

Gambia needs to be an effective participant in global trade processes – *Global trade expert*

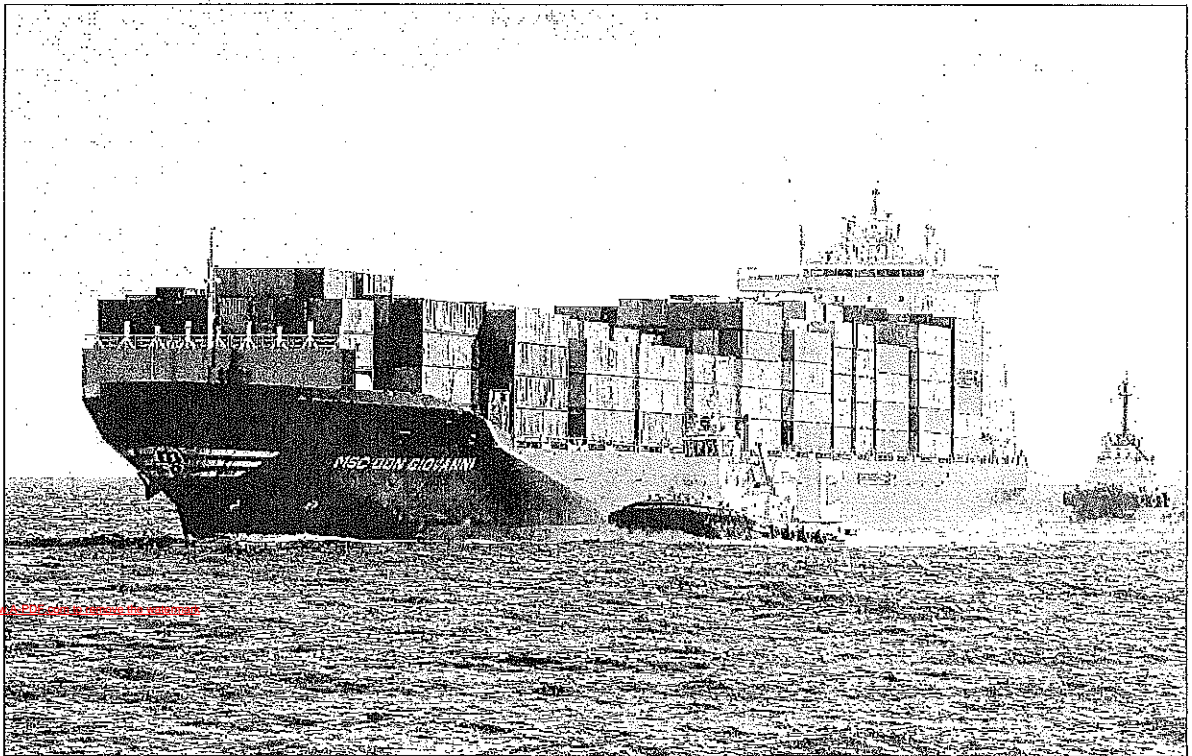
MODOU BALDEH

Panos Konandreas, Trade Expert at the Geneva based Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation (AITIC) has laid emphasis on the

the SPS and TBT process. "There is no reason for The Gambia not to be in a position to defend its export interests at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) when these may be threatened by unfair practices of other WTO members.

the MTS is a prerequisite for protecting domestic producers and consumers from unfair practices of its trading partners.

According to Mr Panos, the WTO membership has grown to 153 members and nearly all the new



need for The Gambia to be an effective participant in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) process.

He made this call while delivering a statement on behalf of the AITIC at the opening ceremony of a three day workshop on Notification Requirements under the SPS and TBT Agreement, organised by the Department of State for Trade, Industry and Employment, held at the Corinthia Atlantic Hotel in Banjul.

He added that the main objective of the workshop is to see that The Gambia becomes a full participant of

Conversely, there is no reason for The Gambia not to be in a position to protect its domestic producers and consumers, their health and that of plants and animals from unfair practices," said the Geneva based diplomat.

He emphasised that, The Gambia should be in a position to put in place a system where both its offensive and defensive interests are effectively addressed. He described The Gambia as a very small country with limited resources to fully engage in the World Trade Organisation process. Adding that the country is open in economic and trade matters and being able to play by the rules of

members are developing countries. "More importantly, developing countries have become very vocal in WTO meetings and in the on-going negotiations. "You are all familiar with the cotton issue, that has been raised by four West African cotton producers and it is an integral part of the negotiation on agriculture and will be addressed effectively, together with a package of comprehensive programmes to be able to achieve these goals. Our objective is to draw a road map for The Gambia to become an effective participant in the SPS & TBT processes," said the Geneva based diplomat.