



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



Geneva/Brussels, 1 December 2010

ANNUAL 2011 SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

Since 2002, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament have been jointly leading the way in a process known as the *Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization (WTO)* - a permanent mechanism of parliamentary oversight of this inter-governmental body, its de facto parliamentary dimension. The principal objective of the Conference is to enhance external transparency of the WTO and hold it accountable to legislators as elected representatives of the people.

We are pleased to inform you that the next session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will take place on **21 and 22 March 2011**. For the first time ever, the session will take place on **WTO premises**, Centre William Rappard in Geneva. The choice of the venue is highly symbolic. At the time when the economic and financial crisis has placed the global trading system in front of powerful new challenges, legislators from all over the world will gather at WTO Headquarters to discuss ways of revitalizing the Doha Round and ensuring a more fair and equitable management of globalization through multilateral rules and disciplines enshrined by the WTO.

As on past occasions, the forthcoming session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO is intended primarily for **parliamentarians who specialize in matters of international trade** in their respective parliaments. The session will provide them with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on recent developments in Doha Round talks, 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 very much hope that your Parliament will participate in the forthcoming session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO and look forward to receiving the names of your delegates in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Theo-Ben Gurirab
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Jerzy Buzek
President of the European Parliament