



Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments

24 January 2022, Ljubljana (Video conference)

Approved by the IPEX Board on 10 January 2022

Draft Conclusions on IPEX

1. The Secretaries General take note of the Annual Report on the current status of IPEX and thank the IPEX Board for its work in 2021.
2. The Secretaries General confirm the following composition of the IPEX Board during the Slovenian Chairmanship of the IPEX Board starting after the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments on 28 – 29 March 2022 in Brdo pri Kranju:

Ex officio members of the Board:

- Slovenia (National Assembly, National Council) - Chair of the IPEX Board
- Czech Republic (Chamber of Deputies, Senate)
- Spain (Cortes Generales)
- France (National Assembly, Senate)
- European Parliament

National parliaments willing to contribute to the Board and its activities:

- Austria (National Council and Federal Council)
- Belgium (House of Representatives)
- Denmark (Danish Parliament)
- Germany (Bundestag)
- Greece (Hellenic Parliament)
- Hungary (National Assembly)
- Ireland (Houses of Oireachtas)
- Italy (Chamber of Deputies, Senate)
- Luxembourg (Chamber of Deputies)
- Poland (Sejm, Senate)
- Portugal (Assembleia da República)
- Romania (Chamber of Deputies, Senate)
- Sweden (Swedish Riksdag)
- The Netherlands (Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal)



According to the IPEX Guidelines, the IPEX Information Officer, COSAC, the ECPRD, the European Commission and the Council also participate in, and contribute to, IPEX Board meetings.

3. The Secretaries General welcome the launch of the new version of the IPEX website in October 2021. The new website is vital for maintaining the central role of IPEX as an information system on EU affairs and for IPEX to become the one-stop-shop for interparliamentary cooperation in the EU. The Secretaries General sincerely thank the European Parliament for its efforts and engagement in financing the new website as well as all contributors involved in the development of IPEX v3.
4. The Secretaries General welcome the new subpage on the Conference on the Future of Europe and the possibility to place an emphasis on the contributions of national parliaments in this particularly important future project.
5. The Secretaries General welcome the idea of strengthening interparliamentary cooperation also in relation to initiatives with neighbouring countries or other third countries or regions outside the European Union. In a Union founded on common values, as set out in Article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union, the Secretaries General consider the sharing of best practices amongst parliaments as an important tool for maintaining and supporting these common values. Therefore, the Secretaries General particularly welcome the creation of the Democracy Support Network and the launch of the dedicated section on IPEX v3.
6. The Secretaries General acknowledge the ongoing work accomplished in view of the three-year IPEX Work Programme (2021 – 2023) and call for the implementation of the planned activities by the Working Groups.
7. The Secretaries General take note of the enhanced training and information activities related to the new website. They consider information on the new functionalities and knowledge of the technical background as indispensable for making effective use of the new website.
8. The Secretaries General acknowledge the broad discussions held in the IPEX Board on the need to revise the IPEX Guidelines that were adopted in March 2015 in Rome. The Secretaries General share the assessment of the Board that the current Guidelines no longer necessarily reflect the reality of the needs and possibilities for National Correspondents to work with IPEX v3. Therefore, the Secretaries General ask the incoming Slovenian Chairmanship of the IPEX Board to start the revision of the IPEX Guidelines, taking into account the changes that are necessary because of the new website.



9. The Secretaries General welcome that an IPEX National Correspondents Meeting had been organized on 28 and 29 October 2021 in Berlin in the premises of the Bundesrat. The Secretaries General thank the German IPEX Board Chair for offering the participants the possibility to join the meeting in a way deemed appropriate by organizing a hybrid meeting. The Secretaries General underline the importance of the Annual IPEX Correspondents Meeting as an excellent opportunity for networking and for further encouraging the Correspondents to promote IPEX within their parliaments and networks.
10. The Secretaries General call on the IPEX Board to examine the expectations of IPEX users in detail in order to increase the user-friendliness of the system. The Secretaries General recommend holding a third IPEX Users Conference as soon as the conditions permit, and call on all national Parliaments to consider hosting such a meeting.
11. The Secretaries General welcome the initiative to deepen the exchange between IPEX and the Scientific Community under the German Chairmanship. The Secretaries General see the potential to develop IPEX further by means of an increased exchange and call for the continuation of the dialogue.
12. The Secretaries General deem it crucial to provide information on the IPEX platform in a timely and reliable manner. They underline the essential role of IPEX National Correspondents for providing the information. As expressed in the exchange with contributors from the academic sphere during the National Correspondents Meeting in Berlin, the Secretaries General encourage the IPEX National Correspondents to upload content on the IPEX website.
13. The Secretaries General welcome the initiative of the German Chairmanship to establish a new digital discussion format (“IPEX NOW”) as an informal remote meeting within the IPEX network in order to intensify the exchange between the IPEX National Correspondents. The Secretaries General encourage future IPEX Board Chairmanships to continue to use digital formats.
14. The Secretaries General thank the Belgian Senate for continuing to employ the IPEX Information Officer.