



Inter-Parliamentary Union
Forlorenes Forbund



Geneva/Brussels, 28 November 2014

Annual 2015 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 **16 and 17 February 2015**. As in 2012, 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,

Saber Chowdhury
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament

ANNUAL 2015 SESSION OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

WTO at the age of 20

Geneva, 16-17 February 2015

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

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Monday, 16 February

10:00 - 12:30	Pre-Conference session of the Steering Committee (in camera meeting, IPU Headquarters)
10:00 - 18:00	Registration of participants
15:00 - 15:30	Inaugural session
15:30 - 16:30	Presentation of reports and interactive debate on the substantive theme Trade as an enabler of peace and better living conditions
16:30 - 18:00	Dialogue with senior WTO negotiators and officials Policy, politics and trade: keeping the WTO negotiations on the right track
18:00 - 19:30	Reception at the WTO
20:00 - 22:00	Steering Committee (in camera meeting, IPU Headquarters)

Tuesday, 17 February

10:00 - 11:00	Hearing with the WTO Director-General Why trade? Reflections about the WTO anniversary
11:00 - 13:00	Continuation of interactive debate on the substantive theme Trade as an enabler of peace and better living conditions
13:00 - 15:00	Lunch break
15:00 - 16:30	Panel discussion Conveying the benefits of the WTO to the wider public: The case of consumers and young people
16:30 - 17:30	Conclusion of interactive debate on the substantive theme Trade as an enabler of peace and better living conditions
17:30 - 18:00	Closing session: adoption of the outcome document