

EU statement at the Working Party of Kazakhstan's Accession to the WTO, 22 June 2015

Statement by Ambassador Angelos Pangratis

- Today is a good day for the WTO, for Kazakhstan and its trading partners.
- The EU offers its congratulations to H.E Minister Aitzhanova and the entire delegation of Kazakhstan. The negotiation of your accession package was a long process in which you have engaged diligently and proactively, and you have earned the success that is being achieved today.
- I want to take this opportunity to extend our compliments to the Chair, Ambassador Vesa Himanen, for his leadership, tireless efforts and diplomacy in bringing this Package to the table for approval. And also express great thanks for the work and valuable contributions provided by the WTO Secretariat and in particular DG Azevedo, DDG Shark and by the Accession Division led by Mr. C. Osakwe. Without their help, we would not have reached to the point where we are. All members of the Working Party also deserve special appreciation for a successful culmination of this arduous process.
- Land-locked and facing many economic challenges, Kazakhstan has shown courage and determination in its efforts to complete the accession process. Thanks to a collective effort, solutions, often creative, have been found to address many challenging and complex issues, in particular those related to Kazakhstan's membership of a customs union. The EU has consistently supported Kazakhstan's accession to the WTO and thus participated constructively in the proceedings to translate such a collective effort into a success.
- The Accession Package that was put together on the 10th of June is of high-quality and forward-looking. It confirms Kazakhstan's commitment to global trade based on market forces, transparency, and rule of law. We are very pleased that the Package is now agreeable *ad referendum* for all WTO Members and will be delighted to have Kazakhstan participating as full-fledged Member of the Organization at the upcoming Ministerial Conference of December this year.
- Once again, all our congratulations to Kazakhstan for this important and challenging package.



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