



WTO Accessions Newsletter

The 10th and final meeting of the Informal Group on Accessions (IGA) in 2012 took place today, 30 November. At this meeting, Ambassador D'Alotto (Argentina), Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Algeria briefed the IGA on his recent visit to Algeria. In the second part of today's meeting, the Director of the Accessions Division briefed the IGA on: (i) the 2012 accession priorities; (ii) accession maintenance work and prospects for 2013; (iii) technical assistance and outreach; and (iv) other business - WTO accessions newsletter, 2012 DG Annual Report, databases, etc. The Secretariat also consulted with Members on the Evolving Calendar of Accessions Meetings until the end of the calendar year and the first quarter of 2013 (as annexed).

Working Party Chairperson Visit

The Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Algeria, Ambassador D'Alotto (Argentina), briefed Members on his recent visit to the Acceding Government, where he met with key stake holders. These meetings confirmed that there was "real political motivation" to re-launch Algeria's accession negotiations. Members welcomed this transparency exercise.

2012 Accession Results

Lao PDR: The General Council formally adopted Lao PDR's Accession Package on 26 October 2012. The Director of the Accessions Division undertook a mission to Vientiane from 2 to 5 November. The Prime Minister of Lao PDR conveyed his appreciation to the WTO Membership for the support throughout Lao PDR's accession process. The Government confirmed that the National Assembly would ratify the Accession Package at its 4 December Session. Lao PDR underscored its policy priority to exit the LDC-category by 2020, and was hopeful for the WTO Membership's support

