
**ANNUAL 2012 SESSION OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO**
Back to basics: Connecting politics and trade

Geneva, 15-16 November 2012

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

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Debate on substantive theme.

Trade as a tool of economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation

To bear fruit, trade policies must be shaped to reflect broader development objectives and be complemented by appropriate macroeconomic measures. How can legislators contribute to the formulation of integrated and coherent national trade, industrial, labour market and social policies? In times of economic crisis, can trade be a driver for prosperity?

3. Policy dialogue with members of the high-level panel designated by the WTO Director-General to define the future of trade.

Analysing 21st century trade challenges

In April 2012, the WTO Director-General mandated a panel of 12 world-renowned experts to discuss the state of the multilateral trading system, analyse the drivers of today's and tomorrow's trade and examine the implications of open global trade in the 21st century. Although the panel's prognosis will only be available in 2013, some members of the panel have agreed to meet with legislators to test some of their ideas among a parliamentary audience.

4. Hearing with the WTO Director-General

It has become customary for the WTO Director-General to meet with parliamentarians specializing in international trade. During this interactive session, which is not unlike traditional parliamentary hearings, the Director-General will field questions and listen to brief comments from the delegates.

5. Panel discussion.

Trade in services: Time for political decisions

The services sector is not only important in its own right but can help improve efficiency and competitiveness in other sectors of the economy. Liberalization of trade in services is part and parcel of the Doha mandate, with a potential to yield gains for both developed and developing countries. This interactive panel will focus on the on-going discussion, the difficulties encountered in the negotiations on trade in services and on a possible role of parliaments in the efforts to accelerate the process.

6. Adoption of the outcome document

At the end of the session, the participants will be invited to adopt an outcome document, the draft of which will be prepared by the Conference Steering Committee.