

Folketinget – Europaudvalget

Christiansborg, den 7. oktober 2004

OMTRYK

(indbydelse, dagsorden, program vedlagt)

Til

udvalgets medlemmer og stedfortrædere.

Parlamentarisk konference om WTO

Vedlagt til orientering indbydelse, dagsorden og program for parlamentarisk konference om WTO, der finder sted

Onsdag den 24.- fredag den 26. november 2004 i Bruxelles (Europa-Parlamentets bygninger)

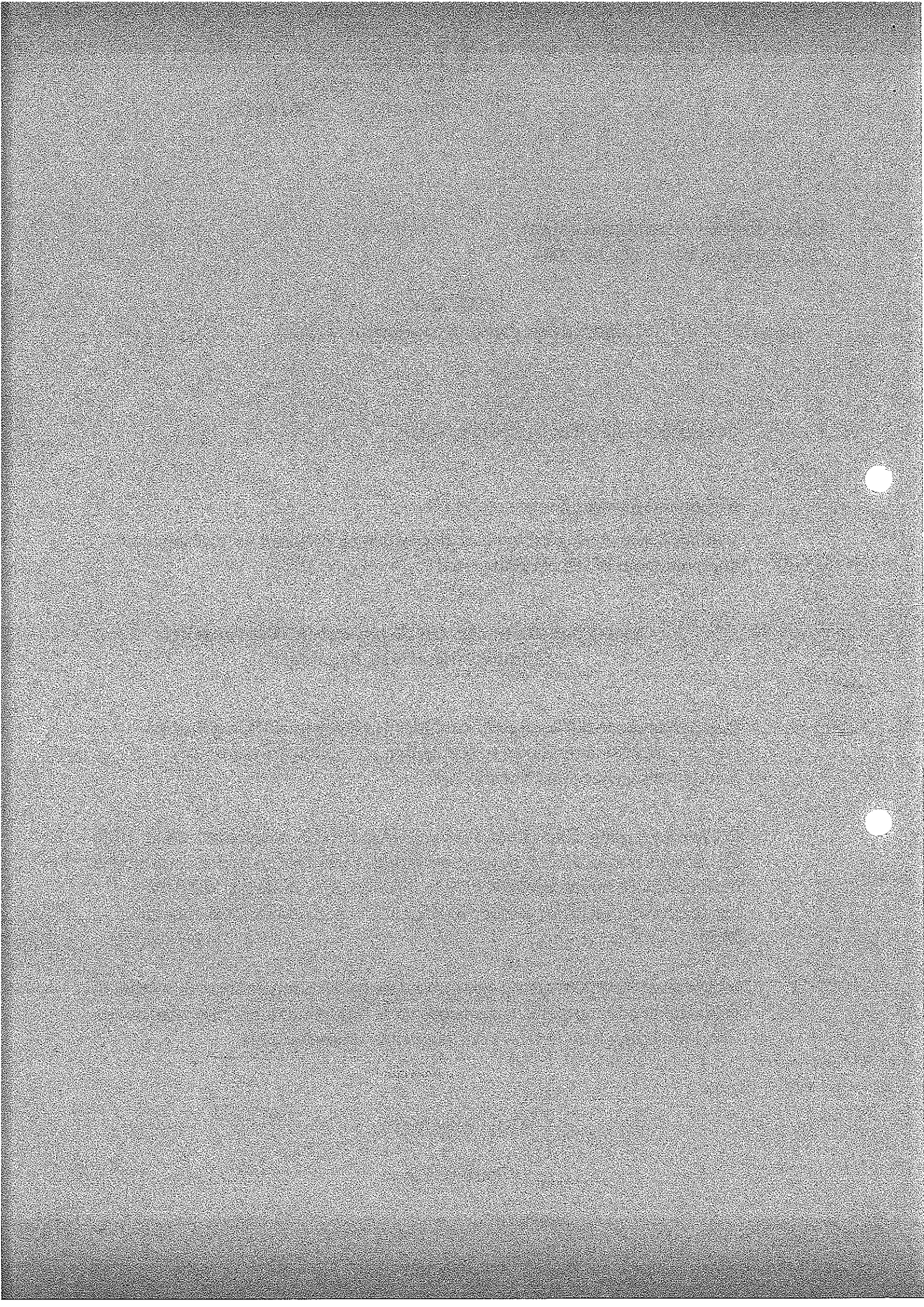
Den parlamentariske konference afholdes i fællesskab af IPU og Europa-Parlamentet. Konferencen er en opfølgning på to tidligere sessioner i henholdsvis Genève og Cancun i 2003.

Ifølge programmet åbnes konferencen onsdag den 24. november 2004 kl. 15.00 og afsluttes fredag den 26. november 2004 kl. 12.30. Der vil derfor være afrejse onsdag den 24. november 2004 kl. 9.15 med ankomst Bruxelles kl. 10.55. Hjemrejsen er den 26. november 2004 kl. 17.25 med ankomst København kl. 18.55.

Interesserede medlemmer og stedfortrædere bedes tilmelde sig ved at udfylde vedlagte tilmeldingsblanket, der bedes være Europaudvalgets Sekretariat, att.: Charlotte Friis, i hænde senest onsdag den 27. oktober 2004.

Med venlig hilsen

Charlotte Friis



Parlamentarisk konference om WTO
onsdag den 24. – fredag den 26. november 2004

Undertegnede

Ønsker at deltage i mødet

Er desværre forhindret i at deltage

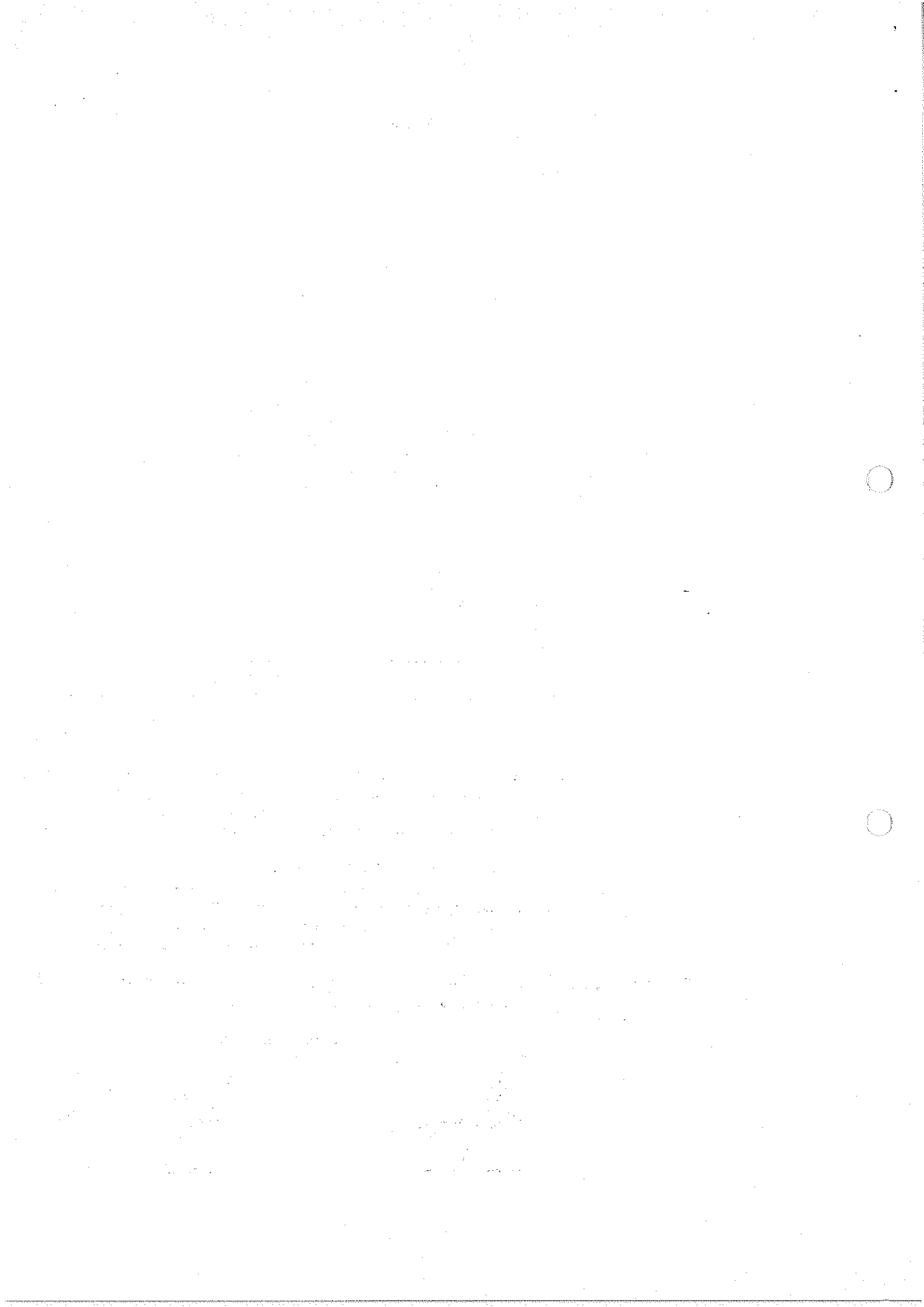
MF navn: _____

Evt. kontaktperson: _____

Evt. bemærkninger: _____

Retur til:
EU-Sekretariatet
att.: Charlotte Friis
e-mail: iachra@ft.dk

senest den 27. oktober 2004





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



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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

BRUSSELS SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

24-26 November 2004

Organised jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Interactive panel discussion: The significance of the WTO General Council decision of 1 August 2004 for the future of the Doha Round**

Following marathon negotiations, on 1 August 2004 the WTO General Council adopted a package of decisions providing a roadmap for moving forward the process started in Doha. The group of five (Australia, Brazil, European Union, India, United States of America) played an important role in this breakthrough, as did others including the WTO Director-General and the Chairman of the WTO General Council. By way of introduction, participants in the Parliamentary Conference will have an opportunity to listen to the views of top WTO negotiators on the future of the Doha Round and will be able to pose direct questions in this regard.

- 3. Debate on substantive themes:**

The Brussels session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO is taking place when, notwithstanding renewed momentum in the negotiations, some important differences remain between the positions of WTO Members. Concentrated political will is required to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion. Conference delegates are invited to focus, from a parliamentary perspective, on some of the key areas of current WTO negotiations.

(a) Agriculture

Agriculture is of critical importance to economic development and growth prospects of many developing countries and is equally essential for developed countries. This is why one of the major merits of the WTO General Council's decision of 1 August 2004 was the adoption of a framework for establishing negotiating modalities in agriculture. For the first time, WTO Members have agreed to abolish all forms of agricultural export subsidies by an end date to be determined, substantially reduce trade-distorting domestic support in agriculture, and expand market access for agricultural goods through significant reduction in tariffs and non-tariff barriers. Members have also undertaken to address "ambitiously, expeditiously and specifically" the issue of cotton subsidies. Conference delegates are invited to discuss how parliamentarians can contribute to the materialization of this compromise sketched in the 1 August 2004 decision, recognizing the development imperatives of developing countries.

(b) Trade in services from a development perspective

In many countries, including least developed ones, services play an important role in the domestic economy but generate only a fraction of export earnings. To advance the negotiations on trade in services in line with the Doha mandate, WTO Members have committed to achieve progressively higher levels of liberalization with no a priori exclusion of any service sector or mode of supply, while giving special attention to the interests of

developing countries. Under this item, Conference delegates are invited to discuss how parliaments can facilitate progress in the services negotiations and to come up with specific recommendations in this regard.

4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO

At the Cancún session, it was decided to establish the Rules of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO. The Steering Committee has prepared a draft of such Rules which it submits to the Conference for adoption. The Rules would be applied as from the following session of the Conference.

5. Adoption of the outcome document

At the end of the session, the participants will be invited to consider and adopt an outcome document, the draft of which will be prepared by the Conference Steering Committee.

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Optional side event: Practical aspects of trade-related capacity-building with special focus on the needs of parliaments

Technical assistance and capacity-building programmes adjusted to the needs of developing countries are vital for advancing the Doha Development Agenda. The growing role of parliaments in overseeing governments' action in multilateral trade negotiations requires capacity-building measures focused on the unique oversight functions of parliaments. On the other hand, such measures should be seen as an integral part of the commitment efforts to enhance the developing countries' overall capacity to negotiate and effectively implement agreements.

During this one-hour optional event, to be held during the lunch pause on the second day of the Conference, delegates will be briefed on current programmes carried out by UNDP and UNCTAD in this field and will have an opportunity to put forward their suggestions for strengthening capacity-building measures, in particular those focused on the needs of parliamentarians specializing in international trade.

BRUSSELS SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

24-26 November 2004

Organised jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE SESSION

Tuesday, 23 November

3 - 6 p.m. *Registration of participants*

Wednesday, 24 November

8 a.m. - 6 p.m. *Registration of participants*

9 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. *Pre-Conference session of the Steering Committee (in camera meeting)*

3 - 3.30 p.m. *Inaugural ceremony*

3.30 - 6.30 p.m. *Plenary session*

Adoption of the agenda and other organisational issues

3.45 p.m. **Interactive panel discussion with the participation of top WTO negotiators: The significance of the WTO General Council decision of 1 August 2004 for the future of the Doha Round**

6.30 p.m. *Reception hosted by the European Parliament*

Thursday, 25 November

9 a.m. - 6 p.m. *Registration of participants*

9 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. *Continuation of the plenary session*

Substantive theme (a) Agriculture

Discussants

- Mr. Boureima Gado, MP (Niger)
- Mr. Joseph Daul, Member of the European Parliament
- MP (Chile)
- MP (Japan)

12.30 - 3 p.m. *Lunch break*

2 - 3 p.m. **Optional side event on practical aspects of trade-related capacity-building with special focus on the needs of parliaments**

3 - 6.30 p.m. *Continuation of the plenary session*

Substantive theme (b) Trade in services from a development perspective

Discussants

- Ms. Paddy Torsney, MP (Canada)
- Mr. Rupchand Pal, MP (India)
- Senator Ibikunle Amosun (Nigeria)
- Ms. Ann McKechin, MP (United Kingdom)

7 - 9 p.m. *Drafting Committee (in camera meeting)*

Friday, 26 November

- 9 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. *Continuation of the plenary session*
Adoption of the draft Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (to be applied as from the following session of the Conference)
- 10 - 11.30 a.m. **Interactive session with the participation of the WTO Director-General, Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi**
- 11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. *Adoption of the outcome document and closure of the session*

