

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND EU NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

EN



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



European
Parliament

PARLIAMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The functioning of the European Union is founded on representative democracy.



Citizens are directly represented at Union level in the European Parliament.



Member States are represented in the European Council by their Heads of State or Government and in the Council by their governments, themselves democratically accountable either to their national Parliaments, or to their citizens.

National Parliaments contribute actively to the good functioning of the Union by...



... being informed by the EU institutions and having draft EU laws forwarded to them.



...taking part in the revision procedures of the EU Treaties.



... ensuring that the principle of subsidiarity is respected.



... being notified of applications for accession to the EU.



... taking part in the evaluation mechanisms for the area of freedom, security and justice and being involved in the political monitoring of Europol and the evaluation of Eurojust.



... taking part in interparliamentary cooperation between national Parliaments and with the European Parliament.



The European Parliament and national Parliaments shall together determine the organisation and promotion of effective and regular interparliamentary cooperation within the EU.



A conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC) may submit any contribution it deems appropriate for the attention of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. That conference shall in addition promote the exchange of information and best practice between national Parliaments and the European Parliament.

**DIRECTORATE FOR RELATIONS
WITH NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS**

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Relations between
the European Parliament
and EU national parliaments

The 2025 activity report of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments provides an overview of the activities and main political developments in interparliamentary relations between the European Parliament and EU national parliaments in the areas of institutional cooperation, legislative dialogue and joint parliamentary scrutiny. This cooperation involved 39 national chambers across the 27 Member States and the European Parliament.

This is a publication of the European Parliament's Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, which is part of the European Parliament's Directorate-General for Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships.

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Foreword by the European Parliament's Vice-Presidents responsible for Relations with EU National Parliaments



Figure 1: Esteban González Pons and Katarina Barley, Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament ©European Parliament

2025 unfolded against a backdrop of rising global uncertainty and instability. Ongoing conflicts, geopolitical tensions, and transformations in the digital landscape continued to shape the political and legislative agenda of the European Union. In this context, cooperation between the European Parliament and EU national parliaments remained indispensable, ensuring that democratic scrutiny, political dialogue and legislative cooperation continued to underpin the Union's response to these challenges.

The uncertain geopolitical context occupied a central place in many interparliamentary meetings and events. Parliamentarians exchanged views, among other topics, on strengthening Europe's security and defence, and on the role of parliaments in ensuring democratic scrutiny and accountability. These meetings also provided an opportunity to reiterate support for Ukraine's sovereignty and

territorial integrity in response to Russia's illegal, unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression.

In short, interparliamentary meetings continued to offer members of national parliaments and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) an important forum to exchange views, share best practices and discuss common European challenges.

Throughout the year, MEPs and members of national parliaments engaged openly and constructively to identify common solutions on topics as vital and diverse as Europe's economic competitiveness, the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the impact of artificial intelligence.

MEPs and members of EU national parliaments also discussed the role that parliaments can play in safeguarding democratic governance. In this context, the first EU Parliamentary Democracy Forum brought together parliamentarians, civil society and other stakeholders to discuss how to strengthen parliamentary democracy in the face of nationalism, political polarisation and foreign interference, and to reflect on how technology can help protect democratic debate and public trust.

As Vice-Presidents responsible for Relations with National Parliaments, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to interparliamentary dialogue in all its different forms. Such cooperation is essential to foster a shared understanding, promote cohesion among EU Member States, and safeguard democratic values. In a world where our shared values of democracy, the rule of law and solidarity are increasingly under threat, unity must be the answer. Cooperation between European and national parliaments is a clear expression of that unity.

We look forward to maintaining this fruitful collaboration with our colleagues in EU capitals and to continuing to work together for the stability and growth of the European Union.



Esteban González Pons
Vice-President



Katarina Barley
Vice-President

Key developments and main topics on the interparliamentary agenda in 2025

The 2025 Annual Report of the **Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments** provides an overview of the intensifying political and administrative ties between the European Parliament (EP) and 39 national chambers across the 27 EU Member States. This cooperation is fundamentally structured around three strategic pillars: **institutional cooperation**, which facilitates high-level political exchange; **legislative dialogue**, which integrates national perspectives into the EU lawmaking process and contributes to the fairness of EU legislation through subsidiarity checks; and **joint parliamentary scrutiny**, which ensures democratic oversight of key EU agencies in the area of justice and home affairs. The Directorate operates within the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships, under the leadership of President Roberta Metsola and Vice-Presidents Esteban González Pons and Katarina Barley. It serves as a **knowledge centre and advice hub** for the political bodies and services of the European Parliament on all matters related to relations with national parliaments.

2025 saw the continuation of traditional formats, such as **the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC)** and **Interparliamentary Committee Meetings (ICMs)**, alongside newer initiatives such as the **Rapporteurs' Dialogues**, which foster a more direct and targeted two-way exchange on the substance of legislative files.

In a year marked by global economic competition and security threats, interparliamentary activity reached a high level of intensity. The European Parliament organised **17 Interparliamentary Committee Meetings (ICMs)**, covering a diverse array of legislative and political issues.

As a response to this interest in contributing to shaping European legislation, the Directorate, in cooperation with the relevant EP committees, organised three **Rapporteurs' Dialogues**, namely on enlargement, subsidiarity and the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

56 bilateral visits from Members and staff of national parliaments to the European Parliament were organised in 2025.

Legislative cooperation remained robust, with the European Parliament receiving 446 submissions, of which 182 under Protocol No 1 (Informal Political Dialogue) and 264 under Protocol No 2 (Early Warning System).

19 of the submissions under Protocol 2 were reasoned opinions raising the issue of non-compliance with the principle of subsidiarity. The overwhelming majority were contributions on issues related to the substance of legislative proposals. The use of Protocol No 2 by EU national parliaments to express their views on the substance of proposals is an indication of **the desire of national parliaments to be involved at an earlier stage in the EU lawmaking process.**

Moreover, the Informal Political Dialogue and Protocol No 1 to the Treaties, allowing EU national parliaments to comment on legislative files falling under the exclusive competence of the EU and on non-legislative documents, remained an important vehicle for legislative dialogue.

The year also saw the further consolidation of **administrative networks**, such as the **Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange (IPEX)**, which implemented its Rolling Work Programme 2024–2026, and the **European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD)**, which focused heavily on the integration of **artificial intelligence (AI)** into parliamentary workflows.

Five recurring themes defined the 2025 interparliamentary agenda: the defence of parliamentary democracy; support for Ukraine; the pursuit of European strategic security; economic competitiveness; and the impact of AI on democracy, employment and the administration.

These themes dominated the ICMs, Rapporteurs Dialogues and the main interparliamentary meetings, such as the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments (EUSC), the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC), the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC CFSP/CSDP), the European Parliamentary Week (EPW) and the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU (IPC SECG), and the EU Tax Symposium 2025.

Strengthening parliamentary democracy

The focal point for democratic renewal in 2025 was the inaugural **EU Parliamentary Democracy Forum**, held in Brussels on 19 November 2025. Gathering more than 600 participants – including members of national parliaments, MEPs, youth organisations, and civil society – the Forum addressed the growing pressure on democratic governance from nationalism, political polarisation and foreign interference. President Metsola recalled that these threats challenge the EU's founding principles of freedom and the rule of law.

Throughout 2025, **safeguarding parliamentary democracy** remained a constant theme for European and national legislators in exchanges during Interparliamentary Committee Meetings, whether they focused on defence, development or women's rights. This commitment to upholding parliamentary democracy went beyond the borders of the EU, as demonstrated by several international interparliamentary forums where democracy was discussed, such as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the inclusion of candidate countries in several ICMs, and the Democracy Support Network (DSN).

Unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and EU accession

Support for Ukraine's sovereignty remained a cornerstone of the interparliamentary agenda, and was a dominant theme in high-level summits and field missions. The Speakers of EU parliaments underlined their support for Ukraine in the Conclusions to the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments (EUSC), hosted by the Hungarian Parliament in May 2025. The Fourth Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform in Stockholm reaffirmed the commitment to coordinating international efforts to de-occupy the Crimean Peninsula. High-level representatives from nearly 70 parliaments condemned Russia's violations of international law and the UN Charter. A key consensus emerged regarding **Ukraine's EU accession path**. Furthermore, political leaders expressed support for using frozen Russian assets to fund Ukraine's reconstruction.

This solidarity was further demonstrated in September 2025, when a **delegation of COSAC Chairpersons visited Kyiv**. The delegation met with high-level Ukrainian officials, including Speaker Ruslan Stefanchuk, and conducted field visits to sites

damaged by Russian attacks, such as Bucha and Moshchun. In various forums, including COSAC Chairpersons' meetings held in the framework of the Polish and Danish Presidencies, parliamentarians stressed that any peace proposal must be grounded in the rules-based international order and that Member States must continue providing sustained **military, political, and legal support** to ensure an independent and united Ukraine.

Promoting European security

In the face of Russian aggression and rising global instability, interparliamentary dialogue focused on enhancing **European strategic autonomy**. The 26th and 27th sessions of the **Interparliamentary Conference for the CFSP/CSDP** expressed the need to strengthen European defence through a **unified European defence pillar** that remains complementary to NATO.

Discussions in Warsaw and Copenhagen also tackled **hybrid threats** as external factors destabilising Europe, as well as security in the Baltic Sea region. Parliamentarians argued that **enlargement is a strategic investment** in Europe's collective security. The need to boost military production and overcome the fragmentation of European defence industries was also highlighted in the Interparliamentary Committee Meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Security and Defence (SEDE) in Brussels.

The 2025 debates concluded that robust parliamentary scrutiny is essential to address security challenges, including the protection of critical infrastructure and resilience against cyber-threats.

Economic competitiveness and future EU finances

Economic policy was dominated by the discussions on the **2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)** and the debates on the EU's competitiveness. During **European Parliamentary Week (EPW)**, former ECB President and former Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi delivered a keynote address urging Europe to act decisively as a 'single government' to secure its future in response to lagging competitiveness and security challenges. There **was a broad call for the EU to bridge its productivity gap** as compared with the United States and China through

better coordination of national budgets and strategic investment in energy, trade, and digital technologies.

The MFF was characterised as a political roadmap for EU priorities, requiring adequate resources for 'European public goods' such as climate action and collective defence. However, national parliaments expressed strong concerns about maintaining traditional policies, particularly the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Cohesion Policy**. In the Rapporteurs' dialogues and bilateral visits, members of national parliaments emphasised that new strategic priorities must not come at the expense of social convergence or the rule of law. The consensus reached was that a **balanced, transparent, and efficient budget** is necessary to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the Union.

Artificial Intelligence and digital transformation

In 2025, the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the rapidly changing digital landscape emerged as a cross-cutting theme, influencing both political discourse and the administration and support services of parliaments.

The dual nature of AI in the labour market and the more malicious aspects of digital transformation were tackled during interparliamentary events and forums in 2025. AI-driven algorithms, deepfakes, and misinformation were underlined as a direct threat to critical thinking and democratic debate; there was a broad consensus on the need for risk-based regulation and the enforcement of EU rules to protect the public sphere from foreign hybrid influencing.

During COSAC plenary sessions, speakers declared that **achieving EU digital sovereignty and reducing reliance on foreign technology** providers is essential for long-term democratic resilience.

From an administrative perspective, the **ECPRD network** and **IPEX** focused on harnessing AI to modernise parliamentary workflows. Dedicated seminars explored the use of AI for **real-time translation, legislative data structures, and opening up parliamentary archives**. These technical efforts were paired with the development of '*Guidelines on Openness and Transparency*' and the establishment of **AI governance frameworks** within parliamentary administrations to ensure that the integration of new technologies aligns with democratic values.

1. Speakers' Conferences

1.1 Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments (EUSC)

The Stockholm Guidelines for the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments were adopted in 2010. They provide for one annual meeting of the Speakers, organised by the Member State holding the second semester presidency in a given year, to take place during the spring presidency of the following year. This Conference adopts non-binding presidency conclusions. It also has the task of overseeing the coordination of interparliamentary EU activities.

The EUSC agenda is prepared by the Meeting of the Secretaries-General of the EU parliaments.

The 2025 EUSC, hosted by the Hungarian Parliament, took place in Budapest on 11–12 May. The EUSC brought together the Speakers from EU Member States, the European Parliament, and seven candidate countries.

The European Parliament was represented by President Roberta Metsola. In her keynote speech during the first session of the event she underlined that *'Europe works best when it works together'*.

The event began with a meeting of the EUSC Presidential Troika. In this context, the Troika, composed of the second semester presidencies, refers to Spain, Hungary, Denmark, as well as the European Parliament.

The event opened with a welcome address by Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary, in which he called for a strong Europe through empowered national parliaments.



Figure 2: The Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments (EUSC), hosted by the Hungarian Parliament, took place in Budapest on 11-12 May 2025

The event was divided into two sessions. The first session focused on the future of the European Union and featured addresses from László Kövér, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly, Walter Rosenkranz, President of the National Council of Austria, and Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament. The second session centred on regionalism and safeguarding cultural identity, with keynote speeches from László Kövér, Lorenzo Fontana, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, Ana Brnabić, Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia, and Maja Riniker, President of the National Council of Switzerland.

The debates revealed divergent views on EU integration, subsidiarity, and national sovereignty, yet broad consensus on solidarity, democratic values, bringing decision-making closer to citizens, and protecting cultural diversity.

The closing session saw the adoption of the [Presidency Conclusions](#).

The Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments concluded the parliamentary dimension of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Main development

The conference conclusions addressed EUSC support for Ukraine, the protection of EU fundamental values, and enlargement as geostrategic investments in peace, security, stability and prosperity, while underlining national parliaments' role in ensuring a strong and resilient Europe.

1.2 Fourth Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform

The International Crimea Platform was established in the summer of 2021 at the initiative of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with the aim of coordinating all national and international efforts to de-occupy the Crimean Peninsula.

The platform serves as a coordinating and consultative forum for government representatives, members of parliament and leading experts, and focuses on five priority areas: the politics of non-recognition; sanctions; human rights; security and freedom of navigation; and the economic and environmental consequences of Russia's temporary occupation of the Crimean Peninsula.

The objective of the Parliamentary Summit is to raise awareness among world leaders and the public about the illegitimate Russian occupation of Crimea and its negative impact on the human rights of the local population, on security in the Black Sea region, on global food security and on the rules-based international order. The European Parliament's participation in the conference is supported by the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments (DG PART) together with the Directorate-General for External Policies (DG EXPO).

The [Fourth Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform](#) was held on 23-24 November 2025 in Stockholm, Sweden. Andreas Norlén, Speaker of the Swedish Riksdag, and Ruslan Stefanchuk, Speaker of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada, chaired the meeting.

European Parliament Vice-President Roberts Zīle represented the European Parliament. He condemned Russia's blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter, while welcoming the New York Declaration from the Fifth Summit of the International Crimea Platform. He stressed that **the European Parliament remains fully committed to Ukraine's EU accession path** and urges the opening of the fundamental clusters to advance the accession negotiations. He also expressed **support for using frozen Russian assets to fund Ukraine's reconstruction**. In the face of the controversial peace proposal from the Trump administration, Zīle stated that lasting peace cannot be achieved if the agreement is based on a violation of international rules.



Figure 3: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky addressing the Fourth Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform in the Riksdag, the Parliament of Sweden ©Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

The debates confirmed a **consensus on upholding international law**, ensuring an independent and united Ukraine, and condemning Russian aggression.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky joined remotely. The Summit, which included representatives from almost 70 parliaments (some of whom joined online), concluded with a [Joint Statement](#) reaffirming the participants' 'unwavering support for the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, extending to its territorial waters, in **full respect of international law and the principles of the UN Charter.**'



Figure 4: During his working visit to Sweden, the First Deputy Speaker met with Roberts Zīle, Vice-President of the European Parliament. On behalf of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, Oleksandr Korniienko expressed gratitude to the European Parliament for its consistent support and assistance. ©Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Main developments

- **Support for Ukraine's sovereignty and EU accession:** The summit reiterated strong support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity within its recognised borders. It reaffirmed the commitment to Ukraine's path towards EU accession.
- **Peace proposals must be grounded in international rules:** The summit participants emphasised that lasting peace cannot be achieved through agreements that violate international rules.

1.3 Speakers' Summits of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) provides an opportunity for multilateral cooperation among elected representatives of the EU and its Southern Mediterranean partner countries. At least once a year the 280 members hold a plenary session. The European Parliament's participation in the conference is organised thanks to the cooperation between the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments (DG PART) and the Directorate-General for External Policies (DG EXPO).

In 2025, the Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM) was held by Spain in the first semester, and Egypt in the second. The European Parliament took part in the four meetings organised in 2025, alongside parliaments from EU Member States and the Mediterranean region. The EP's participation was coordinated by the Delegation to the PA-UfM (DG EXPO), with the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments providing support to the EP delegation.

The Spanish Presidency chose **the migration situation in the Mediterranean** as the main topic for the three meetings it organised. The [Meeting of Speakers of Parliaments of the South of the EU and the North of Africa took place in Lanzarote](#) from 26 to 28 January 2025, building on the meeting of EU Parliaments of the South that took place for the very first time on the margins of the EU Speakers Conference organised by Spain in Palma de Mallorca in April 2024.



Figure 5: The participants of the Meeting of Speakers of Parliaments of the South of the EU and the North of Africa, chaired by Francina Armengol (front row, centre), Speaker of the Spanish Congress of Deputies. The EP was represented by EP Vice-President Younous Omarjee (front row, fourth from left), who delivered a keynote address during the opening session ©2026 – PRESIDENCIA ESPAÑOLA DE LA ASAMBLEA PARLAMENTARIA DE LA UNIÓN POR EL MEDITERRÁNEO 2024-2025

The goal of the meeting in Lanzarote, chaired by Francina Armengol, Speaker of the Spanish Congress of Deputies, was to tackle the specific challenges posed by migration within the most affected origin, transit and destination countries. The European Parliament was represented by Vice-President Younous Omarjee. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a [Joint Declaration by the Parliaments of the South](#).

The [Forum on the Future of the Mediterranean was organised in Granada](#) from 2 to 4 April 2025 and was formally inaugurated in the presence of His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain. The agenda was structured around four themes: peace and stability; challenges posed by migratory movements; climate change; and youth employment and gender equality. Vice-President Pina Picierno led the European Parliament delegation to the Forum. The Forum led to the adoption of the [Declaration of Granada on the Future of the Mediterranean](#).



Figure 6: EP Vice-President Pina Picierno at the Ninth Summit of Speakers and the Eighteenth Plenary Session of the PA-UfM ©2026 – PRESIDENCIA ESPAÑOLA DE LA ASAMBLEA PARLAMENTARIA DE LA UNIÓN POR EL MEDITERRÁNEO 2024-2025

The last meeting organised by the Spanish Presidency was the [Ninth Summit of Speakers and the Eighteenth Plenary Session of the PA-UfM](#) which took place in Málaga from 25 to 27 June 2025. The meeting reflected a broad convergence on the **need for renewed dialogue, stronger multilateral cooperation, and inclusive migration management**, alongside recurrent appeals for a just peace in Gaza and a two-state solution. The nine-member European Parliament Delegation to the PA-UfM Plenary session was led by Vice-President Pina Picierno, for the second time. The Ninth Summit of Speakers concluded with the adoption of a [declaration](#).

Egypt took over the Presidency of the PA-UfM from Spain at the conclusion of the Eighteenth Plenary Session. The Egyptian Presidency organised the [Forum of the PA-UfM and the Summit of Speakers of Parliament at the Egyptian House of Representatives](#) on 28 and 29 November 2025. The meeting took place under the theme 'Promotion of Economic Cooperation between the Two Shores of the Mediterranean – Revitalising the Barcelona Process on its 30th Anniversary', and concluded with the adoption of the [Cairo Declaration](#). Vice-President Pina Picierno led the 10-member EP delegation.

Main developments

- Relevant and meaningful discussions on the future of the Mediterranean on the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Process organised by the Spanish and Egyptian Presidencies.
- Active participation of the delegation from the European Parliament, organised by the Delegation to the PA-UfM, with support from DG EXPO and the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments. The [Forum on the Future of the Mediterranean was organised in Granada](#) from 2 to 4 April 2025 and was formally inaugurated in the presence of His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain. The agenda was structured around four themes: peace and stability; challenges posed by migratory movements; climate change; and youth employment and gender equality. Vice-President Pina Picierno led the European Parliament delegation to the Forum. The Forum led to the adoption of the [Declaration of Granada on the Future of the Mediterranean](#).

1.4 Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

The European Parliament contributes to the Inter-Parliamentary Union's activities to promote peace, democracy, and sustainable development through parliamentary democracy and dialogue.

The IPU convened the first-ever World Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments in 2000. Speakers' Conferences are organised by the IPU in close cooperation with the United Nations and are designed to reinforce the parliamentary dimension of the work of the United Nations.

Since 2005, the IPU organises regular Summits of Women Speakers of Parliament with the aim of bringing together women in the highest parliamentary decision-making positions to shape parliamentary agenda. It offers a platform for women leaders to network and exchange views and experiences. The summits are also open to regional and international parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members such as the European Parliament or permanent observers of the IPU and are presided over by a woman President.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) convened the **15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament** (28 July 2025) and the **6th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament** (29–31 July 2025) in close cooperation with the Swiss Parliament and the UN in Geneva, Switzerland. The European Parliament was represented by Vice-President Katarina Barley.

The core theme of the 15th Summit of Women Speakers in Parliament was '**Leading for Inclusive and Lasting Peace**' in the context of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and 25 years since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

The 15th Summit started with opening remarks by Dr Tulia Ackson, IPU President, Maja Riniker, President of the National Council of Switzerland and President of the Summit, and Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

The first session focused on '**The women, peace and security agenda 25 years on: Persisting challenges and the way forward**', during which Vice-President Katarina Barley delivered a speech on behalf of President Metsola. In her intervention she

underlined that parliamentarians have a unique democratic mandate to ensure gender equality in all areas of peace and security policy through lawmaking, oversight and resource allocation.

The second session focused on 'Emerging challenges to inclusive and lasting peace and the way forward', with Doha-style debates on two motions. The first motion was entitled 'Climate change is gender neutral; it has the same impact on women and men', the second 'It is already too late to make AI gender-sensitive and to eliminate violence against women online'. During this debate it was pointed out that women who were most visible online, such as women in public life, including politicians, were disproportionately affected by violence online. Even though there were important legislative acts addressing the harm of technology-facilitated violence against women, there would be further need for strengthened action.

The 15th Summit concluded by endorsing a declaration containing a series of actionable recommendations. The declaration was passed on to the proceedings of the subsequent 6th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament with a view to **prioritising gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls on the agenda of all parliaments.**

The 6th World Conference of Speakers brought together Speakers from around 120 chambers and assemblies. The theme of the conference was 'A world in turmoil: **Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for peace, justice and prosperity for all**', which was the subject of various panel discussions.

The summit started with a general debate during which Vice-President Katarina Barley underlined that rapid geopolitical shifts were taking place, and that the international rules-based order was under constant threat; she stressed that it was the duty of parliamentarians to unite and work together in support of multilateralism, peace, human rights, justice and prosperity.

The first panel discussion focused on 'Women's and youth participation in parliament in a time of polarisation and adversity'. Thereafter Vice-President Katarina Barley highlighted the need for reliable and accessible information and for political literacy, and emphasised the vital importance of civic education and of strong and accessible democratically elected institutions.

The second panel discussion explored the subject of 'Innovating for a Peaceful Future: Crafting New Solutions for a Turbulent World.'

This was followed by the third panel, which addressed the issue of 'Achieving the SDGs by 2030: New Opportunities for International Cooperation.'

The fourth panel examined 'The Role of Parliaments in Shaping Our Digital Future.'

The final panel focused on 'Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Persons in Vulnerable Situations: Towards Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Action.'

The debates focused on the role of multilateral parliamentary diplomacy in addressing global crises, inequality and disinformation. **The Russian war of aggression and the situation in Gaza were other major topics** that resonated throughout the Conference.

Main developments

- [The 6th World Conference of Speakers concluded with a High-level Declaration](#) framing forward-looking parliamentary action.
- The [15th Summit concluded by endorsing a declaration](#) containing series of actionable recommendations, in particular, the renewed commitment to achieving gender-sensitive parliaments by following the IPU's 10-step action plan.

1.5 Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Speakers' Conference

The European Conference of Presidents of Parliament is held every two years under the auspices of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). First convened in 1975, the Conference alternates between Strasbourg and the capitals of Council of Europe member states. It brings together parliamentary speakers and presidents from the Council of Europe's member states, as well as partner, observer, and neighbouring countries, and the heads of several interparliamentary assemblies. The Conference serves as a platform to address the escalating challenges to democracy, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms.

The European Conference of Presidents of Parliament took place on 20 and 21 March in Strasbourg, marking 50 years since its establishment in 1975. Vice-President Martin Hojsík represented the European Parliament.

The Conference brought together over 60 Speakers or Deputy Speakers, and around 400 delegates, to discuss common challenges faced by parliamentary democracies. Debates were divided into three key themes: safeguarding democracy, guaranteeing freedom of expression in times of polarisation and uncertainty, and addressing violence against politicians. Participants called for increased interparliamentary cooperation, endorsed the **Council of Europe's New Democratic Pact**, and underlined the importance of unity and solidarity as the most powerful defences against efforts to undermine democracy and peace.

The first session featured introductory remarks from Yaël Braun-Pivet, President of the French National Assembly, Bärbel Bas, President of the German Bundestag, and Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada. During the debate, Vice-President Hojsík stressed the need to strengthen cybersecurity, protect media freedom, and guarantee electoral integrity to address threats to democracy. He also highlighted the European Parliament's decisive role in adopting and implementing the EU conditionality mechanism and rule of law framework, the work of the Special Committees on Foreign Interference and Disinformation, and the establishment of the new Special Committee on the European Democracy Shield.



Figure 7: Speakers of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament – ©Council of Europe

The second session opened with introductory remarks by Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska, Marshal of the Polish Senate, Pedro Rollán, President of the Spanish Senate, and Þórunn Sveinbjarnardóttir, Speaker of Iceland's Alþingi. Taking the floor during the debate, Vice-President Martin Hojsík warned against the weaponisation of freedom of expression against democratic values and called for action to combat hate speech, disinformation and radicalisation.

The final session included addresses by Lorenzo Fontana, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the United Kingdom's House of Commons, and Urška Klakočar Zupančič, President of Slovenia's National Assembly.

A parallel meeting of Secretaries-General addressed the opportunities and challenges of artificial intelligence for parliaments.

Main developments

- Successful meeting of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, with around 400 participants.
- The Secretaries-General approved the Activity Report of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) and adopted the ECPRD Priorities and Programme for 2025-2026.

2. Interparliamentary conferences

2.1 Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC)

COSAC was established in November 1989 in Paris. It is the only interparliamentary forum enshrined in the Treaties (Protocol No 1 on the role of national parliaments in the European Union). The national parliament of the Member State holding the rotating Council Presidency plays a leading role in establishing the direction and work of COSAC. It is supported by a presidential Troika, of which the European Parliament is a permanent member. The presidency relies on the organisational backing of a secretariat, hosted by the European Parliament and led by an official seconded from a national parliament (referred to as the 'permanent member').

The [Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC during the Polish Presidency](#) took place on 26 and 27 January 2025 in Warsaw, hosted by the Polish Senate. In the first session Adam Szłapka, Poland's Minister for European Union Affairs, outlined the **priorities of the Polish Presidency** of the Council of the European Union, focused on the **commitment to strengthening European security** across dimensions such as internal and border security, external security and EU enlargement, protection against disinformation and foreign interference, economic security, energy security, and food and health security. The second session looked at **climate change-related challenges to be addressed by the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028–2034**. The keynote speech was delivered by Janusz Lewandowski, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Budgets (BUDG) of the European Parliament. He called for the EU budget to be granted more flexibility, underlining the importance of prevention efforts and noting that more funding to tackle climate change would be necessary, although this would be in competition with other critical priorities, notably defence spending.

The [LXXIII COSAC Plenary Meeting](#), hosted by the Polish Sejm, took place from 8 to 10 June 2025 in Warsaw. Szymon Hołownia, Marshal of the Sejm, welcomed the COSAC delegates. The first session was dedicated to the implementation of the priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and included a speech by Adam Szłapka, Minister for European Union Affairs of Poland. The second session was dedicated to the European Commission and the European Parliament work programmes in the new institutional cycle and the **Strategic**

Agenda of the European Union. It included a video message by Maroš Šefčovič, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security and Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency, and a keynote speech by Esteban González Pons, Vice-President of the European Parliament and co-chair of the EP delegation to COSAC, in which he emphasised the role of the European Parliament and national parliaments in monitoring and implementing the EU Strategic Agenda. The third session looked at the **new EU Multiannual Financial Framework**, with keynote speeches by Adam Szłapka, Paweł Karbownik, Undersecretary of State in the Polish Ministry of Finance, and Sven Simon, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) of the European Parliament and co-chair of the EP delegation to COSAC. In the debate, there were **calls for a more flexible MFF** to address crises and future challenges.



Figure 8: The LXXIII COSAC Plenary Meeting, hosted by the Polish Sejm, from 8 to 10 June 2025 in Warsaw ©Kancelaria Sejmu

The second day began with a debate dedicated to **EU enlargement policy**. Marek Prawda, Undersecretary of State in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Jan Truszczyński, former Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the European Union, delivered the keynote speeches. During the debate, EU enlargement was described as a geopolitical imperative and an investment in peace and stability, while speakers

also supported merit-based enlargement based on the Copenhagen criteria. The final session was dedicated to the **EU's cyber-resilience and tackling disinformation**. Rafał Rosiński, Undersecretary of State in the Polish Ministry of Digital Affairs and Martyna Bildziukiewicz, Deputy Head of Division, Strategic Communication Regional Teams and Coordination of Task Forces, in the European External Action Service (EEAS), delivered the keynote speeches. The debate focused on cyber-threats, hybrid warfare and foreign influence, with speakers stressing the need for EU digital sovereignty and reduced reliance on foreign technology providers. The plenary ended with the adoption of the [contribution and conclusions of the LXXIII COSAC](#).

The [Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC during the Danish Presidency](#), hosted by the Danish Parliament, took place on 3 and 4 July in Copenhagen. The meeting opened with a welcome address by Lars-Christian Brask, Deputy Speaker of the Danish Parliament. The first session focused on the **priorities of the Danish Presidency** during which Marie Bjerre, Danish Minister for European Affairs, underlined the need for a **stronger Europe capable of defending itself, competing globally and maintaining robust democracies**. Ensuing interventions voiced strong support for the presidency priorities, as they addressed the key challenges facing the EU. The second session was dedicated to **Ukraine and European Security and Defence**. Keynote speeches were delivered by Troels Lund Poulsen, Denmark's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, Chair of the Committee of Security and Defence (SEDE) of the European Parliament, and Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Ukraine. All speakers stressed the need to continue supporting Ukraine, including through investing in Ukraine's defence industry. They also called on Member States to increase defence spending and strengthen cooperation via NATO and EU structures.

Following on from the invitation by Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Ukraine, **a delegation of COSAC Chairpersons visited Kyiv on 27 and 28 September 2025**. The delegation was chaired by Christian Friis Bach, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament, and included representatives of eight national parliaments. Vice-President Esteban González Pons represented the European Parliament.



Figure 9: Delegation of COSAC Chairpersons, with EP Vice-President González Pons, during a visit to Kyiv on 27 and 28 September 2025 @Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

The delegation participated in ceremonies honouring fallen Members and staff of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and Ukrainian defenders, and held **numerous meetings with Ukrainian dignitaries**, including Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Oleksandr Kornienko, First Vice-Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada and Members of the Committee on Ukraine's integration into the EU, Yevhen Perebyinis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Vitalii Klitchko, Mayor of Kyiv. The delegation was also able to take part in a **field visit to buildings and sites damaged by Russian attacks**, including while the delegation was on the ground, as well as the **locations and sites of battles in the earlier phase of the Russian invasion** (Moshchun, Bucha). The visit highlighted COSAC's continued commitment to, support for and solidarity with Ukraine in its defence against Russia's war of aggression and in its aspirations to join the EU.

The [LXXIV COSAC Plenary Meeting](#), hosted by the Danish Parliament, took place from 30 November to 2 December 2025 in Copenhagen. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, addressed COSAC in a video message in which she outlined the challenges facing Europe, defined by security threats and

increased global economic competition. Marie Bjerre, Danish Minister for European Affairs, presented the progress of the Danish Presidency priorities, seeking to protect Europe's interests, safeguard its values, and compete globally. During the session on **EU trade policy**, participants listened to speeches from Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Denmark's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Maroš Šefčovič, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, and Esteban González Pons, Vice-President of the European Parliament. Vice-President González Pons underlined that Europe needs a rule-based trade system, should reduce dependencies and diversify supply chains, and must invest in digital technologies.



Figure 10: Vice-President González Pons during the COSAC in December in Copenhagen ©Danish Parliament

The second day began with a panel debate on the **green transition and the European agri-food sector**. Jacob Jensen, Denmark's Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Christophe Hansen, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, Massimiliano Giansanti, President of the Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations (COPA), and Ariel Brunner, Regional Director, Birdlife, composed the panel. Speakers stressed the strategic importance of the agricultural sector to the EU, the challenges facing European farmers, and the support provided through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). This support should facilitate the transition to a more environmentally friendly agriculture, while also supporting farmers' competitiveness. This was followed by a **debate on sustainable growth and energy** in which the interventions stressed the need for a resilient, competitive

and secure European energy system, capable of supporting sustainable growth and meeting climate objectives, while also – crucially – reducing Europe’s dependency on any single external energy supplier and thus prevent geopolitical vulnerabilities. The final session was dedicated to **EU enlargement, internal reforms and rule of law**, and had keynote speeches from Marie Bjerre and Adrián Vázquez Lázara, Vice-Chair of the European Parliament’s AFCCO Committee. Vázquez Lázara outlined three guiding principles for the EU enlargement process: advancing enlargement and internal reforms in parallel, enforcing rule of law consistently and promoting a strong involvement of national parliaments. The meeting ended with the adoption of the [contribution and conclusions of the LXXIV COSAC](#).

Main developments

- The Polish and Danish Presidencies organised engaging debates that focused on some of the key challenges facing the EU, including security, economic competitiveness, EU enlargement and the future Multiannual Financial Framework.
- A COSAC Chairpersons’ delegation visited Kyiv in September to show their continued commitment, support and solidarity with Ukraine.

2.2 Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC CFSP/CSDP)

Established by a decision of the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments in 2012, the [Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy \(CFSP/CSDP IPC\)](#) is the interparliamentary platform for debate on the EU's foreign, security and defence policy. Organised twice a year by the parliament of the EU Member State holding the rotating Council Presidency, in close cooperation with the European Parliament, the conference is attended by parliamentarians from across the EU. In addition, the European Parliament's Committees on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and on Security and Defence (SEDE) invite national parliaments to their meetings in Brussels, complementing interparliamentary dialogue in this vital policy area.

The [26th session of the CFSP/CSDP IPC](#) took place in Warsaw from 23 to 25 March 2025. A total of 112 parliamentarians from EU national parliaments attended the conference, together with 27 MPs from EU candidate and potential candidate countries and non-EU NATO countries. The European Parliament delegation was composed of fifteen MEPs from the AFET and SEDE Committees, and was led by David McAllister, Chair of the AFET Committee.



Figure 11: The participants to the 26th session of the Interparliamentary Conference for CFSP/CSDP in Warsaw, Poland ©Sejm of the Republic of Poland

Discussions centred on four main items:

- Protecting and securing the European Union: Hybrid threats as an external factor destabilising Europe.
- Priorities and challenges concerning the CFSP/CSDP in the new institutional cycle. Developing a new security framework for the European Union.
- Strengthening European defence in the context of Russian aggression against Ukraine. European Union Armed Forces – a need or an alternative?
- Security in the Baltic Sea Region. Russian hostilities – attempts to change borders and circumvent EU sanctions.

The session also included a debate on the **future of transatlantic relations**.

The 26th CFSP/CSDP IPC adopted a [Joint Statement by the Co-Chairs](#) which stressed the **need to strengthen European defence preparedness and autonomy through enhanced military capabilities**, technological innovation, industrial capacity and interoperability, sustained support for Ukraine, reinforced transatlantic and international partnerships, effective intelligence cooperation, increased resilience in energy and critical infrastructure, and proactive EU engagement in conflict prevention and resolution. Efforts taken in these areas would help ensure the long-term security and stability of the Union and its neighbourhood.

The [27th session of the CFSP/CSDP IPC](#) took place in Copenhagen from 26 to 28 August 2025. A total of 113 parliamentarians from all 27 EU national parliaments (37 Chambers), together with 28 MPs from EU candidate countries, potential candidate countries and non-EU NATO countries, attended the conference. The European Parliament delegation was composed of fourteen MEPs from the AFET and SEDE Committees and was led by David McAllister, Chair of the AFET Committee.



Figure 12: The participants to the 27th session of the Interparliamentary Conference for CFSP/CSDP in Copenhagen, Denmark ©Danish Parliament

Discussions centred on four main items:

- The CFSP/CDSP priorities and strategies: The future of European Foreign Policy and Security
- Europe's strategic moment: Enhancing EU and NATO complementarity in defence, deterrence and global disruption
- Beyond Borders: Enlargement as a strategic Investment in Europe's Security
- Critical infrastructure, Societal Resilience, Energy/Climate

In addition, an urgent debate on 'Europe united: Defending freedom, democracy and a sovereign Ukraine' and two breakout sessions on 'Addressing migration: Advancing cooperation with third countries' and 'Europe's role in a changing/turbulent Middle East: Crafting a coherent EU response' were held.

The [Joint Statement by the Co-Chairs](#) adopted by the IPC stressed the **EU's unwavering commitment to a rules-based multilateral order and democratic values**, as well as the need to strengthen European defence sovereignty and capabilities, maintain sustained political, military and legal support for Ukraine, reinforce transatlantic and global partnerships, advance EU enlargement, enhance resilience against hybrid, cyber, energy and climate-related threats, promote peace and humanitarian law (particularly in the Middle East) and ensure robust parliamentary scrutiny to address current and future security challenges.

Main developments

- Two more informal CSDP Hub meetings involving parliamentary staff specialising in security and defence matters took place in Warsaw and in Copenhagen.
- The decision was taken, in cooperation with the European Security and Defence College, to organise a pilot training seminar for officials directly following the IPC meeting in Nicosia (3-5 March 2026)¹.
- Participants contributed with ideas on enhancing future IPCs and improving the quality of debates.

¹ Following security concerns regarding the situation in the Middle East, the meeting has not taken place as planned in the first quarter of 2026.

2.3 European Parliamentary Week (EPW), the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (IPC SECG) and the European Semester Conference

The Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU (IPC SECG), established in accordance with Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (fiscal compact), provides a framework for debating and exchanging information and best practices on the implementation of the relevant provisions of Article 13 and for cooperation between EU national parliaments and the European Parliament. The **European Semester Conference** offers an opportunity to exchange information on best practice in implementing the European Semester cycles and to strengthen cooperation on scrutiny of the actions of executives at national and European levels. Together they make up the EPW, bringing together parliamentarians from all over the EU to discuss economic, budgetary and social matters. The two conferences have earned a regular place in the calendar of interparliamentary activities and are consolidated forums for interparliamentary debate in these important policy areas.

The European Parliamentary Week 2025, organised by the European Parliament and the Polish Parliament, was held on 17–18 February 2025 in Brussels, bringing together Members of the European Parliament and national parliaments to discuss economic, budgetary, and social policies. The event focused on **strengthening cooperation between parliaments, improving democratic accountability in EU economic governance, and addressing Europe’s competitiveness** and fiscal challenges.



Figure 13: The opening session of the European Parliamentary Week 2025, with President Roberta Metsola, Vice-President Katarina Barley and Marshal Hołownia of the Sejm and Marshal Kidawa-Błońska of the Senate of the Republic of Poland ©European Parliament 2025

European Parliament President Roberta Metsola and Polish parliamentary leaders opened the EPW and stressed the need for faster decision-making, stronger competitiveness, and collective action in areas such as defence, energy, and trade. Following the opening, **three Interparliamentary Committee Meetings** took place.

The Budget Committee (BUDG) examined how to bridge the EU's competitiveness gap through better coordination between national budgets and the post-2027 MFF. Discussions highlighted the need to simplify EU funding rules, unlock private investment, and strengthen defence financing. They also stressed the importance of ensuring sufficient EU spending on strategic priorities such as climate action, the single market, and collective defence.

The Economic Committee (ECON) examined issues including the proposed Banking Union and Capital Markets Union, and a simpler, more competitive European investment ecosystem. Speakers underlined the importance of pragmatic reform, stronger EU-level supervision, improved access to finance for innovative companies, and more effective mobilisation of citizens' savings. Participants stressed that simplification, regulatory clarity and investor confidence are essential to enhance Europe's competitiveness.

The Employment Committee (EMPL) discussed the role of social and employment policies within the revised economic governance framework and examined the impact of artificial intelligence on the labour market. Speakers weighed up the opportunities and risks of AI, underlining the need for skills development, worker protection, social dialogue and ethical governance. A broad consensus also emerged on social convergence, investment in education and training, and the need to align fiscal rules with social objectives.



*Figure 14: European Parliamentary Week 2025 – Plenary session, Mario Draghi
©European Union 2025*

On the second day, two plenary sessions were held. In the first session, Mario Draghi, former ECB President and former Italian Prime Minister delivered a keynote **urging Europe to act swiftly and decisively** in response to geopolitical risks, lagging competitiveness, and security challenges. He called for coordinated EU action, increased investment, and reconsideration of decision-making procedures such as unanimity, stressing the urgency of collective action to secure Europe's future.

He suggested that **Europe should move to qualified majority voting in key areas such as defence and foreign policy** and highlighted the need for greater investment in strategic sectors to maintain the EU's global competitiveness and security.

The second plenary session examined lessons from the first national fiscal plans under the revised economic governance framework. Speakers highlighted the

importance of flexibility, investment, transparency, and national ownership, while stressing the need to balance fiscal discipline with social and green objectives.

Overall, the European Parliamentary Week 2025 underscored the **urgency of boosting EU competitiveness**, ensuring sustainable public finances, protecting social rights, and strengthening cooperation between European and national institutions to address current and future challenges. It also concluded by reaffirming the value of interparliamentary dialogue and setting the stage for future cooperation.

On 29–30 September 2025, the Danish Parliament’s Finance Committee hosted the 23rd session of the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU in Billund. The conference was attended by MEPs and members of EU national parliaments as well as candidate and observer countries.

This institutionalised conference focused on **strengthening the EU’s global economic position**, financing greater defence independence, and assessing the sustainability of the EU’s fiscal rules given the current geopolitical context. Participants examined how rising European defence and security costs could be financed without risking a new debt crisis.



*Figure 15: The participants to the 23rd session of the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU in Billund, Denmark
©Nikolai Linares, Danish Parliament*

Sessions on the EU's new fiscal rules, which entered into force in April 2024, brought together leading European economists. The discussions focused on the implementation and enforcement of the rules to ensure that the EU's spending needs did not undermine fiscal sustainability.

Main developments

- During the European Parliamentary Week participants discussed how the EU could boost productivity and generate growth at a time when Europe might be lagging behind the United States and China.
- For the upcoming conferences in 2026, which are to be organised under the Cypriot and Irish Presidencies respectively, the themes discussed in 2025 are likely to be further examined through the lens of growing global instability, competitiveness and next financial framework for the EU.

2.4 Meetings of the Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments (EUSG)

The meeting of the Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments (EUSG) is an annual forum attended by the Secretaries-General of the EU national parliaments, the Secretary-General of the European Parliament and the Secretaries-General of the candidate countries' parliaments.

This meeting prepares the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments (EUSC), and it usually takes place between January and February.

During the EUSG meeting, participants discuss the draft agenda for the EUSC, and current topics related to the work of national parliaments, including IPEX.

Secretaries-General are the highest governing body of IPEX, and they adopt the IPEX Annual Report and Conclusions. The EUSG holds a debate on one or two topical issues formally linked to parliamentary administration.

EUSG meetings are prepared and chaired by the Secretary-General of the parliament that holds the presidency of the Conference of Speakers.

The Hungarian Parliament hosted the Meeting of the Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments (EUSG) in Budapest from 9 to 10 February. The European Parliament was represented by its Secretary-General, Alessandro Chiocchetti.

The meeting began with a welcome address from László Kövér, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly, and was divided into four sessions. In the first session, György Such, Director General of the Hungarian National Assembly, presented the draft programme of the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments (EUSC). The second session focused on democracy education and included keynote speeches by Alessandro Chiocchetti and Harald Dossi, Secretary-General of the Austrian Parliament. The third session explored cooperation between EU parliaments and candidate countries' parliaments, featuring contributions from Péter Sárdi, Director for Foreign Relations of the Hungarian National Assembly, Srdjan Smiljanic, Secretary-General of the National Assembly of Serbia, and Jonathan Murphy, Head of Programme of INTER PARES. The fourth session highlighted IPEX, the platform for interparliamentary EU information exchange, with interventions from Fernando Galindo, Secretary-General of the Spanish Congress of Deputies, and Sara Sieira, Secretary-General of the Spanish Senate.

2.5 Informal meeting of the Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments

The second informal Meeting of the Secretaries-General of EU Parliaments was held in Warsaw, hosted by the Polish Sejm and Senate, on 29 and 30 June. The first meeting had been organised in November 2024 at the initiative of European Parliament Secretary-General Alessandro Chiocchetti, and its success led to the Polish Presidency offering to host this second gathering. In Warsaw, the European Parliament was represented by its Secretary-General, Alessandro Chiocchetti.

The meeting addressed **common challenges faced by parliaments in the use of artificial intelligence (AI)** in parliamentary work. These informal meetings facilitate the exchange of views, sharing of best practices, and enhancement of cooperation among parliamentary administrations.

Jacek Cichocki, Secretary-General of the Chancellery of the Polish Sejm, formally opened the meeting. Opening remarks were also delivered by Ewa Polkowska, Secretary-General of the Chancellery of the Polish Senate, Michał Deskur, Deputy Secretary-General of the Polish Sejm, and Alessandro Chiocchetti. This was followed by keynote speeches from Sarah Davies, Managing Director of the Chamber of the UK House of Commons, and Philippe Schwab, Secretary-General of the Swiss Federal Assembly. Ziemowit Cieślík, Deputy Director of the Polish Sejm's Expertise and Regulatory Impact Assessment Office, then presented a report on AI use in parliamentary work. After a debate, the meeting concluded with closing speeches from Alessandro Chiocchetti and Michał Deskur.

3. Interparliamentary oversight in the area of freedom, security and justice

3.1 Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol



Article 88 TFEU enables national parliaments, jointly with the European Parliament, to scrutinise Europol's activities. On the basis of the Europol Regulation (2016/794), the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) on Europol was established in 2017 to ensure Europol's transparency and full accountability. Article 51 of the Europol Regulation defines the main responsibilities of the JPSG, which include scrutinising the impact of Europol's activities on fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons.

The Europol Regulation was subsequently amended², and Europol's revised mandate provides Member States with the tools they need in the fight against serious and organised crime. With this strengthened mandate came a need to strike the right balance in ensuring effective safeguards for fundamental rights, including data protection.

The JPSG is an innovative institutional set-up for parliamentary scrutiny and holds two meetings per year: in the first half of the year, at the parliament of the country holding the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU, and in the second half of the year, at the European Parliament.

² Regulation (EU) 2022/991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2022 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/794, as regards Europol's cooperation with private parties, the processing of personal data by Europol in support of criminal investigations, and Europol's role in research and innovation and Regulation (EU) 2025/2611 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2025 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/794 as regards the strengthening of Europol's support and enhancing police cooperation, for preventing and combating migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

[The 16th meeting of the JPSG on Europol](#) took place on 23 and 24 February 2025. It was organised and co-chaired by the Polish Parliament and the European Parliament and hosted by the Polish Parliament in Warsaw.

The agenda included contributions by the Executive Director of Europol, Catherine De Bolle, and keynote speeches by the Minister of the Interior and Administration of the Republic of Poland, Tomasz Siemoniak, and European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner. The European Parliament delegation was led by MEP Caterina Chinnici.

The JPSG also heard a presentation from the European Data Protection Supervisor, Wojciech Wiewiórowski. Two thematic debates with EU and national experts took place on combating drug trafficking in Europe and the fight against child sexual exploitation online and offline.



Figure 16: 16th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on EUROPOL, ©Tomasz Paczos / Kancelaria Senatu RP

The [17th meeting of the JPSG on Europol](#) took place during the Danish Presidency at the European Parliament in Brussels on 3–4 November 2025. It was co-organised and co-chaired by the European Parliament and Polish Parliament, given the Danish opt-out in the field of justice and home affairs and Denmark's limited participation in the JPSG.

The meeting tackled issues directly connected with the JPSG's mandate, with presentations by Catherine De Bolle, Europol Executive Director, Ireneusz Sieńko, Chair of the Europol Management Board, and Wojciech Wiewiórowski, the European Data Protection Supervisor. During the meeting, views were exchanged between Europol's Data Protection Officer and Fundamental Rights Officer. The European Parliament delegation to this meeting was led by MEP Javier Zarzalejos, Chair of the LIBE Committee.

The agenda included two **sessions on scrutiny**. The first was entitled 'Lawful access to data for law enforcement – necessity and proportionality' and the second 'From waste trafficking to trade in protected species – organized environmental crime'. A specific agenda point was also dedicated to an update on **Europol activities linked to the war in Ukraine**.

The JPSG was consulted on Europol's Multi-annual Programming Document 2026–2028 and the Executive Director of Europol reacted to written comments received.

Main developments

- Agreement on the next steps and timeline regarding the establishment of the JPSG Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights
- The well-received practice of holding sessions on scrutiny and of 'Question Time' with the Executive Director, who replied individually to each question, was consolidated

3.2 Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the evaluation of Eurojust

Since its creation in 2002, Eurojust has become a central player in judicial cooperation on criminal matters.

In line with Article 85 TFEU, the EU regulations governing Eurojust also 'determine arrangements for involving the European Parliament and national parliaments in the evaluation of Eurojust's activities. In 2018, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a Regulation on Eurojust (2018/1727)³ with a view to providing a single, renewed legal framework for a new fully fledged Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust).

To increase the transparency and democratic oversight of Eurojust, the regulation provides a mechanism for the joint evaluation of Eurojust's activities by the European Parliament and EU national parliaments. The evaluation should take place within the framework of an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM) organised by the European Parliament in Brussels, with the participation of members of the competent committees of the European Parliament and of EU national parliaments.

The [sixth annual ICM on the evaluation of Eurojust's activities took place on 20 November 2025](#) at the European Parliament in Brussels. It was co-chaired by Javier Zarzalejos, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the European Parliament.

The ICM was divided into three separate panels.

The first panel assessed Eurojust's activities on the basis of the annual report, as well as important developments during 2025. **Economic crime remained a key focus of the Agency's work** and represents an important share of its caseload.

³ The Regulation was subsequently amended as follows: Regulation (EU) 2022/838; Regulation (EU) 2023/2131; Regulation (EU) 2025/2082. Consolidated text available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/AUTO/?uri=CELEX:02018R1727-20251104>.



Figure 17: LIBE Chair Javier Zarzalejos during the sixth ICM on the evaluation of Eurojust's activities ©European Union 2025

Alongside the fight against new forms of fraud, particularly in the online sphere, it was highlighted how **Eurojust plays an important role in asset recovery within the EU**, supporting national judicial authorities in tracing, freezing and confiscating the proceeds of transnational crime.

Finally, the third panel focused on the ongoing review of the Eurojust Regulation, the revision of which is expected in 2026.

Main developments

- Broad and continuous scrutiny effort by MEPs and members of national parliaments with a particular emphasis on Eurojust's performance and its challenging fight against cross-border crime.
- Renewed commitment by MEPs to follow up on the upcoming revision of the Eurojust Regulation, seen as a pivotal opportunity to modernise the EU's judicial cooperation and ensure the agency remains fit for purpose in an era of rapidly evolving criminality.

4. Interparliamentary Committee Meetings and other interparliamentary events

4.1 Interparliamentary Committee Meetings (ICMs)

Interparliamentary Committee Meetings (ICMs) are the standard meeting format organised by the European Parliament for focused exchanges between sectoral committees on key legislative and political issues under Articles 9 and 10 of Protocol No 1 to the Treaties.

The committees of the European Parliament regularly organise ICMs inviting the corresponding committees of the EU national parliaments to engage in focused debates. ICMs have proven to be a valuable way for MEPs to share views with their national counterparts. They are not only a forum for exchange on legislative issues but also a platform in which to discuss political issues of common interest and meet with Commissioners and the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. ICMs are co-organised at the initiative of one or more European Parliament committees with the support of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments.

In 2025, seventeen ICMs were organised by fifteen different European Parliament committees with the support of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments.

Three ICMs were organised by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), the Committee on Budgets (BUDG) and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) within the framework of the 2025 European Parliamentary Week (EPW). They together constituted the European Semester Conference and provided an opportunity to exchange information on best practice in implementing the European Semester cycles and to strengthen cooperation on the scrutiny of the actions of the national and European executives. More information about the EPW is available in Chapter 2.3.

The Eurojust ICM, organised with the LIBE Committee, is addressed in Chapter 3.2.

An additional four ICMs across 2025 provided MEPs and national MPs with opportunities to address social and economic issues. The EMPL ICM on '[Affordable](#)

Housing for All: Policy Approaches and Best Practice Cases in the Member States'

(9 April 2025) was devoted to the housing crisis across the EU. Three panels discussed issues including the financialisation of housing, the problem of inclusive housing for vulnerable citizens, and the need for improving the sustainability and climate resilience of Europe's housing stock. The ICM was considered highly successful, with strong participation from both MEPs and members of national parliaments, and provided an opportunity for the exchange of best practices.



Figure 18: EMPL HOUS Interparliamentary Committee Meeting – Affordable Housing for all: Policy Approaches and Best Practice Cases in the Member States – sharing success stories and considering new strategies, Commissioner Dan Jørgensen and Chair Li Andersson ©European Union 2025

The AGRI ICM, taking place on 25 September 2025, was organised around the theme of 'Visions for Food and Agriculture – Implications at National and EU Level'. Taking place against the backdrop of two ongoing legislative proposals that aim to simplify the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and strengthen the position of farmers in the supply chain, the meeting provided a forum for examining issues related to living standards and generational renewal in the sector, as well as how to improve resilience against market volatility and climate change. Participants agreed on the necessity of a coordinated risk management approach to sustain competitiveness, calling for EU regulations to simplify the CAP and protect farmers from cost-cutting pressures.

On 16 October 2025, the FISC Committee organised an ICM focusing on proposals for a [Digital Services Tax](#) (DST) based on revenue rather than profit. During the exchange of views among MEPs, national parliamentarians and experts, several issues were debated, including the impact of DSTs on consumers, European competitiveness and tax sovereignty. The discussion revealed a divide between supporters, who see DSTs as a fair way to ensure that digital giants contribute where value is created, and critics, who warn that such taxes could harm competitiveness and burden consumers.

On 2 December, the SANT Committee organised an ICM entitled '[Citizens' Access to Cross-Border Healthcare](#)'. Discussions confirmed that cross-border healthcare remains a concrete achievement of European integration, allowing citizens to access healthcare in other Member States under conditions comparable to those of residents. However, participants noted continuing structural and practical issues, including complex administrative procedures, persistent difficulties in prior authorisation and reimbursement, uneven implementation across Member States, and limited access to accessible information for patients. Overall, the meeting highlighted **the added value of interparliamentary dialogue in promoting policy coherence and ensuring that citizens' rights are effectively implemented in practice.**

In 2025, the European Parliament also played host to six ICMs addressing Europe's place in a rapidly changing world. First up was the AFET ICM, taking place on 19 February 2025, which addressed the themes of '[Transatlantic relations in challenging times](#)' and '[Towards a multipolar world – what role for the European Union?](#)'. The meeting, which took place just after US President Trump's decision to initiate peace talks with Russia over Ukraine and the controversial declarations by US officials at the 2025 Munich Security Conference, allowed for an intense dialogue between approximately 65 MEPs and members of national parliaments.



Figure 19: AFET Interparliamentary Committee Meeting – Towards a multipolar world – what role for the European Union? Chair David McAllister and Jim Cloos, Secretary-General of TEPSA ©European Union 2025

On 6 March the FEMM Committee organised an ICM to coincide with International Women’s Day to examine the question of ‘Strengthening the Women, Peace and Security Agenda – Upholding Women’s Rights in Defence, Security and Peace Building’. The 2025 edition highlighted several priorities: facilitating women’s full participation in defence, security and peacebuilding processes; protecting women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings from trafficking, exploitation, and the use of rape as a weapon of war; ensuring women’s access to justice, healthcare, and psychosocial support; and mainstreaming gender in security. Delegates heard from women in military and academic leadership roles, as well as activists and members of civil society.

Following this, on 19 March 2025 the DROI Subcommittee organised an ICM on ‘Strengthening the role of the EU at the UN and exchanges of best practices in the human rights field’. The meeting asked how the EU and Member States can strengthen the role of the EU at the UN, coordinate on human rights issues, and protect and promote fundamental rights and freedoms, as enshrined in international treaties, in the EU’s relations with partner countries. On 20 May 2025,

the DEVE Committee organised an ICM on '[Global Gateway and the 4th Conference on Financing for Development: Advancing Poverty Eradication and Energy Access in Developing Countries](#)'. The programme featured presentations and exchanges of views in two sessions focused on development finance amid increasingly challenging geopolitical circumstances. The ICM provided a valuable platform for shaping the EU's position, laying the groundwork to ensure that the outcomes of the United Nations Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, which took place from 30 June to 3 July 2025 in Seville, Spain, reflected both national and European perspectives. And on 24 June 2025, the AFCO Committee organised an ICM on the '[Institutional consequences of the EU enlargement negotiations](#)'. While members supported enlargement, three main challenges were highlighted, namely efficiency and the need to reduce unanimity rules, updating budgetary and financing rules, and reforming parliamentary representation and electoral law. Members also stressed the need to involve national parliaments. Representatives from candidate countries such as Ukraine, Serbia and Montenegro urged the EU to prevent vetoes from slowing accession. Some national parliamentarians raised concerns about readiness and sovereignty, while others insisted on coordinated accessions and preserving national parliamentary influence. Members of the European Parliament agreed on the need for greater efficiency but differed on the pace of reform.



Figure 20: AFCO Interparliamentary Committee Meeting – EU Reform with a View to Future, Chair Sven Simon and Vice-President Katarina Barley on the podium of the AFCO ICM ©European Union 2025

The final ICM on this theme '[The Future of European Defence](#)' was hosted by the SEDE Committee on 3-4 December 2025. This highly topical and well-attended ICM brought together MEPs and members of national parliaments to discuss the future of the EU's security and defence in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine and increased burden shifting towards Europe within the transatlantic alliance. Topics of discussion included the need to overcome fragmentation, boost military production and strengthen the European pillar of NATO. Speakers warned that the war is generating secondary security risks, from closer ties between hostile states to the spread of sensitive military technologies.

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments assisted in 2025 with the organisation of three ICMs on issues relating to justice and the rule of law. On 28 January 2025, the PETI Committee held an ICM on '[Strengthening cooperation for a timely and correct enforcement of EU law benefitting EU citizens](#)'. The opening session highlighted the crucial role of national parliaments in ensuring the proper application of EU law. Speakers described petitions as a connection between citizens and EU institutions, essential for exposing delays, errors and

enforcement gaps. The second session examined challenges and solutions at the national level, including the hidden impacts of EU rules, low follow-up on citizen complaints, coordination difficulties in federal systems, limited parliamentary involvement, and risks of technocratic or lobbying influence. Participants agreed that **improving EU law enforcement requires deeper cooperation between EU and national levels**, more citizen-focused approaches, and stronger follow-up on both procedures and the substantive concerns raised by citizens.

The second event was the JURI Committee's ICM on the '[Implementation of the Directive on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law](#)' held on 4 June 2025. Discussions focused on cross-border aspects of the transposition of this directive, whose deadline was 21 May, as well as best practice in cooperation between Member States. The meeting facilitated a valuable exchange of information between national parliaments and the European Parliament, creating a solid foundation for the implementation of the directive.

The final ICM of 2025, held on 11 December, was organised by the LIBE Committee. Entitled '[The situation of the Rule of Law in the EU](#)', the meeting considered the sixth Commission Rule of Law Report, and included both an exchange of views on the current state of the rule of law in the EU, and a panel on the single market dimension of the rule of law. The first session focused on the role of national parliaments in upholding the rule of law and ensuring the implementation of the Commission's Rule of Law Report recommendations. The continuing importance of an independent judiciary and civic space was also highlighted. The second session addressed the topic of the single market and foregrounded the **rule of law as a driver of investment, competitiveness, and productivity**. The inclusion of the economic dimension of the rule of law as a fifth pillar in the European Commission's annual Rule of Law Report was suggested.

Main developments

- Over the course of 2025, seventeen ICMs took place, covering the work of fifteen different committees of the European Parliament
- ICMs offered an opportunity for exchange on many highly relevant topics, including the EU's place in a rapidly changing geopolitical environment, concerns about the rule of law in Member States, and how to strengthen Europe's economy and competitiveness
- The number of MPs taking part in ICMs demonstrates continuing strong interest in these exchanges from national parliaments

4.2 Parliamentary Democracy Forum

The Parliamentary Democracy Forum brings together MEPs and members of EU national parliaments to exchange best practices and develop solutions to reinforce democratic governance. It aims to strengthen the role of parliaments as defenders of representative democracy and support the renewal of modern parliamentarism.

Democracy in Europe and worldwide is facing pressure from geopolitical tensions, democratic backsliding, disinformation, and declining public trust.

To remain resilient and effective, democratic systems are evolving to meet these challenges. The European Union has a unique opportunity to lead this renewal.

At the heart of this effort are the European Parliament and national parliaments, which represent the same European citizens and confront shared challenges, including polarisation, foreign interference, digital transformation, and weakening civic engagement. Strengthening cooperation between national and European legislators is therefore essential.

The event is organised by the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships (DG PART), with the Directorate for the Relations with National Parliaments in charge of its interparliamentary dimension.

The first edition of the EU Parliamentary Democracy Forum, held in the hemicycle of the European Parliament in Brussels on 19 November 2025, gathered more than 600 participants from 22 countries, including members of national parliaments, MEPs, youth organisations, civil society representatives, and experts.

Organised by the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships, under the leadership of European Parliament President Roberta Metsola, alongside Vice-Presidents Esteban González Pons and Katarina Barley, the forum aimed at exploring practical solutions to reinforce democratic resilience across the EU.

The forum opened with an address by President Metsola, who outlined the **threats posed by nationalism and disinformation** to the EU's founding principles of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law. She was followed by Danish Parliament President Søren Gade, who called for greater interparliamentary cooperation to build a resilient institutional framework and democratic culture, and **Nobel Laureate Maria Ressa**, who urged **regulation of tech platforms** and investment in public-interest media.

The first session focused on the theme of **strengthening parliamentary democracy through citizen engagement**. While some speakers advocated for participatory democracy through means of citizen assemblies, others warned that participatory bodies lack accountability and are prone to external interference. Representatives agreed on the importance of building a strong culture of civic education and local engagement. Other key themes to emerge included the rise of AI-driven disinformation and the need for greater transparency on EU decision-making.

The second session examined **rising political polarisation in democratic societies**, and its impact on democratic dialogue and institutions. While diversity of opinion is essential, polarisation becomes harmful when it fosters 'us versus them' attitudes and even threats against politicians. Participants warned that polarisation can undermine parliamentary debate, weaken cooperation, and discourage public engagement. Social media is an amplifier rather than the sole cause of division, with issues such as migration, climate, and identity acting as triggers. Speakers stressed the need for civic education, respectful dialogue, and cross-party cooperation. The session concluded that combating disinformation while protecting free expression is key to democratic resilience.



Figure 21: EU Parliamentary Democracy Forum, Vice-Presidents Katarina Barley and Esteban González Pons ©European Union 2025

The third session **focused on technology and democracy alongside societal preparedness**. Speakers warned that artificial intelligence, algorithms, deepfakes and misinformation threaten critical thinking and democratic debate, requiring risk-based regulation and stronger enforcement of EU rules. Concerns were raised about weak safeguards and excessive power of major tech companies, though it was noted that technology can also broaden political participation. Examples from Moldova and Estonia showed **the crucial role of leadership, coordination, education and defensive measures against disinformation**. The session concluded that healthy democracies require shared values, fairer economies, and technological autonomy.

The closing session called for **stronger partnerships to defend parliamentary democracy amid rising polarisation, disinformation, and declining trust**. Speakers stressed that democratic challenges transcend borders and require coordinated action between the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments. The Vice-Presidents responsible for relations with national parliaments, Esteban González Pons and Katarina Barley, highlighted the need to renew parliaments, strengthen cooperation, and reconnect with citizens. Initiatives such as the **European Democracy Shield**, permanent interparliamentary structures, civic education, and youth engagement were mentioned. It was also recognised that digital tools can support participation but cannot replace direct dialogue.



Figure 22: EU Parliamentary Democracy Forum, President Roberta Metsola, Vice-Presidents Esteban González Pons, Katarina Barley, and Sabine Verheyen, President of the Bulgarian Parliament Raya Nazaryan, President of the Saeima Daiga Mieriņa, President of the Portuguese Parliament José Pedro Aguiar-Branco and President of the Danish Parliament Søren Gade ©European Union 2025

The forum concluded that maintaining and strengthening societal connections, shared values, and sustained collective action will be vital to ensuring resilient democratic institutions across Europe.

Main developments

- Building on the success of the first edition, the Conference of Presidents could decide to establish the Parliamentary Democracy Forum as an annual event.
- The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments will continue to explore possible avenues for EP-national parliaments cooperation to strengthen parliamentary democracy in the EU.

5. Bilateral visits

Bilateral visits from EU national parliaments to the European Parliament are a constantly evolving tool for interparliamentary dialogue. A focused, flexible and cost-efficient format, they enable discussions on issues of concern to individual national parliaments.

Bilateral exchanges of views can also be a useful form of small-scale interparliamentary cooperation when parliamentarians need to concentrate on specific topics and initiate or deepen collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

Meetings take place at various levels and in various formats, from the highest-level political discussions to technical staff-level study visits.

In 2025, 56 visits from national parliaments took place. These visits were of a political nature or administrative nature. National parliamentarians exchanged views with their counterparts from the corresponding European Parliament committees on a wide range of topics, including, but not limited to, international trade, agriculture, migration, defence, environment and the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). MPs from all over Europe also had the opportunity to speak with EP Vice-Presidents and Committee Chairs.

Different staff visits of different levels happened in 2025, including at the level of Secretaries-General. Staff visits brought together officials from various services, including legislation, IT, documentation, and research.

A comprehensive list of bilateral visits and exchanges can be found in Annex III.

Main development

There is a continued interest from national parliaments for this more agile, less formal type of cooperation.

6. Legislative cooperation with EU national parliaments

In 2025, a total of 446 submissions from EU national parliaments were received by the European Parliament: 264 (59 %) were submitted within the framework of the Protocol No 2 subsidiarity checks (Section 6.1), and 182 (41 %) under the Informal Political Dialogue (Protocol No 1) (Section 6.2).

6.1 Early Warning System and Protocol 2 to the Treaties

Under the principle of subsidiarity (enshrined in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union), in areas that do not fall within its exclusive competence, the Union must act only if, and insofar as, the objectives of the proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States but can be better achieved at Union level. Under the principle of proportionality, the content and form of Union action must not exceed what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Treaties.

National parliaments ensure compliance with the principle of subsidiarity in accordance with the procedure set out in Protocol No 2 to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. This protocol establishes a review mechanism – the Early Warning System (EWS). Under this mechanism, national parliaments may, within eight weeks from the date of transmission of a draft legislative act, send a reasoned opinion to the presidents of the institutions outlining why they consider that the draft in question does not comply with the principle of subsidiarity.

6.1.1 Early Warning System

Submissions from EU national parliaments under the EWS are categorised as follows:

- Reasoned opinion: if submitted under this heading, raising the issue of non-compliance with the principle of subsidiarity, and received within the eight-week deadline referred to in Article 6 of Protocol No 2 to the Treaties.
- Contribution: where the submission does not fulfil the above criteria.

When reasoned opinions represent at least one third of the votes allocated to the national parliaments, the draft legislative act must be reviewed (yellow card procedure). The institution that produced the draft act may decide to maintain, amend or withdraw it, giving reasons for that decision. For draft acts relating to police cooperation or judicial cooperation in criminal matters, the threshold is lower (one quarter of the votes).

If, in the context of the ordinary legislative procedure, national parliaments with at least a simple majority of the votes challenge the compliance of a legislative proposal with the principle of subsidiarity, the Commission must review its proposal and decide whether to maintain, change or withdraw it (orange card procedure). If it decides to maintain its proposal, the matter is referred to the co-legislators (the European Parliament and the Council) and the Commission must justify its decision. If the co-legislators consider that the legislative proposal is not compatible with the principle of subsidiarity, it may reject it subject to a majority of 55 % of the members of the Council or a simple majority of the votes cast in the European Parliament.

To date, the yellow card procedure has been triggered three times since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, while the orange card procedure has never been triggered.

Within the European Parliament, the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) is the committee responsible for monitoring the compliance of reasoned opinions with the principle of subsidiarity. Every six months, a member of the committee is appointed as standing rapporteur for subsidiarity on the basis of rotation among the political groups.

In 2025, Ton Diepeveen (Patriots for Europe Group) MEP and Sergey Lagodinsky (Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance) served as standing rapporteurs. Additionally, the JURI Committee regularly prepares a report on the Commission's annual report on subsidiarity and proportionality. At the moment of writing, the [Draft report covering 2023 and 2024](#) is due to be voted in plenary, after discussion in the Committee.

The previous report was adopted as a European Parliament [resolution on 23 November 2023](#).

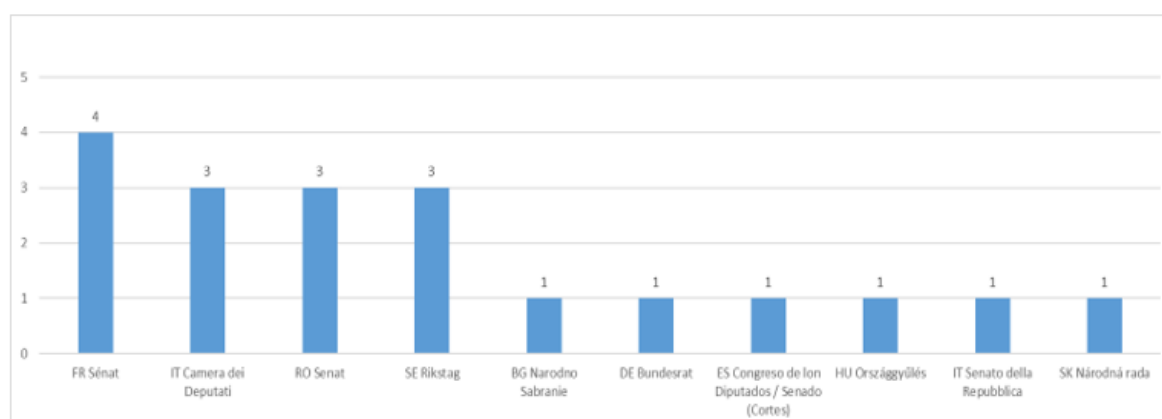
6.1.2 Submissions by national parliament under Protocol 2

In 2025, the European Parliament formally received 264 submissions from national parliaments under Protocol No 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. Of these submissions, 19 (7.1 %) were reasoned opinions and 245 (92.9 %) contributions (i.e. submissions not raising concerns about subsidiarity).

By comparison, in 2024 – which was an electoral year – there were 155 submissions, of which 14 (10 %) were reasoned opinions and 141 (90 %) contributions.

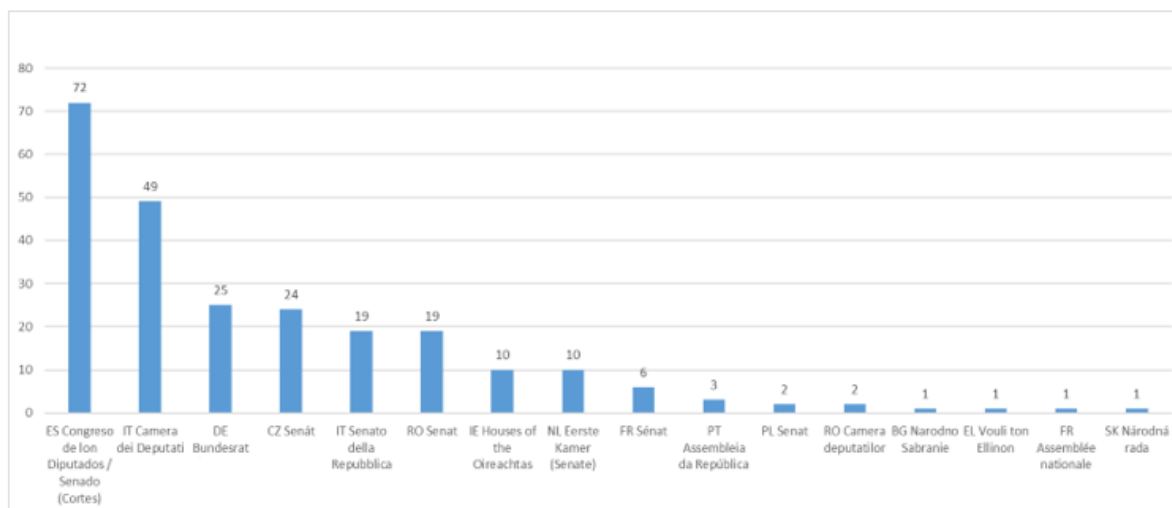
In 2025, 10 chambers out of 39 submitted reasoned opinions and 16 submitted contributions. See detailed statistics for 2025 in Annex IV.

Number of reasoned opinions received from EU national parliaments under Protocol No 2 in 2025 – by Parliament/Chamber



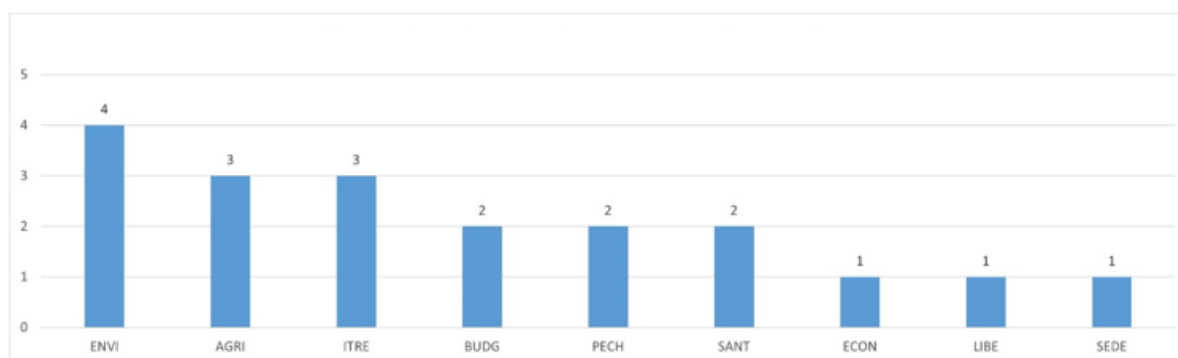
The most active chamber in terms of reasoned opinions was the French Senate, which submitted four. The Italian Chamber of Deputies, the Senate of Romania and the Swedish Parliament each submitted three reasoned opinions. All other parliaments or chambers listed in the table submitted one reasoned opinion each.

Number of contributions received from EU national parliaments under Protocol No 2 in 2025 – by Parliament/Chamber



As for contributions, the most active parliamentary chambers in 2025 were the Spanish Parliament, with 72 submissions, and the Italian Chamber of Deputies, with 49. They were followed by the German Bundesrat (25) and the Czech Senate (24). The Senate of the Republic of Italy and the Senate of Romania each submitted 19 contributions.

Number of reasoned opinions from EU national parliaments under Protocol 2 in 2025 – by Committee



Looking at the submissions by committee, in 2025, the Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety (ENVI) received the highest number of reasoned opinions, with a total of four. The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) each received three reasoned opinions.

Number of contributions from EU national parliaments under Protocol No 2 in 2025 – by Committee



In 2025, the committee receiving the highest number of contributions was the Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety (ENVI), with 34 submissions. This was followed by the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), which received 33 contributions. The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) each received 24 contributions.

Since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009, 1 424 draft legislative acts have been transmitted to national parliaments for examination under the terms of Protocol No 2 to the Treaty of Lisbon.

In response, the European Parliament has received 4 643 submissions from national parliaments. Of these, 598 (12.8 %) were reasoned opinions while the remaining 4 045 (87.2 %) were contributions.

As in previous years, the statistics show that a large majority of the submissions did not raise concerns about subsidiarity. This demonstrates that EU national parliaments use Protocol No 2 to express their views on the substance of proposals, rather than on subsidiarity, reflecting **the wish of national parliaments to be more closely involved in the substantive legislative process.**

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments ensures that all submissions transmitted by national parliaments are available to MEPs, including rapporteurs, political bodies and European Parliament services. **The Directorate provides specific expertise and summary briefings on EU national parliaments' submissions throughout the legislative cycle,** which are used as input for drafting committee reports and for trilogue negotiations with the Council.

The Directorate provides facts, figures and statistics on the number and nature of these documents through its State of Play Note on Protocol No 2 of the Lisbon Treaty, and manages the [CONNECT database](#), which contains all the reasoned opinions and contributions received by the European Parliament from national parliaments.

Main developments

- The number of submissions from national parliaments increased by 70 %, rising from 155 in 2024 to 264 in 2025. This growth was partly attributable to the fact that the European elections were held in 2024.
- The big majority of these submissions (87.2 %) were contributions not raising concerns about subsidiarity. This number proves the willingness of the national parliaments to express their concerns and opinions on the substance of the proposals. This early warning mechanism is used primarily as a tool for legislative dialogue with the EU co-legislators.

6.1.3 Monthly State of Play Note

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments produces a monthly [State of Play Note](#) on reasoned opinions and contributions submitted under Protocol No 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. This note provides an overview of all submissions received since the previous note and identifies the legislative files scheduled for consideration at the forthcoming plenary session of the European Parliament.

The *State of Play Note* is transmitted to MEPs and the relevant services of the European Parliament, as well as to other EU institutions and national parliaments, thereby ensuring transparency and facilitating interparliamentary scrutiny.

The note is included in the meeting file for the European Parliament's Conference of Committee Chairs, enabling committee chairs to take stock of subsidiarity-related developments in advance of plenary proceedings.

It is also [published on the Directorate's website](#) ahead of each European Parliament plenary session, making the information publicly accessible.

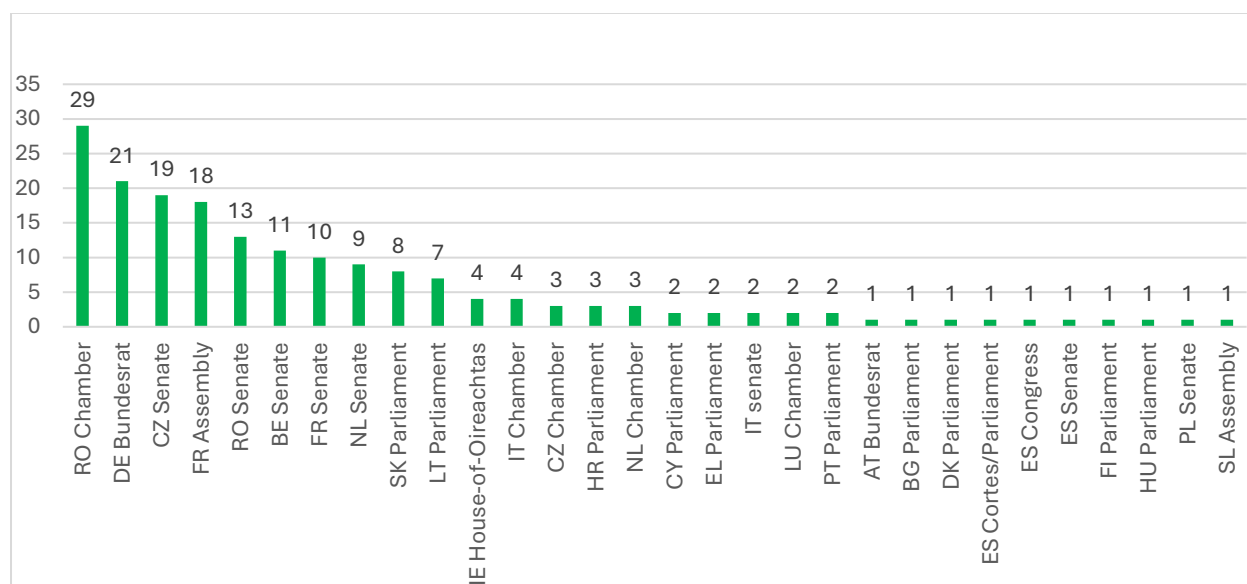
In 2025, a total of nine State of Play Notes were issued.

6.2 Informal Political Dialogue and Protocol No 1 to the Treaties

Protocol No 1 to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that EU national parliaments may comment on legislative files falling under the exclusive competence of the EU as well as on non-legislative documents, for example those relating to ongoing debates at EU level and Commission green/white papers or communications. These contributions are handled under the Informal Political Dialogue (IPD).

In 2025, EU national parliaments continued to make active use of this tool, sending in **182 contributions under the IPD**, compared to 114 in 2024. Detailed statistics on the contributions received under the IPD in 2025 are available in Annex V.

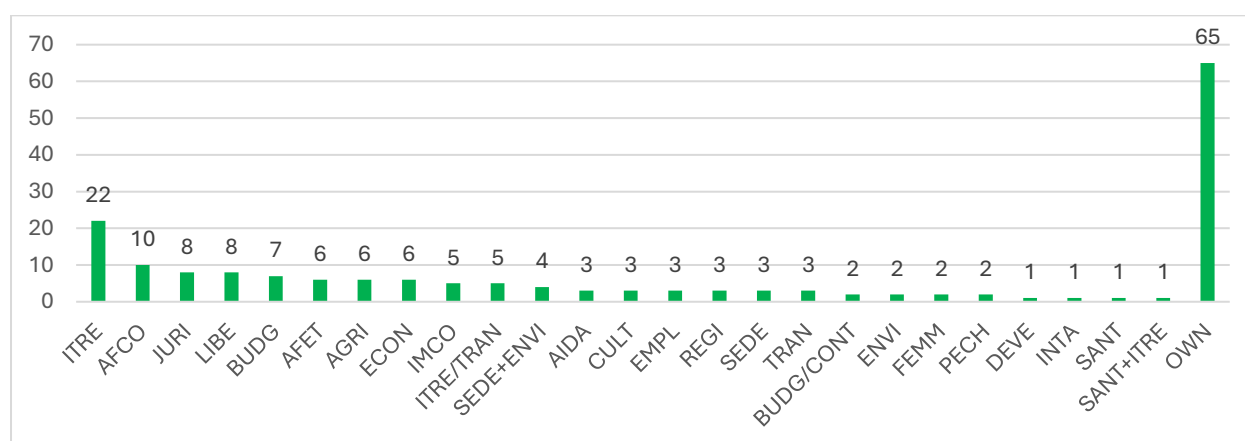
Contributions under the IPD in 2025 – by Parliament/Chamber



In 2025, 30 Chambers from 23 Member States sent contributions; the three most active Chambers were the Romanian Chamber of Deputies (29), the German Bundesrat (21) and the Czech Senate (19)⁴.

⁴ These statistics reflect the contributions formally received by the European Parliament. They may differ from the numbers presented by other EU institutions. (e.g., during 2025, the Swedish Riksdag committees have adopted statements on 5 documents from the European Commission. The statements have been sent to the Secretariat-General of the Commission for information purposes. The Commission regards these statements as contributions within the framework of the political dialogue.)

Contributions under the IPD in 2025 – by committee



In 2025, the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) received the highest number of contributions under the Informal Political Dialogue (22). It was followed by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) with 10 contributions, and the Committees on Legal Affairs (JURI) and Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) with 8 each. The Committee on Budgets (BUDG) received 7 contributions, while the Committees on Foreign Affairs (AFET), Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), and Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) each received 6.

A large proportion of these submissions (65 in total) were categorised as Own Initiative Opinions (OWN), meaning that they were not addressed to any specific European Parliament committee.

Since 2009, the European Parliament has received around 3 238 contributions from national parliaments under Protocol No 1. These contributions have also been published in the [CONNECT database](#).

Main developments

- The number of contributions submitted under the Informal Political Dialogue increased significantly, rising by around 60 % from 114 in 2024 to 182 in 2025. It is to be noted that the European elections were held in 2024.
- The increase in contributions suggests a strengthening of the Informal Political Dialogue as a channel for national parliaments to express their views on EU initiatives.
- Contributions were submitted by 30 chambers from 23 Member States, demonstrating broad participation across the EU.

6.3 Rapporteurs' dialogues

In response to increasing interest from national parliaments in participating in the EU legislative process at an early stage, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments has introduced **Rapporteurs' dialogues**, a structured voluntary exchange between European and national parliament rapporteurs.

This initiative moves beyond ad hoc contacts, fostering a regular, two-way dialogue during the legislative process. The Rapporteurs' dialogue allows national rapporteurs to share their views while also providing a platform for European Parliament rapporteurs to inform national parliaments of their positions.

By **integrating national parliaments' perspectives earlier and more frequently**, this approach could enhance collaboration and ensure their contributions are considered in the legislative process.

Following the success of a pilot phase in the previous legislative term, three meetings were held in 2025.

Two Rapporteurs' Dialogues were organised in cooperation with the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

The first Dialogue examined the **'Institutional Consequences of EU Enlargement Negotiations'**. Rapporteur Sandro Gozi met with around 60 participants, including MEPs and members of parliament from both EU and candidate countries. Framing enlargement as a question of power, democracy and security, he called for a pragmatic attitude and for Treaty changes. Committee shadow rapporteurs, while supporting enlargement, stressed the need for a predictable and fair accession process. They raised concerns about differences in values, economic impacts, and the risks of Treaty reform. National parliamentarians raised issues like citizen involvement, unanimity, and the EU's geopolitical relevance. Conclusions showed support for a credible enlargement policy, EU reform and transitional measures such as observer status for candidate countries.

The second Rapporteurs' Dialogue, on the application of the Treaty provisions related to the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and the role of national parliaments in the EU legislative process, convened 11 MPs and 31 officials from 8 Member States. JURI Rapporteur Marieke Ehlers proposed strengthening scrutiny mechanisms, such as extended deadlines and improvements to the early warning

system. Participants welcomed the report but noted challenges like bureaucratic complexity and limited EU responsiveness. The debate reaffirmed subsidiarity and proportionality as safeguards of EU democracy. Rapporteur Ehlers highlighted the significant online participation and the added value of closer dialogue between the European Parliament and national parliaments.

The third Rapporteurs' Dialogue, on the **preparation of the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)** was attended by 22 members from 17 Chambers representing 14 national parliaments. It was co-organised with the Committee on Budgetary Affairs (BUDG) and was chaired by the co-rapporteurs Siegfried Mureşan and Carla Tavares.

The co-rapporteurs outlined the state of play of the interim report, which will focus on the MFF regulation and key structural elements. They emphasised that the MFF is a political roadmap for EU priorities, stressing the need for adequate resources to enable collective EU action.

National members of parliaments broadly supported this approach. Strong concerns were raised about preserving traditional EU policies, particularly the **Common Agricultural Policy and Cohesion Policy**. At the same time, there was broad backing for increased investment in **security and defence**, alongside calls for a balanced competitiveness strategy combining industrial strength, innovation, research, and territorial cohesion. Participants also stressed that new priorities should not come at the expense of **climate action and the rule of law**, emphasising transparency and proportionality.

The discussion highlighted the need for a transparent and efficient MFF that reconciles new and established priorities, as well as sufficient engagement with national parliaments to ensure the effectiveness and democratic legitimacy of the EU budget.

Main developments

- The increasing demand for Rapporteurs' Dialogues confirms their potential for interparliamentary exchange. This format could expand in the coming years, enabling more discussions on key legislative files.
- Future steps may include a formal recognition of this activity by the Conference of Presidents and the organisation of a more inclusive participation through remote access with simultaneous interpretation.

7. Administrative networks and exchange of information

7.1 European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD)

Managed jointly by the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the [European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation](#) (ECPRD) includes 64 parliamentary Chambers (including 39 in the European Union) from 53 countries and EU institutions among its members.

Almost 120 correspondents and deputy correspondents represent their respective Parliaments in the network and contribute to the main objectives of the ECPRD. These objectives aim to promote the exchange of information and good practices on subjects of common interest.

In 2025, the European Parliament appointed Orsolya Balogh as the new Co-Secretary and Correspondent of the European Parliament following Christine Detourbet's retirement.

Comparative requests and seminars constitute the two pillars of the ECPRD's activities.

7.1.1 Comparative requests

Thanks to the updated guidelines adopted by the Annual Conference of Correspondents in 2024, the number of ECPRD comparative requests was stabilised in 2025. The total of 258 requests generated 7 233 responses (compared to 288 requests in 2024).

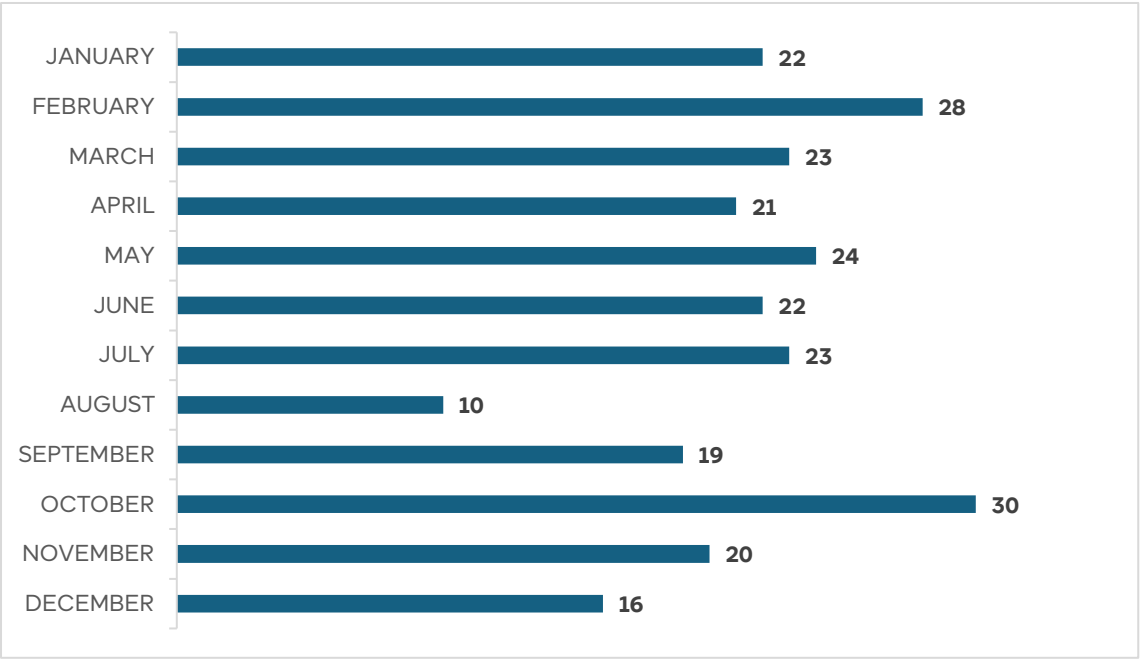
Thematic focus

2025 highlighted emerging and ongoing topics such as the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in parliamentary work: real-time translation, legislative processes, AI governance and frameworks.

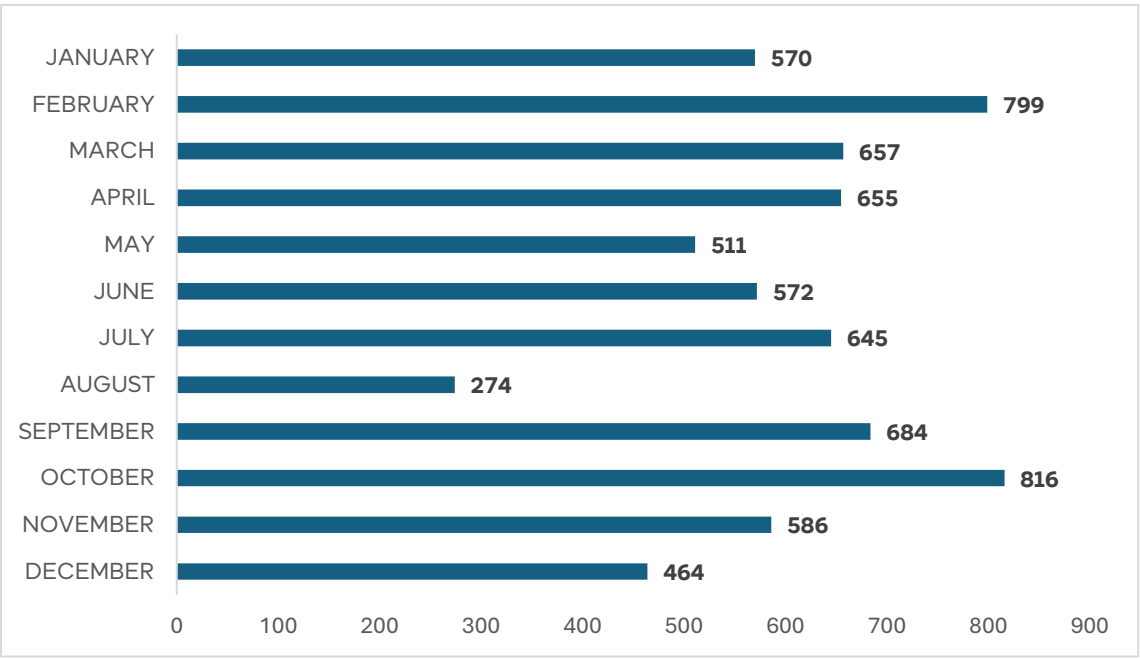
Other themes were covered as well, including governance, transparency, health policies, social rights, misinformation, data visualisation, cloud services and new technologies. These trends showcased the current concerns of national parliaments

regarding the growing impact of misinformation, new technologies, and their implications on parliamentary transparency.

258 ECPRD comparative requests launched in 2025



7 233 ECPRD replies sent in 2025



European Parliament participation

In 2025, the European Parliament submitted ten requests, slightly more than the seven submitted in 2024. It responded to 54 incoming requests, showing an increase in the response rate compared to the previous year. The rate reached

74.6 % in 2024 and continued to improve, reaching 77.7 % in 2025. It is nevertheless important to keep in mind the European Parliament does not respond to all requests, as some of them fall outside the EU's competence.

7.1.2 Final summaries

The final summaries that analyse the responses to ECPRD requests are the most effective way to showcase and share the vast amount of information circulating within the network. After a slight decrease in the publication rate of final summaries in 2024, which fell to 38.2 %, a positive increase was observed in 2025, with the rate rising to 42.63 %. Efforts to encourage final summary drafting remain crucial to enhancing the network's information-sharing capacity.

7.1.3 Statutory meetings

Three executive committee meetings were held in 2025, including two remote and one in person, in Paris, hosted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). Key outcomes included finalising the Guidelines on Openness and Transparency, and the organisation of the ECPRD website revamp. The meetings discussed the arrivals and departures among the correspondents and the ECPRD Secretariat.

The well-attended **Annual Conference** (2–3 October 2025), hosted by the Swiss Parliament in Bern, had a pre-conference session focused on AI and its role in parliamentary work. One major outcome of this meeting was the adoption of the Guidelines on Openness and Transparency. Discussions covered the role of correspondents and the revamping of the ECPRD website.

7.1.4 Seminars

ECPRD seminars are hosted by Member States' parliaments under the guidance of the responsible ECPRD coordinators in the different areas of interest. Seminars have been organised since the early days of the ECPRD and even before the launch of comparative requests in their present form. They offer a unique opportunity for staff in parliaments to meet and exchange with their counterparts. In 2025, the ECPRD Secretariat played a central role in organising a total of seven ECPRD seminars (See Annex VI C).

Joint seminar

[Joint Areas of Interest Seminar: Data visualisation in parliaments: towards a community of practice \(11–12 December 2025, Brussels\)](#)

This joint seminar gathered 55 participants and was jointly organised with the European Parliament Research Service (EPRS). It highlighted the importance of data visualisation as a tool in parliamentary work.

Area of interest: economic and budgetary affairs

[The new European Economic governance: one year of its implementation \(25–26 September 2025, Madrid\)](#)

Hosted by the Congress of Deputies of the Spanish Parliament, it brought together 42 participants. Topics included the role of national parliaments in the process of European economic governance as well as challenges and solutions regarding its implementation.

Area of interest: ICT in parliaments

[ICT 2025 Seminar: The AI Dilemmas in Parliaments \(16–17 October 2025, Brussels\)](#)

Hosted jointly by the Directorate and DG ITEC, this seminar brought together 82 participants. It provided the opportunity to explore the use of AI as well as the challenges and opportunities it offers.

[Enhancing the legislative Process with Data Structures and AI \(27–28 February 2025, Reykjavik\)](#)

Organised by the Icelandic Parliament, this seminar was attended by 59 participants from various European parliaments. Key topics included the use of AI in parliamentary workflows and efforts by some parliaments to establish AI governance frameworks.

Area of interest: libraries, research services and archives

[LRA 2025 Seminar: Enhancing the role of parliamentary research services and libraries \(6–7 November 2025, Podgorica\)](#)

Organised by the Parliament of Montenegro, this seminar gathered 56 participants to explore best practices in terms of library management and related internal and external services.

[Opening up the EP archives using AI \(4–5 February 2025, Brussels\)](#)

Hosted by the European Parliament, this seminar brought together representatives from 39 countries to address challenges faced by parliamentary libraries, research services, and archives regarding AI use.

Area of interest: parliamentary practice and procedure

Parliamentary committee of inquiry in practice (Paris, June 12-13, 2025)

Organised by the French Senate, this seminar saw 57 participants sharing experiences, national frameworks, and recent developments related to Parliamentary Committees of Inquiry.

7.1.5 The ECPRD website

Launched in 2007, the ECPRD website no longer meets the evolving network's needs. In 2024, a major modernisation effort began, funded by the European Parliament, to update procedures, provide a more modern, efficient and interactive layout, and meet increasingly complex security requirements.

The modernisation process agenda was established in 2025 and is now entering a testing phase. It has involved various actors and incorporated feedback from various stakeholders to ensure that users' needs are met.

Main developments

- After years of growth, the volume of comparative requests dropped, easing pressure on correspondents.
- The focus on artificial intelligence in parliamentary processes reflects a broader interest in technology integration and governance.
- The website is undergoing modernisation: testing by the users, which began during the Annual Conference, will ensure that the website aligns with their needs, and will continue until the launch of the new platform.
- Seminars and webinars attract continuous interest and active participation.
- In 2025, the different European Parliament DGs increased their participation in the ECPRD, and an increase of seminars organised on the European Parliament's premises was also registered.

7.2 Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange (IPEX)



The [EU Information Exchange \(IPEX\)](#) supports interparliamentary cooperation by providing a platform and a network for the electronic exchange of EU-related information between parliaments in the EU.

Launched at the initiative of national parliaments with the technical assistance of the European Parliament, IPEX is now a cornerstone of day-to-day legislative work across the EU. Subject to continuous improvement, the platform has developed into an effective one-stop-shop for EU-related information exchange.

In 2025, the Spanish and Hungarian Chairmanships oversaw the continued implementation of the IPEX Rolling Work Programme (RWP) for 2024–2026. Hungary's Chairmanship ran until 5 May 2026, when the parliamentary dimension of the Danish Presidency concluded with the Conference of Speakers of European Parliaments (EUSC) in Copenhagen.

IPEX Rolling Work Programme 2024–2026

To implement the RWP 2024–2026, the IPEX Board established four working groups, each with its own action plan.

Working Group on the Update of the IPEX v3 system (WG 1)

This working group focused on the technical questionnaire concluded on 21 January 2025. Following an evaluation of the responses, the WG sent an executive summary to correspondents. On 19 March 2025, an 'IPEX Now' meeting was held with the national correspondents, providing an opportunity to present the results and receive feedback. At the Board Meeting in Budapest on 26 June 2025, an action plan was subsequently drawn up.

In 2025, three out of four technical errors on the IPEX webpage were resolved. An ongoing task of WG 1 is to determine whether hotfixes are needed on the webpage. WG 1 is currently analysing the issues arising from the technical questionnaire to see which are technical issues and which are user-related (content) issues, with the

aim of determining which to prioritise. The WG also looked into how to improve the accessibility of information in the Democracy Support Network (DSN) subsection and held discussions on the Hungarian Chairmanship's initiative to host educational content on the webpage.

Working Group on Content and IPEX Network (WG 2)

The activities of this working group included the preparation and execution of the 2025 User Survey, and the subsequent report entitled 'IPEX through the eyes of its users: Take Three' from October 2025. In preparing the questionnaire, the working group relied on the 2023 User Survey as a foundation, thereby ensuring the continuity and comparability of results. The questionnaire was officially launched at the IPEX Users' Conference in Rome on 28 March 2025 and was concluded on 2 May 2025. The report based on the results of the survey was officially presented at the board meeting of 17 October 2025 in Brussels.

Following this presentation the working groups began to identify possible measures, which will be integrated into the WG action plans. The Chairmanship will also channel the findings of the report into the discussions on the next Rolling Work Programme for 2027-2029. In the work on the 2025 survey, members of the WG on Content were active in finding solutions for editorial fixes on the webpage and started preparations to create editorial guidelines for uploading content, which would help correspondents in their daily work.

Working Group on Training (WG 3)

Besides organising training for correspondents, the Working Group on Training produced training materials for the DSN, a guide for organising IPEX Now meetings, and a coordinated calendar to facilitate the working groups' planning of activities.

In order to improve the correspondents' and Board members' access to training materials, WG 3 and WG 4 have put forward a joint suggestion to WG 1 on finding a long-term centralised storage solution for easy access to training and promotional material. WG 3 is continuously updating existing training material and developing new training for the new functionalities on IPEX. In this regard, WG 3 has begun to develop material on how to use the educational subsection for correspondents, as well as a new guide on how to use social media products, in collaboration with WG 4.

Working Group on Promotion and Social Media (WG 4)

A central focus of this working group was strengthening IPEX's presence on social media platforms such as LinkedIn, Threads, Instagram and BlueSky.

The working group also promoted IPEX's visibility by showcasing interparliamentary conferences, often with the incumbent presidency's parliament, and by launching new social media campaigns such as Parliament Wednesdays, Monthly Highlights and the IPEX Quiz. The IPEX YouTube channel was boosted with videos of Parliamentary Dimensions Conferences, and as of today it includes videos from five Parliamentary Dimension Presidencies of the Council of the EU.

The working group is currently working to produce a new promotional leaflet for IPEX and a Guide on Best Practices for Promotion and Social Media focusing on Parliamentary Dimension Presidencies in line with the Chairmanship's priorities. It is also finalising an online survey, which aims to identify the general audience of the IPEX website. Finally, WG 4 will, in the near future, update the Wikipedia page of IPEX.

Implementation of the priorities of the Hungarian Chairmanship

The Hungarian National Assembly set three main priorities for its Chairmanship: i) organising a physical Board meeting in the capital, ii) opening up new avenues of interparliamentary cooperation by creating a new subsection on the IPEX platform for educational programmes on parliamentary democracy and citizenship, and iii) starting debates on sharing best practices regarding the Parliamentary Dimension of the Council Presidency. All of the abovementioned priorities have been or are being implemented.

2025 Conclusions on IPEX

The Secretaries-General of the national parliaments adopted conclusions on IPEX at their meeting of 9-10 February 2025 in Budapest. In their conclusions, they 'recognise IPEX as a unique platform that fosters interparliamentary cooperation and provides a wide range of EU-related information and appreciate the efforts put into the development of IPEX v3'. They also 'thank the European Parliament for providing financial and human resources for the development and operation of the IPEX v3 website'. In addition, they also 'welcome the continuous cooperation between IPEX and the Democracy Support Network (DSN) and call on national parliaments to actively share information on democracy support activities through the IPEX platform and the DSN'.

2025 Conclusions of the Presidency

At the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments held in Budapest on 11–12 May 2025, the Speakers/Presidents in their conclusions ‘welcomed the Conclusions on IPEX, adopted at the Meeting of the Secretaries-General of European Union Parliaments organised in Budapest on 10 February 2025’. In addition, they ‘argued that IPEX should also serve as a platform for the exchange of best practices between national parliaments and the European Parliament on activities of mutual interest, such as education and information programmes on democracy’ and they ‘encouraged the Hungarian National Assembly, taking over the Chairmanship of the IPEX Board, to continue the work related to these tasks’.

IPEX meetings held in 2025

The following IPEX meetings were held in 2025:

- IPEX Board meeting on 23 January 2025, videoconference (Spanish Chairmanship),
- IPEX Users’ Conference, 28 March 2025, Rome (Spanish Chairmanship),
- IPEX Board meeting on 26 June 2025, Budapest (Hungarian Chairmanship),
- Annual IPEX Correspondents’ meeting on 27 June 2025, Budapest (Hungarian Chairmanship),
- IPEX Board meeting on 16–17 October 2025, Brussels (Hungarian Chairmanship),
- IPEX Executive Board meeting on 27 November 2025, remotely (Hungarian Chairmanship),
- Working group and IPEX Now meetings, held as videoconferences and in-person meetings.

Next steps

- After the Meeting of the Secretaries-General (EUSG), discussion began on the preparations of the new Rolling Work Programme for the period 2027–2029 in cooperation with the incoming Danish Chairmanship of IPEX.
- The Danish Parliament took over the IPEX chairmanship from the Hungarian Parliament at the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union Member States, which took place in Copenhagen on 3–5 May 2026, in accordance with the established order of presidencies.

7.3 Network of EU national parliaments' representatives in Brussels

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments welcomes and hosts the administrative representatives designated by the EU national parliaments/chambers to the European Parliament. Since 1991 and with a view to strengthening interparliamentary cooperation within the EU, the European Parliament has offered these representatives complimentary office space and other in-house facilities upon request, at its Brussels and Strasbourg premises.

EU national parliaments send national officials to Brussels to facilitate relations with the EU. As of December 2025, 56 staff from the 27 national parliaments (including the COSAC secretariat and IPEX information officer) are hosted in offices in the European Parliament's premises.

This arrangement fosters numerous synergies and supports structured cooperation. Their role is to ensure a continuous two-way flow of information between the European Parliament and national parliaments, which is essential for the functioning of EU affairs and for the development of practical interparliamentary cooperation.

The representatives work in the same premises as the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments. This proximity ensures close cooperation and promotes regular exchanges and smooth working relations.

Operational coordination is largely maintained through day-to-day contacts, including meetings, emails, telephone exchanges, and office visits. This continuous interaction is complemented by more structured engagements such as workshops, thematic meetings and other relevant activities organised between the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments and the network, providing a framework for dialogue on interparliamentary priorities and initiatives. In this context, a number of activities and meetings took place throughout 2025, including a series of high-level and thematic exchanges with institutional counterparts, such as the meeting with the President of the European Parliament, engagements with Vice-Presidents, discussions with the Secretary-General, exchanges with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Brussels, and meetings with the Director-General of DG PART.

A [list of the national parliaments' representatives](#) is available on the website of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments.

7.4 Staff seminars

Staff seminars and networks bring together staff from national parliaments and the European Parliament. Their aim is to foster interparliamentary administrative cooperation by creating a space for staff to exchange ideas and solutions to similar situations they encountered. The Directorate has organised staff seminars with national parliaments – often in cooperation with other services of the European Parliament – since 2019.

Given the growing interest in administrative cooperation, the frequency and topics covered in staff seminars has increased since then. Staff networks between the European Parliament and national parliaments' services are created to maintain the exchange of best practices and experiences over time. Since 2025 the Networks Cooperation Unit in the Directorate has been responsible for cooperation and the exchange of knowledge at administrative level between the European Parliament and national parliaments.

Staff cooperation keeps on progressing, with numerous staff seminars organised every year. In 2025, eight staff seminars and meetings of staff networks were organised between the administrations of the European Parliament and national parliaments.

7.4.1 Meetings of EU27+ Medical Services

The EU27+ Medical Services in Parliaments is a platform for sharing practices and fostering cooperation among EU national parliaments, the UK, Norway and the European Parliament on physical and mental health, and the psychosocial well-being of Members of Parliament and staff. Its third online meeting, organised by the Danish Folketing on 19 May 2025, focused on psychological safety in parliamentary workplaces, with specific attention to risk and protective factors in the work environment and proactive measures for enhancing well-being.

In addition, the Medical Services Network also held an in-person meeting in the UK Parliament in London on 18 and 19 September 2025. The meeting in London was highly productive and featured an excellent lineup of speakers who addressed the increasing threats faced by parliamentarians. These threats stem from various sources, including fixated individuals, online abuse, misogyny, and aggression. The session highlighted how the UK Police and Parliament identify, assess, and respond

to these risks, as well as the **importance of providing psychological support** to those affected.

7.4.2 European Parliaments ICT Cooperation (EPIC)

The European Parliaments ICT Cooperation network (EPIC) was launched by the European Parliament's Directorate-General for Innovation and Technological Support (DG ITEC) in cooperation with DG PART, as a voluntary and informal platform bringing together the ICT administrators of national parliaments. Its first meeting, held in June 2025, focused on exchanging views on the establishment of the network and defining its initial priorities. The initiative aims to enhance collaboration and promote knowledge sharing and support to key digital challenges, including cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, digital sovereignty and procurement. The network entered its operational phase in January 2026, with the launch of four dedicated working groups covering these priority areas.

7.4.3 Security Services of the Parliaments of the European Union

The fifth Conference of the Security Services of the Parliaments of the European Union took place on 15 and 16 September 2025 in Helsinki, hosted by the Finnish Parliament. Representatives from national parliaments of 18 EU Member States, plus Norway and the European Parliament (participation was coordinated by the Directorate-General for Security and Safety (DG SAFE) and DG PART), met to discuss different challenges under the theme **'Malicious influencing of elections, parliamentarism, and democracy – deepfake videos and hybrid influencing'**. Jussi Halla-aho, Speaker of the Parliament of Finland, welcomed participants and noted the importance of adequately responding to the challenges derived from misinformation; President Roberta Metsola, joining via video, stressed the importance of the exchange of information and expertise among parliaments. Participants had the opportunity to hear from experts and share experiences on the topic of malicious influencing of elections, both looking at the historical trajectory and the prospects.

7.4.4 Interparliamentary Workshop on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Antiharassment policies

This workshop offered an additional example of successful staff seminars with EU national parliaments. The event was organised jointly by the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments and the Unit for Equality, Inclusion and Diversity in the Directorate-General for Personnel (DG PERS). An Inter-parliamentary

Workshop on Equality, Inclusion and Diversity and Antiharassment policies took place 2 October 2025 with the participation of staff from eleven national parliaments. The aim of the workshop was to **share human resources best practices related to inclusion and diversity** and antiharassment policies with the administrations of national parliaments.

7.4.5 The Environmental Exchange Network (EEN)

The 2025 Environmental Exchange Network (EEN) of the EU national parliaments and the European Parliament took place in Vienna on 3–4 December 2025, hosted by the Austrian Parliament and the House of the European Union (i.e. the European Parliament Liaison Office and European Commission Representation). In addition to staff from the European Parliament and the European Commission, 30 participants from 9 national parliaments attended. The programme, opened by the Secretary-General of the Austrian Parliament, Harald Dossi, included thematic discussions aimed at **exchanging experience and best practices in environmental and facility management**, as well as practical activities to support knowledge sharing.

7.4.6 Joint videoconferencing platform

On 9 December 2025, the European Parliament's Directorate-General for Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences (DG LINC) organised, together with DG PART, in hybrid format, a meeting on the multilingual European videoconferencing system and remote simultaneous interpretation services. This first-ever joint public procurement process had been launched in October 2024 with the participation of the European Parliament and thirty-two national Chambers. This first meeting provided an opportunity for Chambers to share their experiences in using the services and to look into how to advance cooperation in the coming year.

Main developments

- The interest of national parliaments in taking part in staff seminars steadily grows through the years.
- Staff seminars covered a wide range of areas of common interest that spanned from security services to medical assistance and environmental practices.

7.5 Presidency Parliament Support Programme

The European Parliament has promoted close cooperation between its own administration and those of national parliaments, in particular in the preparatory phase of the parliamentary dimension of each Council of the EU Presidency. The European Parliament offers each incoming presidency parliament the opportunity to participate in a programme organised for staff in Brussels with a view to preparing activities in the context of the parliamentary dimension of the presidency.

The European Parliament can provide the parliament of the country holding the presidency with a tailor-made support programme, based on specific requests, needs and priorities. This initiative offers an opportunity to network and build personal contacts with all those involved and allows for the effective sharing of information and expertise, thus facilitating further cooperation and ensuring consistency. The European Parliament may contribute to the cost of the programme on a shared basis with the corresponding national parliament.

The European Parliament's Presidency Parliament Support Programme (PPSP) was originally created as a tool to support parliaments from EU Member States that were due to hold the Council of the EU presidency for the first time. As it proved a helpful tool during the preparatory phase of the presidencies, and in view of the continuous developments in interparliamentary cooperation, the **Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments decided to extend the PPSP to all future presidencies**. In recent years, the presidencies of the Council of the EU have placed extra emphasis on, and invested more in, the parliamentary dimension to increase the number of events, meetings and initiatives they hold during their presidency. In 2025, the Directorate organised two PPSP meetings at the European Parliament's premises in Brussels.

The programme for officials from the Danish Parliament took place on 17 and 18 March 2025. The meeting began with a wide-ranging discussion on how to develop more effective formats for interparliamentary meetings. This was followed by exchanges related to the organisation of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC), the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Cooperation and Governance in the EU (IPC SECG), and the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy

(IPC CFSP/CSDP). Being a second semester presidency, Danish officials also had the opportunity to discuss the organisation of the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments (EUSC) and the meeting of the Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments. Colleagues from the Secretariat of the European Parliament, as well as the Permanent Member of the COSAC Secretariat, the IPEX Information Officer, and representatives of national parliaments from past presidencies (Spain, Belgium, Hungary and Poland), all participated in the discussion and shared their experiences. The meeting also included thematic discussions on competitiveness and digitalisation and on the green transition, and an exchange on communication and press in relation to interparliamentary meetings.

The **PPSP meeting for officials from the Cyprus House of Representatives was organised on 12 June 2025**. The participants held exchanges with colleagues from the Secretariat of the European Parliament, as well as representatives of national parliaments which had previously held the rotating presidency (Belgium, Hungary, Poland, and Denmark), who shared their experiences in organising interparliamentary events and activities. The topics discussed related to the organisation of COSAC meetings (with the participation of the COSAC Secretariat Permanent Member), the European Parliamentary Week / IPC SECG, the IPC CFSP/CSDP, and the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) on Europol. The seminar also included discussions on the visit of the European Parliament's Conference of Presidents to the national parliament holding the rotating presidency, IPEX (with the IPEX Information Officer), protocol aspects of interparliamentary meetings, communication and media communication, and interpretation and technical aspects of interparliamentary meetings, including the joint videoconference platform and remote interpretation services.

Main developments

The PPSP seminars with colleagues from the incoming Danish and Cyprus presidencies were successful and productive, covering both standing interparliamentary conferences and targeted aspects of interparliamentary cooperation.

7.6 Administrative interparliamentary cooperation in the field of EU external action and multilateral parliamentary assemblies

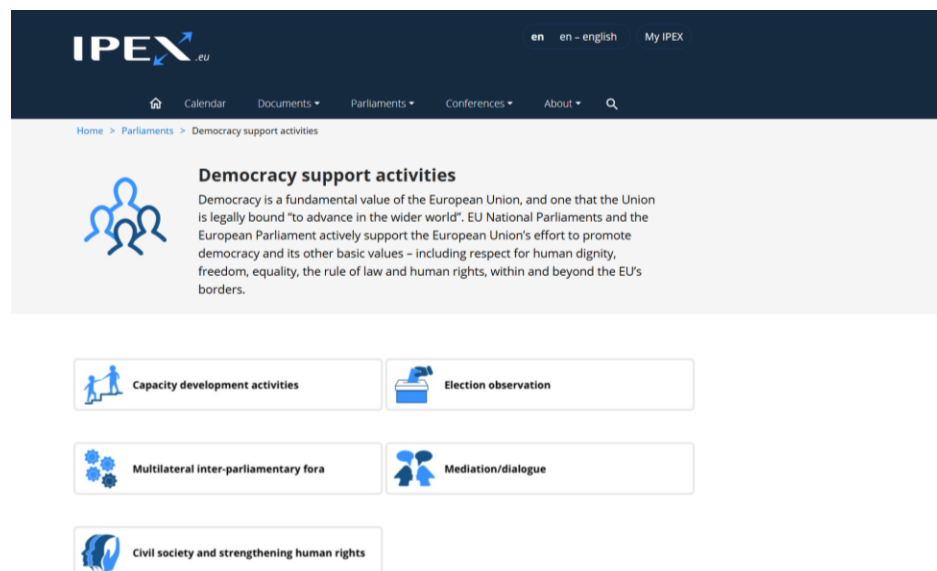
In recent years, national parliaments have shown increased interest in questions of parliamentary democracy, capacity building and fundamental rights. Satisfactory reactions to interparliamentary exchange in these areas have encouraged the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments to promote strategic cooperation between the European Parliament and national parliaments in these fields, in cooperation with DG EXPO. This aims to create a network of colleagues from EU parliaments dealing with external programmes for strengthening democracy. By improving and consolidating informal contacts and channels, exchanges of documents and information, and preparing parliamentary meetings with national parliaments, it looks to strengthen the promotion of fundamental EU values in the Union's external actions.

Exchanges between the European Parliament and the national parliaments in the fields of EU external action have been growing over the years in terms of both frequency and variety. In response to the growing shared interest and considering the creation of the section of the IPEX platform dedicated to Democracy Support, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, together with the Directorate-General for External Policies (DG EXPO), promotes the creation of a permanent exchange among parliaments in the areas of:

- Democracy Support and pre-accession assistance
- Election Observation delegations
- Human Rights actions
- Mediation

The shared objective of this strategic exchange between the European Parliament and national parliaments is to improve coordination between the national parliaments and the European Parliament in this area, as well as to enable better parliamentary oversight and scrutiny of the EU when dealing with its external dimension.

Democracy Support Network



A special [webpage on the IPEX website](#) is dedicated to the democracy support activities of the [Democracy Support Network](#) of EU national parliaments and of the European Parliament.

At their meeting of 9-10 February 2025 in Budapest, the Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments adopted their 'Conclusions on IPEX', which, inter alia, "welcomed the continuous cooperation between IPEX and the Democracy Support Network (DSN) and called on national parliaments to actively share information on democracy support activities through the IPEX platform and the DSN".

EU national parliaments and the European Parliament engaged in several democracy support activities with the parliaments of non-EU countries, with different levels of engagement, tools and priorities. The aim of this network is to improve mutual understanding through knowledge sharing and the exchange of best practices.

IPEX allows Parliaments' staff members involved in the Democracy Support Network to share their activities. The aim is to facilitate administrative and political cooperation by allowing all actors to have a comprehensive overview of anticipated, ongoing or concluded activities in a given partner parliament. Each EU national parliament has selected a person responsible for the network in each Chamber.

Main developments

- Several online meetings took place during 2025, with the focus on how to maintain support to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine amid shifting political dynamics, including the impact of the US external funding freeze.
- Meetings also focused on strengthening capacities of accession country parliaments as presented in a study commissioned by the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG) and the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET).
- The Democracy Support Network, once again, proved to be a useful platform to coordinate the multiplicity of initiatives being taken by a wide variety of actors.
- The Democracy Support section of the IPEX is due for a revamp to make it a more efficient and user-friendly tool to support interparliamentary cooperation in the field of EU external action.

8. Tools and support activities

8.1 CONNECT - the European Parliament's database of national parliaments' submissions

CONNECT

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments provides MEPs (in particular rapporteurs) and political bodies and services of the European Parliament with specific expertise on national parliaments' submissions under Protocols Nos 1 and 2 throughout the legislative cycle. In this context, the Directorate manages the [CONNECT](#) database, which includes all documents received from national parliaments under Protocols Nos 1 and 2 since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon. Reasoned opinions related to the EWS are available in all official EU languages.

Since 2017, the CONNECT database has been accessible via the Directorate's website. It provides consultation not only of reasoned opinions but also of all contributions submitted by EU national parliaments under Protocols Nos 1 and No 2.

CONNECT provides rapporteurs, Members, committee secretariats staff and external stakeholders, with a complete, up-to-date overview of all submissions from national parliaments at any stage of a legislative procedure.

In 2025, a total of 446 submissions were received: 264 (59%) under Protocol No 2 subsidiarity checks and 182 (41%) under the Informal Political Dialogue (Protocol No 1).

As of 1 January 2026, a CONNECT database contained 7 967 submissions from EU national parliaments: 4 644 (58 %) under Protocol No 2 subsidiarity checks and 3 323 (42 %) were submitted under the Informal Political Dialogue.

8.2 Directory of Corresponding Committees (CorCom)

CORCOM

The Directory of Corresponding Committees (CorCom) is an important information source on **national parliament committees corresponding to the committees of the European Parliament**. It also provides key information about the various committee secretariats of EU national parliaments and the European Parliament. The information included in the directory is regularly provided and updated by the Brussels-based permanent representatives of EU national parliaments.

CorCom therefore constitutes a valuable operational tool for enhancing cooperation, exchange of information and institutional links between the European Parliament and the national parliaments, notably in the context of interparliamentary activities, legislative dialogue and committee-to-committee contacts.

Over time, however, the increasing complexity of parliamentary responsibilities, evolving institutional practices and growing expectations from users highlighted the need for a substantial update and modernisation of the tool. The previous structure, while functional, no longer fully reflected the evolving distribution of competences between parliamentary committees at both national and European level, nor did it sufficiently support a more intuitive and dynamic user experience.

Against this background, a broader reflection was undertaken on the need not only to modernise the technical architecture of the platform, but also to improve its visibility, accessibility and practical use across the European Parliament. Stronger promotion of CorCom within the EP remains important to encourage wider use by committee secretariats, parliamentary services and colleagues involved in legislative, interinstitutional and interparliamentary work.

The CorCom application has therefore undergone a significant restyling, update and structural review aimed at making the platform more coherent, user-friendly and aligned with present operational needs. This process has now been completed and, as from 2026, the updated and redesigned version of CorCom will be available to users.

The new version is expected to provide a clearer overview of committee responsibilities, easier navigation, improved usability and a stronger basis for future developments and additional functionalities.

Main developments

- A structural update and redesign of the platform have now been completed, providing improved usability and more intuitive navigation; better alignment of committee responsibilities and competences between national parliaments and the European Parliament; a more modern and user-oriented interface;
- The updated CorCom platform will be operational and available as from 2026.

8.3 National parliaments Submission Tool (NPS Tool)

The National parliaments Submission (NPS) tool is the user-friendly, online European Parliament platform specifically created for the transmission of EU national parliaments' contributions on Protocols Nos 1 and 2. Its aim is to secure, simplify and officialise the procedure for sending a submission to the European Parliament by any national parliament.

The development of the NPS tool started in 2019. Its aim is to offer a user-friendly, automated online registration tool for the submission of reasoned opinions and contributions from EU national parliaments. By filling in an online form, national parliaments are able to provide information about the submission and upload it. It is then automatically sent to the European Parliament's competent services and attributed and forwarded to a predefined internal distribution list. The NPS tool is easy to use and offers a secure way of sending national parliaments' submissions on Protocols Nos 1 and 2. This tool makes it easier to obtain correct and accurate data about submissions, providing immediate confirmation of the official receipt of the submission by the European Parliament. The submission can reach the relevant Parliament committee and the rapporteur in a timely way, while the file is still on the committee's agenda. It increases the efficiency of the legislative dialogue between the European Parliament and national parliaments, as well as intensifying interparliamentary cooperation.

Main development

The National Parliaments Submissions (NPS) tool is now operational, and an increasing number of chambers of national parliaments have begun using it to submit their contributions. The use of the tool is increasing rapidly: 109 contributions were submitted through NPS in 2025, compared to 39 in 2024 (when the tool was launched).

8.4 Publications and communication activities

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments supports interparliamentary cooperation and transparency by creating publications and expanding the reach of interparliamentary activities.

8.4.1 Annual Report on relations between the European Parliament and EU national parliaments

The Annual Report on relations between the European Parliament and EU national parliaments details all activities and developments in EU interparliamentary cooperation, including statistics for a given year. Reports have been published since 2010, and they are available on the [website of Relations with National Parliaments](#).

8.4.2 Calendar of interparliamentary activities

The [calendar of interparliamentary activities](#) is published every six months, following its endorsement by the Conference of Presidents. It covers interparliamentary events organised by the national parliament holding the Council Presidency and by the European Parliament, such as interparliamentary conferences, high-level conferences and ICMs, and it is sent biannually by the President of the European Parliament to the speakers of national parliaments.

8.4.3 Weekly Agenda

The Weekly Agenda lists activities involving national parliaments to improve transparency and visibility of interparliamentary work.

The Weekly Agenda is sent on Fridays by email to all MEPs and to the services of the European Parliament. In 2025, 42 Weekly Agendas were sent. This publication covers interparliamentary events during the upcoming two weeks, such as bilateral visits, interparliamentary conferences and Interparliamentary Committee Meetings. Information is provided on the date, venue and the European Parliament services involved.

8.4.4 State of Play Note

The Directorate also produces a monthly [State of Play Note](#) on reasoned opinions and contributions submitted by national parliaments (see Chapter 6.1).

8.4.5 Factsheets on EU national parliaments

Each of the 39 EU national parliaments/chambers has a [fact sheet](#) published on the Directorate's website. These fact sheets are concise documents that provide a description of each parliament/chamber and are regularly updated.

8.4.6 Communication activities

In 2025, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments intensified its outreach efforts. Working closely with DG PART's Strategy and Communication Unit and DG COMM, the Directorate streamlined communication for Interparliamentary Committee Meetings (ICMs) and introduced innovations, such as inviting content creators to the Parliamentary Democracy Forum. Moreover, it intensified its cooperation with European Parliament Liaison Offices during COSAC events and other interparliamentary events in the Member States, including those organised by the Presidency parliaments.

9. Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments advises the political bodies, Members and the secretariat of the European Parliament on their institutional cooperation, legislative dialogue and administrative cooperation with the EU national parliaments. It provides support for interparliamentary activities, contributes to the implementation of the Treaty provisions on interparliamentary cooperation in the EP and provides expertise throughout the legislative cycle, including on subsidiarity, proportionality and other EP political competences.

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments acts as a knowledge centre for information regarding national parliaments and provides information to Members and the EP administration on best practices within EU national parliaments. It represents the European Parliament in the administrative networks of interparliamentary cooperation. It manages relations with the officials that represent the national parliaments in Brussels and maintains close links with their administrations.

The activities of the European Parliament's Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments are conducted under the political leadership of EP President Roberta Metsola, and two Vice-Presidents, Esteban González Pons and Katarina Barley. According to the EP's Rules of Procedure, the Conference of Presidents is the authority responsible for matters concerning relations with the national parliaments of EU Member States.

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments is managed by Jesús Gómez as Director. It forms part of the EP's Directorate-General for Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships, headed by Director-General Sanna Lepola. The Directorate consists of three units.

Institutional Cooperation Unit – Head of Unit: Andrea Laskava

The areas of responsibility of the Institutional Cooperation Unit (ICU) include multilateral regulated cooperation with EU national parliaments via institutionalised high-level conferences and meetings, e.g. the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments (EUSC), the meetings of Secretaries-General of EU Parliaments (EUSG), and the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and other

high-level interparliamentary conferences. The Unit also supports, in cooperation with the Directorate-General for External Policies (DG EXPO), interparliamentary meetings in the field of EU external action and multilateral assemblies, namely the IPC CFSP/CSDP and interparliamentary meetings at committee level (ICMs). ICU cooperates closely with the Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO) on matters related to national parliaments. ICU is also responsible for providing logistics and helpdesk services to the representatives of national parliaments based in Brussels.

Legislative Dialogue Unit – Head of Unit: Joeri Hamvas

The Legislative Dialogue Unit is responsible for the political and legislative dialogue with national parliaments in key areas and at the different phases of the legislative procedure. To this end, it plans, coordinates, and organises Interparliamentary Committee Meetings (ICMs), interparliamentary conferences (IPCs) and rapporteurs' dialogues on legislative files. Another main field of activity is the parliamentary scrutiny in the area of justice and home affairs and economic and social policies. To this end, the unit organises the EP Week on economic governance, the meetings of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol and the annual ICM on Eurojust. The third field of main activity concerns subsidiarity. The Unit ensures the monitoring of the subsidiarity check, and the follow-up with rapporteurs and committees on the implementation of Protocol No 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. The Unit is also responsible for the CONNECT and CORCOM databases.

Networks Cooperation Unit – Head of Unit: Manuel Manrique Gil

The Networks Cooperation Unit (NCU) supports cooperation and the exchange of knowledge at administrative level between the European Parliament and national parliaments, notably through the organisation and participation in staff networks and seminars. It manages the Presidency Parliament Support Programme (PPSP), which facilitates experience-sharing with the administration of the parliament that is due to hold the future Presidency of the Council of the EU. NCU provides the Secretariat of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) network, together with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

The Unit administers the EP participation in the Interparliamentary EU information

exchange platform (IPEX). The NCU's tasks also involve capacity-building initiatives, organising professional development seminars and fostering strategic partnerships with parliamentary administrations across Europe.

Annexes

ANNEX I – COSAC meetings and topics in 2025

COSAC event	Place, date	Topics
COSAC Chairpersons' Meeting	Warsaw, 26 – 27 January 2025	I. Priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union II. A policy-based budget of the EU responsively tackling the consequences of climate change
Plenary Meeting of the LXXIII COSAC	Warsaw, 8–10 June 2025	I. Implementation of the priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union II. The European Commission and the European Parliament work programmes in the new institutional cycle. Strategic Agenda of the European Union III. The new EU Multiannual Financial Framework – a perspective on the EU's challenges IV. Enlargement Policy of the European Union V. Towards strengthening the EU's collective effort to improve cyber-resilience and tackle disinformation
COSAC Chairpersons' Meeting	Copenhagen, 3–4 July 2025	I. Priorities of the Danish EU Presidency for the Second Half of 2025 II. Ukraine and European Security and Defence

COSAC event	Place, date	Topics
LXXIV COSAC Plenary Meeting	Copenhagen, 30 November–2 December 2025	I. A strong Europe in a changing world: The course set by the Danish Presidency II. EU Trade Policy in an Uncertain World Panel Debate: The Green Transition of a Competitive European Agriculture and Food Sec III. Sustainable Growth and Energy IV. EU enlargement, internal reforms and rule of law

ANNEX II – Interparliamentary Committee Meetings and Interparliamentary Conferences organised by the European Parliament in Brussels in 2025

Date	European Parliament committee	Type of meeting	Title of meeting	Number of Participants: National Parliament Members	Number of Participants: National Parliaments	Number of Participants: National Parliament Chambers	Number of Participants: MEPs
28 January 2025	PETI	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Strengthening cooperation for a timely and correct enforcement of EU law benefitting EU citizens	38	18	20	9
17-18 February 2025	ECON-BUDG-EMPL	European Parliamentary Week: Interparliamentary Conference	Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union	124	25	34	31
19 February 2025	AFET	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	The current EU foreign and security policy challenges	46	22	28	15

6 March 2025	FEMM	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Strengthening the Women, Peace and Security Agenda – Upholding Women’s Rights in Defence, Security and Peace Building	32	16	20	19
18 March	Tax Symposium	Interparliamentary Conference	Strengthening competitiveness and fairness to build prosperity	45	20	24	10
19 March 2025	DROI	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Strengthening the role of the EU at the UN and exchanges of best practices in the human rights field	16	12	13	4
9 April 2025	REGI EMPL HOUS	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Affordable Housing for All – Policy Approaches and Best Practice Cases in the Member States	32	16	19	51

20 May 2025	DEVE	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Global Gateway and the 4th Conference on Financing for Development: Advancing Poverty Eradication and Energy Access in Developing Countries	10	11	11	26
04 June 2025	JURI	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Implementation of the Directive on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law	11	5	7	5
24 June 2025	AFCO	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Institutional Consequences of EU Enlargement Negotiations	20	16	18	18
25 September 2025	AGRI	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Vision for Food and Agriculture – Implications at national and EU level	39	18	22	29

16 October 2025	FISC	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	The Taxation of Digital Activities at National and International Level, in Light of Ongoing Developments at OECD/G20 Level	27	13	16	2
03-04 November 2025	LIBE	Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group	17th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) on EUROPOL	55	22	29	22
19 November 2025	-	Interparliamentary Conference	Parliamentary Democracy Forum	54	21	24	34
20 November 2025	LIBE	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Eurojust	22	25	27	12
02 December 2025	SANT	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Citizens' access to cross-border healthcare	15	8	11	11

03-04 December 2025	SEDE	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	The Future of European Defence	37	18	23	19
11 December 2025	LIBE	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	The situation of the Rule of Law in the EU	31	18	21	18
Total number of participants				654	304	367	335

ANNEX III – Visits of the EU national parliaments to the European Parliament

Nr	Date(s)	Country and Chamber	Delegation	Meeting counterparts in the EP	Type of visit	Number of MPs	Number of staff
1	15.01.2025	DENMARK Folketinget	Member of Parliament	Danish MEPs	MPs	1	2
2	27.01.2025	THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	Standing Committee on Asylum and Migration	Dutch MEPs of the LIBE Committee	MPs	7	3
3	27.01.2025	THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Water Management		MPs	7	2
4	29-30.01.2025	PORTUGAL Assembleia da República	SG, staff	SG, DG COMM, DG SAFE	Staff	0	5
5	03.02.2025	THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	Standing Committee on European Affairs and the Standing Committee on Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation	Dutch MEPs of the AFCO, REGI, INTA and DEVE Committees, as well as delegation leaders	MPs	12	3
6	04.02.2025	LITHUANIA Seimas	National Security and Defence Committee	SEDE Committee Chair	MPs	5	1

7	04.02.2025	FRANCE Assemblée nationale	Defence Committee	MEPs from AFET and SEDE Committees	MPs	2	1
8	04-05.02.2025	DENMARK Folketinget	SG and DSG	SG and DSG of EP, DG PART, DG EPRS, DG COMM, DG INLO	Staff	0	3
9	05.02.2025	NORWAY Stortinget	MPs	MEPs	MPs	14	2
10	17.02.2025	LATVIA Saeima	Meeting between the members of the Baltic Assembly and Nordic Council and the Baltic and Nordic members of the European Parliament	Danish, Estonian, Finnish, Latvian, Lithuanian and Swedish MEPs, DG PART, DG EXPO	MPs	3	2
11	20.02.2025	ESTONIA Riigikogu	EU Affairs Committee	Staff cabinet EP President Metsola, SEDE Vice-Chair, SEDE Coordinator	MPs	5	1
12	25-26.02.2025	DENMARK Folketinget	EU Information Centre	DG COMM, DG EPRS	Staff	0	7
13	04.03.2025	NORWAY Stortinget	SG, management team	SG of EP, AFET, MEPs	Staff	0	9
14	11-12.03.2025	NORWAY Stortinget	Standing Committee on the Local Government	MEPs	MPs	10	2

			and Public Administration				
15	13.03.2025	UNITED KINGDOM House of Commons	Audio/visual department	DG COMM	Staff	0	4
16	24.03.2025	THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	Committee on Climate and Green Growth	Dutch MEPs of the ENVI and ITRE Committees	MPs	5	2
17	26.03.2025	CZECH REPUBLIC	Speaker of Senate and Deputy Speaker of Chamber of Deputies	EP President Metsola	MPs	2	16
18	01.04.2025	CROATIA Hrvatski Sabor	EU Affairs and Foreign Affairs Committees	DG EPRS, DG PART	MPs	15	4
19	02.04.2025	PORTUGAL Assembleia da República	DSG, staff	DG COMM	Staff	0	4
20	03.04.2025	SPAIN Congreso de los Diputados / Senado (CORTES)	Staff delegation of the Spanish Parliament	Brussels-based representatives of the EU national parliaments	Staff	0	9
21	07.04.2025	THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	Standing Committee on Housing and Spatial Planning		MPs	4	2

22	07-08.04.2025	ITALY Camera dei Deputati	Supervisory Committee on Documentation Activities	VPs and MEPs, DG PART, DG BUDG, DG ITEC, DG IUST	MPs	4	3
23	08-10.04.2025	POLAND Sejm	Members' delegation	Vice-President, DG PART	MPs	10	3
24	10.04.2025	NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	Rapporteurs from the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature	Dutch MEPs	MPs	3	1
25	28.04.2025	UNITED KINGDOM House of Commons	Committee on European Affairs	S&D Members, DG EXPO Europe Unit	MPs	12	6
26	29.04.2025	LITHUANIA Seimas	High-Level Members' delegation	VP, Lithuanian MEPs, DG PART	MPs	18	2
27	13.05.2025	FRANCE Assemblée nationale	EUAC	MEP, Vice-President	MPs	1	1
28	16.05.2025	THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	Rapporteurs on the Transparency Directive and the European Democracy Shield	Dutch MEPs of the EUDS Committee, DG PART, AFCO Committee	MPs	2	1

29	19.05.2025	THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	Rapporteurs of the Committee on Health	DG PART, DG ECTI, DG EPRS	MPs	3	2
30	19-20.05.2025	DANEMARK Folketinget	Parliament's Speaker and Presidium	EP President, MEPs	MPs and staff	3	3
31	22.05.2025	FRANCE Sénat	Commission on European affairs and the Senate Delegation for Overseas territories	VP	MPs	14	7
32	02.06.2025	THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	Rapporteurs European tobacco legislation		MPs	2	1
33	04.06.2025	FRANCE Assemblée nationale	Commission of inquiry on psychological effects of TikTok on minors	MEPs	MPs	2	1
34	10-11.06.2025	SWEDEN Riksdag	Staff Communication Division	MEP, DG COMM, DG LINC	Staff	0	6
35	30.06.2025	THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	Rapporteurs on the REACH Regulation	Dutch ENVI MEPs, DG PART, DG ECTI	MPs	2	1
36	09.07.2025	THE NETHERLANDS	Legislative advisors	DG PART, DG EPRS	Staff	0	8

		Tweede Kamer					
37	14-15.07.2025	GERMANY Bundestag	Staff	LIBE/JURI Committees	Staff	0	3
38	15.07.2025	ESTONIA Riigikogu	Board of the Riigikogu: Speaker and Vice- President	Estonian MEPs, DG EXPO	MPs	2	0
39	01-02.09.2025	FINLAND Eduskunta	Chair of the Grand Committee	DG PART, MEP	MPs	1	1
40	02-03.09.2025	GERMANY Bundestag	MP	MEP	MPs	1	0
41	03-04.09.2025	SWEDEN Riksdag	Committee of Taxation	Chair FISC Committee, MEPs	MPs	9	2
42	24.09.2025	IRELAND Oireachtas	Committee on EU Affairs	DG PART, MEPs, COSAC Secretariat	MPs	2	2
43	24.09.2025	NORWAY Ministry	Norwegian Ministry of Energy	NPR	Staff	0	31
44	29.09.2025	POLAND Sejm	Chancellery	EP Secretary General, DG PART, DG COMM, DG ITEC	Staff	0	5
45	30.09.2025	GERMANY Bundestag	Committee on Home Affairs	MEPs	MPs	6	1
46	01.10.2025	ESTONIA Riigikogu	Assistants of the Chancellery	MEPs, DG PART	Staff	0	12

47	14.10.2025	Division of the Norwegian Customs	Border Management	NPR	Staff	0	12
48	16-17.10.2025	SWEDEN Riksdag	Committee on Social Insurance	MEPs	MPs	10	2
49	03-07.11.2025	NORWAY Stortinget	Administrative staff	DG EPRS, DG ITEC	Staff	0	12
50	04.11.2025	FINLAND Eduskunta	Chair and members of the Grand Committee	MEPs	MPs	12	3
51	11.11.2025	GREECE Hellenic Parliament	Committee on European Affairs	VPs, AFET Chair, MEPs	MPs	24	9
52	17.11.2025	FRANCE Assemblée nationale	Staff	NPR	Students	0	21
53	20.11.2025	FRANCE Assemblée nationale	Committee on Sustainable Development	MEP	MPs	3	1
54	02.12.2025	ITALY Senato della Repubblica	Social Affairs, Health, Public and Private Employment, Social Security Standing Committee	Chair and MEPs, Committee on Public Health	MPs	1	3
55	03.12.2025	FRANCE Assemblée nationale	Parliamentary commission of inquiry	MEP	MPs	2	1

56	09-10.12.2025	PORTUGAL Assembleia da República	Staff	DG PART, LIBE, FEMM, JURI, AFCD	Staff	0	1
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ANNEX IV – Early Warning System data – Submissions under Protocol No 2

Submissions received from national parliaments in 2025

Member State	Parliament/Chamber	Reasoned opinions 2025	Contributions 2025
Austria	Nationalrat	0	0
Austria	Bundesrat	0	0
Belgium	Chambre des Représentants	0	0
Belgium	Sénat	0	0
Bulgaria	Narodno Sabranie	1	1
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor	0	0
Cyprus	Vouli ton Antiprosópon	0	0
Czech Republic	Poslanecká sněmovna	0	0
Czech Republic	Senát	0	24
Denmark	Folketinget	0	0
Estonia	Riigikogu	0	0
Finland	Eduskunta	0	0
France	Assemblée Nationale	0	1
France	Sénat	4	6
Germany	Bundestag	0	0
Germany	Bundesrat	1	25
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon	0	1
Hungary	Országgyűlés	1	0
Ireland	Houses of the Oireachtas (Seanad Éireann, Dáil Éireann)	0	10
Italy	Camera dei Deputati	3	49
Italy	Senato	1	19
Lithuania	Seimas	0	0
Luxembourg	Chambre des Députés	0	0
Latvia	Saeima	0	0

Malta	Kamra tad-Deputati	0	0
The Netherlands	Tweede Kamer	0	0
The Netherlands	Eerste Kamer	0	10
Poland	Sejm	0	0
Poland	Senat	0	2
Portugal	Assembleia da República	0	3
Romania	Camera Deputaților	0	2
Romania	Senat	3	19
Spain	Congreso / Senado	1	72
Sweden	Riksdag	3	0
Slovenia	Državni Zbor	0	0
Slovenia	Državni Svet	0	0
Slovakia	Národná rada	1	1
TOTAL		19	245

Number of reasoned opinions received from EU national parliaments under Protocol No 2 in 2025 – by Parliament/Chamber

Chamber	Number of reasoned opinions
FR Sénat	4
IT Camera dei Deputati	3
RO Senat	3
SE Riksdag	3
BG Narodno Sabranie	1
DE Bundesrat (German Federal Council)	1
ES Congreso de los Diputados / Senado (Cortes)	1
HU Országgyűlés	1
IT Senato della Repubblica	1
SK Národná rada	1
Total	19

ANNEX V – Contributions under Protocol No 1 – Informal Political Dialogue

This table lists documents submitted by EU national parliaments in response to draft legislative acts within the EU's exclusive competence, as well as to a wide range of non-legislative documents such as Green Papers, White Papers, and Communications from the European Commission, covered by Protocol No 1 of the Lisbon Treaty.

Contributions received from national parliaments in 2025

Member State	Parliament/Chamber	Contributions received from national Parliaments
Austria	Nationalrat	0
Austria	Bundesrat	1
Belgium	Chambre des Représentants	0
Belgium	Sénat	11
Bulgaria	Narodno Sabranie	1
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor	3
Cyprus	Vouli ton Antiprosópon	2
Czech Republic	Poslanecká sněmovna	3
Czech Republic	Senát	19
Denmark	Folketinget	1
Estonia	Riigikogu	0
Finland	Eduskunta	1
France	Assemblée Nationale	18
France	Sénat	10
Germany	Bundestag	0
Germany	Bundesrat	21
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon	2
Hungary	Országgyűlés	1
Ireland	House of the Oireachtas	4

Italy	Camera dei deputati	4
Italy	Senato	2
Lithuania	Seimas	7
Luxembourg	Chambre des Députés	2
Latvia	Saeima	0
Malta	Kamra tar-Rappreżentanti	0
The Netherlands	Tweede Kamer	3
The Netherlands	Eerste Kamer	9
Poland	Sejm	0
Poland	Senat	1
Portugal	Assembleia da República	2
Romania	Camera Deputaţilor	29
Romania	Senat	13
Spain	Cortes/Parliament	1
Spain	Congress	1
Spain	Senate	1
Sweden	Riksdag	0
Slovenia	Državni Zbor	1
Slovenia	Državni Svet	0
Slovakia	Národná rada	8
Total		182

ANNEX VI – European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD)

a. Issues on which political bodies and administrative services of the European Parliament consulted the ECPRD network in 2025 through comparative requests

30/01/2025: ECPRD request 5992 Parliamentary oversight of the European Investment Bank (EIB)

07/02/2025: ECPRD request 6001 Regulations on Filming and Use of Images of Member of Parliament

17/02/2025: ECPRD request 6009 Establishing a European order of merit

27/02/2025: ECPRD request 6019 Request for Information about contracts signed by the national parliaments in EU

25/04/2025: ECPRD request 6063 The AI Dilemmas in Parliaments

02/06/2025: ECPRD request 6090 The free mandate of Members of the European Parliament

30/07/2025 ECPRD request 6132 Use of national sign languages in administrative and court proceedings

31/07/2025 ECPRD request 6134 Accessibility of the buildings of the national parliaments of the EU member states

15/10/2025 ECPRD request 6181 Administrative Knowledge Management Systems

15/12/2025 ECPRD request 6223 Vote by secret ballot in 27 Member States

b. The European Parliament provided replies to requests from other ECPRD Parliaments on the following topics:

Date of reply	Request number	Title
10/12/2025	6218	Legal framework applicable to the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs. Drones) in Agriculture
04/12/2025	6216	Committees dealing specifically with digital affairs and new technologies
08/12/2025	6213	Air passenger duty
10/12/2025	6201	Parliaments and misinformation
24/11/2025	6200	Smoking policies in parliaments
26/11/2025	6196	Urgent request regarding media management systems and webcast systems
18/11/2025	6192	History and work of Parliament: Bibliography
24/11/2025	6186	The organisation of parliamentary time /// L'organisation du temps parlementaire
04/11/2025	6176	Provision of CRM-type tools (Customer Relationship Management) to MPs to assist them in managing requests /// Mise à disposition des parlementaires d'outils d'aide à la gestion des sollicitations de type CRM
06/10/2025	6173	Parliamentary committee dedicated to outer space affairs
22/10/2025	6168	Update of the request 3620 Budget autonomy of Parliament
11/11/2025	6167	Update of the ECPRD Request 4508
14/10/2025	6163	Update of the Request 4122: Impact assessment and evaluation capacities in national parliaments
17/10/2025	6160	Single sex spaces and gender identity discrimination
17/10/2025	6159	Urgent request: Secretariat for Foreign Relations in Parliament

06/10/2025	6155	The anti-money laundering strategy or policy document
10/10/2025	6154	Parliamentary Staff Training Practices
14/10/2025	6152	Social Media Presence of Parliamentary Research Services
10/10/2025	6150	Reading Room Use and Services
10/10/2025	6143	Use of Cloud Services in Parliaments and Digital Sovereignty
27/08/2025	6140	Safeguarding Mechanism (Physical Protection) for Agriculture and Livestock Sectors
27/08/2025	6139	Vehicle registration requirements
29/08/2025	6138	Ethics Violations related to MPs Expressions
16/09/2025	6127	Questionnaire on "Enhancing the Role of Parliamentary Research Services and Libraries"
14/07/2025	6116	The offering of a financial advantage in exchange for the resignation of a seat in parliament
15/07/2025	6114	Implementation of a Unified Transparency Register of Interests
28/07/2025	6109	Political Parties Funding
15/07/2025	6108	Approaches to Institutional Memory and Oral History in Parliament
15/07/2025	6101	Funeral and Mourning Ceremonies for Parliamentary Representatives
14/07/2025	6099	Regulation of activities of Non-Governmental Organizations receiving funding from foreign state entities
18/06/2025	6091	URGENT Dealing with violence against children in schools /// Traitement des actes de violences contre les enfants en milieu scolaire
18/06/2025	6079	Role of diasporas and migrants in building social cohesion and progress - ONLINE REQUEST

15/05/2025	6071	Process for reformulating the vision or operating strategy of Parliamentary Research Services
12/05/2025	6061	Training and induction sessions/programs for newly elected Members of Parliament
29/04/2025	6057	Financial support to parliamentarians after the end of their term of office
16/04/2025	6056	Surrogacy in other countries
12/05/2025	6055	Optimising the workload of parliamentary committee secretariat staff
23/04/2025	6043	Parliamentary committees of inquiry in practice (ECPRD seminar)
14/04/2025	6038	Anticorruption assessment of laws (Corruption proofing)
31/03/2025	6023	Bringing parliamentary activity closer to youth and children
20/03/2025	6022	Absence of MPs
03/04/2025	6017	Parliamentary websites: features of functioning; content; evaluation methods
06/03/2025 and 26/02/2025	6016	Display of Parliamentary Library Materials
28/02/2025	6011	Empty Parliament
04/02/2025	5995	Noise from outdoor public productions and music events, noise from the operation of restaurants and nightclubs in residential areas
19/02/2025	5990	Professional burnout legislation
24/02/2025	5988	Parliamentary research product types
25/02/2025	5978	Internal staff and resources
19/02/2025	5977	Bureau on the Rule of Law

06/01/2025	5970	Recognition of Documents Issued by Schools Operating in Third Countries
04/02/2025	5960	Enhancing the Legislative Process with Data Structures and AI
20/01/2025	5946	Law collection benchmarking questionnaire
05/02/2025	5918	The legal status of the groups of parliamentary members in a parliamentary assembly

c. ECPRD seminars and statutory meetings in 2025

Date	Meeting Type	Event	Area of Interest	Place	Mode
11-12/12/2025	SEMINAR	Data visualisation in parliaments: towards a community of practice	JOINT AoI	Brussels, European Parliament	In person
06-07/11/2025	SEMINAR	Enhancing the role of parliamentary research services and libraries	Libraries, research Services and Archive	Podgorica, Parliament of Montenegro	In person
16-17/10/2025	SEMINAR	The AI Dilemmas in Parliaments	Information and Communication Technology in Parliaments	Brussels, European Parliament	In person
25-26/09/2025	SEMINAR	The New European Economic Governance: One Year of its Implementation	Economic and Budgetary Affairs	Madrid, Congreso de los Diputados	In person
12-13/06/2025	SEMINAR	Parliamentary committees of inquiry in practice	Parliamentary Practice and Procedure	Paris, Sénat	In person
27-28/02/2025	SEMINAR	Enhancing the Legislative Process with Data Structures and AI	Information and Communication Technology in Parliaments	Reykjavik, Althingi	In person
04-05/02/2025	SEMINAR	Opening up the EP archives using AI	Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives	Brussels, European Parliament	In person
20/01/2025	Statutory Meeting	Executive Committee Meeting		Brussels, European Parliament	Remote

06/06/2025	Statutory Meeting	Executive Committee Meeting		Paris, Council of Europe	In person
19/09/2025	Statutory Meeting	Executive Committee Meeting		Brussels, European Parliament	Remote
02-03/10/2025	Statutory Meeting	Annual Conference of Correspondents		Bern, Swiss Federal Assembly	In person

d. ECPRD comparative requests launched in 2025

Month	Number of ECPRD comparative requests launched
January	22
February	28
March	23
April	21
May	24
June	22
July	23
August	10
September	19
October	30
November	20
December	16
Total	258

e. ECPRD replies sent in 2025

Month	Number of ECPRD replies
January	570
February	799
March	657
April	655
May	511
June	572
July	645
August	274
September	684
October	816
November	586
December	464
Total	7233

Glossary of terms and acronyms

- **AFCO:** Committee on Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament.
- **AFET:** Committee on Foreign Affairs, European Parliament.
- **AGRI:** Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, European Parliament.
- **BUDG:** Committee on Budgets, European Parliament.
- **CONT:** Committee on Budgetary Control, European Parliament.
- **CorCom:** The Directory of Corresponding Committees. An information source on national parliament committees corresponding to the committees of the European Parliament. Provides information about the different committee secretariats of EU national parliaments and the European Parliament.
- **COSAC:** Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs. A Treaty-based conference of Members of the European Parliament and Members of national parliaments from parliamentary committees responsible for EU affairs.
- **CULT:** Committee on Culture and Education, European Parliament.
- **DG BUDG:** Directorate-General for Budgetary Affairs, European Parliament Secretariat.
- **DG CASP:** Directorate-General for Cohesion, Agriculture and Social Policies, European Parliament Secretariat.
- **DG ECTI:** Directorate-General for Economy, Transformation and Industry, European Parliament Secretariat.
- **DG EXPO:** Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union, European Parliament Secretariat.
- **DG ITEC:** Directorate-General for Information Technologies and Cybersecurity, European Parliament Secretariat.
- **DG IUST:** Directorate-General for Citizens' Rights, Justice and Institutional Affairs, European Parliament Secretariat.
- **DG PART:** Directorate-General for Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships, European Parliament Secretariat.
- **DEVE:** Committee on Development, European Parliament.
- **DROI:** Subcommittee on Human Rights, European Parliament.
- **ECPRD:** European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation. An Information exchange network for the administrations of parliaments across Europe, functioning on the basis of comparative requests.
- **ECON:** Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, European Parliament.
- **EMPL:** Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, European Parliament.

- **ENVI:** Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety, European Parliament.
- **EP:** European Parliament.
- **EPW:** European Parliamentary Week. The Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (**IPC SECG**) and the European Semester Conference bring together parliamentarians from all over the European Union to discuss economic, budgetary and social matters.
- **EUDS:** Special Committee on the European Democracy Shield, European Parliament.
- **Eurojust:** European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation.
- **Europol:** The European Union's law enforcement agency.
- **EUSC:** The Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments. An annual meeting of the speakers of the parliaments of EU Member States, organised by the national parliament of the country that held the previous autumn's Council of the EU Presidency.
- **EWS:** Early Warning System. A review mechanism set out in Protocol No 2 to the Treaties on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. It provides for national parliaments to send a reasoned opinion to the presidents of the institutions.
- **FEMM:** Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, European Parliament.
- **FISC:** Subcommittee on Tax Matters, European Parliament.
- **HOUS:** Special Committee on the Housing Crisis in the EU, European Parliament.
- **ICMs:** Interparliamentary Committee Meetings. Meetings co-organised by committee secretariat(s) and the Legislative Dialogue Unit of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments of the European Parliament. ICMs function as a forum for dialogue between members of national parliaments and MEPs.
- **INTA:** Committee on International Trade, European Parliament.
- **IMCO:** Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, European Parliament.
- **IPC:** Interparliamentary Conference.
- **IPC CFSP/CSDP:** Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy. Interparliamentary platform for debate on the EU's foreign, security and defence policy. Organised

twice a year by the Parliament of the EU Member State holding the Council of the EU presidency, in close cooperation with the European Parliament.

- **IPD:** Informal Political Dialogue. The contributions of the EU national parliaments under Protocol No 1 to the Treaties that comment on legislative files falling under the exclusive competence of the EU, as well as on non-legislative documents such as white papers or communications from the European Commission.
- **IPEX:** Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange. Platform for the mutual exchange of EU-related documents and information between national parliaments and the European Parliament.
- **ITRE:** Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, European Parliament.
- **JPSG:** Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol. Interparliamentary scrutiny group that ensures that Europol is fully accountable and transparent. The JPSG holds two meetings per year: one at the parliament of the country holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU and one at the European Parliament.
- **JURI:** Committee on Legal Affairs, European Parliament.
- **LIBE:** Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, European Parliament.
- **MPs:** Members of (national) parliaments.
- **MEPs:** Members of the European Parliament.
- **NPS:** National parliaments Submission tool. An online platform for EU national parliaments to submit reasoned opinions and contributions to the European Parliament.
- **PDF:** Parliamentary Democracy Forum.
- **PPSP:** Presidency Parliament Support Programme.
- **PECH:** Committee on Fisheries, European Parliament.
- **PETI:** Committee on Petitions, European Parliament.
- **REGI:** Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament.
- **SANT:** Committee on Public Health, European Parliament.
- **SEDE:** Committee on Security and Defence, European Parliament.
- **TRAN:** Committee on Transport and Tourism.
- **TEU:** Treaty on European Union.
- **TFEU:** Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF THE EU MEMBER STATES

December 2025



Member State		Parliament/Chamber	Directly elected	Indirectly elected/ appointed/ other
 België/ Belgique/ Belgien	Belgium	Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers/ Chambre des représentants/ Abgeordnetenversammlung	150	0
		Senaat/ Sénat/ Senat	0	60
 България	Bulgaria	Народно събрание (Narodno sabranie)	240	0
 Česká republika	Czechia	Poslanecká sněmovna	200	0
		Senát	81	0
 Danmark	Denmark	Folketinget	179	0
 Deutschland	Germany	Deutscher Bundestag	630	0
		Bundesrat	0	69
 Eesti	Estonia	Riigikogu	101	0
 Éire/Ireland	Ireland	Dáil Éireann	174	0
		Seanad Éireann	0	60
 Ελλάδα	Greece	Βουλή των Ελλήνων (Vouli ton Ellinon)	297	0
 España	Spain	Congreso de los Diputados	350	0
		Senado	207	58
 France	France	Assemblée nationale	577	0
		Sénat	0	348
 Hrvatska	Croatia	Hrvatski sabor	151	0

Source: Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments in cooperation with the representatives of the EU national parliaments in Brussels.



Member State		Parliament/Chamber	Directly elected	Indirectly elected/ appointed/ other
 Italia	Italy	Camera dei Deputati	400	0
		Senato della Repubblica	200	5
 Κύπρος	Cyprus	Βουλή των Αντιπροσώπων (Vouli ton Antiprosopon)	56	0
 Latvija	Latvia	Saeima	100	0
 Lietuva	Lithuania	Seimas	141	0
 Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Chambre des Députés	60	0
 Magyarország	Hungary	Országgyűlés	199	0
 Malta	Malta	Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati	67	12
 Nederland	The Netherlands	Tweede Kamer	150	0
		Eerste Kamer	0	75
 Österreich	Austria	Nationalrat	183	0
		Bundesrat	0	60
 Polska	Poland	Sejm	460	0
		Senat	100	0
 Portugal	Portugal	Assembleia da República	230	0
 România	Romania	Camera Deputatilor	330	0
		Senat	134	0
 Slovenija	Slovenia	Državni zbor	90	0
		Državni svet	0	40
 Slovensko	Slovakia	Národná rada	150	0
 Suomi/ Finland	Finland	Eduskunta	200	0
 Sverige	Sweden	Riksdagen	349	0



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