



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



## Buenos Aires Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO

9 and 10 December 2017

Geneva/Brussels, 14 September 2017

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

Since 2002, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament have jointly led the 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 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 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 10 to 13 December 2017. The international community is hopeful that MC11 will reaffirm the enduring value of multilateralism.

As on past occasions, the IPU and the European Parliament will organize, with the support of the Argentinian National Congress, a Parliamentary Conference in conjunction with MC11 in Buenos Aires. It will take place on the premises of the National Congress of Argentina on 9 and 10 December.

We are pleased to invite your Parliament to send a delegation to this Parliamentary Conference.

The Parliamentary Conference is intended for legislators who are involved in parliamentary activities dealing with international trade, finance and development. It will provide them with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on progress made at MC11, 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.

We enclose the provisional annotated agenda, practical information note and registration form for the Conference. They are also available online (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade17.htm>).

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

Yours sincerely,

Saber Chowdhury  
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Antonio Tajani  
President of the European Parliament