

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

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WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Statement of the Head of the Russian Delegation on Item B (Legislative Developments) of the Agenda of the 13th Meeting of the Working Party on the Accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO

Distinguished Mr Chairman,

Distinguished members of the Working Party,

To improve the legal framework of the ongoing economic reforms and to intensify the process of Russia's integration into the world economy, our country has been working consistently on its legislation in order to define rules of domestic legislation which would be compliant with existing international requirements and comparable with the WTO rules and regulations.

Members of the Working Party have at their disposal document WT/ACC/RUS/45/Rev.1 containing the plan of legislative work and a description of the implementation of the Russian Government's legislative work to reform the economy as a whole.

Based on the results of the Working Party's previous meetings, Russia has defined its legislative priorities aimed at making its domestic legislation compliant with the WTO requirements. As a result, the Government adopted on 8 August 2001 its Decisions No. 1054-r which approved a plan for the development of ten draft laws.

I would like to inform members of the Working Party that thanks to intensive work the plan has largely been implemented.

Above all, I would like to state that a new version of the Customs Code, which fully meets the WTO requirements and simplifies considerably customs procedures for all parties to international trade, was submitted to the State Duma in November 2001. The Duma is also reviewing the draft law "On Fees for the Issuance of Licenses and the Right to Production and Turnover of Ethyl Alcohol, Alcohol Containing and Alcoholic Products" which eliminates discrimination against foreign suppliers.

Another five draft laws on the said list were submitted for consideration by the Russian Federation Government in the autumn of 2001 – "On Special Safeguards, Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Measures in Import of Goods", "On the Licensing of Export and Import of Goods", "On State Regulation of Production and Turnover of Ethyl Alcohol, Alcohol Containing and Alcoholic Products", "On the Fundamentals of Technical Regulation of Standardization, Certification and Conformity Confirmation", and "On Currency Control and Currency Regulation".

¹ Unofficial translation.

The draft laws "On State Assistance" and Chapter 27 of the "Customs Code Customs Duties and Customs Fees" are at the stage of inter-departmental coordination.

The new version of the law "On State Regulation of Foreign Trade Activity" has reached the final stage of development.

In light of the wishes expressed by members of the Working Party and for the purposes of transparency these draft laws have been placed on the Ministry's web-site and have been handed over to some countries in response to their requests for further examination and comments.

We shall look at these and other draft laws in greater detail when we discuss document WT/ACC/RUS/20/Rev.1.

And now I would like to pass the floor to A. Likhachev who is a member of our delegation, and Deputy of the State Duma.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
