



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



RUE Wiertz, B-1047, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Geneva/Brussels, 1 October 2004

BRUSSELS SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

As you have already been informed (see advance information letter of the IPU Secretary General dated 9 July 2004), the next session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will take place from **24 to 26 November 2004** on the **premises of the European Parliament in Brussels**. We are pleased to extend an invitation to your Parliament to send a delegation to this important event which will follow up on the two highly successful sessions of the Conference held in Geneva and Cancún in February and September 2003 respectively.

In conformity with past practice, the Brussels session will be co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament. Practical preparation of the session is carried out by the Conference Steering Committee, which met in Geneva on 6 and 7 September and established the session's provisional **agenda** and **programme**, copies of which you will find enclosed.

As you will see from the proposed agenda, the Steering Committee took stock of the WTO General Council's breakthrough decision of 1 August 2004 which provided a roadmap for the continuation of the process started in Doha. Now that WTO negotiations are back on track, parliamentarians should redouble their efforts to strengthen democracy at the international level by bringing a parliamentary dimension to multilateral cooperation on trade issues.

We wish to emphasize that the forthcoming session is intended primarily for **parliamentarians who specialise in matters of international trade** in their respective parliaments. Participation in the session will provide them with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the state of play in the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, to exchange views and experiences with colleagues in other parliaments and to interact with government officers directly involved in WTO talks.

Practical information about the organization of the Brussels session - including its registration and hotel reservation forms - was forwarded to you together with the advance information letter. This information is also posted on the IPU Web site at <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade04.htm>. May we take this opportunity to remind you that the deadline for booking hotel rooms in Brussels through the European Parliament's Travel Office expires on **13 October 2004**.

We very much hope that your Parliament will participate in the Brussels session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Sergio Páez Verdugo
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Josep Fontelles Borrell
President of the European Parliament