



## IMPLEMENTATION OF WTO PROVISIONS AND BUSINESS AWARENESS OF WTO ACCESSION

02 April 2013, Dushanbe

### HOW TAJIK TELECOMMUNICATIONS CAN MAKE THE MOST OF WTO ACCESSION?

Exactly a month after Tajikistan's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Trade Centre (ITC) gathers Tajik telecommunications business managers and business experts in Dushanbe city for 1, 5 day learning programme to discuss the ways of benefiting from Tajikistan's accession to WTO, and solving the challenges from this membership.

**"Making the most of WTO accession: Telecommunications services commitments and liberalization"** training will be held on 02-03 April, 2013 under ITC project on "Implementation of WTO provisions and business awareness of WTO Accession" funded by the Government of Switzerland through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

Authorities, mobile and Internet providers, business associations, international organizations, as well as academia will come together today and tomorrow to learn about the WTO rules and regulations applicable to Tajikistan commitments on telecommunications services, as well as its effect to service providers. Media representatives are cordially invited to participate in the events.

Ms Lee Tuthill from the World Trade Organization will provide the training participants with the general overview of WTO key principles on telecommunication. She will attract the attention of the participants to rationale and the benefits of pro-competitive reforms which have been carried out by WTO members to liberalize the telecommunications sector. Additionally, the business implications stemming from these reforms will be described. Ms. Tuthill says: *"The ability of the private sector to seize the opportunities presented by this system depends to a great extent on the implementation of the Government's commitment to complete the domestic policy reform agenda based on solid consensus that will serve the interests of all among the major stakeholders - businesses, consumers, and telecom suppliers. WTO members strive to establish a business environment which is conducive to private investments in the economy"*.

Mr. Jean-Sebastien Roure, Senior Officer, ITC Business & Trade Policy Section says: *"WTO membership no doubt obliges Member Governments to complete domestic reforms. It is also well recognised that in the post accession period, the completion of the reforms on the services sector is of utmost importance"*.

The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan will describe the market access commitments taken by country with respect to telecommunications. Mr. Saidrahmon Nazriev, Tajik Deputy Minister of the Economic Development and Trade, says: *"The country remains committed to continue the implementations of the reforms in the telecommunications sector, as well as in all other sectors of the economy, to bring all regulations in accordance with WTO requirements. Our membership in WTO, no doubt, will assist the republic in formation of the atmosphere of competitiveness for the business sector"*.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations who's goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business. The Republic of Tajikistan has officially entered WTO on March 02 this year.

**The International Trade Centre (ITC), through its on-going technical assistance project, is committed to support Tajikistan private sector in strengthening its knowledge of the opportunities and challenges from the WTO membership. To achieve this, the awareness of the private sector in the targeted sectors of agro industrial products,**

textiles, and financial, telecommunications, transport and energy services will be increased so that they understand the business implications of WTO accession and trade policy.

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