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# HONG KONG SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Hong Kong (China), 12 and 15 December 2005

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

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Date and venue

1. The Hong Kong session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will be held in the morning and afternoon of Monday, 12 December 2005, and in the afternoon of Thursday, 15 December 2005. A brief inaugural ceremony and two working sessions will be held on the first day, followed by one working session on the second day.
2. The meeting will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Harbour Plaza Hong Kong Hotel located on the Kowloon waterfront, across the harbour from the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre where the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference will be taking place (see map).



Harbour Plaza Hong Kong  
20 Tak Fung Street  
Whampoa Garden, Hunghom  
Kowloon, Hong Kong  
Phone: +852 2621 3188  
Fax: +852 2621 3328  
Web site: <http://www.harbour-plaza.com/>

### **Participation and registration**

3. Participation in the Hong Kong session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will be guided by the general principles set out in Article 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, adopted at its Brussels session, in November 2004.

4. All delegates to the Hong Kong session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO should complete the enclosed registration form (also available on the IPU web site at <http://www.ipu.org/splze/HK05/registration.pdf>) and return it by **15 November at the latest** to the following address:

Inter-Parliamentary Union  
5, Chemin du Pommier  
Case postale 330  
CH-1218 Le Grand-Saconnex /Geneva  
Switzerland  
Fax: +41 22 919 4160  
e-mail: [postbox@mail.ipu.org](mailto:postbox@mail.ipu.org)

Any modifications concerning the composition of the delegation should likewise be communicated to the above address.

5. Security arrangements in Hong Kong will be very tight at the time of the WTO Ministerial Conference. Only persons duly accredited and wearing official WTO Conference badges with photos will have access to the area around the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Access to the Harbour Plaza Hong Kong Hotel will be subject to less restrictions, but will be also controlled.

6. It is recommended, if at all possible, that delegates to the parliamentary session should also be included in their countries' official national delegations to the WTO Ministerial Conference, as this will facilitate many organizational and security-related matters. For example, those delegates who are members of their countries' official national delegations to the WTO Ministerial Conference will have full access to both the Convention Centre and the premises of the parliamentary session.

7. On the other hand, delegates to the parliamentary session who will travel to Hong Kong outside the framework of their countries' official national delegations to the WTO Ministerial Conference will have to obtain a special "Parliamentary Session" badge. To obtain such a badge, they must:

- (a) Register with the IPU Secretariat by 15 November 2005 at the latest, using the enclosed registration form. Failure to provide the form in advance will make the registration impossible.
- (b) Upon arrival in Hong Kong, personally present themselves to the parliamentary registration desk at the Ministerial Conference Registration Centre situated in the Hong Kong Central Library, at the following address:

Hong Kong Central Library  
66 Causeway Road  
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

- (c) Present a valid passport and be photographed on the spot. Passports will be checked against the list of names submitted by the IPU.
- (d) In case of loss of the badge, delegates should immediately notify the registration desk and ask for a replacement in writing.

### **List of delegates**

8. A provisional list of delegates will be distributed at the beginning of the parliamentary session. This list will be issued on the basis of confirmations received by the IPU up to 15 November 2005. For technical reasons, it will not be possible to produce a revised list on the spot, but one will be issued after the end of

the session and placed on the IPU web site at <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/hk05.htm>. Delegates are kindly requested to report any changes in the provisional list to the Secretariat of the session by no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, 15 December.

### **Working modalities**

9. Procedural arrangements for the session will be in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, adopted at its Brussels session in November 2004.

10. The draft agenda and work programme of the Hong Kong session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will be established by the Conference Steering Committee when it meets in Geneva on 22 and 23 September 2005. They will be circulated soon thereafter, together with the official invitation letter.

11. All substantive themes will be discussed one after the other, in plenary. The debate on each theme will be launched by rapporteurs who will have some eight minutes each to present their discussion papers. Delegates can participate in the debate either by making brief statements or by asking questions. The debate will be interactive; no formal statements will be delivered. In view of the largely informal nature of the debate, no list of speakers will be drawn up in advance. The order of interventions and questions will be decided by the Chair.

12. The draft outcome document of the session will be prepared by the Steering Committee and communicated to the participants sufficiently in advance of the session, in accordance with Art. 7.1 of the Rules. Specific arrangements concerning the submission of amendments to the draft (Article 7.2 of the Rules) will be announced on the spot.

### **Languages**

13. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish. Official written documentation of the session will be available in English and French only.

### **Documents**

14. The only official documents of the session will be its programme, agenda, the list of delegates, discussion papers prepared by the rapporteurs, the draft outcome document elaborated by the Steering Committee, and the information notes prepared by the Secretariat.

15. Should delegates wish to distribute their own documents or other material pertaining to the theme of the session, they may use a table provided for that purpose in the immediate vicinity of the meeting room.

### **Official reception**

16. The National People's Congress of China invites all delegates to the parliamentary session to a buffet reception, which will take place at 1 p.m. on 12 December at the Harbour Plaza Hong Kong Hotel.

### **Visas**

17. Attention is drawn to the strict provisions in force regarding entry into Hong Kong, full details of which are available on the host Government's web site [http://www.immd.gov.hk/ehhtml/hkvisas\\_4.htm](http://www.immd.gov.hk/ehhtml/hkvisas_4.htm). It is the duty of each delegate requiring an entry visa to Hong Kong to obtain it in due time.

### **Hotel accommodation**

18. All delegates to the parliamentary session are responsible for their own hotel accommodation arrangements and expenses. The availability of hotel rooms in Hong Kong at the time of the WTO Ministerial Conference will be very limited. In fact, nearly all hotels in the vicinity of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre have been pre-booked by the authorities of the Hong Kong Special

Administrative Region for the exclusive use of official delegations attending the WTO Ministerial Conference.

19. Parliamentary delegates coming to Hong Kong as part of their country's official delegation to the WTO Ministerial Conference are thus likely to require no further assistance, as their accommodation needs may well already be met.

20. For parliamentary delegates travelling to Hong Kong separately from their official delegation to the WTO Ministerial Conference, the National People's Congress of China has pre-booked a number of rooms at the Harbour Plaza Hong Kong Hotel, where the parliamentary session will be taking place. To obtain a room there, each delegate should fill out the enclosed hotel reservation form and return it as soon as possible, and by **15 September 2005 at the latest**, directly to the hotel, using the contact information on the form. The rooms will be released on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to the extremely high demand for hotel accommodation in Hong Kong at the time of the WTO Conference, **no booking at the Harbour Plaza Hong Kong Hotel can be guaranteed beyond this deadline.**

21. As an alternative, delegates can make their own accommodation arrangements in Hong Kong, including in hotels of lower price categories. To this end, they may contact the hotel agent engaged by the host Government, namely:

International Conference Consultants, Ltd.  
Unit 301, The Centre Mark, 287-299 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong  
Phone: +852 2559 9973 / +852 8108 8389  
Fax: +852 2547 9528  
e-mail: mc6hotel@icc.com.hk  
Web site: <http://www.icc.com.hk/mc6hotel>

It should be noted however that the hotel agent deals mainly with providing hotel accommodation for the officially accredited participants of the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference.

### Miscellaneous

22. For information concerning climate, currency, local transport, telecommunications, catering, and medical services in Hong Kong, please consult the web site of the host Government of the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference at <http://www.wtomc6.gov.hk>.

### Requests for further information

23. Requests for further information concerning the Hong Kong session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO should be addressed to:

Inter-Parliamentary Union  
5, Chemin du Pommier  
Case postale 330  
Le Grand-Saconnex / Geneva  
CH-1218 Switzerland  
Fax: +41 22 919 4160  
e-mail: [postbox@mail.ipu.org](mailto:postbox@mail.ipu.org)

*and*

European Parliament  
International Trade Committee Secretariat  
ATR 3K76  
Rue Wiertz  
B-1047 Belgium  
Fax: +32 2 283 1251  
e-mail: [XP-INTA@europarl.eu.int](mailto:XP-INTA@europarl.eu.int)