
PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

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

Twenty-eighth session of the Steering Committee

28-29 May 2013

European Parliament, Brussels

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Update on recent developments at the WTO

Members of the Steering Committee will be briefed on recent developments in multilateral trade negotiations and on the situation with the Doha Round, including preparations for the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference (Bali, 3-6 December 2013).

3. Continuation of the policy dialogue with members of the high-level panel designated by the WTO Director-General to define the future of trade

During the last session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (Geneva, November 2012), parliamentary delegates had an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with some members of the high-level panel entrusted with analysing the state of the multilateral trading system, the drivers of today's and tomorrow's trade and the implications of open global trade in the 21st century. The Steering Committee will have an opportunity to continue the dialogue with members of the panel and get a preview of its final report, which will be made public in the near future.

4. Preparations for the next session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO

In conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, a parallel parliamentary session should be held whenever a WTO Ministerial Conference takes place. In application of this principle, the next session of the Parliamentary Conference is to be organized in Bali. Preliminary consultations have already taken place to that end with the Indonesian Parliament as the technical host of the session. Members of the Steering Committee will be expected to consider arrangements for the preparation and holding of the session, including:

- (a) Dates and venue of the session**
- (b) Format of the debate, including side events**
- (c) Subject items to be included in the agenda**
- (d) Rapporteurs and panellists**
- (e) Expected outcome of the session**
- (f) List of international organizations and others to be invited as observers**
- (g) Schedule of preparations**

Particular attention should be paid to the choice of the theme, the subjects of panel discussions and the candidatures of guest speakers. Members of the Steering Committee are invited to reflect on these questions in advance so as to have a more productive exchange of views in Brussels.

5. **Organization of a possible additional event during the Ministerial Conference in Bali**

It is envisaged that the official programme of the Ministerial Conference will be accompanied by a number of parallel events organized by civil society groups at a specially assigned venue that will be separate from the main Conference but accessible to all duly accredited persons. The WTO Secretariat has indicated that it might be possible to use one of the rooms at that venue for a relatively brief (a couple of hours) parliamentary event to be held with the logistical support of the WTO, including interpretation. Ideally, the event should be organized in partnership with other stakeholders, such as the business community represented by the International Chamber of Commerce. The Steering Committee is invited to give consideration to this proposal, it being understood that, due to the differences in the participation formula, the proposed event cannot be held under the aegis of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO and would have to take place on a different date.

6. **Adoption of a statement**

In the past, the Steering Committee decided that it would be desirable to convey the views of parliamentarians to WTO negotiators in a more systematic way, including through the adoption by the Steering Committee of succinct declarations or statements at each of its future sessions. Members of the Committee will consider a draft of such a statement, based on the information update received under agenda items 2 and 3.

7. **Any other business**

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Note: Items 2 and 3 of the agenda will be discussed in the afternoon of Tuesday, 28 May 2013, at a joint session of the Steering Committee and the Committee on International Trade (INTA) of the European Parliament, taking place from 3 to 5 p.m. Other agenda items will be discussed by the Steering Committee at its second sitting that will take place in the morning of 29 May. In the afternoon of the same day, the members will have an opportunity to visit the "Parlamentarium", the new European Parliament's visitors' centre containing a permanent exhibition with hundreds of multimedia components that explain the work of the European Parliament and other institutions of the European Union.