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# CANCUN SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Cancún (Mexico), 9 and 12 September 2003

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*Organised jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament with the support of the Mexican Parliament*

## ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Dialogue with Ministers and senior WTO Officials**
3. **Statements by representatives of civil society**
4. **Report on developments since the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO held in February 2003 in Geneva**
5. **Debate on substantive themes:**

*As a mid-term review event, the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancún will have to deal with a number of burning issues, including a growing number of missed deadlines in the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Participants in the parliamentary session will be able to receive first-hand information on the current stage of negotiations and have an in-depth discussion on some of the topical issues treated by the WTO at present.*

### **(a) Trade in agriculture and reduction in subsidies**

*Agriculture is part of the single undertaking agreed to in Doha. It is also one of the most controversial subjects, and has direct implications for millions of farmers around the world. Market access for agricultural products, phasing out of export subsidies, and substantial reductions of domestic support are all under negotiation in WTO. Conference participants are invited to discuss the role of parliaments in providing momentum for the negotiations that aim at correcting and preventing restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets.*

### **(b) TRIPS and public health**

*Recognizing the gravity of the public health problems afflicting many developing and least-developed countries, the WTO Conference in Doha adopted a special declaration on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and public health. Flexible application of the TRIPS Agreement in a manner supportive of each country's right to protect public health and, in particular, to promote access to essential pharmaceutical products for all, appears to be a realistic path to take. Conference participants will discuss how to help nurture the political will needed for the negotiations to be concluded.*

### **(c) Trade in services**

*Negotiations on services were already almost two years old when they were incorporated into the new Doha agenda. Bearing in mind that certain advances were made in this field on the basis of commonly agreed negotiating guidelines and procedures, the objective of the discussion will be to identify remaining problems and see how parliaments can help to resolve them.*

6. **Adoption of the Declaration**

*At the end of Conference, the participants will be called on to adopt a Declaration, the draft of which will be prepared by the Post-Doha Steering Committee.*