



Two new WTO Members in 2013

Lao PDR deposited its Instrument of Acceptance on 3 January and will become the 158th WTO Member on 2 February 2013. Tajikistan completed the domestic ratification process on 9 January, and has yet to deposit its Instrument of Acceptance with Director-General Lamy, in order to start the 30-day count to WTO Membership.



2013 Accession Focus

Afghanistan: This LDC accession emerged as a 2013 Priority. WTO Members interested in bilateral market access negotiations with this 2013 LDC accession priority were encouraged to communicate their interest to Kabul as soon as possible to facilitate work on this accession. The Minister of Finance will visit Geneva next week.

Ethiopia: WTO Director-General Lamy visited Addis Ababa on 7-8 January 2013. He discussed Ethiopia's accession with the new Prime Minister, the chief negotiator, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Steering Committee. Inputs from Ethiopia are still pending, including the initial market access offer on services, in order to convene the next Working Party meeting.

Yemen: This 2012 LDC Accession Priority has been transferred to 2013. The technical verification process remained work in progress

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