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BALI SESSION
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO
2 and 5 December 2013
Advance Information Note

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

As you may be aware, the World Trade Organization (WTO) will hold its 9th Ministerial Conference (MC9) in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 6 December 2013. The international community is hopeful that the forthcoming session will provide much-needed political momentum to the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations. With the world economy undergoing profound transformation, the WTO is expected to adjust its focus and working methods in order to enhance its role as an organization working for sustainable development, job creation and poverty alleviation.

For over a decade, the IPU and the European Parliament have jointly spearheaded a process known as the **Parliamentary Conference on the WTO**, with sessions held once a year and on the occasion of WTO Ministerial Conferences. The principal objective of the Parliamentary Conference is to enhance the external transparency of the WTO and make this intergovernmental organization accountable to legislators as elected representatives of the people.

I am pleased to inform you that the next session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will take place in **Bali, Indonesia**, in conjunction with MC9. The IPU and the European Parliament, with the support of the Indonesian House of Representatives, have already embarked on the practical preparations for the parliamentary session in Bali, which will be patterned on a similar event organized in Hong Kong in 2005 in connection with MC6.

The session will include two sittings, the first of which will take place on **2 December**, when most delegates will already be in Bali but not yet too busy at the Ministerial Conference. The second sitting will take place towards the end of MC9, in the afternoon of **5 December**, and will include a last-minute update on progress at the Ministerial Conference. In between these two dates, parliamentarians will be expected to work with their respective national delegations to MC9 and will also have the possibility of attending various parallel events and

activities taking place on the premises of the Ministerial Conference, the Bali Nusa Dua Convention Centre (BNDCC). A detailed programme of the Bali session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will be circulated to all parliaments closer to the date, together with a practical information note.

For logistical reasons, the parliamentary session in Bali will be held outside the security perimeter of the Ministerial Conference, at one of the official recommended hotels of MC9, **Patra Jasa Bali Resort & Villas** (<http://www.thepatrabali.com>). Situated close to Bali International Airport in the Patra Jasa Kuta area, some 20 minutes' drive from BNDCC, this hotel has appropriate meeting facilities and will be easily accessible for MC9 delegates by courtesy shuttle buses.

The parliamentary session is intended primarily for legislators who are directly involved in parliamentary activities dealing with international trade and development. We strongly urge you to ensure that members of your parliament are included in your country's official national delegation to MC9. This is by far the easiest way to ensure that their transportation, visa, and accommodation needs are taken care of in a centralized way. More importantly, your delegates would then be automatically accredited to the Ministerial Conference and receive ID badges offering them unrestricted access to both BNDCC and the venue of the parliamentary session.

We know from experience, however, that some members of parliament and accompanying staff may travel to Bali outside the framework of their countries' official national delegations to MC9. All such delegates must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements and obtain entry visas for Indonesia, if necessary. Concerning their access to the premises of the parliamentary session, Patra Jasa Bali Resort, an IPU registration desk there will provide them with special "Parliamentary Session" badges that will be valid exclusively for that venue and on 2 and 5 December only.

Hotel accommodation in Bali at the time of MC9 will be in high demand. It is advisable therefore to book hotel rooms without delay, for example through the official MC9 Hotel Agent, PT. Royalindo Expoduta (fax +6221 31934470; e-mail nelse@royalindo.com). Please note that most governments have already started registering their delegations to MC9 and that the booking of hotel rooms is well under way.

On behalf of the co-organizers of the Bali session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, I wish to express the hope that members of your parliament will take part in MC9 and will also attend the parliamentary session on 2 and 5 December. Substantive documents of the session will be forwarded to you in due course after the meeting of the Conference Steering Committee, to be held in early October.

Yours sincerely,



Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General