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ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE
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INFORMATION NOTE ON THE 'ACCESSIONS CORNER' A COMPONENT OF THE EXHIBITION: "THE WTO: A RULES-BASED SYSTEM"

The exhibition "The WTO: a rules-based system" is an initiative of the Legal Affairs Division of the WTO Secretariat, as part of the WTO's year-long activities for the 20th Anniversary of the Organization. The exhibition will stay in place until December 2015. It can be viewed on the ground floor of the new building adjacent to the Centre William Rappard at Rue de Lausanne 154, Geneva, Switzerland.

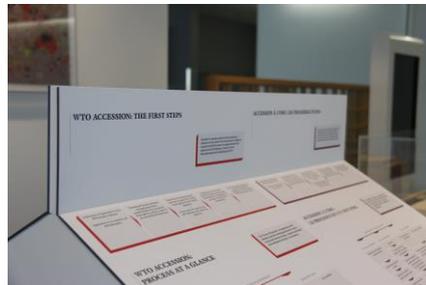
The 'accessions corner' was prepared by the Accessions Division, with the support of the Legal Affairs Division, the Languages, Documentation and Information Management Division (Graphics, Printing and Archives) and other WTO Secretariat divisions, including the Information and External Relations Division and the Information Technology Solutions Division.



THE 'ACCESSIONS CORNER' OF THE EXHIBIT CONTAINS 4 MAIN PARTS:

1. An **information stand**, which provides you with a snapshot on:

- how to initiate the WTO accession process,
- the actual process at a glance,
- the architecture of an Accession Package/"Terms of Accession", and
- some background information on the accession installation



2. An **installation** which demonstrates the "**Volume Increase of Accession Documents**".

The volume has increased dramatically over the years, reflecting the increasing complexity of accession negotiations.

- The Accession of Bulgaria was initiated under the WTO in April 1995 although the process had initially started under the GATT in 1986. Bulgaria became a WTO Member in 1996. Bulgaria's accession negotiations produced a *total of 1,700 pages of legal texts and supporting documentation*, while,
- The Accession of the Russian Federation was initiated in 1993 under the GATT, and continued under the WTO from January 1995 onwards. Russia became a WTO Member in 2012. Russia's accession negotiations produced a *total of 16,000 pages of legal texts and supporting documentation*.



- A tenfold increase!

3. A vitrine with several **Accession Protocols on display** (of Bulgaria, China, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Chinese Taipei, and Tonga).



4. A touchscreen containing an **interactive WTO Accession Map** (which will be added by June 2015) to learn more about the expansion of the WTO's membership since 1995. The map features several tools such as a time-bar (1995 – present) and an interactive legend.



(WTO Secretariat Photos by Souda Tandara-Stenier)



Accessions and Legal Exhibition

Director-General Azevêdo visits the Accessions and Legal Exhibition – 19 March 2015