



## British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union Newsletter December 2013

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Secretariat, I would like to thank all our Members and stakeholders for their work and cooperation in making 2013 a very successful year for the Group.

The Autumn has been a very busy period with delegations to Argentina and Ethiopia, an inward visit from Haiti, and Members attending Parliamentary Conferences at the WTO and the UN Hearing.

The Group also held its AGM on 4 December. The AGM marked the end of the three year term of Robert Walter MP as Chairman of the Group, and members registered their appreciation for his guidance and leadership. Members also welcomed the new Chair, Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, and the Secretariat looks forward to working with him and the other Officers and Members of the Executive Committee in the year ahead.

On behalf of all BGIPU staff, may I wish all BGIPU Members and our colleagues in the UK Parliament and contacts elsewhere our very best regards for the festive season and a safe, healthy and happy start to 2014.

***Rick Nimmo, Director, BGIPU***

### **Strengthening British-Argentine parliamentary ties**

11 November 2013 - by *Robert Walter MP*



At the invitation of our Argentine counterparts following bilateral exchanges in the margins of IPU Assembly meetings, the visit aimed to provide an opportunity for expanding knowledge and enhancing links between parliamentarians on both sides, to better appreciate the bilateral relationship in all its aspects. While well-known differences over the Falkland Islands were raised, we found the many common interests linking both countries, including extensive economic, social and historic links provided a broad basis on which we could share common perspectives and advance cooperation in many areas.

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### **The African Union, Bilateral Engagement & Agricultural Development: Delegation to Ethiopia**

11 November 2013 - by *BGIPU*

The visit of the delegation to Ethiopia covered several interests and



agendas, the three main aims of the visit were to; Deepen bilateral parliamentary relations, and establish greater understanding of the role of the AU in parliament, Explore the relationship between democracy and growth, both in the context of Ethiopia itself and through the African Union, Examine agricultural development in the country, in particular looking at examples of where investments and government policies in agriculture have had impacts on improved nutrition.

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## Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations: Re-thinking Sustainable Development

14 November 2013 - by *Gareth Johnson MP*



This Annual Parliamentary Hearing aimed to provide a parliamentary contribution to the on-going debate at the United Nations and in capitals on the development agenda after 2015, when leading development commitments are set to expire. Entitled Re-thinking sustainable development: the quest for a "transformational" global agenda in 2015, the Parliamentary Hearing was able to consider the role of parliaments in the implementation of the new commitments for sustainable development as a universal agenda for both developed and developing countries.

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## Parliamentary delegation from Haiti highlights challenges to democracy

18 November 2013 - by *BGIPU*



A delegation from Haiti undertook an inter-parliamentary visit to the UK Parliament from 18-20 November 2013 led by the President of the National Assembly, Hon Senator Simon Dieuseul Desras. The visit provided an important opportunity to better inform UK parliamentarians of the deep-seated governance, social and economic challenges facing Haiti and to explore areas the UK might assist the country in its efforts to consolidate its security, prosperity and democratic governance.

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## The WTO Delivers: Parliamentary Conference on the WTO

2 December 2013 - by *Jonathan Djanogly MP*



Jonathan Djanogly MP attended the joint European Parliament/IPU Parliamentary Conference on the WTO in Bali, Indonesia on 2 and 5 December 2013 convened in connection with the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference. As the UK's representative among some 270 MPs participating, he joined counterparts in urging governments to place development at the heart of the multilateral trading system, taking into full account the special needs and interests of developing countries, particularly the least developed.

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## The Annual General Meeting of the BGIPU

4 December 2013 - by *BGIPU*



The Annual General Meeting of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, presided over by the Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt Hon John Bercow MP, Honorary President of the Group, was held on Wednesday 4 December 2013, adopting the 2013 Annual Report and electing the Executive Committee for 2013/14. A new Chair of the Group was appointed at the meeting, Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP.

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## BGIPU FORTHCOMING LOOK

Please note that the Secretariat will be closed from **20 December 2013 to 1 January 2014** inclusive.

The BGIPU have a number of activities planned for the New Year as follows;

- BGIPU Inward Delegation from **Côte d'Ivoire** | 13 to 17 January 2014
- Meetings in Westminster for members of the **IPU Headquarters** | 23 and 24 January 2014
- BGIPU Outward Delegation to **Armenia** | 16 - 21 February 2014
- BGIPU Outward Delegation to **Poland** | 3 - 7 March 2014 (Dates TBC)

If you would like to register your interest in any of the above events or would like further information please contact the Secretariat.

## BGIPU

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