

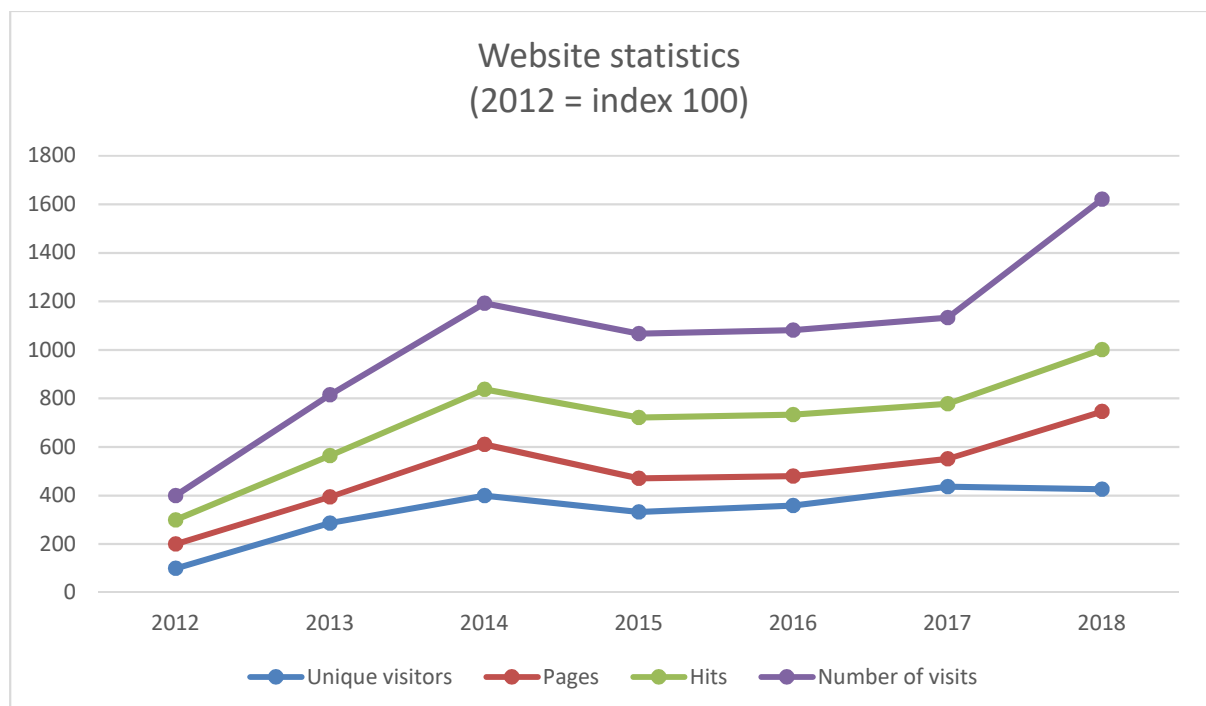


Written report of the IPEX Information Officer on the work of IPEX in 2018

2018 has been a full year for IPEX, with progress registered both in terms of internal growth - the approval of Work Programmes and indicative activities for the working groups on Enhancing the IPEX Network, Promoting IPEX and Improving the IPEX Digital System - and external exposure - the inclusion of the JPSG on Europol in the list of hosted Inter-parliamentary Conferences and the transfer of the COSAC website into the IPEX platform. The sustained activity within IPEX is thus fully reflected in the statistical data used in this report and corresponding to a maturity phase of the platform .

1. Website statistics

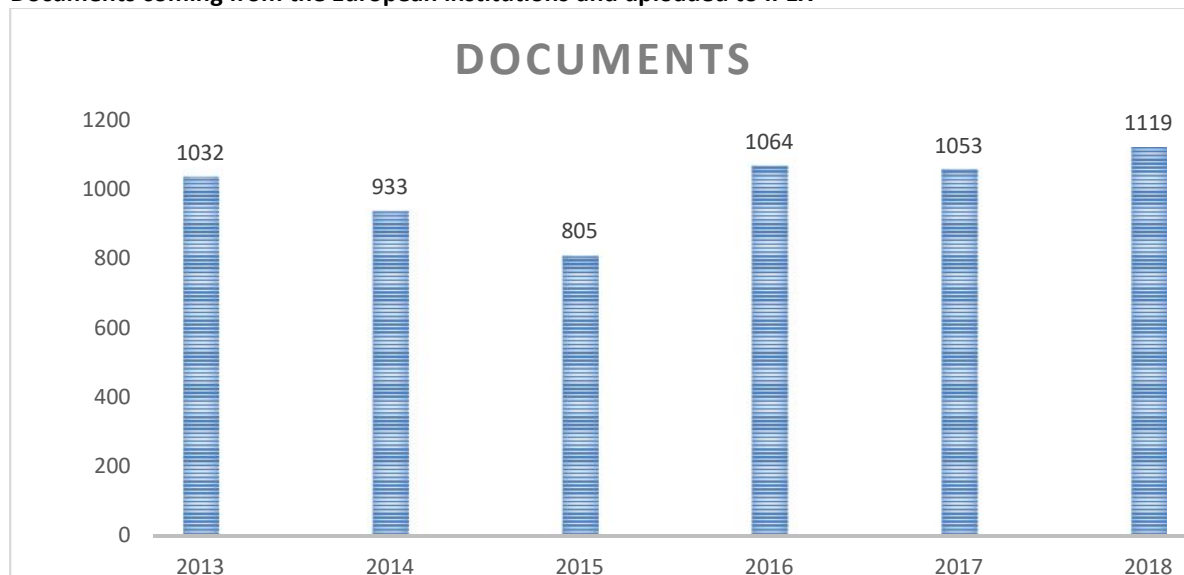
In 2018, the IPEX website was visited by **almost 300.000 unique visitors**, following the general trend of the previous years (2017: 307.737; 2016: 253.264; 2015: 234.480). The number of pages viewed although – **almost 16 million!** – is the highest registered so far, with an increase of over 10 million pages reported to 2017.



Upload of documents and dossiers

IPEX publishes currently some **98.000 pages** from national parliaments and the European Union institutions, holding **scrutiny related information in almost 73.000 documents** produced by national Parliaments and linked to **over 11.000 dossiers**. In 2018, the total number of legislative and non-legislative documents recorded in IPEX, was **1119** (2017: 1053; 2016: 1064; 2015: 805).

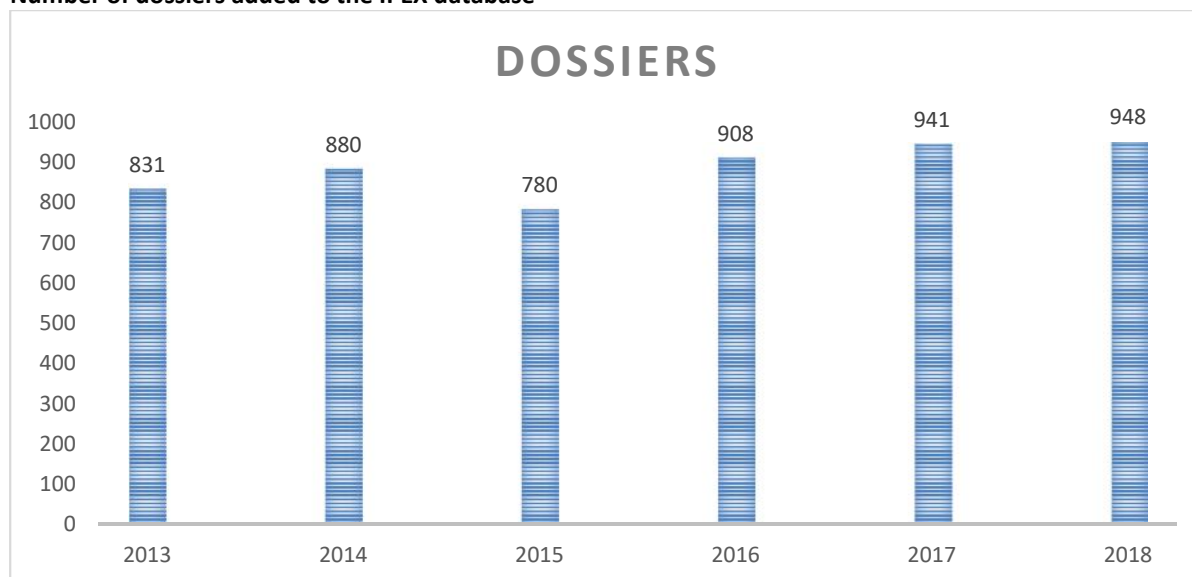
Documents coming from the European institutions and uploaded to IPEX¹



Documents and scrutiny updates from national Parliaments

Related to the legislative proposals in 2018, national parliaments uploaded **5.799 scrutiny related pages** (2017: 3.588; 2016: 6.624; 2015: 4.632).

Number of dossiers added to the IPEX database²



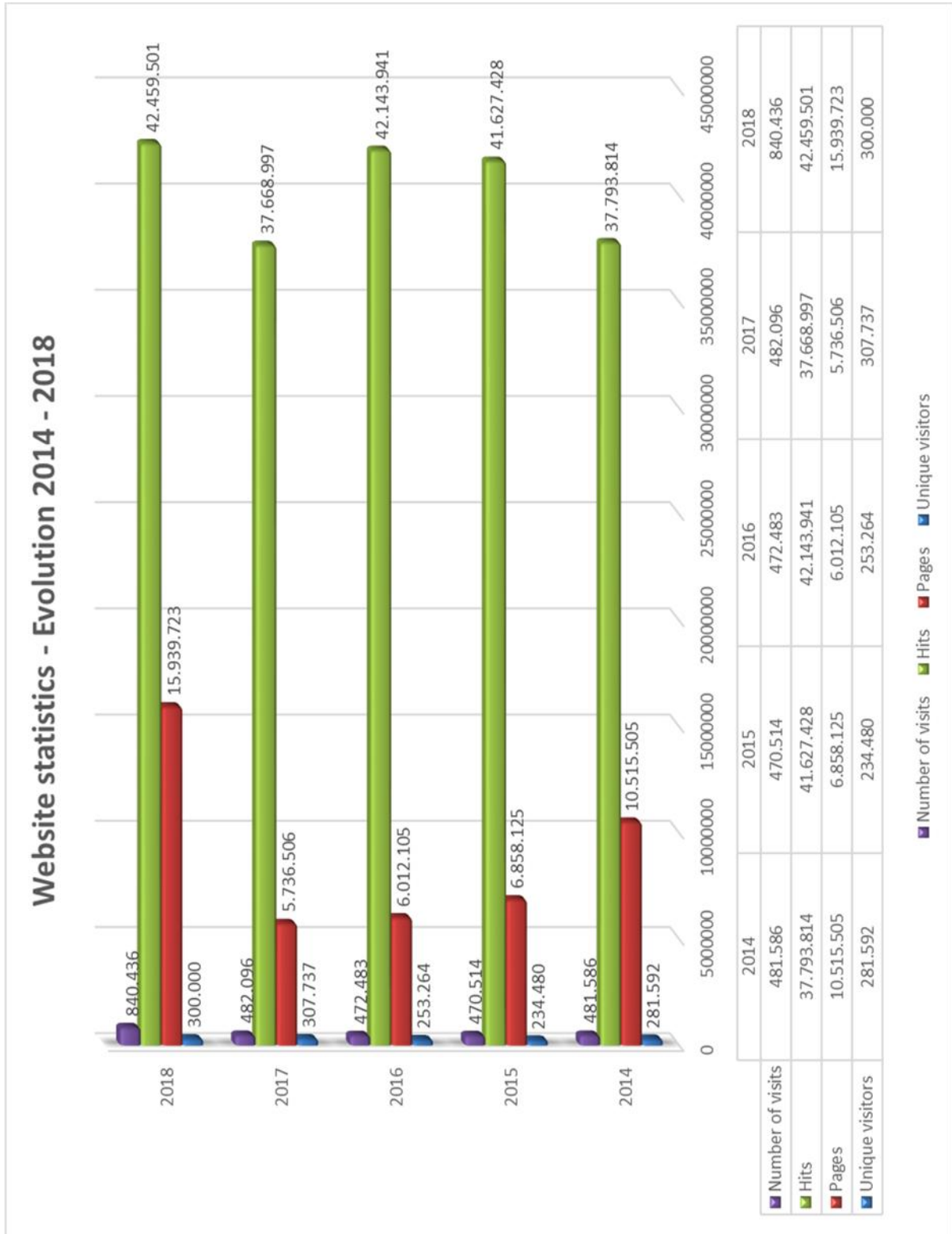
¹ As of 15 January 2019 (n.a.)

² As of 15 January 2019 (n.a.)

Number of scrutiny pages added by national Parliaments³

ALL CHAMBERS (Sorted alphabetically)	SCRUTINIES						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Austrian Federal Council	25	37	18	41	55	17	33
Austrian National Council	25	26	14	9	35	2	16
Belgian House of Representatives	70	91	40	48	105	55	73
Belgian Senate	183	240	32	1	11	N/A	1
Bulgarian National Assembly	6	N/A	1	3	6	N/A	N/A
Croatian Parliament	-	47	33	26	33	14	29
Cyprus House of Representatives	3	7	1	10	9	N/A	1
Czech Chamber of Deputies	40	83	392	367	514	108	123
Czech Senate	77	91	37	62	87	64	86
German Bundesrat	128	176	81	73	162	107	154
German Bundestag	277	573	600	465	662	231	589
Danish Parliament	5	8	2	4	11	3	13
Hellenic Parliament	10	13	3	37	89	1	8
Spanish Cortes Generales	73	130	42	21	62	51	129
Estonian Parliament	2	3	N/A	1	45	3	102
French National Assembly	16	50	47	157	36	6	17
French Senat	21	23	3	13	12	9	24
Hungarian National Assembly	5	8	9	27	25	11	18
Irish Houses of Oireachtas	175	268	404	255	343	245	325
Italian Chamber of Deputies	19	32	14	33	39	30	23
Italian Senate	57	82	63	59	124	55	25
Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania	74	18	60	56	117	112	185
Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies	5	10	3	32	185	94	131
Saeima Parliament of Latvia	1	1	1	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
Maltese House of Representatives	186	181	90	33	8	18	148
Dutch House of Representatives	21	33	18	16	26	25	17
Dutch Senate	54	67	33	50	55	37	31
Polish Sejm	469	608	670	561	709	523	580
Polish Senate	155	279	369	285	360	297	400
Portuguese Assembleia da Republica	189	180	94	46	111	27	93
Romanian Chamber of Deputies	58	112	36	69	68	36	49
Romanian Senate	29	81	28	67	100	77	91
Finnish Parliament	143	222	116	96	212	117	212
National Council of the Slovak Republic	166	273	485	545	693	564	710
Slovenian National Assembly	60	71	26	39	96	35	88
Swedish Parliament	478	607	630	565	681	515	453
UK House of Commons	476	575	540	462	584	225	484
UK House of Lords	395	78	17	7	156	47	396

³ As of 15 January 2019 (n.a.)



Looking at the numbers above, we can observe a steady progressive trend, with a **peak reached in 2018**, most probably as an outcome of the final phase of integrating JPSG on Europol and COSAC into IPEX. **On the way of being the one-stop-shop for inter-parliamentary cooperation in the EU, the IPEX platform has reached its maturity phase.**

Detailed information on uploaded Reasoned Opinions and Political dialogue files can be found at the **end of this Report.**

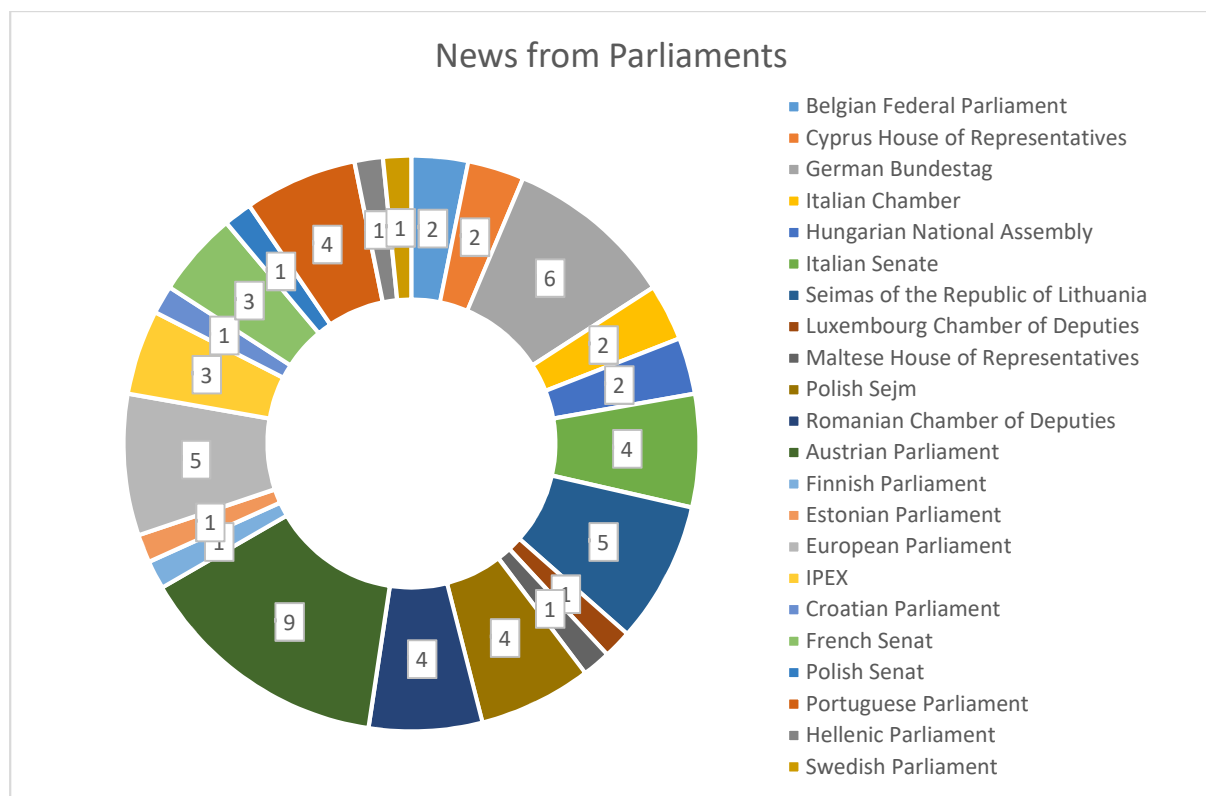
2. New content on IPEX - COSAC and JPSG on Europol

The discussion of transferring the COSAC website into the IPEX platform was launched during the Estonian Chairmanship of COSAC and was carried on by both the Bulgarian and Austrian Presidencies. **Finally, in July 2018, the Austrian Presidency asked the IPEX Information Officer to set up a COSAC subpage⁴ and start uploading the documents related to the upcoming meetings. The Romanian Presidency and Chair of COSAC has made a priority of finishing the transfer process of COSAC into IPEX, by requesting a detailed calendar of operations and setting the deadline for full implementation by the end of May 2019.** At this moment, the COSAC Secretariat and its Permanent Member exercise the upload and management of the COSAC-related content on IPEX.

The Estonian, Bulgarian and Austrian Presidencies, in coordination with the EP LIBE Secretariat, have agreed on the necessity of an online presence and repository for the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol. Continuing a tradition established by the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments, the IPEX Board has presented its technical offer and after exchanging information, the IPEX IO was entrusted with setting up and managing the **JPSG sub-page⁵** on IPEX.

3. News from Parliaments on IPEX

In 2018, **62 news articles** on European Affairs related issues were submitted for publication in the News from Parliaments section, with materials coming from **22 contributors**:

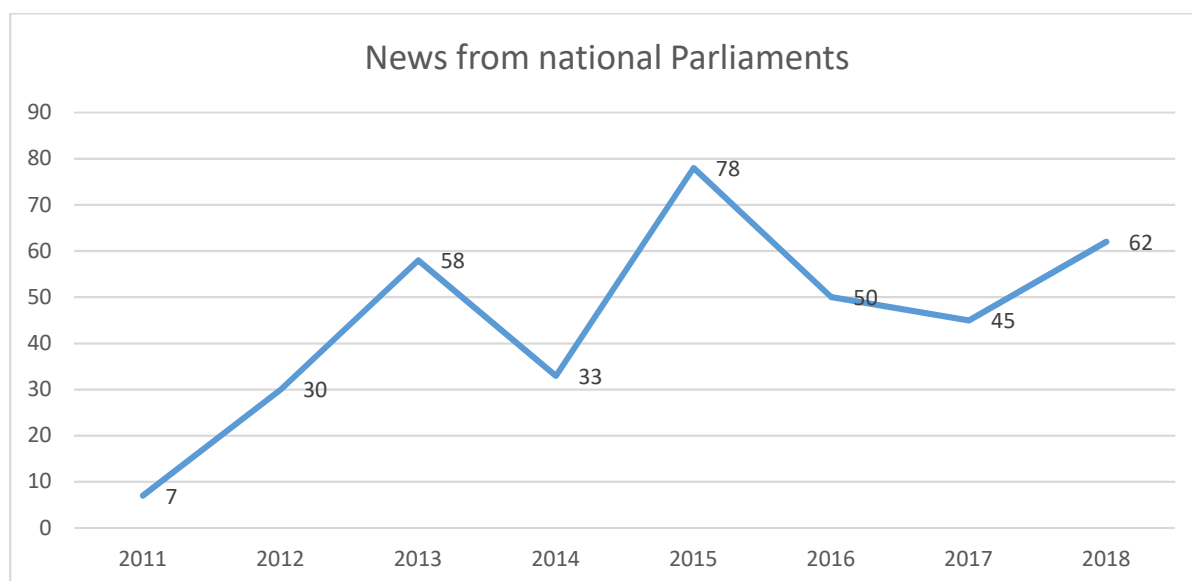


The practice can be considered uneven, with either internal or external political events influencing the flow of contributions or a frequent change of Correspondents, thus undermining institutional memory and the exercise of sharing information. For the **past 3 years** though, **an average of 52**

⁴ COSAC subpage on [IPEX](#)

⁵ JPSG on Europol subpage on [IPEX](#)

contributions/year can be taken as a positive, encouraging evolution, compounded by a steady rise in contributors (**2018:22; 2017:16**).



4. IPEX meetings in 2018⁶: IPEX Board, Working Groups, national Correspondents Meeting and other extraordinary meetings

In 2018, **the workload and volume of IPEX-related meetings increased**, due to the Adoption of the Digital Strategy and the development of its Work Programme 2017 - 2020. Thus, **the IPEX Board met 3 times** under Estonian Chairmanship - twice in Tallinn (25 May 2018 and 18 January 2019) and once in Brussels (11 October 2018).

The second **IPEX Users Conference⁷** was hosted by the Swedish Parliament, in Stockholm, on 1 - 2 February 2018. It brought together almost **80 administrators** from national Parliaments, as well as **the Speaker and deputy Secretary General of the Swedish Parliament and 2 MEPs - Mr. Marc Angel (Luxembourg) and Mr. Jasenko Selimovic (Sweden) - as keynote speakers.**

The **annual IPEX Correspondents Meeting⁸** took place on 22–23 November 2018 in Tallinn. The Correspondents (around 50 officials) had 2 rounds of practical training with the IPEX Information Officer, on the first day of the event, and 2 rounds of discussions and debates in the framework of 3 different workshops, on the second day.

The IPEX **working groups, set up following the adoption of the IPEX Digital Strategy and IPEX Work Programme 2017 - 2020, met more than 20 times in 2018 - in person or using electronic means of communication.**

1. Working group on Enhancing the IPEX network, chaired by Mr Mongin Forrest (DK);

⁶ IPEX meetings on [IPEX](#)

⁷ Meeting documents on [IPEX](#)

⁸ Meeting documents on [IPEX](#)

2. **Working group on Strengthening the promotion of the IPEX network**, chaired by Ms Birgit Von Pflug (DE, Bundestag);

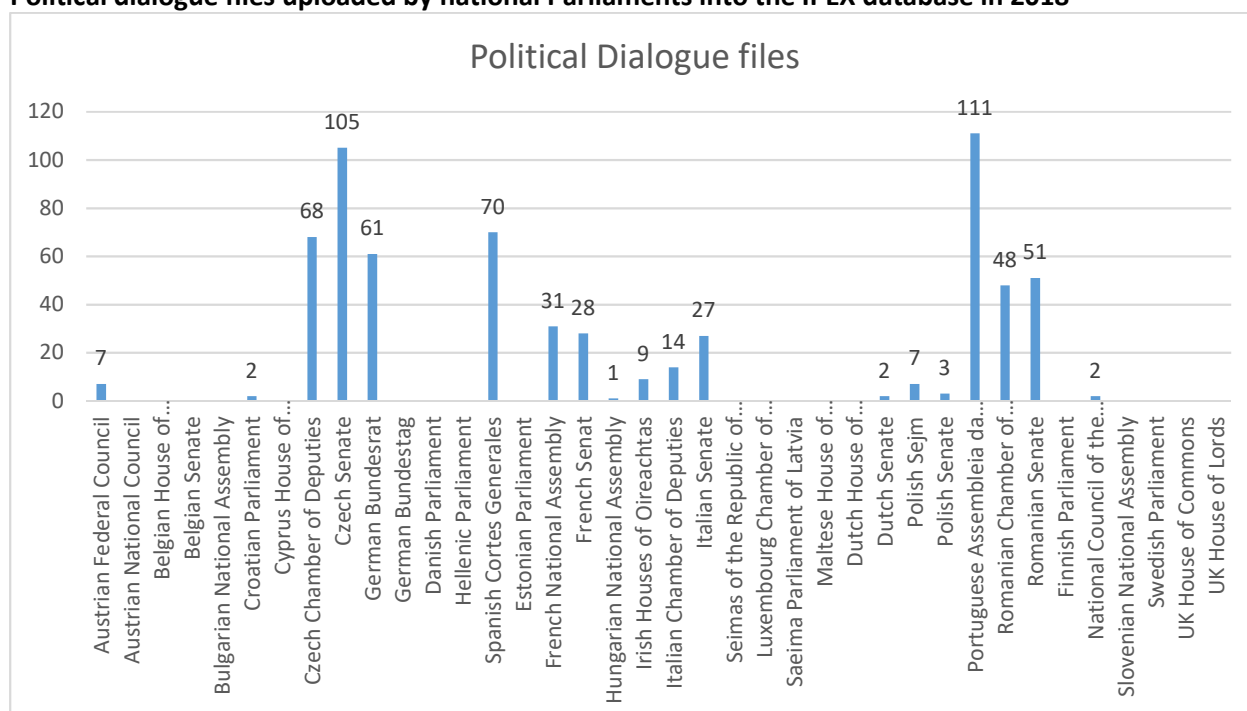
3. **Working group on Improving the IPEX digital system**, chaired by Mr Hilbert Gerard (EP).

The **immediate outcomes** of these intensive rounds of meetings and debates were:

-) On 25 May 2018, **the Action Plan on Strengthening the Promotion of IPEX was adopted, with 6 activities**;
-) On 18 January 2019, **the Action Plan on Enhancing the IPEX Network was adopted. The activities are divided into three categories with 17 subsections** – (i) initiatives which will be developed and implemented during the current Working Programme; (ii) studies which should give a basis for the second Work Programme, and (iii) recommendations to Working Group on Improving the IPEX Digital System. The studies envisioned in this AP should concentrate on a. the use of general scrutiny by national Parliaments and b. the use of the Early Warning System (subsidiarity scrutiny) by national Parliaments, both with a view on the use of new technologies, like the IPEX platform.
-) On 18 January 2019, **a Report on improvements proposed by the Working Group on Improving the IPEX Digital System received an initial approval from the IPEX Board**. The document was submitted to the Board for a first approval and as a pre-condition for further in-depth technical impact analyses and cost estimates.

Several sets of surveys were prepared, administered and analysed during 2018, **as a source of primary quantitative and qualitative information**. The first one was already prepared for the 2017 National Correspondents Meeting (NCM), and it was followed by one for the 2nd Users Conference (with separate subsets for national Permanent Representatives of EU Parliaments and Brussels and IPEX users from parliamentary administrations) and another one for the IPEX NCM of 2018. **The data gathered via the surveys is the main starting point for reflection on the tasks ahead, technical developments and trainings for Correspondents, and reflected as such in all the proposals and activities of the IPEX Work Programme 2017 - 2020.**

Political dialogue files uploaded by national Parliaments into the IPEX database in 2018*



*The result is expressing all documents uploaded on IPEX by national Parliaments and labelled as Political dialogue files, with a transmission date attributed between 1 January - 31 December 2018, including for procedures started in 2017 (data centralized and verified by the Information Officer and the national Correspondents, 22 January 2019)

Reasoned opinions uploaded by national Parliaments into the IPEX database in 2018**

National Parliament	Chamber	Reasoned opinions received in 2018	
		Uploaded	COM number
Austria	Bundesrat	3	COM/2018/0185, COM/2018/0184, COM/2017/0753
Austria	Nationalrat		
Belgium	Chambre des Représentants		
Belgium	Sénat		
Bulgaria	Narodno Sabranie		
Cyprus	Vouli ton Antiprosopon		
Czech Republic	Senát	1	COM/2018/0277
Czech Republic	Poslanecká sněmovna	4	COM/2017/0772, COM/2017/0753, COM/2018/0051, COM/2018/0640
Croatia	Sabor		
Denmark	Folketinget	3	COM/2018/0147, COM/2018/0148, COM/2018/0639
Estonia	Riigikogu		
Finland	Eduskunta		
France	Sénat	2	COM/2017/0660, COM/2018/0051
France	Assemblée nationale	1	COM/2018/0392
Germany	Bundesrat		
Germany	Bundestag	2	COM/2018/0277, COM/2018/0051
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon		
Hungary	Országgyűlés		
Ireland	Oireachtas (both Chambers)	6	COM/2018/0147, COM/2018/0148, COM/2018/0277, COM/2018/0480, COM/2017/0753, COM/2018/0478
Italy	Senato della Repubblica	1	COM/2018/0633
Italy	Camera dei Deputati		
Latvia	Saeima		
Lithuania	Seimas		
Luxembourg	Chambre des Députés		
Malta	Kamra tad-Deputati	2	COM/2018/0147, COM/2018/0148
Poland	Sejm		

Poland	Senat		
Portugal	Assembleia da República		
Romania	Senatul		
Romania	Camera Deputaților		
Slovakia	Národná rada		
Slovenia	Državni svet		
Slovenia	Državni zbor		
Spain	Congreso de los Diputados and Senado (both Chambers)		
Sweden	Riksdagen	14	COM/2018/0325, COM/2017/0795, COM/2018/0218, COM/2018/0327 - COM/2018/0322, COM/2018/0185, COM/2018/0373, COM/2018/0277, COM/2018/0274, COM/2018/0184, COM/2018/0173, COM/2018/0131, COM/2017/0648, COM/2017/0797, COM/2018/0380
The Netherlands	Eerste Kamer Staten Generaal		
The Netherlands	Tweede Kamer Staten Generaal	2	COM/2018/0147, COM/2018/0148
United Kingdom	House of Commons	2	COM/2017/0753, COM/2018/0639
United Kingdom	House of Lords	1	COM/2018/0639
Total		44	

** The result is expressing all documents uploaded on IPEX by national Parliaments and labelled as Reasoned opinion files, with a transmission date attributed between 1 January - 31 December 2018, including for procedures started in 2017 (data centralized and verified by the Information Officer and the national Correspondents, 23 January 2019)

(Drafted and revised: CMR, 23 January 2019)