

*Session 4: Progress and Challenges in WTO Accessions  
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Promoting Connectivity for an Inclusive Asia and the Pacific*



# **Kazakhstan: Accession to the WTO**

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# Accession process



- From 1996 to 2015
- November 30, 2015 – #162 official member of the WTO
- Introduced: Over **50 national legislative acts** and more than 10 Legal Decisions of the Eurasian Economic Union

# Goods



- **Commitments:**
  - ✓ Bilateral Market Access Agreements WTO Members – **31**
  - ✓ Average tariff rate - **8.1%**
  - ✓ **14%** for agricultural goods
  - ✓ **6.5%** for non-agricultural goods

# Goods



- **Bilateral Market Access Agreements were signed with 31 WTO Members:**
- Kyrgyzstan (25/12/2003); Georgia (11/11/2004); Pakistan (05/07/2005); Turkey (15/08/2005); China (31/08/2005); Korea (14/10/2005); Oman (20/10/2005); Japan (30/03/2012); Cuba (14/12/2005); Mexico (16/12/2005); Norway (25/04/2006); Honduras (28/07/2006); Dominican Republic (04/10/2006); Bulgaria (06/10/2006); Switzerland (02/11/2006); Egypt (07/11/2006); Israel (27/02/2007); Brazil (23/04/2007); Malaysia (21/12/2007); Canada (13/02/2008); Australia (11/12/2008); India (24/01/2009); Ecuador (28/10/2010); El Salvador (24/11/2010); USA (22/11/2010); EU (24/01/2011); Saudi Arabia (07/04/2012); Argentina (02/03/2012); Guatemala (14/12/2011); Chinese Taipei (13/06/2013); Tajikistan (16/02/2014)

# Goods



- **Commitments:**
- Kazakhstan (prior EAEU) provide tariff rate exemptions on a number tariff lines (*automobiles, food products (fish, meat), forestry, airplanes etc.*)
- Tariff review every year from 1 December
- Tariff exemptions from EAEU's External custom tariff (ECT) – for 4 years
- List of tariff exemptions
  - ✓ by 2016 – 1914 tariff lines
  - ✓ by 2017 – 2475 tariff lines

# Services



- List of Kazakhstan's specific obligations for services
- Obligations are accepted in 10 sectors and include 116 service subsectors
- Generally, obligations reflects access conditions for foreign service suppliers active at the time of WTO accession
- Except (simplification of the regime):
  - ✓ Telecommunication and Labor sector
  - ✓ Financial services market

# Services



- ✓ **Labor sector**
- ✓ quotas approved by the GOK annually are canceled
- ✓ by 2021, the test for economic feasibility in the transfer of managers and specialists is canceled. For managers, this test is not applied from the date of entry
- ✓ the possibility of applying a 50% limit on the number of foreign managers and specialists within one company

# Services



- **Financial services market**

**Insurance:**

- ✓ by 2021, the establishment of direct branches of foreign banks and insurance/reinsurance organizations and companies
- ✓ direct insurance abroad of the Maritime transport services' risks (except for ships providing cabotage services),
- ✓ commercial aviation, launch and freight of space flights (including satellites),
- ✓ as well as the risks of transportation of goods, vehicles themselves and the resulting liability



# Services



## Financial services market

### Banking:

- ✓ the minimum amount of assets of the parent Bank and the insurance reinsurance company required to open a branch in Kazakhstan in the amount of 20 and 5 billion us dollars, respectively
- ✓ the minimum amount of the Deposit, which the branch of a foreign Bank is entitled to accept from individuals in the amount of more than US\$120K, is fixed
- ✓ a ban on the establishment of branches of foreign companies managing pension assets in Kazakhstan and a 50% restriction on foreign participation in companies engaged in investment management of pension assets

# Services



- **Telecommunications:**

obligations to remove restrictions on foreign participation in the telecommunications sector at the end of the transition period, the conditions of access to the telecommunications market were liberalized regardless of accession to the WTO

***Thank you for your  
attention!***