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WTO/EBRD REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN Europe, CENTRAL ASIAN AND THE CAUCASUS COUNTRIES

Joint Vienna Institute,   
Vienna, Austria

10-12 December 2019

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

This Workshop is organized by the WTO Secretariat in co-operation with the Joint Vienna Institute and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), for the benefit of participants from Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus (CEECAC) countries.

The theme of the Workshop is: *Government procurement and international trade disciplines: relevant WTO activities, regional developments, and policy considerations for transition and emerging economies*.

The purpose of the Workshop is to provide a forum for both trade and procurement policy makers and experts to exchange information on national, bilateral, regional and multilateral trade-related activities and initiatives in the area of government procurement. The broad objectives of the programme are: (i) to familiarize participants with WTO and EBRD activities related to government procurement, notably as they relate to trade, governance and economic performance; (ii) to elaborate on the benefits and challenges associated with accession to and implementation of the Agreement and the procedures and modalities to be followed, in addition to related policy issues; and (iii) to discuss international and regional standards, developments and trends in the area of government procurement.

The Workshop will be held in English. Interpretation into Russian will be provided courtesy of EBRD.

The programme will follow an interactive approach emphasizing embedded policy discussion sessions on topical issues, networking, and the exchange of information and sharing of experiences, in addition to lectures and presentations.

It is anticipated that up to two participants from each of the following countries will attend the Workshop: Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, the Republic North of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

To encourage the sharing and exchange of information and experiences on national and regional disciplines, participants are encouraged to come prepared, where possible, with relevant material to contribute to the workshop.

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Day 1, 10 December 2019

[08:00 MEETING POINT FOR PARTICIPANTS: Hotel Lobby]

08:30 REGISTRATION AT JVI, VIENNA

SESSION 1: Opening

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:20 | 1.1 Opening remarks | Joint Vienna Institute  WTO Secretariat  European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) |
| 09:20 – 09:45 | 1.2 Participant introductions | |

SESSION 2: Significance of government procurement for trade and growth in the prevailing economic environment

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:45 – 10:15 | 2.1 The Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) as a pillar of international trade: competition, governance, value for money and the international dimension of government procurement | Mr Robert Anderson  Nottingham University |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | 2.2 General discussion | |

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

SESSION 3: The revised WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA): potential market access benefits and outcomes of the recent renegotiation

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | 3.1 The GPA: basic principles and aims, outcomes of the renegotiation and other developments, and relevance for transition and emerging economies | WTO Secretariat |
| 11:30 - 12:15 | 3.2 Introduction to the GPA and walk-through of the revised text of the Agreement | WTO Secretariat |
| 12:15 - 12:30 | 3.3 General discussion | |

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

SESSION 4: Implementation issues: national and international perspectives

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | 4.1 Synergies between international regimes and domestic reforms: relevance of the revised UNCITRAL Model Law on Procurement and complementarities with the revised GPA | Ms Caroline Nicholas  UNCITRAL |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | 4.2 EBRD GPA TC Facility: new developments and projects | Ms Eliza Niewiadomska  EBRD |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | 4.3 Preventing corruption in public procurement markets: overview and international evidence on effective domestic reforms | Professor Alina Mungiu-Pippidi  Hertie School of Governance  Germany |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | 4.4 General discussion | |

15:45 - 16:00 Coffee break

SESSION 5: Government procurement and the international trading system: legal and institutional foundations - *breakout session*

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| **Time** | **Subject** | | **Speakers** |
| 16:00 – 16:05 | 5.1 | Introduction to the exercise | WTO Secretariat |
| 16:05 – 16:50 | 5.2 | Breakout discussion | Participants interventions |
| 16:50 – 17:30 | 5.3 | Feedback and main takeaways | |

Day 2, 11 December 2019

SESSION 6: Accession to the GPA: potential benefits, costs and policy considerations for transition and emerging economies

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| Time | Subject | Speaker |
| 09:00 - 09:25 | 6.1 Accession to the GPA: present situation, potential benefits and costs and policy considerations for transition economies | WTO Secretariat |
| 09:25 – 09:45 | 6.2 Accession to the GPA: strategic considerations and flexibilities under the revised GPA | WTO Secretariat |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | 6.3 General discussion | |

10:00 – 10:15 Coffee break

SESSION 7: Significance of opening government procurement markets to competition: relevance of the GPA for trade and growth

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 10:15 – 10:40 | 7.1 The role of trade agreements in fighting corruption: some insights and suggestions on the GPA and RTAs as complementary instruments | Professor Alina Mungiu-Pippidi  Hertie School of Governance, Germany |
| 10:40 – 11:05 | 7.2 Measures to prevent collusive tendering: competition policy as a necessary complement to procurement policies | Mr Robert Anderson  Nottingham University |
| 11:05 – 11:25 | 7.3 ***Country example:*** Fighting corruption and preventing collusion – the role of the GPA accession | TBA |
| 11:25 – 11:40 | 7.4 General discussion | |

SESSION 8: E-procurement reforms and GPA accession: practical experience

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:40 – 12:00 | 8.1 E-procurement under the revised GPA | WTO Secretariat |
| 12:00 – 12:20 | 8.2 Electronic data availability and eCitizenship as good governance tools | Professor Alina Mungiu-Pippidi  Hertie School of Governance, Germany |
| 12:20 – 12:40 | 8.3 ***Country example:*** E-procurement reform and the GPA accession | TBA |
| 12:40 – 13:00 | 8.4 General discussion | |

13:00 – 14:15 Lunch break

SESSION 9: Significance of opening government procurement markets to competition: relevance of the GPA for trade and growth, *cont'd*

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 14:15 – 14:45 | 9.1 Opening regional markets to cross-border bidding: opportunities and challenges | Ms Eliza Niewiadomska  EBRD |
| 14:45 – 15:15 | 9.2 ***Country example:*** Opening procurement markets: the experience of Moldova | Ms Dorina Harcenco  EBRD |
| 15:15 – 15:30 | 9.3 General discussion | |

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee break

SESSION 10: Multilateralism and regionalism in the government procurement sector

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 15:45 – 16:15 | 10.1 Government procurement in regional trade agreements: latest developments and implications for the GPA | WTO |
| 16:15 – 16:45 | 10.2 ***Country example:*** The cases of the Eurasian Economic Union Treaty and the MERCOSUR-EU FTA | Ms Dorina Harcenco,  Mr Eriks Mezalis  EBRD |
| 16:45 – 17:00 | 10.3 General discussion | |

Day 3, 12 december 2019

SESSION 11: GPA institutional provisions

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| Time | Subject | Speaker |
| 09:00 – 09:20 | 11.1 GPA domestic review procedures: purpose, institutional design and relevant provisions | WTO Secretariat |
| 09:20 – 09:40 | 11.2 ***Country example:*** Reforming domestic review systems: the case of Ukraine | Mr Eriks Mezalis  EBRD |
| 09:40 - 10:00 | 11.3 WTO dispute settlement procedures under the GPA | WTO Secretariat |
| 10:00 – 10:20 | 11.4 General discussion | |

10:20– 10:40 Coffee break

**SESSION 12: Statistical Reporting and Data**

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| Time | Subject | Speaker |
| 10:40 – 11:10 | 12.1 GPA statistical and reporting requirements | WTO Secretariat |
| 11:10 – 11:40 | 12.2 The Open Contracting Data Standard: relevance for monitoring and efficient public procurement systems | Mr Viktor Nestulia,  Open Contracting Partnership |
| 11:40 – 12:10 | 12.3 ***Country example:*** Piloting OCDS in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Tunisia | TBA |
| 12:10 – 12:30 | 12.4 General discussion | |

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

**SESSION 13: Opening procurement markets, promoting inclusive growth: the relevance of the GPA**

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| Time | Subject | Speaker |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | 13.1 Integrating SMEs and sustainability in government procurement: the GPA Committee's work programmes and role of the GPA | WTO Secretariat |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | 13.2 SMEs and women-owned businesses participation in public procurement markets: evidence from data analysis | Mr Mihaly Fazekas, DIGIWHIST |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | 13.3 ***Country example:*** New approach in the Kyrgyz Republic to Integrating SMEs in government procurement | TBA, Kyrgyz Republic |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | 13.4 General discussion | |

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break

SESSION 14: Concluding session

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| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 16:00 – 16:15 | 14.1 Individual review, evaluation and personal reflection | Participants |
| 16:15 – 16:40 | 14.2 Seminar wrap-up and summary discussion | Mr Robert Anderson  Nottingham University  Participants |
| 16:40 – 17:00 | 14.3 Concluding remarks | WTO  EBRD  JVI |

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1. Version 1.4 – 23.07.2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)