



5, CHEMIN DU POMMIER
CASE POSTALE 330
1218 LE GRAND-SACONNEX / GENEVE (SUISSE)

TELEPHONE (41.22) 919 41 50
FAX (41.22) 919 41 60
E-MAIL postbox@mail.ipu.org
ADR. TELEGR. INTERPARLEMENT GENEVE

Geneva, 9 July 2004

BRUSSELS SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Advance Information

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament as the two co-organizers of the **Parliamentary Conference on the WTO**, I have pleasure in informing you that the next session of the Conference will take place at the European Parliament in **Brussels** from **24 to 26 November 2004**. The Brussels session will follow up on the two highly successful sessions held in Geneva in February 2003 and Cancún in September 2003 (in conjunction with the fifth WTO Ministerial Conference).

The Brussels session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will provide members of parliament with an opportunity to examine recent developments in WTO, obtain first-hand information on the current state of multilateral trade negotiations and consider a possible parliamentary contribution to the revitalization of this process. The session will be an occasion to exchange views and experiences with colleagues in other parliaments, interact with government officials directly involved in the process of trade negotiations, and engage in a dialogue with civil society representatives.

The provisional agenda and programme of the Brussels session will be established by the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO in the light of latest information on the WTO talks when the Committee meets in Geneva on 6 and 7 September 2004. These documents will be circulated to all parliaments immediately after that and posted on Inter-Parliamentary Union's Web site (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade04.htm>) as well as that of the European Parliament.

To advance practical preparations for the November session, you will find enclosed an information note, registration form and hotel reservation form. Because of the large number of international events taking place in Brussels in November 2004, I urge you to reserve hotel rooms for your delegation as soon as possible. This can be done either through your country's

diplomatic mission in Brussels or through the European Parliament's Travel Office. Please consult the practical information note for further details concerning hotel accommodation in Brussels and use the enclosed hotel reservation form, which should be returned to the European Parliament's Travel Office in Brussels by **13 October 2004** at the latest.

The Conference organizers expect that, as in the past, participants in the Brussels session will be parliamentarians who specialise in international trade and finance in their respective parliaments and who therefore follow the WTO's work on a regular basis. Please return the enclosed registration form to the session's Secretariat at the European Parliament by 1 November 2004.

I very much hope that your Parliament will be represented at this event and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders B. Johnsson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General