

EU statement at the WTO General Council meeting, 27/07/15

Statement by EU Ambassador Angelos Pangratis

On behalf of the EU I want to warmly welcome the distinguished Kazakh delegation headed by H.E. President Nazarbayev and thank particularly H.E. President Nazarbayev for his extremely interesting remarks.

The EU is very pleased to welcome Kazakhstan as a new member of the WTO family. After Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, Kazakhstan is the third Central Asian country to join the WTO. We firmly believe that Kazakhstan's accession will serve as a major engine for Central Asia's economic development and reform. We hope that other countries in that region will follow the reform path and will also be able soon to fully participate in the multilateral trading system.

This accession marks the end of a process that lasted almost 20 years, in which the EU played an important role. However, it is Kazakhstan that has worked hard to prepare for WTO membership and to make the changes needed in its domestic legal and regulatory system. The country's determination in its commitment to open trade and investment is rewarded today.

On this occasion, the EU offers its congratulations to the Minister of Economic Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mrs. Zhanar Aitzhanova and her extremely skilled negotiating team. We also extend our congratulations to all the national authorities and to the people of Kazakhstan.

Finally, we also express our appreciation to the Chairman of the Working Party for his leadership and to the DG and the Secretariat for all the hard work to keep us all moving towards this conclusion.

The EU will be very pleased to have Kazakhstan participating as a full-fledged Member of the WTO at the upcoming Ministerial Conference of December this year. This will be the culmination of a process that the EU has continuously and strongly supported.



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