



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



## Buenos Aires Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO

9 and 10 December 2017

Geneva/Brussels, 14 September 2017

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

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

Sessions of the Parliamentary Conference are held annually and in connection with WTO Ministerial Conferences. As you may know, the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 10 to 13 December 2017. The international community is hopeful that MC11 will reaffirm the enduring value of multilateralism.

As on past occasions, the IPU and the European Parliament will organize, with the support of the Argentinian National Congress, a Parliamentary Conference in conjunction with MC11 in Buenos Aires. It will take place on the premises of the National Congress of Argentina on 9 and 10 December.

We are pleased to invite your Parliament to send a delegation to this Parliamentary Conference.

The Parliamentary Conference is intended for legislators who are involved in parliamentary activities dealing with international trade, finance and development. It will provide them with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on progress made at MC11, 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 enclose the provisional annotated agenda, practical information note and registration form for the Conference. They are also available online (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade17.htm>).

We very much hope that your parliament will participate in the forthcoming Buenos Aires session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO and look forward to receiving the names of your delegates in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Saber Chowdhury  
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Antonio Tajani  
President of the European Parliament



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# BUENOS AIRES SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Buenos Aires (Argentina), 9-10 December 2017

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

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## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

### Saturday, 9 December

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|---------------|--|
| 9:00 – 12:30  | Pre-Conference session of the Steering Committee<br><i>(in camera meeting)</i>   |
| 10:00 – 18:00 | Registration of participants   |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | Inaugural session <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)</b></li><li>• <b>Mr. Emilio Monzó</b>, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina</li><li>• <b>Ms. Marta Gabriela Michetti</b>, President of the Senate of Argentina</li><li>• <b>Mr. Krister Örnfjäder</b>, Member of Parliament (Sweden),<br/>Co-Chairman of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO</li><li>• <b>Mr. Bernd Lange</b>, Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of<br/>the Committee on International Trade of the European Parliament,<br/>Co-Chairman of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO</li><li>• <b>Ms. Susanna Malcorra</b>, Chairperson of the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial<br/>Conference [tbc]</li><li>• <b>Ambassador Xavier Carim</b>, Permanent Representative of<br/>South Africa to the WTO, Chairperson of the WTO General Council</li></ul>  |
| 15:30 – 16:30 | Hearing with the WTO Director-General, <b>Mr. Roberto Azevêdo</b><br><b><i>Buenos Aires and beyond</i></b>   |
| 16:30 – 18:00 | Dialogue with senior WTO negotiators and officials<br><b><i>What can we expect from MC 11?</i></b><br><br><u>Guest Speakers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Stephen Ndung'u Karau</b>, Ambassador, Permanent<br/>Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations Office<br/>and other international organizations in Geneva, <b>Chairperson of the<br/>Committee on Agriculture, Special Session</b></li><li>• <b>Mr. Héctor Marcelo Cima</b>, Ambassador, Permanent Representative<br/>of the Argentina Republic to the United Nations Office and other<br/>international organizations in Geneva, <b>Chairperson of the Council<br/>for Trade in Services, Special Session</b></li><li>• <b>Mr. Wayne McCook</b>, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of<br/>Jamaica to the United Nations Office and other international<br/>organizations in Geneva, <b>Chairperson of the Negotiating Group on<br/>Rules</b></li><li>• <b>Mr. Didier Chambovey</b>, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of<br/>Switzerland to the World Trade Organization, <b>Chairperson of the<br/>Negotiating Group on Market Access</b></li></ul> |
| 18:00 – 19:30 | <i>Reception offered by the National Congress of Argentina</i>   |
| 20:00 – 22:00 | Steering Committee <i>(in camera meeting)</i>  |

**Sunday, 10 December**

9:00 – 10:30

Presentation of reports and interactive debate on the substantive theme  
***E-commerce and the internationalization of SMEs***

Rapporteurs

- **Ms. Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Bahrain** [tbc]

Moderator

- **Ms. Emma McClarkin**, Member of the European Parliament

10:30 – 12:00

Presentation of reports and interactive debate on the substantive theme  
***The role of multilateralism in times of rising protectionism***

Rapporteurs

- **Mr. Paul Rübig**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Ms. Bogolo Kenewendo**, Member of Parliament, Botswana

Moderator

- **Mr. Anurag Singh Thakur**, Member of Parliament, India

12:00 – 13:00

Closing session: adoption of the outcome document

Rapporteur

- **Senator Federico Pinedo**, Senator, Argentina

# BUENOS AIRES SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Buenos Aires (Argentina), 9-10 December 2017

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament  
in connection with the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11)

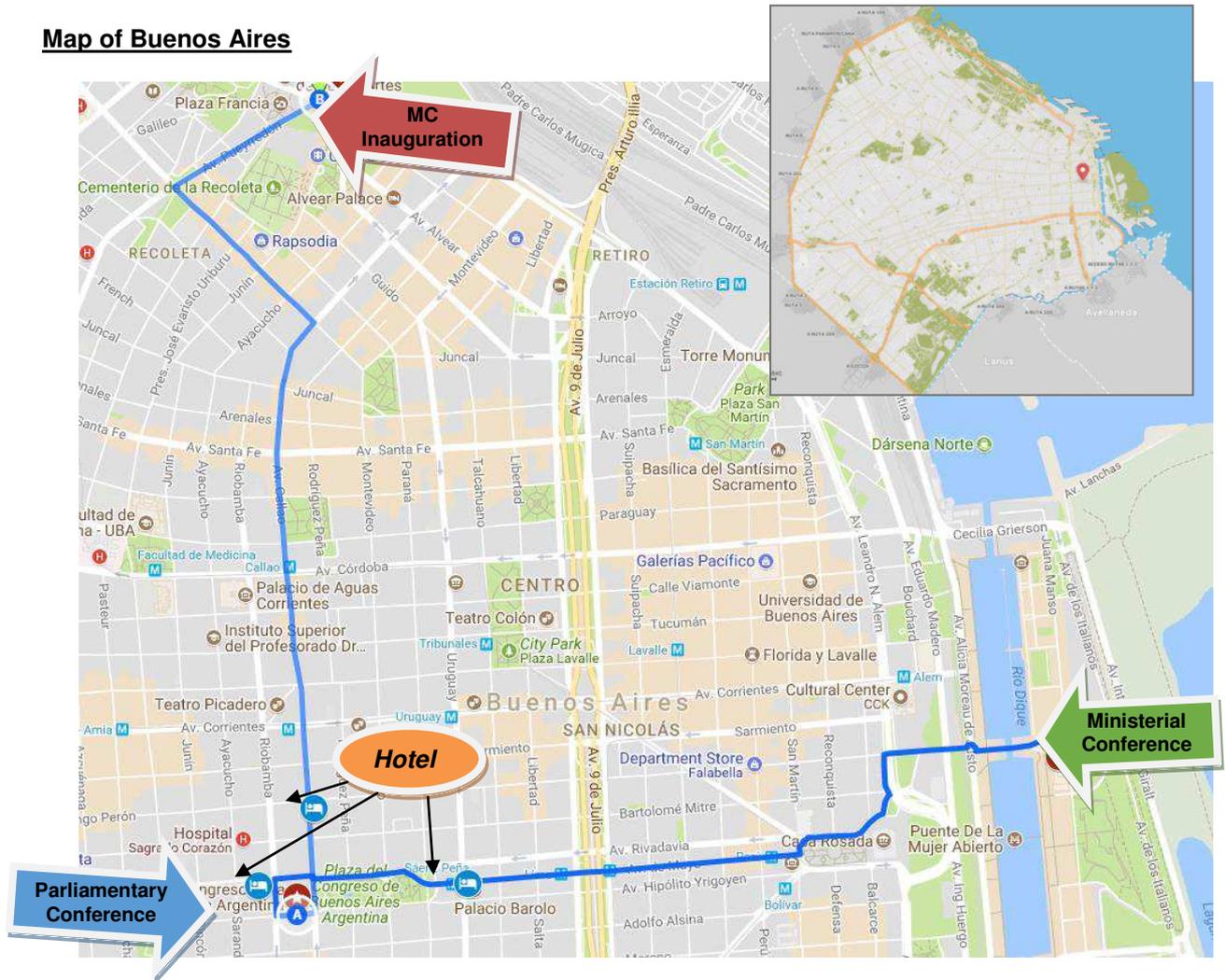
## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Venue

1. The Buenos Aires session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, to be held in connection with the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) in Buenos Aires, will take place on the premises of the National Congress:

Calle Rivadavia 1864  
1033 Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires  
Tel.: (54-11) 4127-7100

### Map of Buenos Aires



2. Ministro Pistarini International Airport, also known as Ezeiza International Airport, is 40 minutes away from the National Congress and the venues of the Ministerial Conference, the Hilton Hotel and the New Buenos Aires Convention Centre. Jorge Newbery Airfield is 20 minutes away from the National Congress.

3. The distance between the National Congress and the Hilton Hotel is approximately 3.5 km. Travel time varies depending on traffic conditions but is about 15 minutes on average. The distance between the National Congress and the New Convention Centre, the venue of the inaugural session, is 3 km. Travel time varies depending on traffic conditions but is about 15 minutes on average.

4. For directions to the National Congress, please consult the MC11 Logistics Information booklet, which will be sent by 1<sup>st</sup> October.

### **Date and timetable**

5. The Parliamentary Session will include two sittings on 9 and 10 December 2017. On 9 December, the session will run from 2.30 to 6.30 p.m. On 10 December, the Conference will meet in the morning, from 8.30 a.m. to 1 p.m., subject to the requirements of the MC11 Inauguration. The Conference Steering Committee will meet *in camera* in the morning of 9 December, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

6. In order to have access to the events and activities taking place on the premises of the Ministerial Conference, it is highly recommendable that parliamentarians ensure they are registered as members of their official national delegations to the Conference. Details of these events will be announced closer to the date of the Ministerial Conference.

### **Participation and registration**

7. Participation in the Buenos Aires session will be guided by the general principles set out in Article 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (see <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade08/rules.htm>). The session is intended primarily for legislators who are involved in parliamentary activities dealing with international trade, finance and development.

8. As a rule, participants in the Parliamentary Conference are expected to travel to Buenos Aires as members of official national delegations to the Ministerial Conference. This is by far the easiest way to ensure that their transportation, visa, and accommodation needs are dealt with in a centralized way. More importantly, as members of their official national delegations they will be accredited automatically for the Ministerial Conference and will receive ID badges giving them access to both the MC11 at the Hilton Buenos Aires Hotel and the Inauguration Session at the New Buenos Aires Convention Centre.

9. If for some reason a parliamentary delegate does not have an MC11 badge, a special "Parliamentary Session" badge will be issued by the IPU Registration Desk on the premises of the National Congress. This badge will be valid exclusively for that venue, on 9 and 10 December only, and will not allow access to the premises of the Ministerial Conference.

10. Irrespective of whether or not parliamentary delegates are accredited to the Ministerial Conference, they are requested to complete the enclosed "Parliamentary Session" registration form, which can also be downloaded from the IPU website (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade17/registration.pdf>). The form should be returned to the IPU Secretariat by **1 November 2017** at the latest. Any modifications concerning the composition of the delegation should likewise be communicated to the IPU Secretariat.

11. Negotiations are currently under way with the Argentinian authorities with a view to providing all parliamentarians with access to the inauguration of the Ministerial Conference and some events regardless of whether or not they are included in their respective official national delegation to the MC11. Nevertheless, final authorizations will depend on the WTO decisions. Should an arrangement become possible, the IPU will immediately circulate to all parliaments the necessary instructions concerning the registration procedure (MC11 registration form, photos, etc.)

12. Members of parliament and accompanying staff travelling to Buenos Aires for the MC11 but who are not members of their countries' official national delegations are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements and for obtaining entry visas for Argentina, if necessary.

13. Due to the limited seating capacity of the meeting room at the National Congress, the number of parliamentarians per delegation should normally not exceed three. Observer delegations should be limited to two persons. Parliaments are encouraged to strive for gender-balanced delegations.

14. The Registration Desk at the National Congress will be located at the entrance of the meeting room and will be open on 9 December from 8 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., and on 10 December, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

15. Security will be tight in Buenos Aires at the time of the WTO Ministerial Conference. Only persons duly accredited and wearing official MC11 badges will have access to the area around the Hilton Hotel. Access to the National Congress will be subject to fewer restrictions, but will nevertheless be subject to controls. All delegates are therefore requested to wear their identification badges at all times during the session and at social functions.

### **List of delegates**

16. A provisional list of delegates taking part in the Parliamentary Session will be distributed at the Registration Desk on 9 December. This list will be issued on the basis of confirmations received by the IPU Secretariat up to 4 December. Delegates are kindly requested to report any changes to the provisional list to the Registration Desk by no later than 12 a.m. on 10 December. A revised list will be published on the IPU website after the session.

### **Working modalities**

17. Procedural arrangements for the session will be made in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (see <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade08/rules.pdf>).

18. A detailed work programme of the session will be circulated in advance of the event and published on the IPU website (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade17.htm>).

19. All agenda items will be dealt with in plenary. The programme will include panel discussions, hearings, keynote presentations and debates on substantive themes. The debate on each substantive theme will be launched by rapporteurs, who will present their discussion papers.

20. The format of the session being largely interactive, every effort ought to be made to avoid reading formal prepared statements. Instead, delegates are invited to ask questions and participate in the debate by making brief statements and suggestions. As there will be no formal list of speakers drawn up in advance, the order of interventions and questions will be decided by the Chair.

### **Outcome document**

21. The overall responsibility for the preparation of the draft outcome document rests with the Conference Steering Committee, which will appoint a Rapporteur of the session from among its members.

22. The Rapporteur will prepare a pre-draft outcome document for consideration by the Steering Committee at its session in Geneva on 27 September 2017. A revised draft will then be posted on the IPU website for comments and amendments by parliaments. The deadline for the submission of amendments by parliaments is 15 November. No further substantive amendments by parliaments will be possible after that date.

23. Delegates participating in the Buenos Aires session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will have the possibility to submit on the spot, in an individual capacity, additional amendments of an editorial nature, which do not impact on the document's scope or nature.

24. An aggregate list of amendments proposed by parliaments and individual delegates will be considered by the Steering Committee at its session in the morning of 9 December.

25. The resulting final draft will be presented by the Rapporteur at the closing session with a view to its adoption by consensus.

### **Languages**

26. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish. Official documentation of the session will be available in English and French only.

### **Documents**

27. The only official documents of the session will be its programme, agenda, the list of delegates, discussion papers prepared by the rapporteurs, the draft outcome document drawn up by the Steering Committee and the information notes prepared by the Secretariat. The WTO may provide background documents for distribution to delegates upon registration.

28. Should participants and observers wish to distribute their own documents or other material pertaining to the agenda of the session, they are kindly requested to inform the organizers about it as early as possible. The Host Parliament will make available tables for that purpose which will be located just outside/close to the meeting room.

### **Official receptions**

29. On 9 December, the National Congress of Argentina will host a cocktail reception in the evening in honour of all participants. The venue of the cocktail reception will be announced later. Free transportation to the cocktail will be assured. On 10 December a buffet lunch will be served, subject to the requirements of the MC11 Inauguration.

### **Visas**

30. All delegates requiring an entry visa to Argentina have a duty to request one sufficiently ahead of time. The IPU and the National Congress of Argentina are not in a position to provide visa assistance for entry into Argentina. For information regarding visa application procedures, delegates are invited to read the Information Note WT/MIN(17)/INF/2 circulated by the WTO ([https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/minist\\_e/mc11\\_e/mc11\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/mc11_e/mc11_e.htm)).

### **Hotel accommodation**

31. Delegates are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements. The availability of hotel rooms in Buenos Aires at the time of the WTO Ministerial Conference will be limited. It is therefore advisable to book hotel rooms as soon as possible. Special rates will be guaranteed until 20<sup>th</sup> November.

32. 120 rooms have been booked for parliamentary delegates at the following hotels (please note that rooms will be allocated on a first come first served basis):

- **Savoy Hotel.** [www.savoyhotel.com.ar](http://www.savoyhotel.com.ar)  
For reservation purposes, this hotel can be contacted by Tel: (+5411) 4370 8079 Fax: (+5411) 4370 8020 or email [ventas1@savoyhotel.com.ar](mailto:ventas1@savoyhotel.com.ar)
- **Tango de Mayo Hotel.** [www.tango-hotel.com.ar](http://www.tango-hotel.com.ar)  
For reservation purposes, this hotel can be contacted by Tel: (+5411) 32216580 or e-mail [lverde@tango-hotel.com.ar](mailto:lverde@tango-hotel.com.ar)

### **Miscellaneous**

33. For information concerning weather conditions, currency, local transport, telecommunications, catering and medical services in Buenos Aires, the organizers will publish a logistics information booklet by 1<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Requests for further information**

34. Requests for further information concerning the Buenos Aires session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO should be addressed to:

Inter-Parliamentary Union  
Chemin du Pommier 5  
Case postale 330  
CH-1218 Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel.: +4122 919 41 10  
Fax: +4122 919 41 60  
e-mail: [postbox@ipu.org](mailto:postbox@ipu.org)

*and*

European Parliament  
International Trade  
Committee Secretariat  
Rue Wiertz  
B-1047 Belgium  
Fax: +32 2 283 1251  
e-mail: [inta-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:inta-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu)

**SESSION DE BUENOS AIRES DE LA CONFERENCE PARLEMENTAIRE SUR L'OMC  
BUENOS AIRES SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO**

Buenos Aires (Argentine / Argentina), 9-10 décembre / December 2017

**FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION / REGISTRATION FORM**

Nous vous prions de nous retourner ce formulaire le plus rapidement possible et au plus tard le :

**01/11/2017**



*Please complete this form and send it back as soon as possible and by no later than:*

Union interparlementaire  
Chemin du Pommier 5  
C.P. 330, CH-1218  
Le Grand-Saconnex / Genève  
Suisse  
Fax : +4122 9194160  
E-mail : [postbox@ipu.org](mailto:postbox@ipu.org)

PARLEMENT ou ORGANISATION / *PARLIAMENT or ORGANIZATION* : .....

.....

Nom (M./Mme) <i>Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms.)</i>	Titres et fonctions <i>Titles and functions</i>	Est déjà accrédité(e) à la MC11* <i>Is already accredited to the MC11*</i>
<b>DELEGUE(E)S / DELEGATES</b>		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Oui / Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Non / No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Oui / Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Non / No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Oui / Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Non / No
<b>SECRETAIRES ET CONSEILLERS / SECRETARIES AND ADVISORS</b>		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Oui / Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Non / No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Oui / Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Non / No

\* Veuillez indiquer si cette personne est déjà accréditée à la MC11 dans le cadre d'une délégation officielle  
\* Please indicate if the person is already accredited to MC11 as a member of an official delegation

Fax/E-mail .....

Date .....

Signature .....