

This is an information note to assist acceding governments with preparations for meetings and negotiations associated with their accession. It is one of several practical steps by the WTO Secretariat to improve transparency on accessions matters.

NOTE ON ACCESSIONS INFORMATION FOR ACCEDING GOVERNMENTS

As indicated in the First Note On Accessions Information For Acceding Governments of 30 July 2010, the Informal Group on Accessions is the forum where Members and the Secretariat meet to forge a work plan for the implementation of WTO work on accessions. The meeting is convened in a four to six week cycle and is chaired by the Director of the Accessions Division.

The Informal Group on Accessions convened today, 17 September, for the fifth time in 2010. At today's meeting, the Secretariat consulted with Members on a work plan and calendar of meetings.¹ Twenty-two delegations attended the meeting. The Secretariat briefed the Group on the progress of the 2010 accession priorities, namely, the three LDCs of Samoa, Vanuatu and Yemen; Serbia; Montenegro; and, the Russian Federation. The Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of The Bahamas briefed Members on the First Working Party Meeting of The Bahamas.

Members agreed with the proposed calendar of accession meetings for the last quarter of 2010 (annexed). They underlined the value of working to conclude accession negotiations and produce results in 2010. Statements were made in this regard by Members. On LDCs accessions, Members stressed the need for the implementation of the 2002 Guidelines on LDCs Accessions. Finally, there was reaffirmation to work on the 2010 accession priorities.

¹ Accessions-related meetings are scheduled, based on the submission of substantive and qualitative inputs on the multilateral track of accession negotiations; and, meaningful offers and progress on bilateral market access negotiations.

Annex

Accessions Division – Indicative Meeting Schedule 2010²

17 September 2010

Date	Working Party	Meeting
21 September	Yemen	8 th Working Party
20-24 September		Bilaterals
21 September	Russian Federation	Informal Chair Consultations
24 September	Lao PDR	6 th Working Party
21-24 September		Bilaterals
28-30 September		WTO/AMF Regional Seminar
[30 September]	Vanuatu	Informal Meeting
18 October	Azerbaijan	8 th Working Party
20 October	Serbia	9 th Working Party
[week of 25 October]	Russian Federation	Plurilateral on Agriculture
		Informal Chair Consultations
21 October	General Council	
[end October]	Vanuatu	Informal Meeting
[end October/early November]	Afghanistan	1 st Working Party
[November]	Tajikistan	5 th Working Party
[week of 6 December]	Russian Federation	Plurilateral on Agriculture
		Informal Chair Consultations
14-15 December	General Council	Final meeting
Date TBC at any moment	Montenegro	8 th Working Party
Date TBC	Samoa	2 nd Working Party
Date TBC	Ethiopia	2 nd Working Party
[week of 24 January 2011]		Geneva-based Seminar

*Meetings in several working parties are yet to be programmed because, although some inputs have been received, they remain insufficient as a basis for convening meetings. Acceding governments in this category include: Iraq, Lebanon, and the Seychelles

² This calendar of Accession meetings is evolving. Dates are suggested to assist planning by Members and the Secretariat. However, meetings will only go ahead on the basis of inputs received with sufficient time for consideration and review by Members.