



Call for Papers

CESD & KAS International Conference

on

“Azerbaijan's Accession to the WTO in Context of the European Integration”

October, 01, 2014, Baku, Azerbaijan

Organizers: Center Economic and Social Development (CESD) and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Project is implemented with support of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Deadline for submitting abstracts: May 30, 2014.

Working languages of the conference: English and Azerbaijani, with simultaneous translation between them

Scope of the Conference (Project Description)

The fundamental goal of the EU's bilateral co-operation within the EaP framework is to make its bilateral relations with the individual partner countries closer. The EaP envisages negotiations and the implementation of Association Agreements and the creation of deep and comprehensive free trade areas between the EU and the partner states.

Azerbaijan still thinks about to join Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA), because, diversified and balanced economy of Azerbaijan, no energy dependency from other countries (Russia and Iran) and having good relations with neighbor and western countries give to Azerbaijan a lot of advantages. WTO Accession is the pre-condition for Azerbaijan to start DCFTA negotiations.

Egypt, Turkey, Paraguay, Brazil, China, Pakistan, Jordan supported Azerbaijan's accession on favorable terms and praised steps by Azerbaijan in this direction. Although as in the multilateral negotiation on Agriculture WTO stressed their position about Azerbaijanis accession to WTO with a status of developed country and Azerbaijani side insisted on acceding as a developing country.

At the meeting the WTO members agreed to submit new and follow-up questions on

Azerbaijan's foreign trade regime to the Secretariat of the WTO. Now the major problem is based on tariffs, however, national legislation should also comply with European conventions. Unfortunately, all of negotiations are conducted without considering Azerbaijani society opinion and interests. The one reason of absence of public-private dialogue on this subject is that the government may not interested in public disclose of WTO negotiations, however, another reason is that different stakeholders have some difficulties to join to the negotiations due to lack of information and knowledge on WTO.

Participants

Both Azerbaijani and foreign scholars will be invited to attend the conference. Although most participants will be invited, applications are also encouraged on a specific format through the CESD from other scholars who may be interested. A Total of 50 participants are planned to be gathered in this conference

Expected impacts of the conference

Holding of the conference on comprehensive information on advantages of WTO accession in Baku, Azerbaijan is primarily aimed to put the interest in speeding up of Azerbaijan's accession to the WTO using several economic models into the agenda. First, the aim is to urge Azerbaijan government to take these issues into serious consideration.

Second, the conference will support contacts between researches, dissemination and articulation of accession process and in turn establish network of development researchers, practitioners and policy makers.

Third, public opinion will be attracted to issues of the Azerbaijan's accession to the WTO.

Fourth, in an effort to make available results and proceedings of the conference to the government, academicians and civil society, invited papers and other discussions will be published in a printed format as the result of the conference and publicized widely through the printed and electronic mediums.

Finally, the conference will seek to articulate tools and ways to be used in the Azerbaijan's accession process to the WTO.

Call for Papers

Abstracts are due to May 30, 2014. Please send your abstract maximum of one page (Font face Calibri; Font size: 11, Line spacing: single spaced) abstract and your CV to the attention of Narmin Ibrahimova at narminibrahimova@cesd.az.