



EUROPEAN UNION  
DELEGATION TO PAKISTAN

## PRESS RELEASE

**Subject: First call for application under the European Union funded parliamentary assistance programme**

30th May, 2013, Islamabad: The European Union funded parliamentary assistance programme "Improving parliamentary performance - IP3", in partnership with the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), has launched the first call for applications for its flagship initiative "Young Parliamentary Associates (YPA)" 2013-2014.

The purpose of the "Improving Parliamentary Performance - IP3" programme is to support Pakistan legislative institutions in law making, legislative research, developing accountability and transparency mechanisms, engaging in electoral reform and working towards mainstreaming gender and international human rights conventions in which Pakistan is a signatory. IP3 emphasises the work and performance of Parliamentary committees – the "engines" of Parliament.

The Young Parliamentary Associates initiative (YPA) 2013-14 is developed under the auspices of IP3 to facilitate Pakistan legislators to tap into the potential of Pakistan's young graduates for carrying out their parliamentary core functions of legislation, oversight and representation. YPA is also an opportunity for the graduates to receive unprecedented exposure at the highest levels of policy making.

The YPAs will assist Parliamentary Committees and Secretariats of the National assembly and the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as well as the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services, by conducting research and preparing reports, drafting relevant memos, undertaking analysis and attending Committee meetings and hearings.

Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Mr Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, welcomed the launch of the internship programme for young Pakistanis and described it as *"a concrete way to support the parliament and, at the same time, give young university graduates an opportunity to learn about how Pakistan's democratic institutions are functioning."* He added that *"It's fortunate that this programme starts at the very beginning of a new legislature."*

YPA will run until the end of 2014 with the goal to deploy an overall total of 100 graduates. The call for applications for the first 30 YPAs was publicised yesterday. Applications for the IP3 Young Parliamentary Associate programme can be made through the [website of the National Testing Service \(NTS\)](#) or [www.nts.org.pk](http://www.nts.org.pk). Women are strongly encouraged to apply. The deadline for submitting applications through the NTS website is 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2013.

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