



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



Geneva/Brussels, 26 February 2016

2016 Annual 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 jointly organized 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 main objective of the Conference is to enhance 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 **13 and 14 June 2016**. As in 2015, 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 facing 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, including the outcomes of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, 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