

IPEX CONCLUSIONS

MEETING OF THE SECRETARIES GENERAL OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION PARLIAMENTS

26 - 27 JANUARY 2020, HELSINKI

1. The Secretaries General take note of the Annual Report on the current developments of IPEX and thank the IPEX Board for its work in 2019/20.
2. The Secretaries General confirm the following composition of the IPEX Board in 2020/2021 during the Finnish IPEX Chairmanship starting after the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments on 17-19 May 2020 in Helsinki:

- Ex officio members of the Board:

Austria, (Austrian National Council, Austrian Federal Council), Chair of the Board until the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union Member States on 17-19 May 2020 in Helsinki

Finland (Finnish Parliament), Chair of the Board after the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union Member States on 17-19 May 2020 in Helsinki

Croatia (Croatian Parliament)

Germany (German Bundestag, German Bundesrat)

European Parliament

- Members willing to contribute to the Board and its activities

Belgium (Belgian Senate, Belgian House of Representatives)

Bulgaria (Bulgarian National Assembly)

Denmark (Danish Parliament)

France (French Senate, French National Assembly)

Greece (Hellenic Parliament)

Italy (Italian Senate, Italian Chamber of Deputies)
Luxembourg (Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies)
Poland (Polish Senate, Polish Sejm)
Portugal (Assembly of the Republic of Portugal)
Romania (Romanian Senate, Romanian Chamber of Deputies)
The Netherlands (Dutch Senate, Dutch House of Representatives)
Slovakia (National Council of the Slovak Republic)
Slovenia (Slovenian National Council, Slovenian National Assembly)
Sweden (Swedish Parliament)

- New members willing to contribute to the Board and its activities:
Hungary (Hungarian National Assembly)

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

3. The Secretaries General confirm that the Digital Strategy together with the first IPEX Work Programme are a guideline and mission to further develop IPEX in the best possible way and to continue to anchor it strongly within the framework of interparliamentary cooperation. In this regard, the Secretaries General acknowledge the ongoing work implementing the Work Programme and call for the continuation of the implementation of the planned activities in all three fields of strengthening the promotion of IPEX, enhancing the IPEX network and improving the Digital System and take note that the next Work Programme should secure a swift and smooth continuation of the future strategic position of IPEX.
4. The Secretaries General sincerely thank the European Parliament for its efforts and engagement in financing the new IPEX website. The improvements in the IPEX Digital System and the new IPEX website are decisive steps for the future of IPEX made possible by this strong commitment by the European Parliament. In this regard the Secretaries General take note of the fact that a successful relaunch also needs full support by their administrations.
5. The Secretaries General underline the importance of the Annual IPEX Correspondents' Meeting on 14-15 November 2019 in Vienna and acknowledge the meeting's report as well as the discussions held during the meeting. They welcome the new formats and the creative ideas for further effective developments of the IPEX network.
6. In this regard, the Secretaries General welcome the 18 October 2019 decision of the IPEX Board that the next Users Conference will be held during the Finnish Chairmanship together with the Annual Correspondents' Meeting in Helsinki. Again, a proposal by the Correspondents and users, a new format of networking and promoting IPEX will be implemented thanks to the engagement of the Finnish Chairmanship.
7. Acknowledging that IPEX is becoming a "one – stop - shop" for interparliamentary exchange on EU affairs and that it is serving as "institutional memory" of interparliamentary

cooperation in the EU, the Secretaries General are well aware that a competent and strong network of Correspondents is indispensable and that they have a crucial role in the parliaments/chambers. The Secretaries General will encourage their administrations to more strongly support their Correspondents' work on IPEX, having in mind that IPEX is an important tool to accompany the MPs' daily work in EU matters and to point out the national parliaments' activities in European affairs.

8. The Secretaries General take note with satisfaction that the new legislation on General Data Protection (GDPR) has been implemented successfully by publishing the IPEX Privacy Statement together with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which have been approved by the Board and presented at the Annual Correspondents' Meeting and which have been taken note of by the national parliaments/chambers.
9. The Secretaries General take note of the challenges and opportunities of using social media and welcome the initiative to launch a pilot phase on the application of social media channels as approved by the Board on 18 October 2019. They encourage the Board to further observe the developments and whether the pilot phase proves to be effective.
10. The Secretaries General take note of the need for enhanced training and information activities in connection with the IPEX Digital System and the new IPEX website. The Secretaries General further take note that the contractual salary of the IPEX Information Officer is due for revision in 2021. On this basis, and cognisant of the excellent performance of the current IPEX Information Officer, Mr. Calin RACOTI, the Secretaries General consider that the maximum commitment of national Parliaments towards the co-financing of the IPEX Information Officer in 2021 – 2022 should be set at 100.000 euros per annum. The Secretaries General express their thanks to the Belgian Senate for undertaking the administration of this function.