

UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

5, CHEMIN DU POMMIER
CASE POSTALE 330
1218 LE GRAND-SACONNEX / GENÈVE (SUISSE)

TELEPHONE (41.22) 919 41 50
FAX (41.22) 919 41 60
E-MAIL postbox@mail.ipu.org
ADR. TELEGR. INTERPARLEMENT GENEVE

Geneva, 15 October 2009

ENLARGED SESSION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

held on the occasion of the seventh WTO Ministerial Conference

Geneva, 1 December 2009

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The World Trade Organization (WTO) will hold its seventh Ministerial Conference in Geneva, from 30 November to 2 December 2009. As you are probably aware, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament have been jointly leading the way in a process known as the *Parliamentary Conference on the WTO* - a permanent mechanism of parliamentary oversight of this intergovernmental body, its de facto parliamentary dimension.

At its recent meeting in Geneva, the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO decided that, even though the seventh WTO Ministerial Conference was not intended to be a negotiating forum for the Doha Development Agenda, it would be politically important to ensure a parliamentary presence there.

Parliaments are therefore invited to see to it that, as far as possible, their members who are active on trade and development issues are included in their country's official national delegation to the WTO Ministerial Conference. Not only is this the only way to obtain access to the Conference premises, it will also facilitate visa and accommodation arrangements in Geneva, which are normally centralized by all delegations through government channels. It is important to underline in this regard that the IPU Secretariat is not in a position to provide accreditation for parliamentarians to the Ministerial Conference - this must be done at the national level.

For those members of parliament who will be present in Geneva at the time of the seventh WTO Ministerial Conference, the IPU and the European Parliament will organize a special, enlarged session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO. The session will provide an opportunity for parliamentarians to obtain first-hand information on the main issues and orientations of the Ministerial Conference, to meet with some of the Trade Ministers, WTO officials and key negotiators, and to exchange views on ways to revitalize the Doha Round.

The session will take place on 1 December 2009, at IPU Headquarters. Its detailed programme will be posted on the IPU website (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade09.htm>) closer to the date of the meeting. Practical information and the registration form are enclosed. We would be grateful if you could return the registration form to the IPU Secretariat by 15 November 2009. As indicated in the information note, all participants are responsible for their own visa, travel and accommodation arrangements.

I sincerely hope that members of your parliament will take part in the seventh WTO Ministerial Conference and will also attend the enlarged session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO. We look forward to receiving their names in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders B. Johansson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Anders B. Johansson
Secretary General