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2018 ANNUAL SESSION OF THE  
PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

***WTO: The way forward***

Geneva, 6-7 December 2018

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*Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament  
(WTO Headquarters, Room CR1)*

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

**Thursday 6 December**

(43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Steering Committee *in camera* from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at the IPU Headquarters)

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| 10:00 – 18:00 | Registration of participants   |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | Inaugural session <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron</b>, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)</li><li>• <b>Mr. Fabio Massimo Castaldo</b>, Vice-President of the European Parliament</li><li>• <b>Ambassador Junichi Ihara</b>, Permanent Representative of Japan to the WTO, Chairperson of the WTO General Council</li></ul>   |
| 15:00 – 16:00 | Hearing with the WTO Director-General, <b>Mr. Roberto Azevêdo</b>  |
| 16:00 – 18:30 | <i>Challenges and opportunities facing the WTO</i><br>Dialogue with senior WTO negotiators and officials<br><u>Guest Speakers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ambassador Roberto Zapata Barradas</b>, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the WTO, Chairman of the Negotiating Group on Rules</li><li>• <b>Ambassador Eloi Laourou</b>, Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations Office and other international Organizations in Geneva, Chairperson of Trade Policy Review Body at the WTO</li><li>• <b>Ambassador Sunanta Kangvalkulkij</b>, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the WTO, Chairwoman of the Dispute Settlement Body</li><li>• <b>Ambassador Dennis Shea</b>, Permanent Representative of the United States to the WTO.</li></ul> |
| 18:30 – 19:30 | <i>Reception at the WTO</i>  |
| 20:00 – 22:00 | Steering Committee ( <i>in camera meeting, IPU Headquarters</i> )  |

**Friday 7 December**

9:30 – 12:30

*WTO 2030?*

*New and disquieting developments - including emerging trade wars, the growing trend towards unilateral measures and the looming paralysis of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body - are putting the multilateral rules-based system at risk. What WTO do we envisage for 2030? What are the solutions ahead? What can parliamentarians do to bolster free and fair trade generally and in the WTO in particular?*

Presentation of reports and interactive debate

Rapporteurs:

- Mr. Jean Bizet, Senator (France)
- Mr. Paul Rübig, Member of the European Parliament

12:30 – 14:30

Lunch break

14:30 – 17:30

*How can technological development benefit the people?*

*New technologies develop very rapidly. Digitalization, robots, artificial intelligence, the internet of things and 3D printing will revolutionize how we produce, work, move and consume. The world economy will need a trade policy framework that embraces change and responds to the many fast-paced transformation processes. Will the WTO and its members be able to deliver on the new challenges? How can we make sure that technological development benefits the people? How can parliamentarians contribute to achieving this?*

Presentation of reports and interactive debate

Rapporteurs:

- Ms. Dieh Mandiaye Ba, Member of Parliament (Senegal)
- Ms. Emma McClarkin, Member of the European Parliament

17:30 – 18:00

Closing session: adoption of the outcome document

Rapporteur suggested:

- **Ms. Inmaculada Rodrigues-Piñero**,  
Member of the European Parliament