Written report on the work of IPEX in 2013

1. Technical Developments

Since its launch in 2011, the new website has been continuously improved and updated. In 2013 three new versions included maintenance and evolutive issues. Those referred to the following categories:

*Websit*e
- Establishment of new sub-sites for interparliamentary Conferences, added to the Speakers Conference page
- Smaller design improvements

Content and access
- adding Croatian language (both for the navigation, as well as for documents)
- Links added to Committee of Regions

Electronic data transmission
- eTrustEx transmission (for documents sent by the European Commission)
- new XML metadata structure for Commission documents
- Support for national Parliaments that develop or use the 'XML feed' transmission

All IPEX Correspondents were given the opportunity to get more familiar with all features that the IPEX 2.0 offers to the national Parliaments and the European Parliament such as the Calendar, the News section or the sub-site containing information on how national Parliaments deal with European affairs. For this purpose, regular communications have been sent by the IPEX Information Officer, a training course was held in Brussels during the annual meeting of the IPEX Correspondents (7/8 November 2013) and individual trainings were given by the IPEX Information Officer either in Brussels for the representatives of the national Parliaments or directly in some capitals of the Member States of the European Union, such as Copenhagen, Vilnius and Zagreb. Furthermore, the IPEX Information Officer presented IPEX as keynote speaker to the national Parliaments' EU Affairs Officers during a meeting organised by the European Parliament on 26/27 September 2013.

2. Employment of the IPEX Information Officer

At the end of 2012, the first contract with the IPEX Information Officer, having the German Bundestag as contractor, expired. According to the mandate given in Warsaw in 2012 by the Secretaries General to the IPEX Board, the Board decided to ask the Chair of the IPEX Board to renew the contract with the IPEX Information Officer, Mr Calin Racoti, a Romanian citizen. For the second period of employment, the German Bundestag received signed Letters of Intent in order to guarantee the payment of the salary during the period 2013/2014. For 2013, all national Parliaments contributed accordingly to the payment of the IPEX Information Officer. With the membership of Croatia, the number of contributing Parliaments will be raising up to 28 in 2014.

3. IPEX FACTS AND FIGURES

Upload of documents and dossiers

IPEX publishes currently almost 43,500 pages from national parliaments, describing scrutiny related information for more than 8,500 documents produced by the EU institutions and linked to almost 6,700 dossiers. In 2013 the total number of legislative proposals recorded in IPEX was 1,008 (2012: 790; 2011: 1,194; 2010: 1,084).

Documents coming from the European institutions and uploaded to IPEX

	2013	*2012*
COM	623	516
SWD	371	258
JOIN	11	11
SEC	2	3
PE-CONS	1	2
TOTAL	**1,008**	*790*

Documents and scrutiny updates from national Parliaments

Related to the legislative proposals in 2013, national parliaments uploaded 4,111 scrutiny related pages (2012: 3,800).

In October 2013, almost two-thirds of the national Parliaments and Chambers have scrutinized the proposal COM (2013) 534 on the establishing the European Public Prosecutor´s Office (EPPO) and 14 of them have issued a Reasoned Opinion on it, representing 18 votes out of 56 and triggering the Early Warning System, in accordance with Article 7(2) of Protocol No 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon. This procedure was uploaded, updated and followed step by step on IPEX, from the start of the scrutiny procedure up to the release of the EC's Communication COM (2013) 851 with which it concluded the so-called "yellow card" procedure in relation to the EPPO proposal.

Further procedures, training instructions and technical improvements have been prepared and implemented over the course of 2013, for assuring the full reliability of IPEX by properly uploading documents related to subsidiarity procedure scrutiny and Political Dialogue, as well as the use of the IPEX symbols for these procedures.

	Scrutiny and subsidiarity check related information uploaded in 2013	Pages	Reasoned Opinions[1]
Austria	Austrian Federal Council	32	6
	Austrian National Council	24	0
Belgium	Belgian Chamber of Representatives	78	1
	Belgian Senate	185	1[2]
Bulgaria	Bulgarian National Assembly	2	0
Croatia	Croatian Parliament	12	0
Cyprus	Cyprus House of Representatives	6	1
Czech Republic	Czech Chamber of Deputies	32	0
	Czech Senate	88	2
Germany	German Bundesrat	176	3
	German Bundestag	252	0
Denmark	Danish Parliament	7	1
Spain	Cortes Generales	122	5
Estonia	Estonian Parliament	5	1
France	French National Assembly	33	1
	French Senat	13	4
Greece	Hellenic Parliament	14	2
Hungary	Hungarian National Assembly	9	1
Ireland	Irish Houses of Oireachtas	176	3
Italy	Italian Chamber of Deputies	16	1
	Italian Senate	65	1
Lithuania	Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania	20	6
Luxembourg	Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies	8	3
Latvia	Saeima Parliament of Latvia	2	1
Malta	Maltese House of Representatives	45	5
the Netherlands	Dutch House of Representatives	27	6
	Dutch Senate	68	4
Poland	Polish Sejm	461	2
	Polish Senate	237	1
Portugal	Assembleia da Republica	200	1
Romania	Romanian Chamber of Deputies	112	3
	Romanian Senate	84	3
Suomi Finland	Finnish Parliament	195	1

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[1] The result is expressing all documents uploaded on IPEX by national Parliaments and labeled as Reasoned Opinions in the year 2013, including for procedures started in 2012(data centralized and verified by the Information Officer and the national Correspondents, 21 January 2014)

[2] Reasoned opinion issued by the Flemish regional Parliament, in accordance with Declaration 51 by the Kingdom of Belgium on national parliaments, annexed to the Treaty of Lisbon.

Slovak Republic	National Council of the Slovak Republic	228	0
Slovenia	Slovenian National Assembly	58	1
Sweden	Swedish Parliament	597	14
United Kingdom	UK House of Commons	382	4
	UK House of Lords	40	3
	TOTAL	**4111**	**92**

XML

Around 20 national Parliaments and chambers are using or have started investigations about using the XML feed for transmitting information to IPEX (the Swedish Riksdagen, the Finnish Eduskunta, the Czech Senate, the French Senate, the German Bundestag, the Italian Senate, the Irish House of Oireachtas, the National Council of the Slovak Republic and the Parliament of the United Kingdom are using XML feed). A larger implementation of the XML feed would greatly benefit the national Parliaments, since it would reduce the manual work amount of the national Correspondent, it would contribute to improving the content of the platform, as well as speeding up the upload, a crucial factor in the reliability of IPEX.

The Speakers Conference website in IPEX

The historical archive of the Conference of the European Parliamentary Assemblies and of the European Union Conference was continuously expanded through research in archives and the scanning of significant documents. The Archive is now complemented by an introductory document on the history of the Speakers Conference.

Based on a conclusion of the Secretaries General on IPEX in 2013, the Speakers Conference website has been enhanced in order to host also information and documents referring to other interparliamentary conferences, namely the Inter-parliamentary Conference on Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Defence and Security Policy (CSDP), as well as the Inter-parliamentary Conference on Economic and Financial Governance of the European Union.

News in IPEX

The News section of IPEX received and published more than60 contributions, both for the general public and the national Correspondents.

Meetings of the IPEX bodies in 2013

In 2013, the IPEX Board met three times, on 5 March2013 in Berlin, 20 September 2013 in Lisbon and 6 December 2013 in Brussels. The Conclusions of the Board can be found in the Calendar section of IPEX under "Event type", "IPEX meetings":
http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/calendar.do

The Central Support held eight meetings, namely on 25 January, 4 March, 13 May, 18 June, 19 September, 14 October, 7 November and 4 December 2013. Two meetings took place in the form of a videoconference, one in form of a telephone conference. The special Working Group of the Central Support appointed by the Board to cooperate with the COM , met on May, 13, with their General Secretariate's representatives in order to speak about the further cooperation, namely about eTrustEx.

The annual Correspondents meeting took place, 7 and 8 November 2013 in Brussels with the participation of correspondents coming from 25 member states, the European Parliament and two candidate countries. Further information on the Correspondents meeting can be retrieved from: http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/about/aboutIpexl.do