



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
CHEMIN DU POMMIER 5, CASE POSTALE 330
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RUE WIERTZ, B-1047, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Geneva/Brussels, 26 September 2005

HONG KONG SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

As you have already been informed (see advance information letter from the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union dated 10 June 2005), the next session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will take place on **12 and 15 December 2005** in **Hong Kong**, in conjunction with the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO). We are pleased to extend an invitation to your parliament to send a delegation to this important event which will follow up on the highly successful sessions of the Conference held in Geneva, Cancún and Brussels.

In conformity with past practice, the Hong Kong session will be co-organized by the IPU and the European Parliament. The practical preparation of the session has been carried out by the Conference Steering Committee, which met in Geneva on 22 and 23 September and established the session's provisional **agenda** and **programme**, copies of which you will find enclosed.

As you will see from the proposed agenda, the Steering Committee has decided to focus the attention of delegates on a number of critical issues relating to the Doha Development Agenda and on the need to ensure coherence between trade policy and other public policy challenges, with a view to attaining the Millennium Development Goals. These subjects will be considered on 12 December in a series of interactive panel discussions and a question-and-answer session, with the participation of leading trade negotiators and top WTO officials. The conclusions of the debate will be drawn up at a second sitting, to be held on 15 December. The latter sitting is also expected to adopt a Declaration, the initial draft of which is being prepared by the Steering Committee.

We wish to emphasize that the forthcoming session is intended primarily for **parliamentarians who specialize in matters of international trade** in their respective parliaments. Participation in the session will provide them with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the state of play at the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference, to exchange views and experiences with colleagues in other parliaments and to interact with government officials directly involved in the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

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As suggested in the advance information letter, delegates to the parliamentary session should, as far as possible, also be included in their country's official national delegation to the Ministerial Conference. This will facilitate many organizational and security-related matters and is the only way to obtain full access to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, the venue of the Ministerial Conference. Practical information about the organization of the parliamentary session in Hong Kong - including its registration and hotel reservation forms - was forwarded to you together with the advance information letter. May we take this opportunity to remind you that the deadline for the registration of parliamentary delegates through the IPU Secretariat is **18 October 2005** for those who are not included in their country's official national delegation to the Ministerial Conference, and **15 November 2005** for those who are already accredited to the Ministerial Conference through other channels.

We very much hope that your parliament will participate in the Hong Kong session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,



Sergio Páez Verdugo
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



Josep Borrell Fontelles
President of the European Parliament