**Regional Conference: The Impact of the Russian WTO accession on Central Asia**

14 – 15 November 2012, OSCE Academy Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Programme

The conference aims at bringing together practitioners and academics from Central Asian countries to discuss the implications of Russia having become a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the repercussions this might have on regional integration in Central Asia. The seminar shall also help to clarify issues linked with WTO accession in general – issues like economic and administrative requirements as well as the expected impact of accession from an economic perspective. On day 1 of the conference, a particular focus is laid on the Russian WTO accession and WTO accession processes in general. On day 2, the main focus is on the regional Customs Union and its implications on Central Asian countries. The conference languages are Russian and English; simultaneous translation is provided.

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| **Tuesday – 13 November 2012** | | |
| **19:30** | **Welcome reception**  (for those participants already in Bishkek) | Hotel Ak-Keme,  Bishkek |

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| **Wednesday – 14 November 2012** | | | |
| **08:30 – 09:15** | **Registration of participants** | | OSCE Academy Bishkek |
| **09:15 – 09:45** | **Opening Session**  Welcome address | | **H.E. Ambassador** **Sräga**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to KGZ  **H.E. Minister** **Sariev**, Minister for the Economy, KGZ |
| **09:45 – 10:45** | **Keynote Speech No. 1**  “Can WTO Accession propel trade integration in Central Asia?”  Followed by Q&A | | **Rajesh Aggarwal**, International Trade Centre  **Moderator of Q&A**: Maxim Ryabkov, OSCE Academy |
| **10:45 – 11:00** | **Coffee break** | |  |
| **11:00 – 12:30** | **Panel discussion**  What does the Russian WTO accession mean for Central Asia? What is the role of the WTO in regional and multilateral economic integration in Central Asia? What has been the Kyrgyz and Kazakh experience so far? | | **Moderator**: Maxim Ryabkov  **Vladimir Sherov**, St. Petersburg University, Russia  **Rimma Kiseleva**, Ministry of Economy and Antitrust Policy, KGZ **Rajesh Aggarwal**, International Trade Centre |
| **12:30 – 14:00** | **Lunch break** | | |
| **14:00 – 17:00** | **Parallel working groups**  (incl. coffee break around 15.30) | | |
| **Working Group 1**  **Moderator:** Frank Ebinger, GIZ KGZ  What is the impact of Russian WTO Accession on Central Asian regional integration? How can Central Asia make the most of the Russian accession – are there new opportunities for the private sector?What are challenges that need to be addressed?  **Inputs by**: Vladimir Sherov (SPU), Jypara Aibasheva (MoE KGZ), Elena Boutrimova (ITC), Larisa Kislyakova (Chamber of Commerce, Tajikistan), Alisher Nazarov Ministry of Economy and Trade, Tajikistan) | | **Working Group 2 Moderator:** Anne Rennschmid, OSCE TAJ  What is the “typical” WTO accession and decision making process? What are the dynamics of bilateral negotiations? What happens after accession?  **Inputs by:** Samer Seif El Yazal (WTO)**,** Josip Pervan, (IDEAS Centre), Dandii Adiyasuren (MNCCI), Zhang Xiangchen (MOFCOM, China) | |
| **17:15 – 18:30** | **Presentation of** “**key take-aways**” from the working group discussions  **Input** on the role of NTBs in Central Asia and adherence to WCO “SAFE framework”,  **followed by Q&A** | | Working group representatives  **Jonathon Hornbrook**, GIZ KGZ |
| **19.30** | **Dinner – restaurant Four Seasons** | |  |

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| **Thursday – 15 November 2012** | | | | |
| **09:00 – 11:00** | **Keynote Speech No. 2** “Russia within WTO and Customs Union”  **panel discussion**  What does the Customs Union mean for its member countries and what for the non-member countries? What are the challenges and opportunities for the private sector with regards to the Customs Union? | | | **Vladimir Sherov**, St. Petersburg University, Russia  **Moderator: Josip Pervan**, IDEAS Centre  **Bolat Khusainov**, Economic Research Institute, Kazakhstan **Sabirzhan Dzhangozin,** Customs and Transportation expert, Kazakhstan  **Nuritdin Dzamankulov**, Independent expert on technical barriers to trade  **Roman Mogilevsky**, University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan |
| **11:00 – 11:15** | **Coffee break** | | | |
| **11:15 – 15:30** | **Parallel working groups**  (incl. lunch break from 12.45 – 14.15) | | | |
| **Working Group 1**  The Customs Union and Tajikistan and Kazakhstan  **Moderator:** Maxim Ryabkov, OSCE Academy  How does the CU affect Kazakhstan at the moment?How does the CU affect Tajikistan and its perspectives on the accession? How does the CU affect SAFE implementation?  **Inputs by**: Bolat Khusainon, Sabirzhan Dzhangozin, Roman Mogilevsky | | | **Working Group 2**  The Customs Union and Kyrgyzstan  **Moderator:** Nurjamal Bokoeva, GIZ KGZ  What is the poverty and social impact of KGZ joining the CU? To what extent does the fact that Russia is now a WTO member change Kyrgyzstan´s position? Does the new situation make it easier/harder for Kyrgyzstan to join the Customs Union?  **Inputs by**: Svetlana Moldogazieva (Kyrgyzstan), Elke Kasmann (GIZ), Eric Bouchot (ITC), Rimma Kiseleva (Ministry of Economy, Kyrgyzstan); Kubat Omurzakov (Ministry of Economy, Kyrgyzstan) | |
| **15:30 – 16:00** | | **Coffee break** | | |
| **16:00 – 18:00** | | **Presentation of** “**key take-aways**” from the working group discussions  **Panel discussion with international organizations active in Central Asia** Short Input on approaches of development organizations in the region related to WTO and Customs Union issues,  followed by Q&A and discussion | | Working group representatives    **Moderator:  Jonathon Hornbrook**, GIZ KGZ  **Inputs by:** GIZ, ITC, WTO, OSCE, UNCTAD |
| **18.00** | | **Wrap-up**  **End of conference** | |  |
| **19:30** | | **Dinner – restaurant Four Seasons** | |  |