

---

# PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

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

---

## **Forty-first session of the Steering Committee**

*24-25 April 2018*

*European Parliament, Brussels*

## **REVISED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

### **Tuesday 24 April, 15:30-17:30**

#### **1. Hearing on the way forward for the WTO after Buenos Aires**

*The session will start with a hearing on "WTO: the way forward after Buenos Aires".*

*Members of the Steering Committee are invited to join the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA) at a public hearing in the European Parliament. The session will take place from 15:30 to 17:30 (room JAN 4Q1, in the Jozsef Antall building, 4<sup>th</sup> floor.)*

*The meeting is part of the regular work programme of INTA and is open to the public. The members of the Steering Committee are welcome to contribute to the question-and-answer exchange.*

### **Wednesday 25 April, 09:30-13:00 [Altiero Spinelli Building (ASP) 5G-3]**

#### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

#### **2. Informal Working groups on MSMEs and e-commerce**

*New initiatives were announced at the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires to advance talks at the WTO on the issues of electronic commerce, investment facilitation and micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs). A first discussion will allow the Members of the Steering Committee to be informed of planned working methods and programme. It will be introduced by the Ambassador of Australia to the WTO, Ms. Lisson, who will coordinate the work on e-commerce*

#### **3. Follow-up to the 2017 Annual Session**

*Members of the Steering Committee will share their impressions on the Buenos Aires Parliamentary Conference on the WTO as well as the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the Steering Committee.*

#### **4. Future activities and preparations for the annual WTO Public Forum 2018**

*It is important that the outcomes of the PCWTO sessions and the WTO recommendations reach parliamentarians in their different regions and countries for their effective implementation. In this view, regional and national workshops will be conducted in 2018. Members of the Steering Committee will discuss how best to organize these workshops so as to relay the PCWTO messages to the ground.*

*In addition, Members of the Steering Committee will exchange views on how to make best use of the opportunities offered by the WTO 2018 Public Forum, and a possible theme for a parliamentary panel on this occasion, and discuss when to organize the next Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO.*

#### **5. Strengthen institutional cooperation between the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO and the WTO**

*Members of the Steering Committee will explore avenues to strengthen this institutional cooperation.*

#### **6. Any other business**