



# WTO NEWSLETTER FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS



DG Lamy with Senator Oliver and Secretary General of IPU Mr Johansson

The Parliamentary Conference on WTO took place for the second time at the William Rappard Centre. The two days event, held on November 15-16, attracted more than 300 decision-makers from all over the world. Senator Donald H. Oliver, Georgios Papastamkos, Vice-President of the European Parliament, and Ambassador Shahid Bashir (Pakistan), Chairperson of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body



Mr. Georgios Papastamkos, Vice-President of the European Parliament and Ambassador Shahid Bashir (Pakistan), Chairperson of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body

inaugurated the Conference. Pascal Lamy, the Director General of the WTO addressed the Conference on the role of the role of the WTO within the current crisis as well as on the prospects of the Doha Round.

Two reports followed by a vivid discussion from the floor were presented by Panacheril C. Chacko and Paul Rübig. Reflecting on how to connect politics and trade, they covered also very relevant topics of poverty alleviation, job creation and trade in services.

At the end of the Conference an [outcome document](#) was produced. The main idea of the document is to support multilateral trading system overall and particularly a strong and effective parliamentary dimension in the WTO. The document touches upon the WTO role



Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, full house

in “keeping global markets open and addressing trade finance shortages and mobilizing Aid for Trade support.” The document reflects also some legislators’ views on broadening the scope of development objectives “such as poverty reduction, employment, productive capacity, sustained and inclusive growth, food and energy security, public health, access to essential medicines and services, the efforts to combat corruption, etc.”

The Outcome Document stresses the need to move expeditiously to address new “twenty-first century issues” including global supply chains, food and energy security, climate change and exchange rates” Finally, it calls for “readiness to use all political means at our disposal to forge a multilateral consensus within the WTO” while asking “to provide parliamentarians with information more systemically”.

## WTO News

Geneva, December 11<sup>th</sup>

### Lamy says members’ negotiating outlook for 2013 “encouraging”

Director-General Pascal Lamy, in his report to the General Council on 11 December 2012, said that the Trade Negotiations Committee meeting on 7 December “showed that members are fully aware of



Panel on trade in services

their responsibility and the importance of what is at stake here”. He added: “We had a pragmatic discussion about what is feasible for next year and I was pleased to note that the tone was one of caution, but also of realism and determination. I saw that members remain committed to achieving a credible outcome at MC9 [Ninth Ministerial Conference]. In one word, the discussion was encouraging, as I said in closing the meeting.”



Panel for interactive debate on trade as a tool of economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation

Geneva, December 11<sup>th</sup>

### **Bali Ministerial to be held 3-6 December 2013**

The opening ceremony will be held in the afternoon of Tuesday 3 December. This will be followed by two working days, on 4 and 5 December. The closing ceremony will be held on Friday 6 December.

Geneva, December 10<sup>th</sup>

### **WTO approves Tajikistan's membership**



DG Lamy and Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan

The General Council paved the way for Tajikistan's membership of the WTO by approving its accession package. Tajikistan would have to ratify the deal by 7 June 2013 and would become a WTO member 30 days after the ratification.



### **Regional Seminar for francophone parliamentarians of the Asia Pacific region**



The two day seminar was conducted in co-operation with the Asemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie -APF- and the National Assembly of LaoPDR, on 29-30 November. It was held back to back with another APF event held in Vientiane, on 27-28 November for Women MPs. The presence of WTO Deputy Director General Valentine Rugwabiza who interacted with this big group of MPs, around 50 of them throughout the two events, on WTO issues but also on Development related issues including the MDGs and gender issues and the interaction with trade. The WTO Deputy Director General also used the opportunity of being in Vientiane to have talks with LaoPDR authorities, including the Minister for Commerce and Industry and the Vice Minister of the same department and she gave the opening speech at a meeting for the Lao private sector organized by the International Trade Centre ITC and the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry -LNCCI-.

### **Economic data**

Geneva, December 5<sup>th</sup>

### **Lamy: "The world economy needs more trade to stave off recession"**

Director-General Pascal Lamy, in his annual report to members on developments in the international trading environment, said: "The world needs a renewed and stronger commitment from all Governments to revitalize the multilateral trading system that can restore economic certainty at a time when it is badly needed. The policy determination to resist inward-looking policies seems to be faltering in some countries, even as the world economy needs more trade to stave off recession."

### **Accessions**

Geneva, December 10<sup>th</sup>

### **Kazakhstan paves way to becoming WTO member in 2013**

The working party on the accession of Kazakhstan, on 10 December 2012, held its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to review progress in the membership negotiations. Members expressed hopes that Kazakhstan would reach the finishing line for accession in 2013.

Geneva, December 7<sup>th</sup>

### **Afghanistan's WTO accession negotiations accelerate**

At the third meeting of the Afghanistan accession working party, held on 7 December 2012, WTO members expressed their willingness to make this accession a priority in 2013.

Geneva, December 7<sup>th</sup>

### Members welcome progress in Azerbaijan's accession

On 7 December 2012, WTO members reviewed the state of play in the market access negotiations, foreign trade regime and legislative reforms to advance Azerbaijan's accession to the WTO.

### Dispute Settlement Body

Geneva, December 4<sup>th</sup>

WTO Arbitrator determines "reasonable period of time" in "US-COOL" dispute

### Upcoming events

Geneva, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Dispute Settlement Body

Geneva, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Trade Policy Review Body - Overview of Developments in the International Trading Environment

Geneva, December 18<sup>th</sup>

Trade Policy Review Body - United States of America

### Featured media

#### LATEST PODCASTS:

11.12.2012: *Statement by the Chairperson of the General Council, Ambassador Elin Østebø Johansen*

#### LATEST VIDEOS:

10.12.2012: *WTO welcomes Tajikistan*

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