

WTO NEGOTIATIONS OF ACCESSION: POLICY ADVICE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

13 June 2015. Dushanbe city

Tajikistan Establishes the National Trade Facilitation Committee

The scope, mandate, and the structure of to-be-established Tajikistan National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) were discussed on June 13 in Dushanbe city.

The International Trade Centre (ITC) supports the Republic of Tajikistan to establish the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC), a state coordination body to simplify and harmonize the international trade procedures. Establishment of this mechanism is required by the WTO as part of implementation of WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)'s provisions. The ITC assistance to Tajikistan's post-WTO accession process has been provided under the Government of Switzerland funded Trade Cooperation Programme in Tajikistan.

The NTFC will disseminate information on policy developments in trade facilitation, support the implementation of obligations arising out of the TFA, integrate private sector concerns into the formulation of policy on trade facilitation, serve as a conduit between national authorities and the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee, assist national authorities in determining priorities for donor support, provide policy guidance to relevant authorities including the Cabinet of Ministers, support public awareness of matters related to trade facilitation, monitor the implementation of obligations arising out of other bilateral agreements, and etc.

Mr. Amer Zafar Durrani, ITC International Consultant on Trade Facilitation (TF), who is assisting the Tajik government team to establish the NTFC, emphasized that *“trade facilitation involves a wide and diverse range of public and private agencies thus requiring a dedicated body to ensure their efficient coordination and collaboration. This way, Tajikistan will be able to enhance institutional and regulatory capacity of national entities to implement WTO commitments in the area of trade facilitation. This will also enable Tajikistan to independently determine the best approach to develop new policy measures and legislation and undertake more effective negotiations with trade partners. The Tajik private sector will also get a chance to increase its involvement in policy decisions on trade facilitation, including legislation, procedural and regulatory measures and development initiatives.”*

In the long-term, Tajikistan trade environment will benefit from reduce of the transaction costs of cross-border operations, both financial and time wise.

The ITC, through this technical assistance project, is committed to support Tajikistan's public and private sector in strengthening their knowledge of the opportunities and challenges stemming from the WTO membership.

Swiss support: Within its Cooperation Strategy for 2012-2015, Switzerland focuses on four sectors in Tajikistan; Health, Rule of Law, Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation, and Private Sector Development. The overall goal of Swiss Cooperation in Tajikistan is to support the transition process in the country through contributing to economic development and by helping build institutions and systems which are responsive to the population's needs. www.swisscoop.tj, www.deza.admin.ch, www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch

Contact us for more details:

International Trade Centre (ITC) in Tajikistan

Tel (+992 37) 2219870

E-mail: itc.tajikistan@gmail.com

Web-home: www.itctj.org

