
PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

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

QUESTIONNAIRE ON PARLIAMENTARY BODIES DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Faced with the impact of globalization on the lives of their constituents and civil society, parliaments in many countries have come to focus their attention on issues of international trade and in particular on the role of the World Trade Organization (WTO), with its binding rule-making and adjudication powers. In many ways, this is a result of the realization that in an interdependent world, questions of international trade have become so important that they should be subjected to vigorous democratic oversight by parliaments.

Significant progress has been achieved in recent years in establishing a meaningful parliamentary dimension of the WTO. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the European Parliament has led the way in 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 next session will take place in Hong Kong (China) on 12 and 15 December 2005, in conjunction with the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference.

In preparation for the Hong Kong session and in response to numerous requests from parliaments, governments, non-governmental organizations, researchers and journalists from all over the world, the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO has decided to establish an online directory of parliamentary bodies dealing with international trade. The directory will be integrated into PARLINE, an online IPU database of information on the structure and functioning of national parliaments, and more specifically into its module dealing with specialized parliamentary bodies. The directory will also be published as a book and will eventually lead to a separate study.

The purpose of the enclosed questionnaire is to collect information about all existing parliamentary bodies dealing with international trade for subsequent processing and publishing by the IPU Secretariat. Electronic copies of the questionnaire can be downloaded from the IPU web site (<http://www.ipu.org/parline-e/Instanceadvanced.asp>) in MS Word and PDF formats.

Please note the following points when completing the questionnaire:

- A **separate** set of answers should be provided for **each parliamentary body** (commission/committee, subcommission/subcommittee) dealing with international trade or a particular aspect thereof. Respondents are therefore requested to fill in as many questionnaires as there are such bodies in their parliament;
- In exceptional cases, when there are no bodies dealing with international trade in your parliament, a **written notification** to the IPU will suffice;
- For the sake of terminological consistency and to ensure responses are complete, please read attentively the **annotations** provided *in italics* with some of the questions;

- For multiple-choice questions, please be sure to check only **one box** for each question.

The completed questionnaire should be returned **not later than 15 September 2005**, preferably via e-mail to:

Inter-Parliamentary Union
5, chemin du Pommier
Case postale 330
CH-1218 Le Grand-Saconnex / Geneva
Switzerland
Fax: +41 22 919 41 60
e-mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org

Thank you for your cooperation!

QUESTIONNAIRE ON PARLIAMENTARY BODIES DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Country:

Name and title of the person completing the questionnaire:

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1. Name of the parliamentary body

2. To which parliamentary chamber does the body relate?

Please specify from which chamber the parliamentary body draws its members.

- single chamber or lower chamber upper chamber both

3. Type

If the body was established by a formal decision of the parliament, please specify whether it deals with international trade as its exclusive subject (check "specialized"), covers international trade or a particular aspect thereof among other issues (check "multifunctional"), or is part of an ad hoc arrangement (check "ad hoc"). Alternatively, if no formal decision has been taken by the parliament concerning the structure and functioning of this particular body, check "informal".

- specialized multifunctional ad hoc informal

4. Nature

- permanent temporary other (please specify)

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5. Date of creation

6. Mandate

Please describe the body's field of competence and its specific mandate with regard to international trade in general and to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in particular, such as approval of national policy guidelines in advance of major trade negotiations, including those conducted at WTO Ministerial Conferences; consideration of outcomes of such negotiations; hearings with negotiators and experts; ratification of texts of multilateral, regional and bilateral trade agreements; supervision of the compliance of national policies with international commitments in the domain of international trade; preparation of relevant legislative and budgetary proposals; and dissemination of information, etc.

7. Composition

Please provide information on the number of members of the body, how they are selected (election or nomination), and for what term.

8. Working methods

Please describe briefly how items are selected and placed on the agenda, how proceedings are organized especially whether they are public or not, whether the body has the power to organize hearings or to summon government officials, and how decisions are taken and their implementation is ensured and followed up. Please specify principal sources of information about international trade matters, including negotiations under WTO auspices, and also specify whether the body issues any public reports or other documents.

9. Relationship with other parliamentary bodies

Please describe briefly the way in which the parliamentary body interacts with other parliamentary bodies or with the main committee (if it is a subcommittee), in particular as regards reporting and information sharing.

10. Relationship with external bodies

Please describe briefly the body's relationship with the Government and with civil society. Please specify if it is customary for members of the parliamentary body to attend major intergovernmental negotiating forums, such as WTO Ministerial Conferences, as part of official national delegations.

11. Topical issues

Please provide examples of issues that have been dealt with most frequently in recent practice.

12. Presiding officer(s)

Please provide contact information for each presiding officer individually. Please specify if there are additional addresses or fax numbers, etc. for any given person.

Name

Address 1	Address 2
Phone 1	Phone 2
Fax 1.....	Fax 2
e-mail 1	e-mail 2
Web site 1.....	Web site 2

Name

Address 1	Address 2
Phone 1	Phone 2
Fax 1.....	Fax 2
e-mail 1	e-mail 2
Web site 1.....	Web site 2

13. Other contact person(s)

Please provide contact information about executive officers of the parliamentary body, such as the secretary or clerk, giving contact information for each person individually. Please specify if there are additional addresses or fax numbers, etc. for any given person.

Name

Title

Address 1	Address 2
Phone 1	Phone 2
Fax 1.....	Fax 2
e-mail 1	e-mail 2
Web site 1.....	Web site 2

Name

Title

Address 1	Address 2
Phone 1	Phone 2
Fax 1.....	Fax 2
e-mail 1	e-mail 2
Web site 1.....	Web site 2

Date on which this questionnaire was completed: