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# ANNUAL 2008 SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

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

Item 6

PC-WTO/2008/6-R.1  
5 August 2008

## DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

*The current set of Rules of Procedure was adopted by the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO at its session held in Brussels in November 2004. On the request of a number of delegations, the Conference Steering Committee prepared a series of amendments to the Rules of Procedure with a view to establishing a mechanism for rotating the Steering Committee seats among different national parliaments. In accordance with Article 8 of the current Rules, the participants at the parliamentary session will be called upon to approve the proposed amendments, it being understood that the Steering Committee has already established a timeframe for phasing in the regional rotation and drawn up a list of geographical regions for the purpose of rotation.*

Note: Additions to the existing text of the Rules are marked in **bold**, deletions are marked as ~~striktthrough~~ text.

### Article 4.1

*Amend to read as follows:*

4.1 The Steering Committee is jointly established by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament **and is composed of representatives of parliaments of sovereign States, of the IPU and the European Parliament as the Conference co-organizers, of selected other regional and international parliamentary assemblies and structures, and of the WTO Secretariat.**

New articles 4.2bis, 4.2ter, 4.2quater, 4.2quinquies and 4.2sexies

*Add five new articles after Article 4.2 to read as follows:*

**4.2bis. Membership in the Steering Committee shall be institutional, with every parliament or organization having the right to choose its representative(s). In the interest of consistency in the work of the Steering Committee, parliaments and organizations shall endeavour to ensure that, as far as possible, the person(s) who represented them in previous sessions of the Committee continue to take part in subsequent sessions.**

4.2ter. When more than one representative of a national parliament takes part in a session of the Steering Committee, only one member of parliament per delegation shall be part of the decision-making process.

4.2quater. Changes in the composition of the Steering Committee shall be proposed jointly by the IPU and the European Parliament, as the Conference co-organizers, subject to approval by the Steering Committee as a whole. Where possible, equitable geographical distribution shall be taken into consideration.

4.2quinquies. National parliaments shall hold a seat on the Steering Committee for a period of four years. However, the Steering Committee may invite a given parliament to hold its seat on the Steering Committee for another term. The rotation shall be scheduled in such a way that no more than half of the parliaments representing a given geographical region shall be replaced at any one time.

4.2sexies. The definition of geographical regions for the purpose of rotation shall be established by the Steering Committee.