



WTO

# WTO Accessions Newsletter

«safeguarding and strengthening the rules -based multilateral trading system»

ACCESSIONSTOOLBOX

As agreed at the Final WP Meeting and in accordance with long standing practice, the Secretariat would reflect all agreed technical adjustments in the final version of the Accession Package. The Package shall be re-issued on 31 October for transmission to the General Council for formal approval in December 2014. Seychelles accepted a six-month period, within which the Parliament shall ratify the Protocol on the Accession of Seychelles, following approval by the General Council.

WTO Members were praised for their support and engagement, which enabled the successful conclusion of this 19-year accession. The leadership of Minister Laporte was unanimously commended and the Negotiating Team of Seychelles, for their hard work and commitment. This historic achievement was a tribute to both the rules-based Multilateral Trading System and the Government of Seychelles.

#### ACCESSION OF KAZAKHSTAN

H.E. Ambassador Vesa Himanen (Finland), Chairman of the WP) on the Accession of Kazakhstan, briefed IGA Members on recent developments on the accession of Kazakhstan. The Chairman identified "Next Steps", particularly for the next 4-5 weeks.

This accession process was at a critical juncture. Significant progress had been made on the outstanding substance and only a few issues remained to be solved. The WP Chairman urged Members to push hard to attempt a conclusion no later than December this year. The objective was to produce a Draft Accession Package in November. The Draft Services Schedule had already emerged and awaited adoption.

To conclude this accession, the Chairman underscored the complementary and supportive roles and



assessments on progress made and challenges accompanied with prospects for the year to ahead.

#### OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Annual Outreach Cycle with Regional Groups had been initiated before the Summer Break . Accession state-of-play briefings had twice been provided for the Informal Group of Developing Countries (IGDCs)

A dedicated briefing had been scheduled for the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), for 30 October. Appointments were being sought with other groups.

The Secretariat continued to provide demand -driven technical assistance to acceding governments and deliver accession-specific sessions in Advanced Trade Policy Courses.

