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European Parliament



FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Abu Dhabi Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)
25 February 2024

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament, with the support of the Federal National Council of the UAE, in connection with the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Venue

1. The Abu Dhabi session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, to be held in connection with the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13), will take place in Hall 10 of the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). ADNEC is at the heart of Capital Centre, a purpose built, interconnected event campus. To find the location of the venue please click <https://g.co/kgs/7i43mJ>.
2. Zayed International Airport, also known as Abu Dhabi International Airport, is 20 minutes away from Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC).

Date and timetable

3. The Parliamentary Session will take place on 25 February 2024, from 09:00 to 18:00. The Conference Steering Committee will meet *in camera* on 24 February 2024, from 09:00 to 18:00.
4. In order to have access to the events and activities taking place on the premises of the Ministerial Conference, it is highly recommended 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

5. Participation in the Abu Dhabi 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](#). The session is intended primarily for legislators who are involved in parliamentary activities dealing with international trade, finance and development.
6. As a rule, participants in the Parliamentary Conference are expected to travel to Abu Dhabi as members of official national delegations to the Ministerial Conference.
7. Participants are invited to register through the link provided on the IPU website and kindly requested to respect the registration deadline (9 February 2024) set by the organizers.
8. An access badge to the MC13 will be issued to the participants of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO. This badge will be valid for the other meetings of the MC13, excluding the negotiations area.
9. Members of parliament and accompanying staff travelling to Abu Dhabi for the MC13 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 the UAE, if necessary.

10. The number of MPs in each delegation should not exceed four. The size of the delegation of the Host Parliament is not affected by this limitation but should nonetheless take due account of the availability of seats in the meeting room.

11. Badges/MC13 Accreditations will be available for collection on 24 February 2024. The badge/MC13 Accreditation distribution process will be communicated to all participants at a later stage.

12. Security will be tight in Abu Dhabi during the WTO Ministerial Conference. Only persons duly accredited and wearing official MC13 badges will have access to the ADNEC premises. Access to the ADNEC will be subject to strict controls. All delegates are therefore requested to wear their identification badges at all times during the session and at social functions.

Working modalities

13. Procedural arrangements for the session will be made in conformity with the [Rules of Procedure of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO](#).

14. A detailed work programme of the session will be circulated in advance of the event and published on the [IPU website](#).

15. 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.

16. 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

17. The overall responsibility for the preparation of the draft outcome document rests with the Host, which will appoint a Rapporteur of the session.

18. The Rapporteur will prepare a preliminary draft outcome document, with the contribution of the IPU, the European Parliament and the WTO Secretariat. It will be sent to the wider parliamentary community for comments and amendments. That feedback is expected by 26 January 2024 at the latest. No further substantive amendments will be possible after that date. An aggregate list of amendments proposed by parliaments and individual delegates will be considered by the Steering Committee at its session on 24 February 2024.

19. Delegates participating in the Abu Dhabi session will have a possibility to propose, on the spot, in their own name, additional changes of editorial nature, provided these do not have the effect of altering the document's scope or nature. The receivability of such editorial changes will be assessed by the Rapporteur.

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

Languages

21. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and French (official languages), and Arabic and Spanish as working languages throughout the Conference. The official documentation of the session will be available in English and French only.

22. In addition to the four interpretation booths for the above-mentioned languages, the Host will look into the possibility of installing up to three supplementary interpretation booths and channels for use by delegations that wish to bring their own interpreters. The IPU will collect all requests for use of additional interpretation languages and will deal with them on a first-come-first-served basis.

Documents

23. 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.

24. 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 as early as possible. Documents should be distributed through QR Code as the PCWTO venue is a green venue (paperless).

Official receptions

25. In the evening of 25 February 2024, the Federal National Council will host a cocktail reception in honour of all participants. The venue of the cocktail reception will be the ADNEC.

Visas

26. All delegates requiring an entry visa to Abu Dhabi have a duty to request one sufficiently ahead of time. The IPU and the Federal National Council are not in a position to provide visa assistance for entry into the UAE. Accreditation for MC13 does not automatically grant entry into the UAE. Further information on visa requirements is available [here](#).

Hotel accommodation

27. Delegates are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements. The availability of hotel rooms in Abu Dhabi at the time of the WTO Ministerial Conference will be limited. It is therefore advisable to book hotel rooms as soon as possible. Delegates can book hotel rooms [here](#).

Requests for further information

28. Requests for further information concerning the Abu Dhabi session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO should be addressed to:

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Federal National Council of the UAE

and