



# WTO Accessions Newsletter

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## IGA-AGENDA:

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Informal Group on Accessions (IGA) in 2014 took place today, 26 May. The meeting was chaired by the Director of the Accessions Division. Members of the IGA were briefed on: (i) the Mission to Kazakhstan by DDG Shark; (ii) vacant WP chairmanships; (iii) the status of LDCs' accession negotiations; (iv) the state-of-play in active non-LDCs' accessions; (v) Accession WPs under "maintenance"; (vi) Revision and Update of the "Templates" for the submission of Accession "Negotiating Inputs"; and, (vii) accession-specific technical assistance and outreach. The Secretariat consulted IGA Members on the updated ECAM: Evolving Calendar of Accession Meetings for 2014 (annexed). WTO Deputy Director-General David Shark participated in Members' consideration of the first two items.

## ACCESSION OF KAZAKHSTAN: MISSION TO ASTANA

WTO Deputy Director-General David Shark reported to IGA Members on the Mission to Astana, which took place from 21 to 23 May. The objectives of the mission had been to: (i) participate in the Astana Economic Forum (AEF); and, (ii) to meet with Government Authorities to take stock of the State-of-Play on the Accession of Kazakhstan. The programme included high-level meetings with H.E. Prime Minister Karim Massimov and H.E. Minister Aitzhanova. Kazakhstan reiterated its priority commitment to conclude its accession in 2014. It has mobilized political capital, energy and resources directed to advancing its accession. Two principal issues were key to progress and conclusion of this accession: (i) tariff adjustment and associated compensation; and, (ii) a factual update of the relevant substantive provisions in the imminent Eurasian Union Agreement (EUA) into the Draft Working Party Report of Kazakhstan (DWPR). The tariff adjustment exercise remained the most challenging. One of the principal objectives of the mission was to follow-up on the requests from Members, channelled through the Secretariat, for Kazakhstan and its Customs Union partners to submit, as early as possible, the Text of the EUA, which was required for updating the appropriate sections of the DWPR. Kazakhstan confirmed that the EUA Treaty text would be submitted, in June, in response to Secretariat request

## ACCESSIONS - TOOLBOX

- > Click here for a list of current [Accession Working Parties](#) and [Accession Working Party Chairpersons](#)
- > Evolving Calendar of Accession Meetings (ECAM)
- > Secretariat Accessions Team
- > [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](#)"
- > [Accession-Related Technical Assistance Activities](#)
- > 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)





## ANNEX

EVOLVING CALENDAR OF ACCESSIONS MEETINGS (ECAM)<sup>1</sup>

| Date | Working |
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