



WTO TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY ACCESSIONS PROGRAMME

SECOND GLOBAL SEMINAR ON WTO ACCESSIONS SAUDI ARABIA 10-YEAR WTO ACCESSION SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SESSION ACCESSIONS BOOK LAUNCH BY WTO DIRECTOR-GENERAL ROBERTO AZEVEDO

Statement by Mr. Sergey Chernyshev, Aide to the Minister for Trade of the EEC on behalf of Mr. A. Slepnev, Minister for Trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission

Panel 5: WTO Accessions, the Trading System and the Global Economy

Geneva, Wednesday, 30 September 2015, 13:30 – 13:40, Room W

Dear WTO Director-General Mr. Roberto Azevêdo, Representatives of the WTO Members, Observer Governments, colleagues,

1. On behalf of the Eurasian Economic Commission let me congratulate you on the WTO twentieth anniversary and the launch of the WTO and Cambridge University Press co-publication: "WTO Accessions and Trade Multilateralism – Case Studies and Lessons from the WTO at Twenty".
2. The book presents the story of WTO accessions and underlines the value of this process in market access facilitation, domestic reforms support and contributing to rule making in the WTO. My own contribution from the Eurasian Economic Union perspective is also contained in this book. Together with more than fifty other input
3. These pages contain a mix of different experiences, analysis, and important lessons for the WTO current and future Members.
4. As you know, on 1st January 2015 the Customs Union of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation moved to a new stage of its economic integration. The Eurasian Economic Union was launched as an international organization of regional integration with a relevant legal personality. The Union is not a "triad" any more - it is now a "quintet" of countries. We welcome our new Members: the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Armenia – WTO Members since 1998 and 2003 respectively.
5. Eurasian Economic Commission within its competence fulfils the obligations of the EAEU Member States undertaken during the WTO accession and we hope that this work contributes to the good functioning of the WTO system. Also, from the very start of the Union, we have undertaken the ambitious program of bilateral talks aimed at concluding modern, comprehensive, WTO-compatible trade agreements in order to further integrating our Member States in the global value chains. First such negotiations – on FTA with Viet Nam – have been successfully completed, and the agreement signed in May 2015.
6. The book comes out at an important time for us - finalization of the WTO accession negotiations of one of our Member States - the Republic of Kazakhstan. Following the formal adoption of Kazakhstan's Accession Package by the General Council on 27 July, and the signing of the Protocol of Accession by President Nazarbayev and the WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, it will not be premature to say that four out of five Member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union will now be the WTO Members.
7. We in the Commission work hard together with our Member States to be ready to enact the implementation package of the Republic of Kazakhstan as soon as Kazakhstan becomes a WTO Member.



8. As you may also know, the Republic of Belarus underlined its commitment to a serious re-start of its accession negotiations and to conclude them on an accelerated basis. We expect that accession of Belarus would be fully on the radar screen of the work of the WTO Membership in 2016.

9. We are confident that thanks to joint efforts of the Republic of Belarus, interested WTO Members and with personal contribution of H.E. Ambassador Haluk Ilicak (Turkey), Chairman of the Working Party, this accession process will be successfully concluded.

10. On our part, we will do our best in the Eurasian Economic Commission to help Belarus to achieve this goal.

11. I would like to wish the WTO Membership success at the 10th Ministerial Conference to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2015. I want to stress the high importance of reaching meaningful outcome on main multilateral trade negotiations issues, including development aspect.
