**National WTO Seminar on the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA 2012)**

**Tirana, Albania**

**15-17 March 2023**

**PROGRAMME**

This Workshop is organized by the WTO Secretariat, in cooperation with the government of Albania. The main objectives of the Seminar are: (i) to familiarize participants with the main elements and the principles of the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA 2012); (ii) to elaborate on the potential benefits, challenges, and on the modalities of accession to the GPA 2012, including regarding the preparations of the relevant documents. The Workshop will be held in English.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Day 1, Wednesday, 15 March 2023**

**09:00 Registration**

**SESSION 1: Opening statements and introductions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:30 – 09:45 | 1.1 Opening and welcome remarks | Representative of Albania  Representative of the  World Trade Organization |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | 1.2 Participant introductions and objectives | Participants |

**Session 2: The GPA 2012: Introduction and overview**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | 2.1 The GPA 2012: global policy context; trade dimension; GPA objectives; key principles, rules and flexibilities; and policy considerations for Albania | WTO Secretariat |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | 2.2 General discussion |  |

**SESSION 3: Government procurement in Albania: The starting point pre-GPA accession**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | 3.1 Recent reforms/developments in the government procurement sector in Albania | WTO Secretariat |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | 3.2 General discussion | |

**12:00 – 13:30 Lunch**

**Session 4: Accession to the GPA 2012: Process, strategy, and accompanying domestic reform efforts**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 13:30 – 14:00 | 4.1 Accession to the GPA 2012: recent trends and overview of the key steps | WTO Secretariat |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | 4.2 Negotiating accession to the GPA 2012: Strategy mapping and navigating the process | WTO Secretariat  Participants |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | 4.3 Procurement reforms and GPA accession as a strategy for market liberalisation, good governance and economic reform : practical insights from the work of EBRD | Representative of the EBRD (online session) |
| 16:00 - 16:30 | 4.4 General discussion | |

**Day 2, Thursday, 16 March 2023**

**SESSION 5: GPA accession negotiations – Track 1: Ensuring conformity of the domestic legislation with GPA 2012 requirements**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:30 -10:00 | 5.1 Review of the domestic legislation and the Checklist of Issues: what information should be provided by the acceding candidate? | WTO Secretariat |
| 10:00 – 11:30 | 5.2 Domestic rules vis-à-vis GPA 2012 requirements: comparative review and gap analysis – **Breakout session** | Participants, with introduction by the WTO Secretariat |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | 5.3 Reporting and General discussion | |

**12:00 – 13:30 Lunch**

# Session 6. GPA accession negotiations – Track 2: Market access offers and requests for improvements

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 13:30 – 14:40 | 6.1 Market access opportunities under, and scope and coverage of, the GPA 2012: use of the e-GPA tool *(*[*https://e-gpa.wto.org*](https://e-gpa.wto.org)*)* and official Government Procurement Committee documents as a market access negotiation resource | WTO Secretariat |
| 14:40 – 15:00 | 6.2 General discussion |  |

**15:00 – 15:30 Break**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | 6.3 Preparing a market access offer, and anticipating and responding to requests for improvements: Montenegro's and North Macedonia's accessions as case studies | WTO Secretariat |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | 6.4 Interacting with Parties and the chair during Government Procurement Committee meetings, and with Parties intersessionally (in between Committee meetings) | WTO Secretariat |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | 6.5 Comments and perspectives from Albania Representatives of Albania | |

# 7 Closing session

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 17:00– 17:15 | 7.1 Plenary evaluation and comments | Participants |
| 17:15– 17:30 | 7.2 Closing remarks | Representatives of Albania  WTO Secretariat |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **17:30** | **Close** |

**WTO Secretariat meetings with the General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP)**

**Ministry of Finance and Economy of Albania**

**Tirana, Albania**

**17 March 2023**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Time | Topic | Meetings with |
| 09:30 -10:00 | 1. MC 12 Outcomes on the Pandemic Response:   * WTO Ministerial Declaration on the WTO Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and preparedness for future pandemics; and * WTO Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement (regarding COVID-19 vaccine production) and its domestic implementation. | General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP), Ministry of Finance and Economy (TBC)  Director of |
| 10:00-11:30 | 2. Briefing on the ongoing WTO discussion on a possible extension to diagnostics and therapeutics of the Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement. | General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP), Ministry of Finance and Economy (TBC) |
| 11:30-12:00 | 3. Albania's notifications to the TRIPS Council: State-of-play and exchange on any difficulties encountered | General Directorate of Industrial Property (GDIP), Ministry of Finance and Economy (TBC) |