27 September.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Roundtable of the China and LDCs' Accession Programme would be held in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, from 15 to 18 October. The Draft Programme was shared with the LDCs Consultative Group briefing of 22 May.

As part of the Accessions Internships Programme, interns from LDCs and developing countries were currently working in the Division.



*China's LDCs and Accessions Programme Interns, 29 April 2013*

## EVOLVING CALENDAR OF WTO ACCESSIONS WORKING PARTIES

Date	Working Party	Meeting	Status	Room	Interpretation	
					EN-FR-ES	Own
<b>28-30 May</b>	<b>OECD Week (Ministerial Meeting)</b>					
Thursday, 30 May	IGA	5 <sup>th</sup> 2013 Informal Group on Accessions	Convening Fax dated 23 May 2013 refers	S2	NO	NO
<b>4-5 June</b>	<b>GENERAL COUNCIL</b>					
Tuesday, 4 June	Kazakhstan	Plurilateral Meeting on SPS (AM)	Convening Fax dated 24 May 2013 refers	D	NO	TBC
		Plurilateral Meeting on Agriculture (PM)	Convening Fax dated 24 May 2013 refers	D	NO	TBC
Wednesday, 5 June	Kazakhstan	16 <sup>th</sup> Working Party Meeting (AM/PM)	WTO/AIR/4134 dated 24 May 2013 refers	D	YES	TBC
Thursday, 6 June	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Plurilateral meeting on Agriculture (AM)	Convening Fax dated 24 May 2013 refers	D	NO	NO
		12 <sup>th</sup> Working Party meeting (PM)	WTO/AIR/4132 dated 23 May 2013 refers	D	YES	NO
Thursday, 13 June	Serbia	13 <sup>th</sup> Working Party meeting (AM)	WTO/AIR/4133 dated 24 May 2013 refers	D	YES	NO
[Friday, 21 June]	Seychelles	Plurilateral meeting on Agriculture (AM)	Convening Notice pending	CR II	NO	NO
		4 <sup>th</sup> Working Party meeting (PM)	Convening Notice pending	CR II	YES	NO
[Friday, 28 June]	IGA	6 <sup>th</sup> 2013 Informal Group on Accessions	Convening Notice pending	S3	NO	NO
[June]	Yemen	11 <sup>th</sup> and final Working Party meeting	Convening Notice pending	TBC	YES	NO
[Friday, 12 July]	Afghanistan	4 <sup>th</sup> Working Party meeting (AM)	Convening Notice pending	D	YES	NO
[Friday, 19 July]	IGA	7 <sup>th</sup> 2013 Informal Group on Accessions	Convening Notice pending	S3	NO	NO
[Monday, 22 July]	Kazakhstan	Plurilateral Meeting on SPS (AM)	Convening Notice pending	S1	NO	TBC
		Plurilateral Meeting on Agriculture (PM)	Convening Notice pending	S1	NO	TBC
[Tuesday, 23 July]	Kazakhstan	17 <sup>th</sup> Working Party Meeting (AM/PM)	Convening Notice pending	S1	YES	TBC
<b>[24 - 25 July]</b>	<b>GENERAL COUNCIL</b>					
[2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2013]	The Bahamas	3 <sup>rd</sup> Working Party meeting	Convening Notice pending	TBC	YES	NO
[2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2013]	Ethiopia	4 <sup>th</sup> Working Party meeting	Convening Notice pending	TBC	YES	NO
[2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2013]	Liberia	2 <sup>nd</sup> Working Party meeting	Convening Notice pending	TBC	YES	NO
<b>5 - 6 September</b>	<b>WTO Official Holiday - JEÛNE GENEVOIS</b>					
<b>23 - 27 September</b>	<b>GLOBAL SEMINAR ON WTO ACCESSIONS (GENEVA)</b>					
<b>[1 - 3 October]</b>	<b>WTO PUBLIC FORUM 2013</b>					
<b>[8 - 9 October]</b>	<b>GENERAL COUNCIL</b>					
<b>[15-17 October 2013]</b>	<b>SECOND CHINA PROGRAMME ROUNDTABLE FOR LDCs (LUANG PRABANG)</b>					
[3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2013]	Azerbaijan	11 <sup>th</sup> Working Party meeting	Convening Notice pending	TBC	YES	NO
[3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2013]	Iraq	3 <sup>rd</sup> Working Party meeting	Convening Notice pending	TBC	YES	NO
<b>[5 - 6 November]</b>	<b>GENERAL COUNCIL</b>					
<b>[3 - 6 December]</b>	<b>NINTH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (MC9) - BALI</b>					

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