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TELEFAX MESSAGE

To: Presiding Officer of the Parliament
From: Mr. Anders B. Johnsson, IPU Secretary General
Number of pages (including cover): 1 Date: 13.05.03 Time:

ADVANCE NOTICE

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

As you are no doubt aware, the fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) will take place in Cancún (Mexico) from 10 to 14 September 2003. The IPU and the European Parliament (EP) plan to use this occasion to advance the process of creation of a parliamentary dimension of the WTO and, to this end, will hold in Cancún a special session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, which last met in Geneva in February 2003.

The parliamentary session is tentatively scheduled to take place on 9 September at a hotel in the vicinity of the WTO Conference premises in downtown Cancún. Consultations are now going on between IPU, EP, the WTO Secretariat and the Mexican hosts with a view to preparing this event in the best possible way. You can count on receiving the invitation letter and other relevant information about the parliamentary session in Cancún soon after the arrangements are finalized by the Post-Doha Steering Committee, which is due to meet at IPU Headquarters in Geneva on 17 June.

In view of the relatively short time left before the Conference in Cancún, may I urge you to see to it that senior members of your Parliament who are active on trade and development issues are included in your country's official delegation to the fifth WTO Ministerial Conference and arrive in Cancún in time for the parliamentary session. This will also allow your delegates to have their visa and accommodation needs taken care of in advance through the Mexican Organizing Committee, the body in charge of all logistical matters concerning the WTO Conference.