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Geneva, 18 May 2012

ANNUAL 2012 SESSION
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO
Advance Information

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

Since 2002, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament have been jointly leading the way in a process known as the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization (WTO) - a permanent mechanism of parliamentary oversight of this inter-governmental body, its *de facto* parliamentary dimension. The principal objective of the Conference is to enhance external transparency of the WTO and hold it accountable to legislators as elected representatives of the people.

I am pleased to inform you that the next session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will be held in Geneva on **15 and 16 November 2012**. As in 2011, the session will take place on the premises of the WTO, Centre William Rappard. Your parliament is invited to send a delegation to this important event which will come at a moment when the multilateral trading system is faced with new powerful challenges.

In conformity with the Conference Rules, the annual session is intended primarily for **parliamentarians who specialize in matters of international trade** in their respective parliaments. The Conference will provide them with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on recent developments in the Doha Round negotiations and consider ways of contributing to the revitalization of this process. It will also be an occasion to exchange views and experiences with colleagues in other parliaments, interact with government negotiators and WTO officials and engage in a dialogue with civil society representatives.

The provisional agenda and programme of the session will be circulated to all parliaments closer to the date of the session and will be also posted on the IPU's website (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade12.htm>).

To advance practical preparations for the session and allow sufficient time for the delegates to make relevant logistical arrangements, you will find enclosed the session's registration form. Because of the large number of international events taking place in Geneva in the month of November 2012, we 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 Geneva or through the Geneva Tourism Office (http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/?rubrique=0000000253&lang=_eng).

I very much hope that your parliament will be represented at the annual 2012 session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO and look forward to receiving the names of your delegates in due course.

Yours sincerely,

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

Anders B. Johansson
Secretary General