



## PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION (PGA)

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### **PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION (PGA) ANNOUNCES Seminar on Parliamentary Ethics and Accountability**

June 3-4<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
United States Senate, Room SD-G11  
Washington, D.C., USA

#### ***Global Seminar to Focus on Legislators and Ethical Problems***

Some of the world's oldest and most persistent problems of political ethics--and some that have emerged only recently--will come under a worldwide spotlight June 3 and 4 at a Seminar on Parliamentary Ethics and Responsibility being held in Washington, DC at the United States Senate.

Coming at a time when many U.S. policies are being criticized sharply by other governments, the seminar provides a rare opportunity for U.S. lawmakers to meet with international leaders and get their perspective on current issues. It is organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), the only worldwide organization of democratically elected national lawmakers, with more than 1,350 members in 108 countries and 2 regional legislatures.

Among the topics on the seminar's agenda are: campaign finance reform; political abuse of religion and ethnicity; drafting and enforcing anti-corruption codes of conduct; the responsibility of civil servants, and the role of the media. One focus of the seminar will be to compare the experiences that different countries have had in dealing with such issues. Seminar participants include lawmakers from 33 countries, international experts and officials of nongovernmental organizations

The seminar will be co-hosted by Senator Tom Harkin of the United States (D-IA) and Senator Longin Pastusiak of Poland, the President of his country's Senate.

"The effort to combat political corruption has never been more important," said Senator Pastusiak commenting on the importance of the seminar. "Because members of parliament, directly elected by the people they represent, are at the core of democracy, any hint of impropriety hurts not only them personally, but also the effort to promote democratic institutions around the world."

Collaborating with PGA in sponsoring the seminar are the United States Senate, the Senate of Poland and Transparency International.