

Version January 24, 2018

Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments

28-29 January 2018, Tallinn

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 and the National Council of the Slovak Republic, acting as its Chair, for their work in 2017.

2. The Secretaries General confirm the following composition of the IPEX Board during the Austrian Presidency of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments in 2018/2019:

- Estonia (Riigikogu) - Chair of the IPEX Board (ex officio);
- Austria (Nationalrat and Bundesrat) (ex officio);
- Finland (Eduskunta) (ex officio);
- Bulgaria (Narodno sabranie) (ex officio);
- European Parliament (ex officio);
- Belgium (Kamer van Volksvertegenwoordigers/Chambre des représentants and Senaat/Sénat);
- Denmark (Folketing);
- France (Assemblée nationale et Sénat);
- Germany (Bundestag);
- Greece (Vouli ton Ellinon);
- Italy (Camera dei Deputati and Senato della Repubblica);
- Luxembourg (Chambre des Députés);
- Poland (Sejm and Senat);
- Portugal (Assembleia da República);

- Romania (Camera Deputaților and Senatul);
- Slovakia (Národná rada)
- The Netherlands (Eerste and Tweede Kamer);
- Sweden (Riksdagen)

Any other Parliament wishing to participate in the work of the IPEX Board.

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

3. The Secretaries General thank the IPEX Board, and the National Council of the Slovak Republic, acting as its Chair, for defining the IPEX Work Programme 2017-2020. The procedural principles governing the Work Programme are stipulated in the Digital Strategy, as approved by the Secretaries General at their meeting held in Bratislava. The execution of the Work Programme is conducted through three working groups: Promoting IPEX, Enhancing the IPEX Network and Improving the IPEX Digital System. The working groups work under mandates approved by the IPEX Board and submit their conclusions in the form of Action Plans to the Board (Art. 7 of IPEX Guidelines) for final approval as well as regular progress reports.

4. The Secretaries General recognize the work of the IPEX Board in improving the IPEX system and recognizes the benefits of further increasing the level of parliamentary cooperation and exchange through an adequate upgrading of functions of the IPEX platform and network; they recommend to their services using IPEX as a channel for systematic exchange of information including early notification of subsidiarity concerns; they see the potential to develop IPEX as the main channel of communication between the EU institutions and national Parliaments.

5. The Secretaries General thank the National Council of the Slovak Republic for hosting the annual IPEX Correspondents' meeting on 15-16 November 2017 in Bratislava. The Secretaries General underline the importance of the annual IPEX Correspondents' meetings that represents an excellent opportunity for networking and further encourage the Correspondents to act as promoters of IPEX in their Parliaments.

6. The Secretaries General thank the European Parliament for hosting the Board meeting in Brussels on 12 October 2017.

7. The Secretaries General thank the National Council of the Slovak Republic, acting as IPEX Chair, for the support of the idea of the Chairman of the Estonian EU Affairs Committee

to move closer with the COSAC and invite the Board to continue its efforts towards integration between the COSAC website and the IPEX platform.

8. The Secretaries General thank the National Council of the Slovak Republic, acting as IPEX Chair, for sending the letter to the Co-Chairs of the Europol Scrutiny Group and offering the service of the website and invite the Board to continue its efforts to host the website of the Europol Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group.

9. The Secretaries General express their gratitude to the Belgian Senate for employing the IPEX Information Officer for a non-fixed term as of 1 January 2017 and for being transparent in the management of its costs. They also thank the European Parliament for providing the logistics and the infrastructure.

10. The Secretaries General thank the Riksdagen (Sweden) for its willingness to host the IPEX Users Conference in Stockholm. The IPEX Board has decided to organise a Conference for users of IPEX. The Conference will be held on Friday 2 March 2018 and will be hosted by the Swedish Parliament. The first Conference took place in Copenhagen in January 2015 and resulted in a report to the IPEX board with specific recommendations to improve the utility of the IPEX platform. The Secretaries General meeting in March 2015 recommended continuing the practice of organising such conferences as a tool for further promotion of IPEX inter alia among its users.