

# How to Prepare for WTO Membership: Experience of Tajikistan



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**TAJIKISTAN**

# Main factors of the successful completion of the negotiation process of the Republic of Tajikistan

- Political will of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Development of plan of actions by the Government of Tajikistan and approval of relevant road map to accelerate the process of accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO
- Two level Inter - ministerial Commission has been established
- Success in negotiations mostly depended on personnel qualities and competency of the national negotiating team
- Constructive cooperation with the WTO Secretariat and other WTO members
- Completion of the negotiations depended on the mobility of negotiations
- Direct support of the donor countries, in particular the Government of Switzerland, USA and European Union

# Process of accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO

- **May 2001** – The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has submitted its application on membership to the WTO
- **July 2001** – The General Council has adopted a decision on establishment of a Working Group on accession of Tajikistan to the WTO
- **September 2001** – Interministerial Commission was established on issues related to accession of Tajikistan to the WTO
- **10 December 2012** – The Protocol on accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO was adopted by General Council
- **2 March 2013** - The Republic of Tajikistan has become 159th member of the WTO.

# Bilateral Negotiations

1. USA
2. EU
3. Japan
4. Canada
5. Korea
6. India
7. Taiwan
8. Thailand
9. China
10. Turkey
11. Dominican Republic
12. El Salvador
13. Honduras



# Process of accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO

- 18 March 2004  
26 April 2005  
6 October 2006  
24 October 2009  
24 November 2010  
5 July 2011  
8 March 2012  
17 July 2012  
9/26 October 2012  
Working party meetings.
- Answers to 1300 specific questions asked by WTO members
- More than 100 laws and other legal acts have been amended or newly drafted to comply with WTO rules

# Process of accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO

- The Republic of Tajikistan has concluded bilateral negotiations on market access on goods with 13 WTO Members; bilateral negotiations on market access on services have been concluded with 6 WTO Members.
- More than 100 laws and regulations have been either amended or replaced. New laws have been adopted, such as: «On foreign trade activity»; «On safety of food products»; «On cryptography»; «On plant protection»; «On conformity assessment»; Tax Code of the Republic of Tajikistan in new edition
- Tajikistan ratified Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention); Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV Convention)

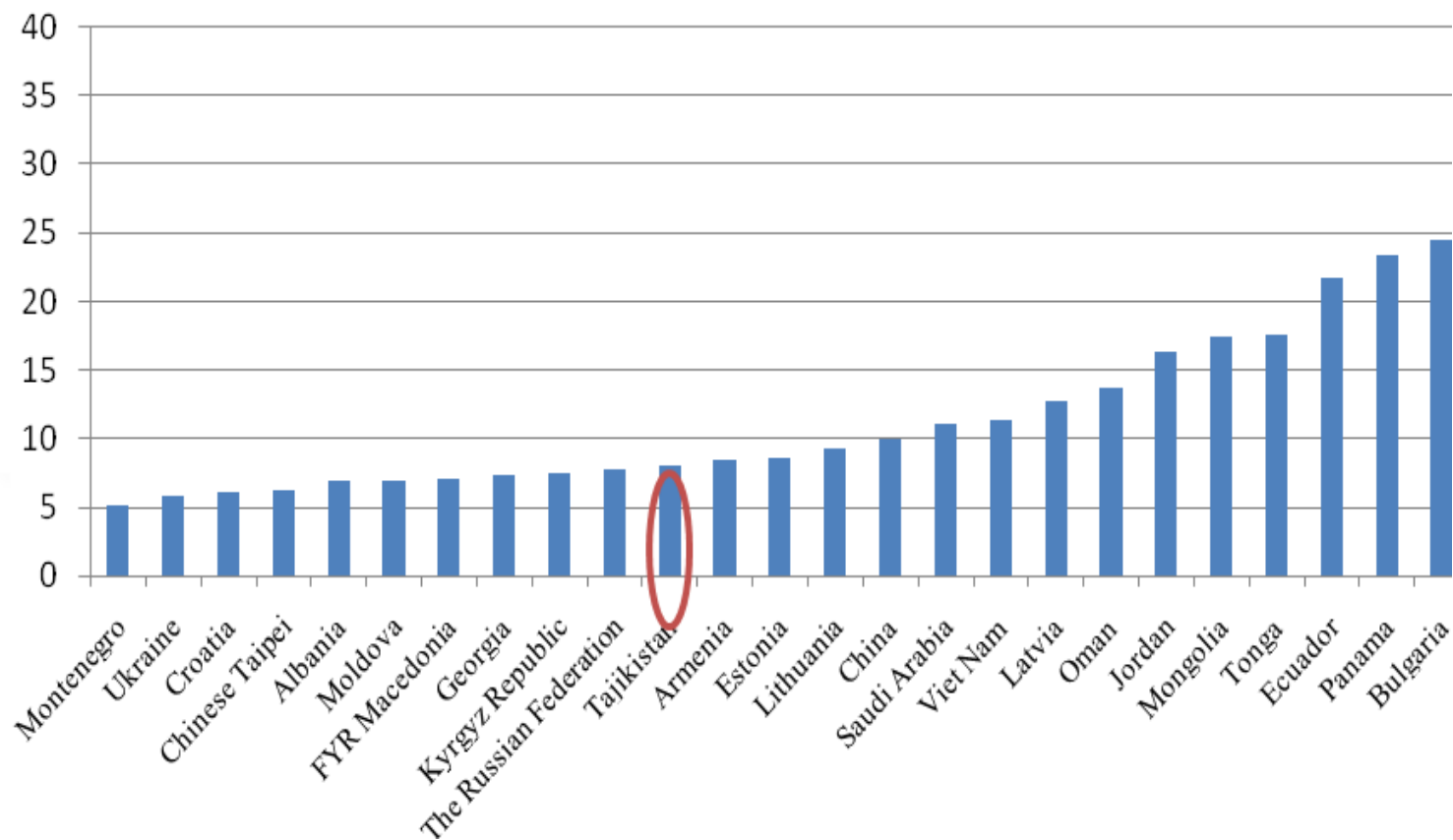


# Results of negotiations - goods

- Republic of Tajikistan managed to keep the agricultural support at the level of 8 % of the GDP
- Final average bound rate is 8.0%, which is relatively high, and actually higher than the average currently applied rate (7.3%).
- The final average bound rate for agricultural products is 10.4%.
- Un-denatured ethyl alcohol (80, but not less than 2 € per L), alcoholic drinks (18-23%), dry fruits (15%), natural honey (20%), certain fresh and prepared vegetable (20-23%) and raw silk and cotton (20%).
- For non-agricultural products the average final bound rate is 7.6%.
- Textiles (20%), clothing (17%), footwear (20-30%), carpets (30%), aluminum products (10%), construction materials (15%), certain chemicals (20%) and mattresses 20%).

# Results of negotiations - goods

**Figure1: Article XII non-LDC Members and Tajikistan: average final bound rates  
- all products**





# Results of negotiations - goods

**Figure 2: Comparison of tariff concessions of selected Members**

Government	Date of Membership	All Products	Ag Products	Non-ag Products
Montenegro	29/04/2012	5.1	10.8	4.3
Ukraine	16/05/2008	5.8	11.0	5.0
Croatia	30/11/2000	6.1	10.4	5.5
Albania	08/09/2000	7.0	9.5	6.6
Moldova	26/07/2001	7.0	14.0	5.9
FYR Macedonia	04/04/2003	7.1	12.9	6.3
Georgia	14/06/2000	7.4	13.0	6.5
Kyrgyz Republic	20/12/1998	7.5	12.8	6.7
The Russian Federation	22/08/2012	7.8	10.8	7.3
Tajikistan	02/03/2013	<b>8.0</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Armenia	05/02/2003	8.5	14.7	7.6
China	11/12/2001	10.0	15.7	9.2
Viet Nam	11/01/2007	11.4	18.5	10.4

# Commitments in sectoral initiatives

Republic of Tajikistan has fully committed to three sectoral initiatives:

- Civil Aviation,
- Information Technology
- Toys

Partial commitments in two sectoral initiatives

- Construction equipment
- Pharmaceuticals

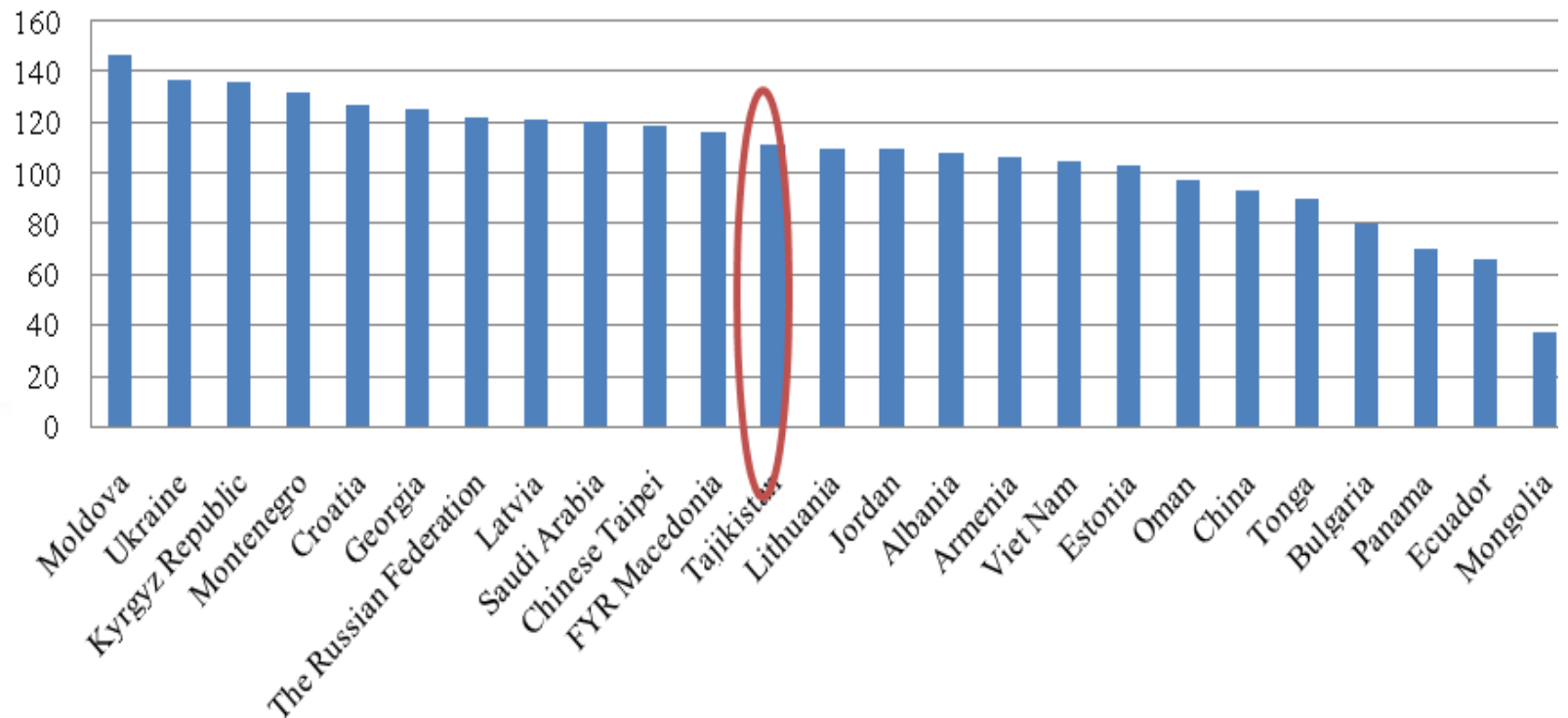
Obligation comes into force 5 years after joining the WTO

## Commitments in sectoral initiatives

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# Commitments in services

**Figure 3: Article XII non-LDC Members and Tajikistan: Number of Services Subsectors with GATS commitments**





# THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION