

# BUENOS AIRES SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Buenos Aires (Argentina), 9-10 December 2017

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament  
in connection with the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11)

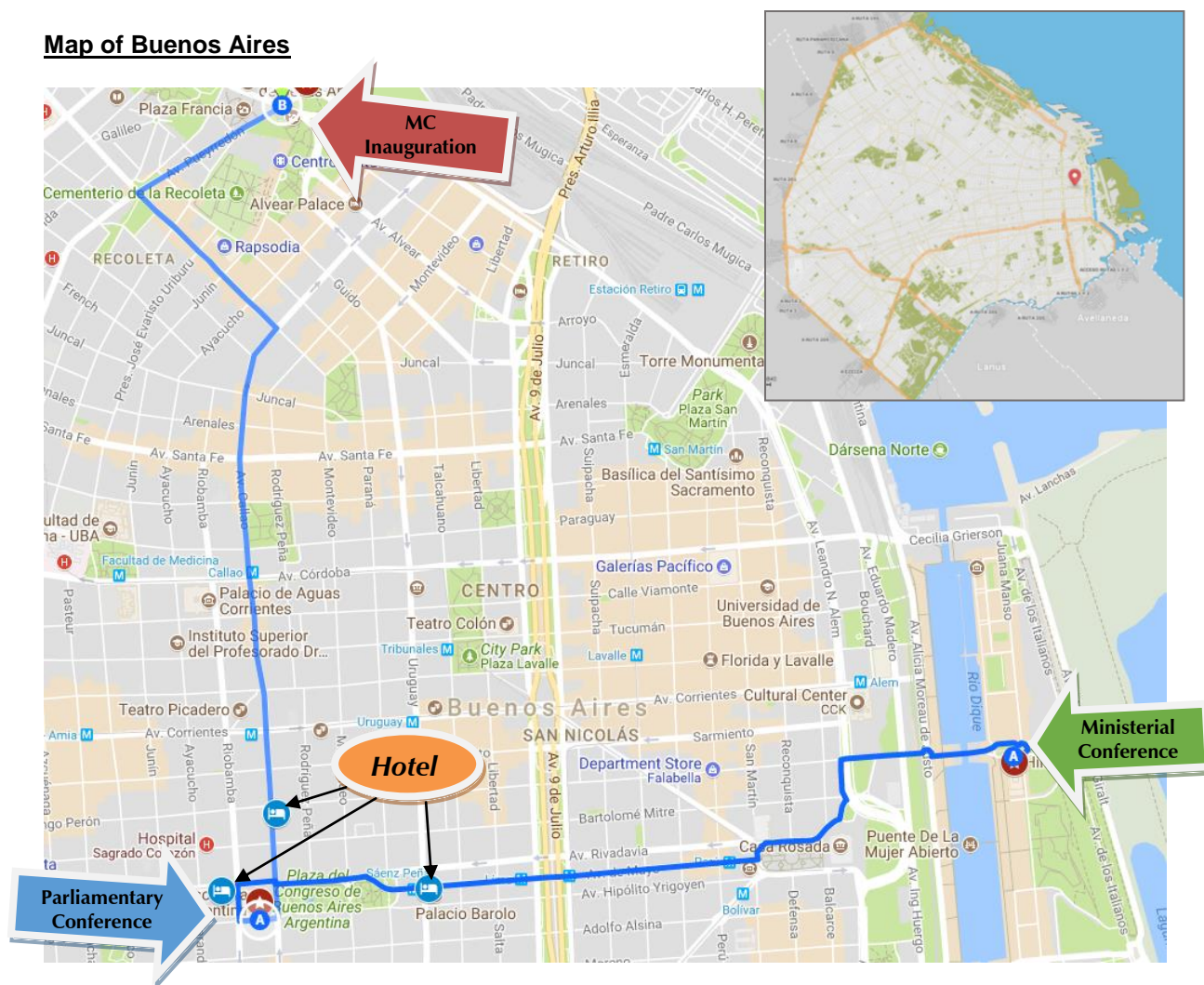
## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Venue

1. The Buenos Aires session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, to be held in connection with the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) in Buenos Aires, will take place on the premises of the National Congress:

Calle Rivadavia 1864  
1033 Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires  
Tel.: (54-11) 4127-7100

### Map of Buenos Aires



2. Ministro Pistarini International Airport, also known as Ezeiza International Airport, is 40 minutes away from the National Congress and the venues of the Ministerial Conference, the Hilton Hotel and the New Buenos Aires Convention Centre. Jorge Newbery Airfield is 20 minutes away from the National Congress.

3. The distance between the National Congress and the Hilton Hotel is approximately 3.5 km. Travel time varies depending on traffic conditions but is about 15 minutes on average. The distance between the National Congress and the New Convention Centre, the venue of the inaugural session, is 3 km. Travel time varies depending on traffic conditions but is about 15 minutes on average.

4. For directions to the National Congress, please consult the MC11 Logistics Information booklet, which will be sent by 1<sup>st</sup> October.

#### **Date and timetable**

5. The Parliamentary Session will include two sittings on 9 and 10 December 2017. On 9 December, the session will run from 2.30 to 6.30 p.m. On 10 December, the Conference will meet in the morning, from 8.30 a.m. to 1 p.m., subject to the requirements of the MC11 Inauguration. The Conference Steering Committee will meet *in camera* in the morning of 9 December, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

6. In order to have access to the events and activities taking place on the premises of the Ministerial Conference, it is highly recommendable that parliamentarians ensure they are registered as members of their official national delegations to the Conference. Details of these events will be announced closer to the date of the Ministerial Conference.

#### **Participation and registration**

7. Participation in the Buenos Aires session will be guided by the general principles set out in Article 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (see <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade08/rules.htm>). The session is intended primarily for legislators who are involved in parliamentary activities dealing with international trade, finance and development.

8. As a rule, participants in the Parliamentary Conference are expected to travel to Buenos Aires 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, as members of their official national delegations they will be accredited automatically for the Ministerial Conference and will receive ID badges giving them access to both the MC11 at the Hilton Buenos Aires Hotel and the Inauguration Session at the New Buenos Aires Convention Centre.

9. If for some reason a parliamentary delegate does not have an MC11 badge, a special "Parliamentary Session" badge will be issued by the IPU Registration Desk on the premises of the National Congress. This badge will be valid exclusively for that venue, on 9 and 10 December only, and will not allow access to the premises of the Ministerial Conference.

10. Irrespective of whether or not parliamentary delegates are accredited to the Ministerial Conference, they are requested to complete the enclosed "Parliamentary Session" registration form, which can also be downloaded from the IPU website (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade17/registration.pdf>). The form should be returned to the IPU Secretariat by **1 November 2017** at the latest. Any modifications concerning the composition of the delegation should likewise be communicated to the IPU Secretariat.

11. Negotiations are currently under way with the Argentinian authorities with a view to providing all parliamentarians with access to the inauguration of the Ministerial Conference and some events regardless of whether or not they are included in their respective official national delegation to the MC11. Nevertheless, final authorizations will depend on the WTO decisions. Should an arrangement become possible, the IPU will immediately circulate to all parliaments the necessary instructions concerning the registration procedure (MC11 registration form, photos, etc.)

12. Members of parliament and accompanying staff travelling to Buenos Aires for the MC11 but who are not members of their countries' official national delegations are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements and for obtaining entry visas for Argentina, if necessary.

13. Due to the limited seating capacity of the meeting room at the National Congress, the number of parliamentarians per delegation should normally not exceed three. Observer delegations should be limited to two persons. Parliaments are encouraged to strive for gender-balanced delegations.

14. The Registration Desk at the National Congress will be located at the entrance of the meeting room and will be open on 9 December from 8 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., and on 10 December, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

15. Security will be tight in Buenos Aires at the time of the WTO Ministerial Conference. Only persons duly accredited and wearing official MC11 badges will have access to the area around the Hilton Hotel. Access to the National Congress will be subject to fewer restrictions, but will nevertheless be subject to controls. All delegates are therefore requested to wear their identification badges at all times during the session and at social functions.

### **List of delegates**

16. A provisional list of delegates taking part in the Parliamentary Session will be distributed at the Registration Desk on 9 December. This list will be issued on the basis of confirmations received by the IPU Secretariat up to 4 December. Delegates are kindly requested to report any changes to the provisional list to the Registration Desk by no later than 12 a.m. on 10 December. A revised list will be published on the IPU website after the session.

### **Working modalities**

17. Procedural arrangements for the session will be made in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (see <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade08/rules.pdf>).

18. A detailed work programme of the session will be circulated in advance of the event and published on the IPU website (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade17.htm>).

19. All agenda items will be dealt with in plenary. The programme will include panel discussions, hearings, keynote presentations and debates on substantive themes. The debate on each substantive theme will be launched by rapporteurs, who will present their discussion papers.

20. The format of the session being largely interactive, every effort ought to be made to avoid reading formal prepared statements. Instead, delegates are invited to ask questions and participate in the debate by making brief statements and suggestions. As there will be no formal list of speakers drawn up in advance, the order of interventions and questions will be decided by the Chair.

### **Outcome document**

21. The overall responsibility for the preparation of the draft outcome document rests with the Conference Steering Committee, which will appoint a Rapporteur of the session from among its members.

22. The Rapporteur will prepare a pre-draft outcome document for consideration by the Steering Committee at its session in Geneva on 27 September 2017. A revised draft will then be posted on the IPU website for comments and amendments by parliaments. The deadline for the submission of amendments by parliaments is 15 November. No further substantive amendments by parliaments will be possible after that date.

23. Delegates participating in the Buenos Aires session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will have the possibility to submit on the spot, in an individual capacity, additional amendments of an editorial nature, which do not impact on the document's scope or nature.

24. An aggregate list of amendments proposed by parliaments and individual delegates will be considered by the Steering Committee at its session in the morning of 9 December.

25. The resulting final draft will be presented by the Rapporteur at the closing session with a view to its adoption by consensus.

### **Languages**

26. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish. Official documentation of the session will be available in English and French only.

### **Documents**

27. The only official documents of the session will be its programme, agenda, the list of delegates, discussion papers prepared by the rapporteurs, the draft outcome document drawn up by the Steering Committee and the information notes prepared by the Secretariat. The WTO may provide background documents for distribution to delegates upon registration.

28. Should participants and observers wish to distribute their own documents or other material pertaining to the agenda of the session, they are kindly requested to inform the organizers about it as early as possible. The Host Parliament will make available tables for that purpose which will be located just outside/close to the meeting room.

### **Official receptions**

29. On 9 December, the National Congress of Argentina will host a cocktail reception in the evening in honour of all participants. The venue of the cocktail reception will be announced later. Free transportation to the cocktail will be assured. On 10 December a buffet lunch will be served, subject to the requirements of the MC11 Inauguration.

### **Visas**

30. All delegates requiring an entry visa to Argentina have a duty to request one sufficiently ahead of time. The IPU and the National Congress of Argentina are not in a position to provide visa assistance for entry into Argentina. For information regarding visa application procedures, delegates are invited to read the Information Note WT/MIN(17)/INF/2 circulated by the WTO ([https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/minist\\_e/mc11\\_e/mc11\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/mc11_e/mc11_e.htm)).

### **Hotel accommodation**

31. Delegates are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements. The availability of hotel rooms in Buenos Aires at the time of the WTO Ministerial Conference will be limited. It is therefore advisable to book hotel rooms as soon as possible. Special rates will be guaranteed until 20<sup>th</sup> November.

32. 120 rooms have been booked for parliamentary delegates at the following hotels (please note that rooms will be allocated on a first come first served basis):

- **Savoy Hotel.** [www.savoyhotel.com.ar](http://www.savoyhotel.com.ar)  
For reservation purposes, this hotel can be contacted by Tel: (+5411) 4370 8079 Fax: (+5411) 4370 8020 or email [ventas1@savoyhotel.com.ar](mailto:ventas1@savoyhotel.com.ar)
- **Tango de Mayo Hotel.** [www.tango-hotel.com.ar](http://www.tango-hotel.com.ar)  
For reservation purposes, this hotel can be contacted by Tel: (+5411) 32216580 or e-mail [lverde@tango-hotel.com.ar](mailto:lverde@tango-hotel.com.ar)

**Miscellaneous**

33. For information concerning weather conditions, currency, local transport, telecommunications, catering and medical services in Buenos Aires, the organizers will publish a logistics information booklet by 1<sup>th</sup> October.

**Requests for further information**

34. Requests for further information concerning the Buenos Aires session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO should be addressed to:

Inter-Parliamentary Union  
Chemin du Pommier 5  
Case postale 330  
CH-1218 Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel.: +4122 919 41 10  
Fax: +4122 919 41 60  
e-mail: [postbox@ipu.org](mailto:postbox@ipu.org)

*and*

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International Trade  
Committee Secretariat  
Rue Wiertz  
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e-mail: [inta-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:inta-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu)