

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

**WT/ACC/RUS/69**

27 October 2011

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**Working Party on the  
Accession of the Russian Federation**

Original: English

## **ACCESSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

### Communication from the Director-General of the WTO

*Letter from the Director-General of the WTO, Mr. Pascal LAMY*

The following communication, dated 26 October 2011, addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, H.E. Mr. Grigol VASHADZE, is being circulated by the WTO Director-General to all Members of the Working Party, in response to the letter addressed to the Director-General and circulated in WT/ACC/RUS/68.

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I am referring to your letter, dated 26 October 2011, regarding the timing of the next meeting of the Working Party on the accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO. I have taken due note of your concerns.

Please be assured that the customary practice of decision-making on the basis of consensus has not been questioned. Indeed, the commitment of Members to this practice was reaffirmed at the consultations held today under the chairmanship of Amb. Stéfan Jóhannesson.

Pursuant to the rules of procedures applied to Working Parties, formal Meetings of Accession Working Parties are convened by the WTO Director-General 10 calendar days prior to the date of the meeting. As noted by several Members at today's consultations, the customary practice of consensus does not preclude the convening of a formal meeting. Nor does the convening of a meeting prejudice its outcome. Taking a decision on the Russian Federation accession at the coming Ministerial Conference is a shared objective by nearly all Members. This was reaffirmed at today's consultations. In order to allow this to happen, a formal meeting has to take place no later than 10 - 11 November. Convening such a meeting requires circulation of a convening notice by Thursday, 27 October.

I sincerely hope that a mutually agreeable solution will be found to the issue under mediation. I remain at your disposal should you have any question. Please note that this response will be circulated to Members along with your letter.

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