

2013 DIRECTOR GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORT

Members were reminded that the Director -General's 2013 Annual Report on Accessions had been circulated on 1 November 2013. The Director -General, Roberto Azevêdo, had conveyed his appreciation to Members for their contributions on accessions in the year under review, which had advanced several Working Parties, including the accession of Yemen, which had been concluded. The DG would introduce his Annual Report at the 21 November General Council (GC) and had invited the views and comments of Members, with suggestions for future improvements.

2013 ACCESSION WP FOCUS

Yemen: The Accession Package of Yemen had been adopted, ad referendum , at ug4 [he e

Additional outstanding work included the adoption of 3 pieces of legislation and the submission of an updated LAP. On the bilateral side, most bilateral market access negotiations had been concluded. The ball was in the court of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding decisions that would enable the conclusion of this accession as soon as possible.

Kazakhstan: This accession is at an advanced stage, although complex and unique. The principal challenge revolved around the question of tariff

OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The IGA was briefed on recent accession TA activities. It was also briefed on the Annual Outreach with WTO groups to review specific questions and address concerns and answer questions. The Annual Outreach included contacts with the African Group, the Arab Group, and GRULAC. There was also contact with journalists reporting on trade matters, including WTO Accessions.



FES Seminar for Journalists from Russia and Kazakhstan,
Geneva, 22 October 2013

Evolving Calendar of Accessions Meetings (ECAM)¹

Date	Working Party	Meeting	Status	Room	Interpretation	
					EN-FR-ES	Own
Friday, 8 November	IGA	9 th 2013 Informal Group on Accessions	Convening Fax dated 29 October 2013 refers	S2	NO	NO
Friday, 15 November	Seychelles	5 th Working Party meeting (AM)	WTO/AIR/4221 dated 23 October 2013 refers	W	YES	NO
[Thursday, 21 November]	GENERAL COUNCIL					
4 th Quarter 2013 / 1 st Quarter 2014	Bosnia and Herzegovina	13 th Working Party meeting	Convening Notice pending	TBC	YES	NO
[Tuesday, 3 - Friday, 6 December]	NINTH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (MC9) - BALI					
1 st Quarter 2014						
[Friday, 28 February 2014]	Azerbaijan	11 th Working Party meeting	Convening Notice pending	D	YES	NO
[1 st Quarter 2014]	Afghanistan	5 th Working Party meeting	Convening Notice pending	TBC	YES	NO
[1 st Quarter 2014]	Algeria	12 th Working Party meeting	Convening Notice pending	TBC	YES	NO
[1 st Quarter 2014]	The Bahamas	3				