



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
PLACE DU PETIT-SACONNEX, CASE POSTALE 438
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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



RUE Wiertz, B-1047, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Geneva/Brussels, 21 November 2002

PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to invite your Parliament to participate in the **Parliamentary Conference on the WTO** - a joint undertaking of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament. The Conference will take place at Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) on 17 and 18 February 2003.

With this Conference, we aim to strengthen democracy at the international level by bringing a parliamentary dimension to multilateral cooperation on trade issues. The Conference, initiated by the Final Declaration adopted by parliamentarians during the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha in November 2001, is taking place as governments address the Doha Development Agenda and prepare for the Fifth Ministerial Conference to be held in September 2003 in Cancun.

The Conference in Geneva will be organised primarily for parliamentarians who specialise in international trade issues in their respective parliaments. It will provide them with an opportunity to examine the main issues arising from the Doha Ministerial Conference and to obtain first-hand information on the subject from the new WTO leadership. The Conference will also offer opportunities to exchange views and experiences with colleagues in other parliaments, interact with government representatives directly involved in the process of multilateral trade negotiations, and engage in a dialogue with representatives of leading international agencies carrying out programmes of technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of international trade.

Your Parliament is invited to nominate a delegation composed of up to four members of parliament to participate in the Conference. The provisional annotated agenda of the Conference, a practical information note as well as registration and hotel reservation forms are enclosed. The detailed programme of the Conference will be forwarded to you at a later stage and will also be posted on the IPU Web site at <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade03.htm> and on the European Parliament's Web site at http://www.europarl.eu.int/committees/itre_home.htm.

We very much hope that your Parliament will be able to participate in this event and look forward to receiving your delegation in Geneva.

Yours sincerely,

Sergio Páez Verdugo
President of the Council
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Patrick Cox
President of the European Parliament