



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



Geneva/Brussels, 19 October 2018

## 2018 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 **6 and 7 December 2018**. As in the past, this session will take place on the premises of the WTO, at Centre William Rappard in Geneva. Your parliament is invited to send a delegation to this important event which will be held in a context of tough but manageable challenges the global trading system is facing.

As on past occasions, the forthcoming annual session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO is intended primarily for legislators who are involved in parliamentary activities dealing with international trade in their respective parliaments.

This session will provide them with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on recent developments in the Doha Round, and the outcomes of the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, interact with government negotiators and WTO officials, exchange views and experiences with other parliamentary colleagues, 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,

Gabriela Cuevas Barron  
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Antonio Tajani  
President of the European Parliament