



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
CHEMIN DU POMMIER 5, CASE POSTALE 330
CH-1218 LE GRAND-SACONNEX/GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



Geneva/Brussels, 15 July 2012

ANNUAL 2012 SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

Since 2002, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament have been jointly leading the way in a process known as the *Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization (WTO)* - a permanent mechanism of parliamentary oversight of this inter-governmental body, its de facto parliamentary dimension. The principal objective of the Conference is to enhance external transparency of the WTO and hold it accountable to legislators as elected representatives of the people.

We are pleased to inform you that the next session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will take place on **15 and 16 November 2012**. As in 2011, the session will be held on **WTO premises**, Centre William Rappard in Geneva. Your parliament is invited to send a delegation to this important event which will come at a moment when the multilateral trading system is faced with new powerful challenges.

As on past occasions, the forthcoming session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO is intended primarily for **parliamentarians who specialize in matters of international trade** in their respective parliaments. The session will provide them with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on recent developments in the Doha Round, interact with government negotiators and WTO officials, exchange views and experiences with colleagues in other parliaments, and engage in a dialogue with civil society representatives.

We very much hope that your parliament will participate in the forthcoming session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO and look forward to receiving the names of your delegates in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Abdelwahad Radi
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament

**ANNUAL 2012 SESSION OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO**
Back to basics: Connecting politics and trade

Geneva, 15-16 November 2012

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Thursday, 15 November

09:00 - 12:30	Pre-Conference session of the Steering Committee (<i>in camera meeting, IPU Headquarters</i>)
10:00 - 18:00	<i>Registration of participants</i>
15:00 - 15:30	Inaugural session
15:30 - 16:30	Presentation of reports and interactive debate on substantive theme Trade as a tool of economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation
16:30 - 18:00	Policy dialogue with members of the high-level panel designated by the WTO Director-General to define the future of trade Analysing 21st century trade challenges
18:00 - 19:30	<i>Reception at the WTO</i>
20:00 - 22:00	<i>Steering Committee (in camera meeting, IPU Headquarters)</i>

Friday, 16 November

10:00 - 11:00	Hearing with the WTO Director-General
11:00 - 13:00	Continuation of interactive debate on substantive theme Trade as a tool of economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation
13:00 - 15:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
15:00 - 16:30	Panel discussion Trade in services: time for political decisions
16:30 - 17:30	Conclusion of interactive debate on substantive theme Trade as a tool of economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation
17:30 - 18:00	Closing session: adoption of the outcome document

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**PRACTICAL
INFORMATION**

Geneva, 15-16 November 2012

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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Illustration: The WTO building in Geneva: map of the area

Date and venue

1. The annual 2012 session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will be held on Thursday, 15 November, and Friday, 16 November, at the WTO Headquarters in Geneva (see map on page 4). The meeting room is located in the CR-building which is the modern edifice next to the WTO's main entrance.

2. An inaugural ceremony will take place at 3 p.m. on 15 November and will be followed by plenary working sessions. The morning session will start at 10 a.m. and finish at 1 p.m., whereas afternoon sessions will start at 3 p.m. and finish at 6 p.m.

Participation and registration

3. Participation in the annual session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will be guided by the general principles set out in Article 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference.

4. As a rule, the number of MPs in each national delegation should not exceed four. Observer delegations should be in principle limited to two persons.

5. In order to ensure the success of the session, it is of paramount importance that each parliament nominate MPs who are directly involved in parliamentary activities dealing with international trade and especially WTO negotiations.

6. All delegates are kindly requested to complete and submit the enclosed registration form which is also available on the IPU website at <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade12/registration.pdf>. The form should be returned to the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union by **1 November 2012 at the latest**. Any modifications concerning the composition of the delegation should likewise be communicated to the IPU Secretariat.

7. The Registration Desk will be located at the entrance of the WTO compound and will be open on both 15 and 16 November, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

8. For identification and security reasons, all delegates are requested to wear their identification badges at all times during the session and at social functions.

List of Delegates

9. A provisional List of Delegates will be distributed at the beginning of the session. This list will be issued on the basis of confirmations received by the IPU Secretariat by the registration deadline of 1 November (possible changes will be accepted up to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 13 November). Delegations are kindly requested to report any changes in the provisional list to the Registration Desk. A revised list will be published on the IPU website after the session.

Working modalities

10. Procedural arrangements for the session will be in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, adopted at its Brussels session in November 2004.

11. A detailed work programme of the session will be circulated in advance of the Conference and published on the IPU website.

12. All panel discussions, hearings and debates on substantive themes will take place in plenary. The debate on each substantive theme will be launched by rapporteurs who will have some eight minutes each to present their discussion papers. Delegates can participate in the debate either by making brief statements or by asking questions. The debate will be interactive; no formal statements will be delivered and no list of speakers will be drawn up in advance. The order of interventions and questions will be decided by the Chair.

13. The draft outcome document of the session will be prepared by the Steering Committee and communicated to the participants in advance of the session, in accordance with Art. 7.1 of the Rules. Specific arrangements concerning the submission of amendments to the draft (Article 7.2 of the Rules) will be announced on the spot.

Languages

14. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. Official written documentation of the session will be available in English and French only.

Documents

15. The only official documents of the session will be its programme, agenda, the list of delegates, discussion papers prepared by the rapporteurs, the draft outcome document elaborated by the Steering Committee and information notes prepared by the Secretariat. WTO may provide background documents for distribution to delegates upon registration.

16. Should participants and observers wish to distribute their own documents or other material pertaining to the agenda of the session, they may use a table provided for that purpose in the immediate vicinity of the meeting room.

Information Desk

17. The Information Desk, situated near to the entrance of the meeting room, will distribute session documents and handle messages for delegates. Lost property may be turned in or claimed at this Desk.

Official reception

18. Details concerning the official reception, to be held in the evening of 15 November on WTO premises, will be provided on registration.

Visas

19. Attention is drawn to the strict provisions in force regarding entry into Switzerland, which is part of the Schengen zone. Delegates requiring an entry visa to Schengen States must obtain it from the Swiss consulate or diplomatic mission responsible for the necessary arrangements in the delegates' country of residence.

Hotel accommodation

20. Delegates are responsible for their own hotel expenses. In view of the fact that several major international meetings are taking place in Geneva in the month of November 2012, it is imperative that hotel reservations be made as soon as possible. Booking of rooms can be done on-line (<http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/?rubrique=0000000253&lang=eng>) through the website of the *Geneva Tourism Office*.

21. Delegations from countries having a Permanent Mission in Geneva can make their hotel reservations through their respective Mission. The Missions are used to receiving national delegations to UN meetings and to handling hotel reservations for them and many have signed preferential tariff agreements with hotels close to the WTO.

Local transport and taxis

22. The WTO is right across the street from the final stop ("Jardin Botanique") of bus no.1, which leaves from the city centre (train station "Cornavin" and Place Bel-Air). From the airport, hop on bus no. 28 to the final stop ("Jardin Botanique"). Tickets must be purchased and validated before entering buses or trams. Individual tickets are available from vending machines at main bus stops, and cards for multiple trips can be purchased at a reduced rate from newsagents in town bearing the "TPG" (Geneva transport service) sign.

23. In Geneva, taxis are only available on call and cannot be hailed in the streets. There are taxi ranks in almost all main squares in Geneva. Taxis can be called by telephone by dialling the following local numbers: 022 3202020, 022 3202202 and 022 3314133.

Requests for further information

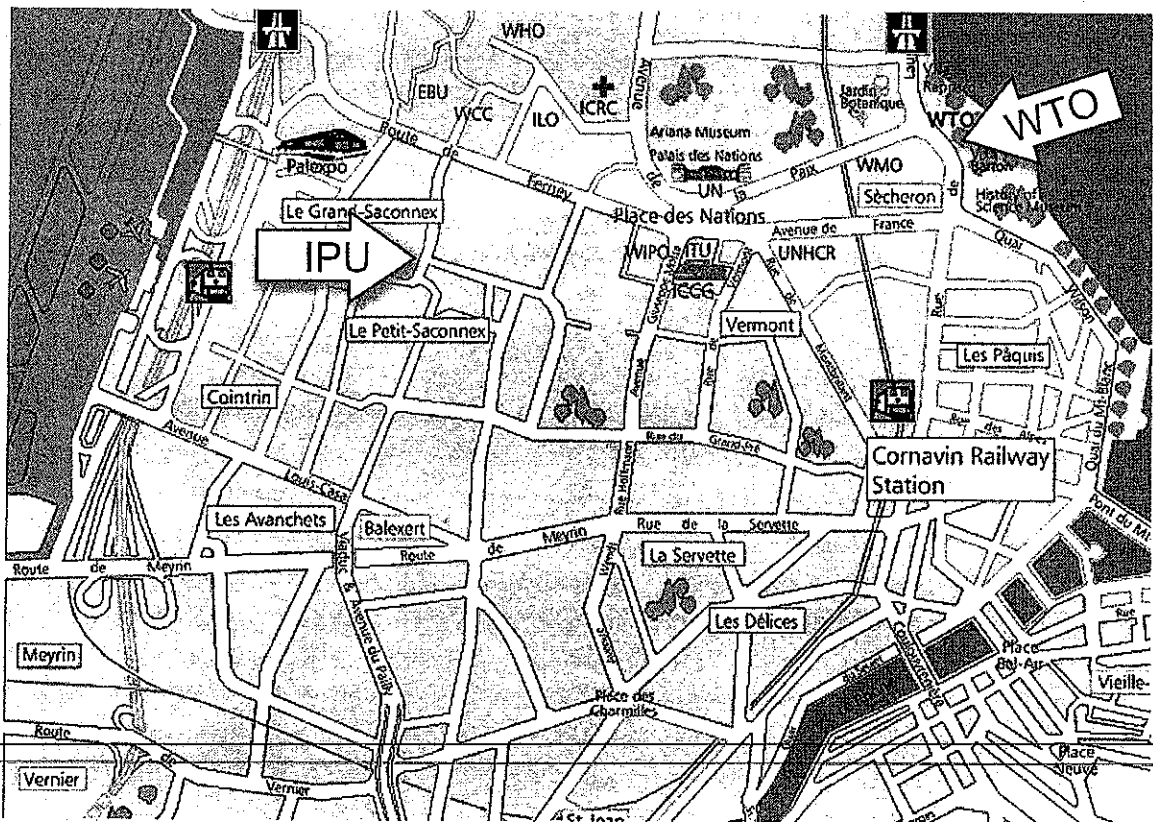
24. Requests for further information concerning the annual 2012 session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO should be addressed to:

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MAP OF THE AREA



World Trade Organization
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 Switzerland