

**Trade and Development Board, sixtieth session**  
Geneva, 16–27 September 2013

**Plenary on Item 7:**  
**Evolution of the international trading system**  
**and its trends from a development perspective**

**Speaker: Eurasian Economic Commission**

**Monday, 23 September 2013**

*Not checked against delivery \**

\* This statement is made available in the language and form in which it was received. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

**Speech at the TDB 60th session**  
**United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**  
**23 September 2013**

**Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates!**

- First of all, please, allow me to express our gratitude for the opportunity to take part in this session and share some thoughts on the evolution problems of the international trade system.
- The Eurasian Economic Commission, having received an observer status in UNCTAD (since 27th June 2013), works closely with the Organization within the framework of the Memorandum of cooperation between the Commission and UNCTAD signed in Astana on 23rd May 2013.
- Further to the Memorandum, in a near future an Action Plan aiming at cooperation between the Commission and UNCTAD for 2013 – 2015 will be approved. Its main objective is to launch a series of joint workshops, conferences, expert meetings in the areas of mutual interest to both organizations.
- Returning to the subject of our discussion, I would like to focus on one particular element of the development of the international trade system – preferential trade agreements.
- Free Trade Agreements which by their definition imply a considerable liberalization and eliminations of customs tariffs and quantitative restrictions in trade between the Parties are becoming a worldwide trend.
- The Customs Union of the Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation is a crucial step in deepening economic integration in Eurasia. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 internal customs borders were completely eliminated between our countries and a common market for goods was launched. Next step will be to form the Eurasian Economic Union by 2015.
- At the same time, if an increase in foreign trade can be credited to an increase in exports of natural resources; in mutual trade we have seen a trend towards diversification. This is the case mostly due to the lift of administrative, technical and other non-tariff barriers between our countries.

- The Customs Union aims at a more transparent and predictable trade both with our closest neighbors and our main trade partners.
- The legal base for such activities is contained in provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the CU in the framework of the Multilateral Trading System.
- Russia's accession to the WTO has set in motion the process of harmonizing certain provisions that fixed in the Protocol of Russia's Accession to the WTO, and delegated by Russia to the Customs Union's regulatory authorities and contained within the Customs Union legislation.
- Main results of the Commission's work in this area are:
  - Adoption of the Customs Union Common Customs Tariff which is in line with Russia's commitments to the WTO and its annual adjustments made in accordance with Russia's Schedule of Concessions and Commitments. As a result of changes to the Common Customs Tariff entering into force starting from September 1st 2013, tariff rates for 5100 tariff lines have been lowered.
  - Changes to Common Veterinary Requirements for Goods Subject to Veterinary Control as well as to Common Forms of Veterinary Certificates.
  - Adoption of the CU Technical Regulations.
  - A special Department of the Commission was given a complete competence to conduct investigations and apply trade remedies measures.

Thank you for attention!