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# PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

*Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament*

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## Panel

### ***Food security as a key element for a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive trading system***

*In the context of the WTO Public Forum*

*Tuesday, 27 September 2022, 15:45 to 17:00 (CEST) – Room W*

#### **Concept note**

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), “food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. In that view, food security is one of the major issues of public health and development to which trade contributes. As such, food security is, as it should be, among the priorities of public policy.

It comes as no surprise therefore that “zero hunger” is the second of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The stated objectives under this goal are to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

Concerns over global food insecurity have become one of the most pressing issues of our time, in particular in view of the ongoing war in Ukraine, one of the world’s top exporters of key agricultural products. This war is further weakening the already severe situation caused by COVID-19 and climate change, which has led to soaring prices for agricultural products and their inputs. This in turn is fuelling socio-political unrest in several countries. It is therefore urgent to act quickly.

With this in mind, finding solutions for improved resilience in global food supply chains is a top priority. Trade plays a crucial role in ensuring that food products get to those in need and contributes to building a sustainable future. The WTO MC12 recognized this vital need by including food security among its important decisions, namely a Ministerial Declaration on the Emergency Response to Food Insecurity (WT/MIN(22)/28); and a Ministerial Decision on World Food Programme (WFP) Food Purchases Exemption from Export Prohibitions or Restrictions (WT/MIN(22)/29). Effectively implemented, these decisions should help to curb this impending disaster.

This panel, as part of a parliamentary contribution to global efforts to scale up food security, will seek to explore steps that can be taken to facilitate trade’s central role in ensuring that food is available to those in need, while also addressing the concerns of producers regarding the need to ensure sufficient domestic supply.

What can parliamentarians do to ensure open and predictable agricultural markets, and a continued flow of food? What kind of measures, legislative as well as non-legislative, are necessary, at national and multilateral level?

How can parliamentarians support the implementation of the abovementioned MC12 decisions?

The session will look at these issues from a parliamentary perspective.

The panel will be composed of:

- H.E. Mr. Joaquim Amaral, Coordinating Minister of Economic Affairs, Timor-Leste.
- Ms. Ekaterina Krivonos, Senior Economist, Markets and Trade Division, FAO
- Mr. Helmut Scholz, Member of the European Parliament Committee on International Trade (INTA).

The panel will be moderated by Ms. Inma Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández, Member of the European Parliament Committee on International Trade (INTA).