
ANNUAL 2015 SESSION OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

WTO at the age of 20

Geneva, 16-17 February 2015

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

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Debate on the substantive theme**
Trade as an enabler of peace and better living conditions
Trade has a direct impact on the day-to-day lives of the people, whether in developed or developing countries. As the best development tool at the disposal of all, it can improve the living conditions of citizens around the globe and help resolve conflicts through peaceful means. In approving such a broad theme, the Conference Steering Committee intended to focus the debate on the role of policymakers, including legislators, in making the best possible use of the potential of trade as a driver for peace and prosperity.
3. **Dialogue with senior WTO negotiators and officials**
Policy, politics and trade: keeping the WTO negotiations on the right track
One of the principal objectives of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO is to facilitate politically stimulating dialogue between legislators specializing in matters of international trade and government officials directly involved in WTO negotiations. This interactive session is meant to cover a broad spectrum of views on possible ways to advance the Doha Round, bearing in mind the newly agreed deadline of July 2015 for developing the WTO work programme.
4. **Hearing with the WTO Director-General**
Why trade? Reflections on the WTO anniversary
It has become customary for the WTO Director-General to meet with parliamentarians. During this interactive session, which will focus on the lessons to be learnt from the twenty years of WTO's existence, the Director-General will field questions and listen to brief comments from the delegates.
5. **Panel discussion**
***Conveying the benefits of the WTO to the wider public:
The case of consumers and young people***
The WTO has struggled for years to convince a sceptical public of the enduring value of multilateralism. Part of the problem is that social and economic opportunities created by trade are spread unequally, while the benefits are not inclusive enough. How best to balance free trade and consumer protection? What can be done to better explain the benefits of the WTO to young people? This interactive panel will focus on the need for the WTO, as the centrepiece of the multilateral trading system, to accommodate the interests of specific groups, such as consumers and the younger generation.
6. **Adoption of the outcome document**
At the end of the session, the participants will be invited to adopt an outcome document drafted by the Conference Steering Committee.