

ITALIAN PRESIDENCY

ANNUAL REPORT

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to report you today about the Italian Presidency of IPEX, a pivotal and demanding experience as the Italian Senate and Chamber of deputies were called to implement the new IPEX Guidelines, approved by this same Assembly last year. As you all know, several and important changes to the governing structure of IPEX were introduced, which we were called to put into practice. In particular, Italy's was the first rotating Presidency of IPEX. We started the automatic alternation mechanism and, by virtue of that same mechanism, we are about to hand over the Presidency to our Luxembourgish colleagues, who have chaired the Council of the European Union in the second semester of 2015.

The **Board therefore based its activities on the implementation of the innovations resulting from the adoption of the updated Guidelines**, better defining its role after the abolition of the Central Support.

Importantly, the Board could rely on the contribution of its **working groups**, which were created after the previous WGs completed their mandate and reported to the new Board. Let me mention here the lengthy report submitted by the Working Group on the Improvement of the IPEX website, which brought about significant changes and improvements of the site.

New WGs were then created during the Italian Presidency in order to follow up on peculiar issues or events, and namely:

- 1) defining a digital strategy and a mid-term work program for IPEX to guide future improvements of the site and to ensure a shared and coherent conduction of any project or improvement that will cross the annual handover of the IPEX Chairmanship, avoiding possible discontinuities;
- 2) keeping contacts with the European Commission and the Council in order to increase the quality and quantity of information IPEX could receive from these sources;
- 3) defining best practices on the use of IPEX forums for specific areas and topics;
- 4) developing promotional material for IPEX and in particular the Handbook for IPEX Correspondents and a Leaflet;
- 5) organizing the Vienna Correspondents' Meeting, which took place on 5-6 November 2015. The outcome of the meeting will be described later.

The Board also engaged in a **reflection on the role of IPEX**, during which it was strongly affirmed that IPEX goes well beyond its technologic platform. It is also a network for information sharing, whose articulated joints are the Correspondents. This reflection resulted in the drafting of a short document, which is being submitted to you today. It defines IPEX as a multifunctional platform supporting inter-parliamentary cooperation in the European Union by organising human resources and providing technical means for the electronic exchange of information on all EU-related parliamentary activities. While it is targeted at users in parliaments, most content is also opened to the public.

The Board also carried out an **evaluation of the first IPEX Users' Conference**, held in Copenhagen on 26 January 2015. During that meeting, some issues were proposed for discussion by the Board, and namely: further improvement of the quality of information and user-friendliness of IPEX; further promotion of IPEX among its users; training of IPEX users; early involvement of IPEX in signalling subsidiarity concerns; encouraging National Parliaments to publish on IPEX their priorities according to the Commission Annual Work Programme; starting IPEX forums for specific EU policy areas; synchronising IPEX with Microsoft Outlook; using the IPEX network to overcome the language barrier; publication by National Parliaments of short summaries of uploaded documents in English or French, possibly with the help of a specific template.

The Board therefore decided, before organizing a new meeting, to first focus on the implementation of the outcome of the Copenhagen Conference.

Dear Colleagues,

I won't deny that following up on the several engagements related to IPEX has been challenging, even exacting, at a time when the Italian Parliament has been involved in the most important Constitutional reform of the last decades. The Constitutional review has added up to our normal workload, resulting in a very busy year 2015 for both Houses of the Italian Parliament.

This is why the co-operation of our partners in IPEX who have volunteered to host some of the events which took place during the Presidency has been most

welcome. Let me take this opportunity to thank again the Chamber of deputies of Luxembourg, the European Parliament and the Austrian Parliament.

During our Presidency the following meetings took place:

- 1) a Board meeting at the Luxembourg Chamber of deputies (29 June 2015);
- 2) a Board Meeting at the European Parliament in Brussels (2 October 2015);
- 3) the yearly Correspondents' Meeting at the Austrian Parliament in Vienna (5-6 November 2015). ;
- 4) a Board Meeting at the Italian Senate in Rome (29 January 2016).

Let me give you some more details about the successful Correspondents' Meeting held in Vienna. A total of 46 participants from 23 Member States, the European Parliament and 3 Candidate Countries (Albania, Montenegro and Serbia) attended the training sessions, working groups, presentations and debates which took place during the two days meeting. Works were focused, inter alia, on the networking within IPEX and its promotion. A shared feeling emerged, that more could be done to enhance the human network.

Last but not least, let me thank again the European Parliament for enabling the IPEX information officer to continue to use its infrastructure as well as the Senate of Belgium for offering to formally hire as of last January an IPEX Information Officer.

The Annex attached to the present Report has been edited with the support of the European Parliament and the IPEX Information officer.

STATISTICAL AND TECHNICAL ANNEX

1. Technical Developments

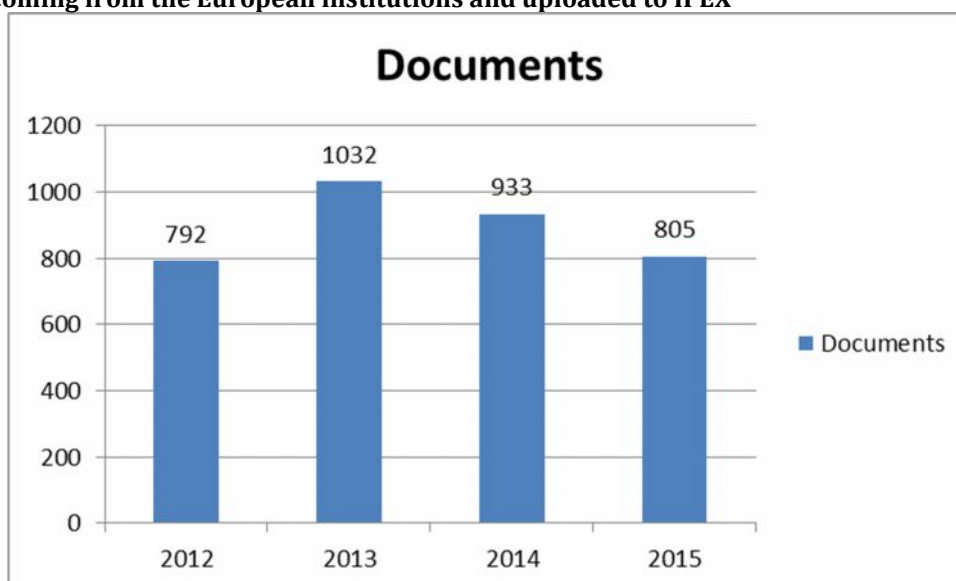
A workgroup had been mandated by the Board to identify improvements for the IPEX website. While the forums design has been completely renewed and an integration of events to end-user calendars been developed, the WG also identified different possible improvements on other aspects of the website (Navigation, Search possibilities, New sections for content, Better visibility for legislative proposals within the eight weeks period, etc.), which, after having been approved by the Board, were implemented and are now available in the IPEX website.

2. IPEX FACTS AND FIGURES

Upload of documents and dossiers

IPEX publishes currently over 70, 000 pages from national parliaments, holding scrutiny related information for more than 10,000 documents produced by the EU institutions and linked to almost 8, 500 dossiers. In 2015, the total number of legislative and non-legislative documents recorded in IPEX, was 805 (2014: 933; 2013: 1,032).

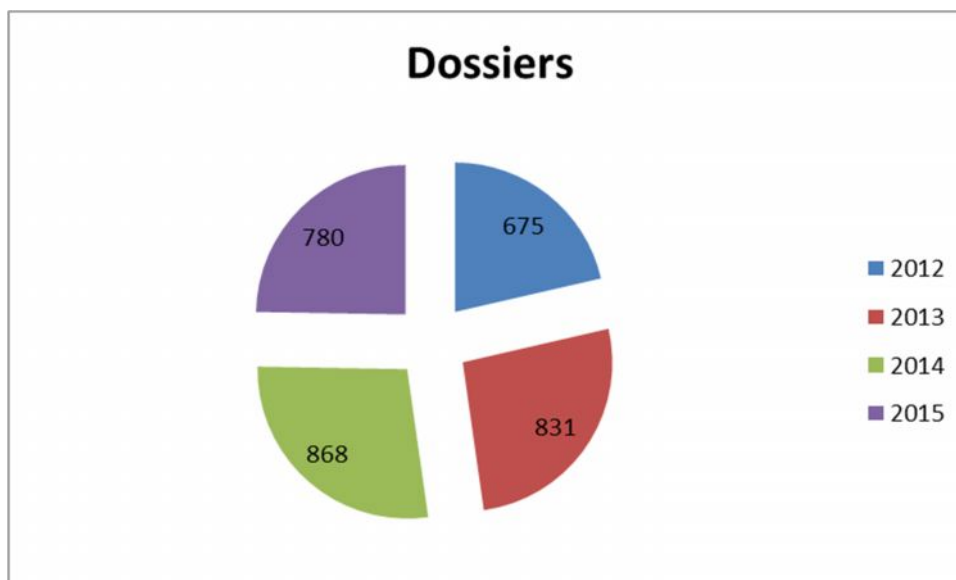
Documents coming from the European institutions and uploaded to IPEX



Documents and scrutiny updates from national Parliaments

Related to the legislative proposals in 2015, national parliaments uploaded 4,055 scrutiny related pages (2014: 5, 042; 2013: 5,321).

Number of dossiers added to the IPEX database



Number of scrutiny pages added by national Parliaments

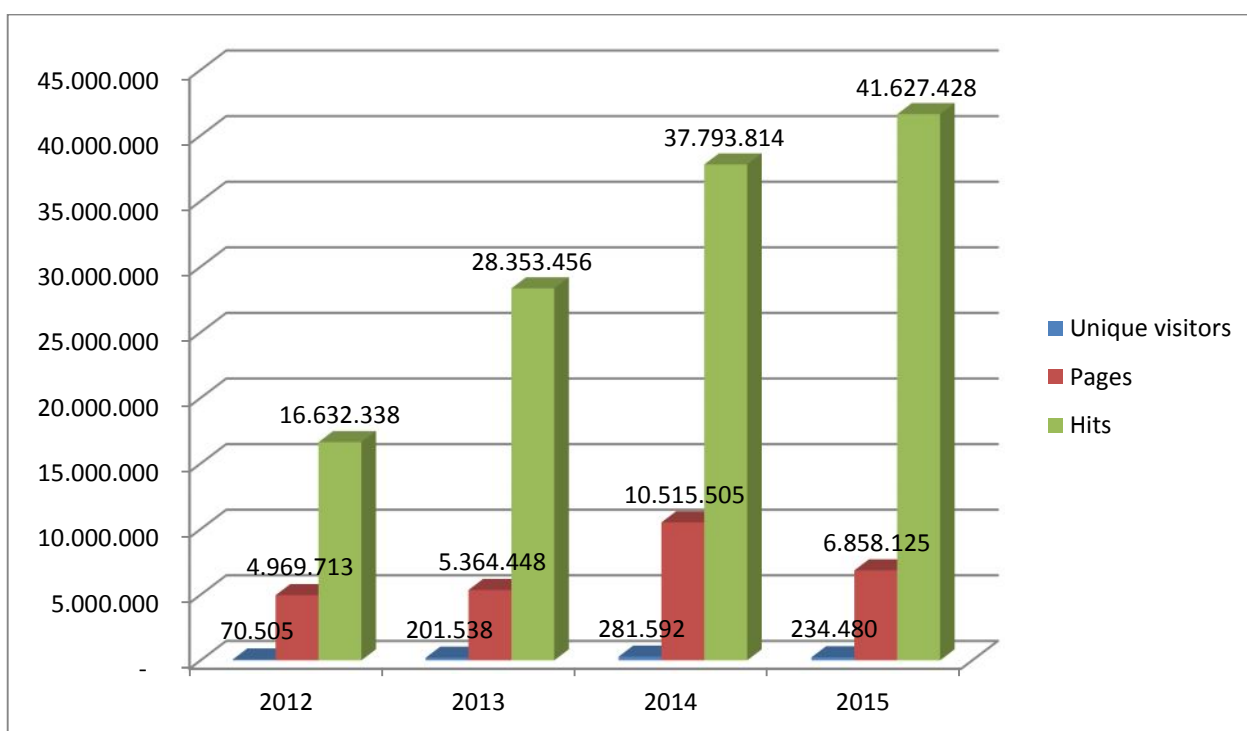
	SCRUTINIES			
ALL CHAMBERS (Sorted alphabetically)	2012	2013	2014	2015
Assembleia da Republica	189	176	76	41
Austrian Federal Council	25	37	17	39
Austrian National Council	25	26	14	7
Belgian Chamber of Representatives	70	91	39	#N/A
Belgian Senate	183	240	32	14
Bulgarian National Assembly	5	#N/A	1	1
Cortes Generales	73	130	38	31
Croatian Parliament	#N/A	45	13	11
Cyprus House of Representatives	3	6	1	7
Czech Chamber of Deputies	40	83	354	253
Czech Senate	77	91	37	68
Danish Parliament	5	8	2	5

Dutch House of Representatives	21	33	17	16
Dutch Senate	54	67	30	51
Estonian Parliament	2	3	#N/A	#N/A
Finnish Parliament	143	221	113	103
French National Assembly	12	33	22	139
French Senat	19	23	1	12
German Bundesrat	128	176	79	#N/A
German Bundestag	274	564	546	428
Hellenic Parliament	10	13	2	6
Hungarian National Assembly	2	7	#N/A	22
Irish Houses of Oireachtas	169	266	357	250
Italian Chamber of Deputies	18	31	11	18
Italian Senate	57	81	58	39
Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies	3	7	3	4
Maltese House of Representatives	183	167	39	30
National Council of the Slovak Republic	166	273	455	507
Polish Sejm	469	608	657	509
Polish Senate	155	279	365	277
Romanian Chamber of Deputies	58	112	36	71
Romanian Senate	28	81	25	41
Saeima Parliament of Latvia	1	1	1	#N/A
Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania	74	18	58	44
Slovenian National Assembly	60	71	20	27
Swedish Parliament	478	605	627	583
UK House of Commons	476	572	523	391
UK House of Lords	393	72	9	9

Website statistics

In 2015, the IPEX website was visited by some 235.000 unique visitors, seeing a decrease from the past years (2014: 281.592; 2013: 201,538). The number of pages visited – almost 7 million – followed the same pattern of increase as seen in 2012 and 2013, only exceeded by last year's results.

The decrease of visitors and pages visited can be seen as trends related to the European elections of 2015 and the formation of a new European Commission, causing a slow-down of activities in Brussels and in the national capitals affected by these political developments, as well as a reduction of the general number of legislative proposals issued by the new Commission.



News from Parliaments on IPEX

The News from Parliaments section of IPEX received and published almost three times more contributions in 2015, than in 2014, from 30 to 78, coming both from the national Parliaments and the European Parliament.

Reasoned opinions uploaded by national Parliaments into the IPEX database

National Parliament	Chamber	Reasoned opinions received in 2015	
		Uploaded	COM number
Austria	Bundesrat		
Austria	Nationalrat		
Belgium	Chambre des Représentants		
Belgium	Sénat		
Bulgaria	Narodno Sabranie		
Cyprus	Vouli ton Antiprosopon		
Czech Republic	Senát	1	COM/2015/0450
Czech Republic	Poslanecká sněmovna	1	COM/2015/0450
Croatia	Sabor		
Denmark	Folketinget		
Estonia	Riigikogu		
Finland	Eduskunta		
France	Sénat		
France	Assemblée nationale		
Germany	Bundesrat		
Germany	Bundestag		
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon		
Hungary	Országgyűlés	1	COM/2015/0450
Ireland	Oireachtas (both Chambers)		
Italy	Senato della Repubblica		
Italy	Camera dei Deputati		
Latvia	Saeima		
Lithuania	Seimas		
Luxembourg	Chambre des Députés		
Malta	Kamra tad-Deputati		

Poland	Sejm		
Poland	Senat		
Portugal	Assembleia da República		
Romania	Senatul		
Romania	Camera Deputaților	1	COM/2015/0450
Slovakia	Národná rada	1	COM/2015/0450
Slovenia	Državni svet		
Slovenia	Državni zbor		
Spain	Congreso de los Diputados and Senado (both Chambers)	1	COM/2015/0177
Sweden	Riksdagen	1	COM/2015/0135
The Netherlands	Eerste Kamer Staten Generaal		
The Netherlands	Tweede Kamer Staten Generaal	1	COM/2015/0177
United Kingdom	House of Commons		
United Kingdom	House of Lords		
	Total	8	

The result is expressing all documents uploaded on IPEX by national Parliaments and labelled as Reasoned Opinions in the year 2015, including for procedures started in 2014 (data centralized and verified by the Information Officer and the national Correspondents, 05 February 2016)