

# ADVANCING AFGHAN TRADE

EU TRADE-RELATED ASSISTANCE

NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 2017 – ISSUE NO 3

The International Trade Centre (ITC) launched a trade-related assistance initiative funded by the European Union called Advancing Afghan Trade (AAT). Set in motion on 29 November 2016 in Kabul, the initiative intends to contribute to the strengthening of the country's trade capacities, with the long-term goal of helping to transform Afghanistan and its regional partners into a vibrant regional economic hub. The project will be implemented over a three-year period.

Funded by the EU, implementation of the initiative is now under way and is led by ITC in close collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. In this third newsletter, we invite you to read the articles below to discover further progress made.

We look forward to sharing regular updates with all our stakeholders and garnering as much support from the community as possible, so please feel free to share this newsletter. It is our belief that the AAT will contribute to how trade can be used as a lever for economic growth, job creation, poverty reduction and enhanced regional cooperation.



MAJOR STRIDES MADE TOWARDS AFGHAN EXPORT  
STRATEGY AND TRADE POLICY

Afghan government officials and business leaders have advanced two plans that, once finalized, should help the country increase trade – a time-proven method, when applied effectively, for creating jobs and reducing poverty. The country’s proposed National Export Strategy surmounted two milestones on 27 November when it was presented to the Afghan Council of Ministers ...

[Read more >](#)



## NATIONAL TRADE POLICY MEETING SPEECHES

While only one year into implementation, the project has already made an important contribution to policy and regulatory coherence. It has produced a National Export Strategy identifying actions needed to develop export sectors with high growth and employment potential. My colleagues are also in Kabul to present the finalised National Export Strategy ...

[Read more >](#)



## NEW TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR AFGHAN TRADE OFFICIALS KICKS OFF IN NEW DELHI

Trade officials from Afghanistan last week started a new training programme aimed at bolstering their capacity to formulate policy, carry out regulatory reforms, and increase the country’s competitiveness in regional and international markets, through a project implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC). Twenty officers with the Afghan Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI) ...

[Read more >](#)



## SPEECH BY ITC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT RECCA VII

Through the EU-funded initiative “Advancing Afghan Trade”, we are supporting SMEs to overcome the plethora of challenges that make it difficult, if not impossible, for them to reach markets in the region and beyond. We are supporting government institutions strengthen their capacity to formulate and implement trade strategies. As I said earlier, many Afghan businesses struggle ...

[Read more >](#)



## STRENGTHENING CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

Through the EU-funded initiative “Advancing Afghan Trade”, we are supporting SMEs to overcome the plethora of challenges that make it difficult, if not impossible, for them to reach markets in the region and beyond. We are supporting government institutions strengthen their capacity to formulate and implement trade strategies. As I said earlier, many Afghan businesses struggle ...

[Read more >](#)





## KABUL MEETING COMPLETES EFFORT TO FINALISE NATIONAL EXPORT STRATEGY PRIORITIES



At a meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan on 3 October representatives from the Afghan public and private sectors have agreed on the Plan of Action for the country's National Export Strategy (NES). The NES is intended as a roadmap for the joint efforts of the Government of Afghanistan, the private sector and its international development partners to increase competitiveness ...

[Read more >](#)

## IN THE PRESS



Since the last newsletter, a lot of progress has been made and the project has attracted significant media attention. We have listed the articles below - take a moment in read over and find out more about our project!

[Read more >](#)

## WHAT'S NEXT?



See here for a brief overview of upcoming project activities in the next quarter ...

[Read more >](#)

