

North-East Asia Forum on Trade and Transport Facilitation Private-Public Dialogue on Trade Facilitation

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Session 1: Trade Facilitation in the East and North-East Asia

**Russian Federation's accession to the WTO:
impact on its trading partners in North-East
Asia**

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Russia's membership in the WTO

- On 22 August 2012, the Russian Federation became the WTO's 156th member after 19-year companying to joint the organization;
- Its membership marks the virtual completion of the WTO's architecture;
- The economy is too big to stay outside the rules-based MTS. 97.1% of the global economy is under WTO rules coverage;
- Russia is the ninth largest economy in the world accounting for more than 2 % of the global trade;
- Last WTO member of G8, G20, BRICS, APEC.

Benefits of accession package to the WTO

- Modernization and reform platform
- FDI flows
- Faster trade and GDP growth/jobs
- Improved corporate governance
- Improved image/perception: WTO “Quality Branding”
- Increased stability for “more efficient fit” into global supply chains
- Invocation of “Rights” to address real and perceived discrimination.

Benefits of Russia as a member of the WTO

- **Expanding zone of world trade, i.e. a possibility to enlarge markets for exports.**
- **Strengthening competitiveness of Russian companies owing to more flexible system of technical requirements and harmonization of national and international demand.**
- **Improving investment climate in Russia. Inflows of financial resources to the country will generate additional employment opportunities, increase tax revenues, provide access to modern technologies.**
- **Participating in formulation of rules and regulations of international trade and investments, as well as to protect its trading interests through the dispute settlement body available in the WTO.**

Benefits of Russia as a member of the WTO

- **Drawing attention to and strengthening responsibility concerning intellectual property rights of Russian producers and rights of consumers. Obedience to the rule of law.**
- **Simplifying and rationalizing procedures of acknowledgement of conformity of “made in Russia” to the international standards, and from here – acceleration of turnover of external trade.**
- **In the long-term, the management system of foreign economic relations becomes more stable and predictable.**
- **Strengthening power of the law and reducing the number of allowing documents and increasing degree of a transparency of regulation system.**

STEPS ON RUSSIA'S ACCESSION TO THE WTO

- A candidate should make an application and sign bilateral agreements with each member country of the WTO.
- To complete the extensive program of legislative reforms in order to bring to conformity of the national legislation with the WTO rules and standards.
- Implement WTO commitments.
- Russia applied for a membership in the WTO in June 1993
- Working groups were created in the same year.
- The first meeting of the working group was held in July 1995.
- There were more than 30 official sessions of the working groups.

Conditions of Russia's membership in the WTO

In total, 57 agreements on access to commodity markets were signed.

- At an average, applied import duties on all goods will be lowered to 7,8 %, in comparison with 11,9 % in 2010, including on the agricultural goods to 11,3 % (15,2 %), on industrial goods to 6,4 % (11,2 %). As a whole for one third of commodities the rate will be lowered by 5 %.
- Import duties will be lowered to:
- 14.9 % for dairy products (present level is 19.8 %)
- 10.0 % for grain (15.1 %)
- 7.1 % for fats and oils (9.0 %)
- 5.2 % for chemical goods (6.5 %)

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Conditions of Russia's Membership in the WTO

cars (25 %)

technical goods (8.4 %)

of pulp and paper industry (13.4 %)

ines (15 %), on the medical equipment and medicinal
%

of sugar (US \$243)

uties on information technologies will be lowered to 0,
ers and their element base (5.4 %).

rt duties will be lowered for one third of positions this
orth of remaining positions in 3 years after accession.

s for lowering duties on poultry farming products, 7 years
rs and civil aircraft technicians.

of pork, beef and poultry will remain until 2020.