



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
CHEMIN DU POMMIER 5, CASE POSTALE 330
CH-1218 LE GRAND-SACONNEX/GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



Geneva/Brussels, 29 July 2013

BALI SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO 2 and 5 December 2013

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 intergovernmental body, its de facto parliamentary dimension. The principal objective of the Conference is to enhance the external transparency of the WTO and make it accountable to legislators as elected representatives of the people.

Sessions of the Parliamentary Conference are held annually and in connection with WTO Ministerial Conferences. As you may know, the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC9) will take place in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 6 December 2013. The international community is hopeful that MC9 will provide much-needed political momentum to the Doha Round of WTO negotiations, thus reaffirming the lasting value of multilateralism.

As on past occasions, the IPU and the European Parliament will organize, with the support of the Indonesian House of Representatives, a parallel parliamentary session in Bali. It will take place at Patra Jasa Bali Resort & Villas, one of the official recommended hotels of MC9. Situated close to Bali International Airport in the Patra Jasa Kuta area, some 20 minutes' drive from the venue of the Ministerial Conference, this hotel has appropriate meeting facilities and will be easily accessible for MC9 delegates by courtesy shuttle service.

We are pleased to invite your Parliament to send a delegation to the parliamentary session in Bali, which will include two sittings. The first will take place on 2 December, when most delegates will already be in Bali but not yet too busy at the Ministerial Conference. The second one will take place towards the end of MC9, in the afternoon of 5 December, when the outlines of the eventual agreement at the Ministerial Conference will already be known. In between these two dates, parliamentarians will be expected to work with their respective national delegations to MC9 and will also have the possibility of attending various parallel events and activities taking place on the premises of the Ministerial Conference.

You will find the provisional annotated agenda, practical information note and registration form of the Bali session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO enclosed. They are also available online (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade13.htm>).

The parliamentary session on 2 and 5 December is intended for legislators who are involved in parliamentary activities dealing with international trade, finance and development. The session will provide them with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on progress made at MC9, interact with government negotiators and WTO officials, exchange views and experiences with colleagues in other parliaments and engage in a dialogue with civil society representatives.

As a rule, participants in the parliamentary session are expected to travel to Bali as members of official national delegations to the Ministerial Conference. This is by far the easiest way to ensure that their transportation, visa, and accommodation needs are dealt with in a centralized way. More importantly, they will then be automatically accredited to the Ministerial Conference and receive ID badges offering them unrestricted access both to the Bali Nusa Dua Convention Centre (BNDCC) where MC9 will be taking place and to Patra Jasa Resort, the venue of the parliamentary session.

However, if for some reason a delegate does not have an MC9 badge, a special "Parliamentary Session" badge will be issued by the IPU registration desk at Patra Jasa Resort. This badge will be valid exclusively for that venue, on 2 and 5 December only, and will not allow access to the premises of the Ministerial Conference. Please use the enclosed registration form to announce all such cases to the IPU Secretariat by 1 October 2013 latest.

May we also point out that members of parliament and accompanying staff travelling to Bali outside the framework of their countries' official national delegations to MC9 are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements and obtaining entry visas for Indonesia, if necessary. Please see the enclosed practical information note for further details.

We very much hope that your parliament will participate in the forthcoming Bali session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO and look forward to receiving the names of your delegates in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Abdelwahad Radi
IPU President



Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament