

IMPLEMENTATION OF WTO PROVISIONS AND BUSINESS AWARENESS OF WTO ACCESSION

30 September, 2014. Dushanbe

TAJIKISTAN'S WTO ACCESSION: ADVANTAGES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, AND METALLURGY INDUSTRIES

The impact of the Republic of Tajikistan's membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for its food and agriculture, and metallurgy sectors will be discussed in Dushanbe on 30 September and 1 October 2014.

Two workshops and one press-café for journalists on WTO accession with a particular emphasis on the food and agriculture, and metallurgy sectors will be organized by the International Trade Centre (ITC) in Dushanbe city. The first workshop, that focuses on the food and agriculture sector's challenges and benefits from the country's accession to the WTO, is taking place today, on 30 September 2014, and will be followed by a press-café in the afternoon. The second half-day workshop, taking place on 1 October 2014, will be devoted to Tajikistan's metallurgy sector.

Representatives of related sectors, related governmental agencies, international organisations, and media will participate at the events to discuss the WTO requirements for the targeted sectors, the benefits and challenges these sectors gain and face from country's accession to the WTO, as well as the impact of Tajikistan's membership to the WTO for its food and agriculture, and metallurgy sectors. Both workshops and the press-café are organized by the ITC, which supports Tajikistan in the implementation of the WTO provisions and the Government's WTO commitments. This ITC project is funded by the Government of Switzerland within its Trade Cooperation Program (TCP) in Tajikistan.

Mr. Paolo R. Vergano, expert in international trade, will introduce the workshops and press-café participants to the relevant WTO agreements and frameworks, as well as to the sectors of food and agriculture, and metallurgy in light of WTO accession and their role in Tajikistan's economy and exports.

Mr. Vergano also shared his view on the impact of Tajikistan's accession to WTO for these sectors. He said: *"Despite the possible negative impacts from WTO accession to the private sector in the short run, as a result of introducing a more transparent, secure and predictable trading framework, the positive effects of WTO accession will likely be felt in the medium or long term. I would recommend continuing familiarization of the Tajik business community with the opportunities stemming from WTO accession, securing industries' interests through continuous engagement in trade negotiations and technical discussions, as well as the provision of access to the relevant WTO mechanisms and instruments for Tajikistan's food and agriculture, and metallurgy sectors"*.

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

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