**WTO-EBRD Workshop on Albania's accession to the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA 2012)**

**London, United Kingdom**

 **25-26 January 2023**

**PROGRAMME[[1]](#footnote-1)**

This Workshop is organized at the request of the Public Procurement Agency of Albania by European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in cooperation with WTO Secretariat under EBRD GPA Technical Cooperation Facility. The main objectives of the workshop are: (i) to familiarize participants with the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA), notably as it relates to trade, governance and the WTO accession process; (ii) to elaborate on the benefits of the GPA observer status, and the modalities, potential benefits and challenges of accession to the GPA; and (iii) to discuss recent developments related to public procurement, including regarding cross-border e-procurement. The Workshop will be held in English.

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**Day 1, Wednesday, 25 January 2023**

**09:00 Registration**

**SESSION 1: Opening statements and introductions**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:30 – 09:45 | 1.1 Opening and welcome remarks | Reida Kashta, General Director of the Public Procurement Agency of AlbaniaMr Reto MalacridaHead of Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division World Trade Organization (TBC)Michel Nussbaumer, Director, LTT, EBRD (TBC) |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | 1.2 Participant introductions and objectives | Participants |

**SESSION 2: The revised WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA): global context and work of the EBRD**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 10:00 – 10:20 | 2.1 The revised GPA: global context, core disciplines, and the interface with WTO Accession | Representative ofWTO Secretariat  |
| 10:20 – 10:40 | 2.2 Supporting procurement reform: work of the EBRD in the region and beyond  | Ms Eliza Niewiadomska, EBRD Legal Transition Programme (LTP) |
| 10:40 – 10:50 | 2.3 General discussion  |  |

**10:50 – 11:00 Break**

**SESSION 3: The revised GPA: transparency, procedural and institutional provisions**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | 3.1 The revised GPA text: basic principles, transparency and procedural rules | WTO Secretariat Representative |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | 3.2 GPA institutional provisions: domestic review procedures and the WTO dispute settlement mechanism  | Dorina Jitaru, Acting Counsel, EBRD LTP  |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | 3.3 The Public Procurement in Albania: general considerations and legal framework  | Representatives of Public Procurement Agency of Albania |
| 12:30 – 12:45 | 3.4 General discussion |

**12:45 – 14:00 Lunch**

**SESSION 4: Potential market access benefits under the revised GPA: overview of the coverage of the Agreement and some experiences of the GPA Parties**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | 5.1 The revised GPA: architecture of the market access schedules, and the e-GPA online market access information resource portal (e-GPA) (<https://e-gpa.wto.org/>) | Representative of WTO Secretariat |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | 5.2 Potential market access benefits for Albania | Jitaru Dorina, Acting Counsel, EBRD LTP |
| 15:00 – 15:15 | 5.4 General discussion |

**Day 2, Thursday, 26 January 2023**

**SESSION 5: Observership and accession to the GPA: strategic considerations and process**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | 6.1 Observership and accession to the GPA: potential benefits and costs, process and procedures | Representative ofWTO Secretariat |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | 6.2 Accession to the GPA: practical considerations and transitional measures | Dorina Jitaru, Acting Counsel, EBRD LTP |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | 6.3 Accession to the GPA: some experiences, and relevance for domestic procurement reforms | Dorina Jitaru, Acting counsel, EBRD LTP |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | 6.4. General discussion |

**11:15 – 11:30 Break**

**SESSION 6: Promoting competition in public procurement markets: the role of the GPA**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | 7.1 Public procurement markets and competition policy: WTO Accession and relevance of the GPA | Representative of WTO Secretariat |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | 7.2 Role of the revised GPA in promoting e-procurement  | Dorina Jitaru, Acting counsel, EBRD LTP  |
| 12:30 – 12:45 | 7.3 General discussion |

**12:45 – 14:00 Lunch**

**SESSION 8: Promoting competition in public procurement markets through
e-procurement**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | 8.1 How to benefit from Big Data: the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) for electronic public procurement | OCP Representative |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | 8.2 E-procurement in Albania: current achievements and future steps |  Representative of PPA of Albania |
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| 15:00 – 15:30 | 8.4 General discussion |

**15:30 – 16:00 Break**

**SESSION 9: Concluding session**

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 16:00– 16:20 | 9.1 Plenary evaluation, comments and closing roundtable | Participants  |
| 16:20– 16:40 | 9.2 Closing remarks | WTO Secretariat RepresentativeMs Eliza Niewiadomska, EBRD Legal Transition Programme (LTP) |

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| **16:40** |  **Close** |

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)