

WORLD TRADE

As it is noted in the report of the General Council, the particular progress is marked in the negotiations on services, although the quality and quantity of proposals from the negotiation participants still remains far away from our best expectations. The Kyrgyz Republic, being a country with one of the most liberal economies, including trade in services, hopes for the successful outcome of these negotiations.

My delegation extends its full support to further strengthen the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement by providing clearer and more predictable rules on Articles 22 and 23 concerning the protection of geographical indications to products other than wines and spirits.

Taking this opportunity I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Kyrgyz Republic when acceding to the WTO in December 1998 has undertaken commitments on market access for goods and services, domestic support and export subsidies at a level which significantly exceeds those of many WTO Members with respect to tariff cuts and elimination of all forms of non-tariff barriers.

Being in a stage of creating truly market-driven economy and facing certain difficulties with underproduction, high external debt before the international financial institutions, aggravated by the absence of cheap and affordable means of delivery of goods which can be provided by access to maritime transportation, the Kyrgyz Republic considers itself as a developing country recently acceded to the multilateral trading system.

We welcome the work done by the WTO Negotiation Group on Rules. We take note of the need to improve rules of application of anti-dumping investigations, period of validity, reviews, taking into account the special provisions for developing countries. With respect to subsidies and countervailing duties, it is also necessary to take into account the special and differential treatment for developing countries.

As for regional trade agreements, the Kyrgyz Republic has an opinion that regional agreements significantly assist developing countries in solving short-term objectives and facilitate integration into the world trade system. Being the member of regional unions of Newly Independent States, the Kyrgyz Republic supports regional partners' accession to the WTO, and hopes that all WTO Members will support this difficult process on a mutual understanding basis and under existing rules and requirements.

We welcome accessions of new WTO Members, namely, Cambodia and Nepal. They are the first two countries among the least-developed countries whose accession to the multilateral trade system will become effective soon since the establishment of the WTO. We strongly believe their accession will facilitate their development in all areas and will strengthen international trading system.

In conclusion I would like to wish peace and prosperity to all of you present at the Conference and your nations!
