The platform for EU
Interparliamentary Exchange

Written report of the IPEX Information Officer on the work of IPEX in 2022

For the past two years, the IPEX platform has undergone extensive and significant changes: the end of the 1st IPEX Work Programme (covering the Slovak, Estonian and Austrian IPEX Chairmanships) and the launch of the 2nd Work Programme (under Finnish Chairmanship) and in parallel, an extensive and in-depth upgrade of the IPEX digital system. The new IPEX platform - IPEX V3 - was officially launched on 28 October 2021.

1. Overview 2020 - 2022

Following extensive evaluations based on technical progress, the evolving needs of the national Parliaments and the feedback received over several years form IPEX national Correspondents and other core users, the decision was met that the **IPEX platform needs a technical and conceptual upgrade - the 3rd version** of the IPEX platform (V3).

At the same time, the IPEX Board members developed **a new work method, based on the Digital Strategy and a Work Programme (WP) meant to cover the work of three successive IPEX Board Chairs**. The first such WP was launched in 2017 and was completed by the end of 2020.

The preparations for the technical development of the IPEX V3, the end of the 1st WP and the drafting of the 2nd WP were, as everything else, hampered and slowed down by the Covid-19 pandemic, the restrictions that came with it and the move into online of all preparatory meetings. Many of the milestones set at the beginning of this phase of renewal were pushed back, in order to cope with the new challenges and the ebb and flow of the general situation.

2. The 2nd Work Programme of the German, Slovenian and Czech Board Chairs

The Finnish Chair started its mandate with a draft WP but due to the Covid-19 and its restrictions; saw itself limited in launching it. In order to bypass this situation, it came up with a comprehensive rethinking of the WP structure: making it **more flexible and tailored to the needs of the development work launched for IPEX V3, the concept of Rolling Work Programme was introduced** (RWP).

The new RWP was adopted on 8 March 2021 and it had as its focus the new IPEX V3 platform, covering Chairmanships up until early 2024; following this goal, its content **followed four main directions**:

- **The launch of IPEX V3 in a reliable form;**
- **The IPEX content should focus of meeting the user's needs and expectations;**
- **Proper, comprehensive and periodic training on the new possibilities of IPEX V3 should be delivered to the national IPEX Correspondents and**
- **Promoting IPEX and enhancing its social media activities.**

For the development and implementation of these four objectives, three permanent and one provisional Working-Groups were set up and Action Plans were prepared for their work.

3. The development of IPEX V3

In order to **start the process of redesigning and upgrading the IPEX platform**, the Working Group on Improving the IPEX Digital System analysed and prioritized dozens of issues, trying **to find the best way to match end-user requests, technical performance and adaptability and development costs** in a coherent blueprint of what the future, 3rd version of IPEX should look like - IPEX V3.

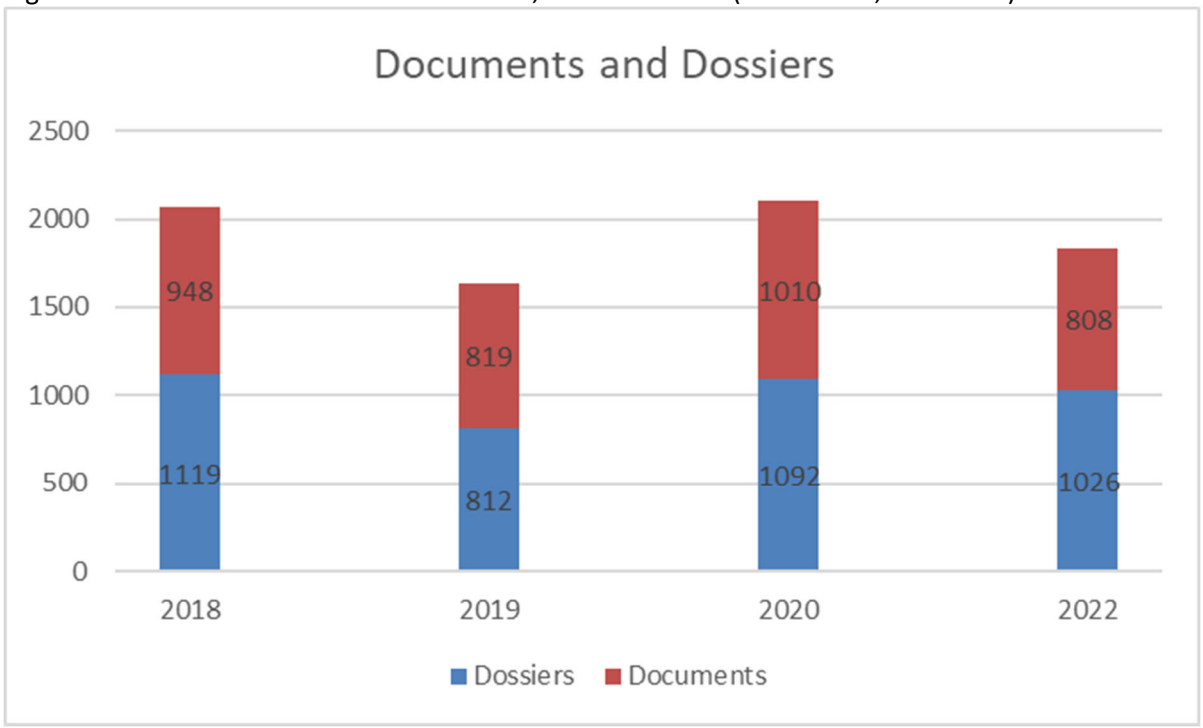
The **IPEX Board approved the proposed plan on 17 May 2019** and thus the practical, technical development phase was launched. Throughout the rest of 2019 and early 2020, the first simulations of how the technical requests would be implemented were prepared and estimates of the time and costs involved, drafted. The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic has pushed back most of the milestones back by months, so that the first, **limited release of IPEX V3 happened in July 2021**. The **"soft launch" has included several remote training and information sessions for the IPEX national Correspondents**, as well as ongoing testing and fine-tuning operations of the application.

A redesigned of the menu, an improved structure of the legislative database and a host of new tools across the website are making **the IPEX V3 platform faster, user-friendly and more attractive**.

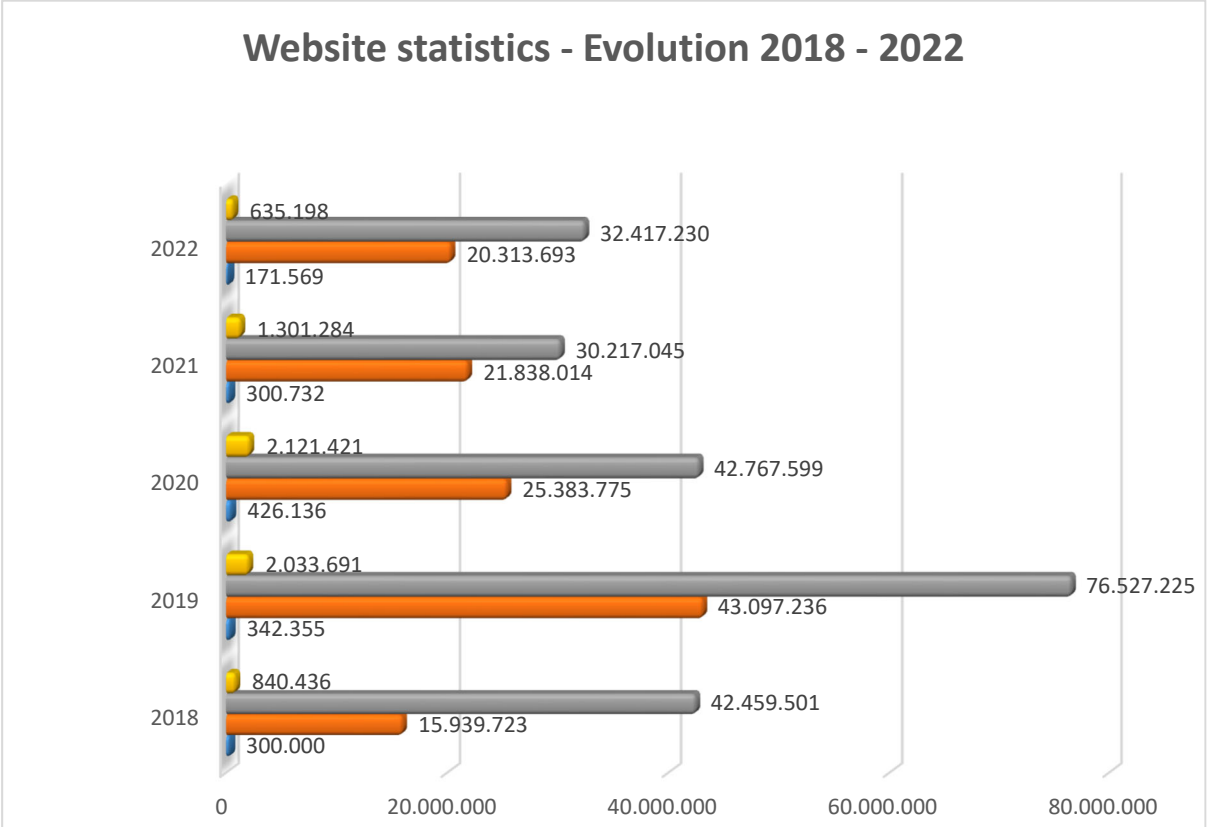
3.1 The legislative database, documents and scrutiny

The legislative database and the scrutiny of documents by national Parliaments, was the core task of IPEX at its inception, with this role strengthened over time. In IPEX V3**, the scrutiny structure was simplified** and made more reliable by **shifting the scrutiny information at the level of individual proposals**, unlike the previous dossier level.

Currently, IPEX publishes **over 110.000 pages** from national parliaments and the European Union institutions, holding **scrutiny-related information in a little over 92.000 documents** produced by national Parliaments, linked to **17.540 dossiers**. In **2022**, a number of **1026** legislative and non-legislative documents were recorded in IPEX, in **808 dossiers** (2020: 1092; 2019: 812).



The use of IPEX between 2020 and 2022 was heavily impacted by two main factors - the transition from IPEX V2 to IPEX V3 and the effect of the Covid-19 restrictions on the functioning of national Parliaments and the priorities they had on the national agenda. The platform reached its high point of usage, due to the long-running services, the reliability of information offered and the structured approach on practice, as set out in the WP. A slow pick-up can be predicted, based on the numbers below, once the users start seeing the benefits coming out of the new tools and functionalities of IPEX V3.



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of visits	840.436	2.033.691	2.121.421	1.301.284	635.198
Hits	42.459.501	76.527.225	42.767.599	30.217.045	32.417.230
Pages	15.939.723	43.097.236	25.383.775	21.838.014	20.313.693
Unique visitors	300.000	342.355	426.136	300.732	171.569

Political dialogue files uploaded by national Parliaments into the IPEX database in 2022[1]

Nr.crt	Chamber/national Parliament	Reasoned Opinions	Political Dialogue
1.	Austrian Federal Council (AT1)	0	5
2.	Austrian National Council (AT2)	0	2
3.	Belgian Senate (BE1)	0	4
4.	Belgian House of Representatives (BE2)	0	0
5.	Bulgarian National Assembly (BG)	1	1
6.	Croatian Parliament (HR)	n/a	n/a

[1] The result is expressing all documents uploaded on IPEX by national Parliaments and labelled as Reasoned Opinions and Political dialogue files, with a transmission date attributed between 1 January - 31 December 2022, including for procedures started in 2021 (data centralized and verified by the Information Officer and the national Correspondents, 27 January 2023)

7.	Cyprus House of Representatives (CY)	0	0
8.	Czech Senate (CZ1)	2	77
9.	Czech Chamber of Deputies (CZ2)	5	37
10.	Danish Parliament (DK)	2	2
11.	Dutch Senate (NL1)	1	14 (9*)
12.	Dutch House of Representatives (NL2)	1	0
13.	Estonian Parliament (EE)	0	0
14.	Finnish Parliament (FI)	1	1
15.	French Senat (FR1)	4	11
16.	French National Assembly (FR2)	n/a	3
17.	German Bundesrat (DE1)	1	28
18.	German Bundestag (DE2)	0	1
19.	Hellenic Parliament (EL)	0	0
20.	Hungarian National Assembly (HU)	1	1
21.	Irish Houses of Oireachtas (IE)	1	5
22.	Italian Senate (IT1)	0	6
23.	Italian Chamber of Deputies (IT2)	0	12
24.	Latvian Saeima (LV)	0	0
25.	Lithuanian Seimas (LT)	0	0
26.	Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies (LU)	0	0
27.	Maltese House of Representatives (MT)	0	0
28.	Slovak Republic National Council (SK)	0	0
29.	Spanish Cortes Generales (ES)	0	55
30.	Polish Senate (PL1)	0	1
31.	Polish Sejm (PL2)	0	0
32.	Portuguese Assembleia da Republica (PT)	0	21
33.	Romanian Senate (RO1)	0	17
34.	Romanian Chamber of Deputies (RO2)	0	33
35.	Slovenian National Assembly (SL2)	0	0
36.	Swedish Parliament (SE)	14	4
	TOTAL =	**34**	**341**

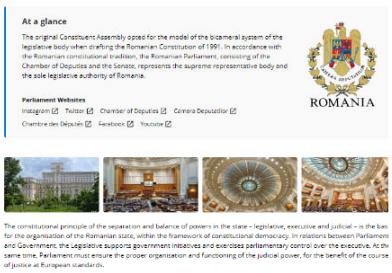
***** Some proposals were scrutinized as part of a package, but the opinions are counted individually (n.a.)

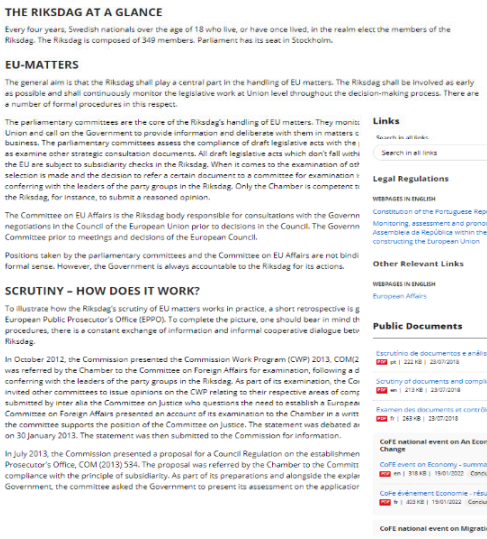
3.2 National Parliaments and networks

The national Parliaments pages have been re-worked, **bringing in a new design and more options for sharing information and images relevant for the individual chambers**.

The new space offers **extensive space for explaining internal procedures, adding links to outside webpages related to parliamentary life, legislative texts, institutions involved** in or cooperating with in the framework of parliamentary coordination etc. In addition**, new options for contacts and linking of own files, not connected to scrutiny**, were introduced.

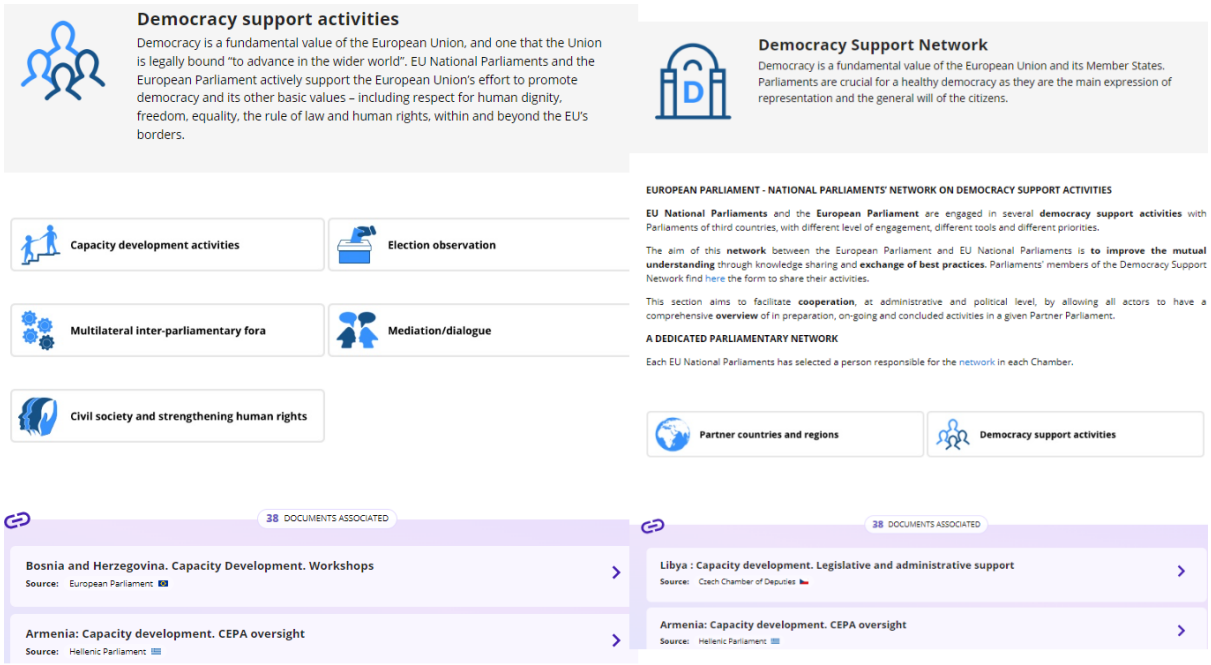
The image galleries can host pictures that can be used across the website, for other pages, news and events.





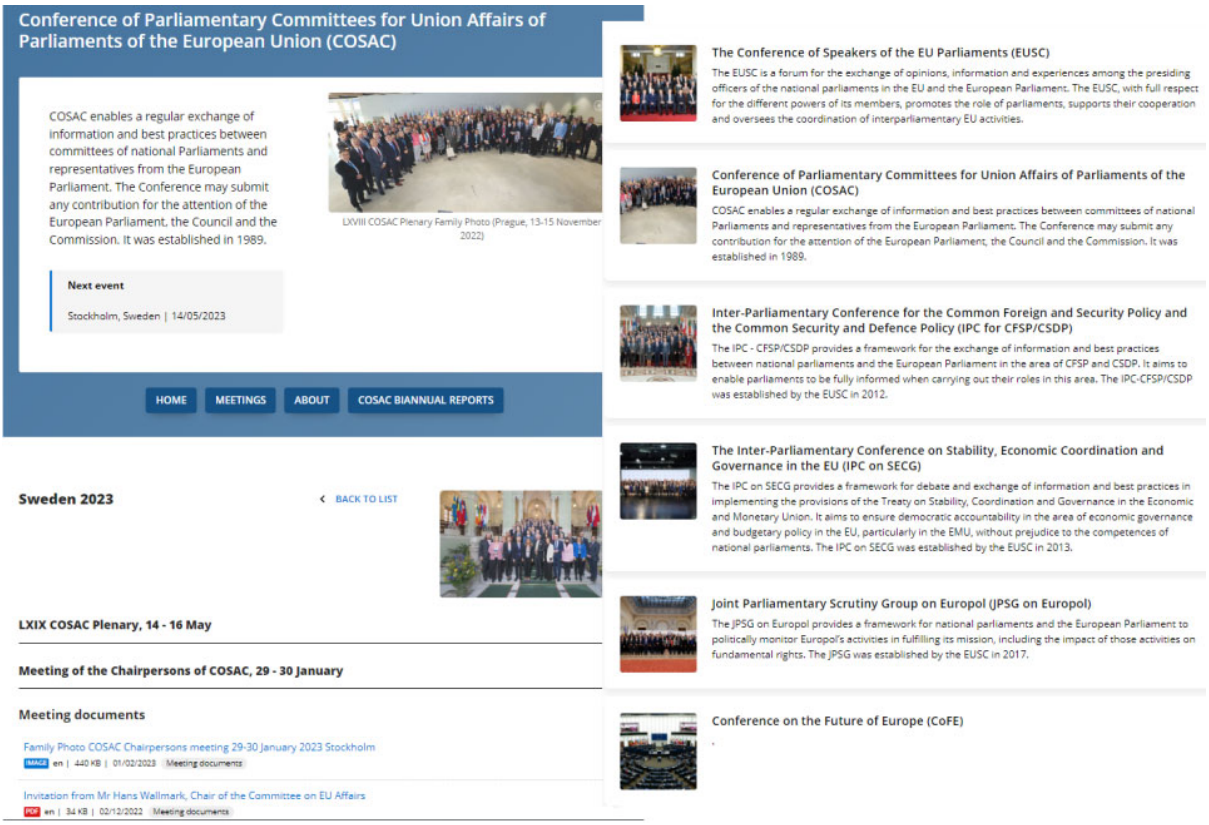
A new subpage is hosting the **Democracy Support Network, an initiative of the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments to promote together actions in the fields of democracy support activities,** for which **IPEX acts as a host, library and platform to share past projects and future initiatives,** as well as list of contacts of the components involved**.**

Description files can be uploaded, with the main information regarding the project, and then linked to the individual implementing national Parliament/chamber, the respective support activity and, by adding keywords, make the information searchable across the website.



The addition of new subpages over the past years: COSAC, Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP), Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union, Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) - has most probably **added more traffic** and brought more interest in interparliamentary cooperation and its formats in the EU.

A **new design** was added to these pages**, with new functionalities,** allowing the administration to upload **visual galleries, share and connect events on social media or add a varied array of files and interconnect them.**

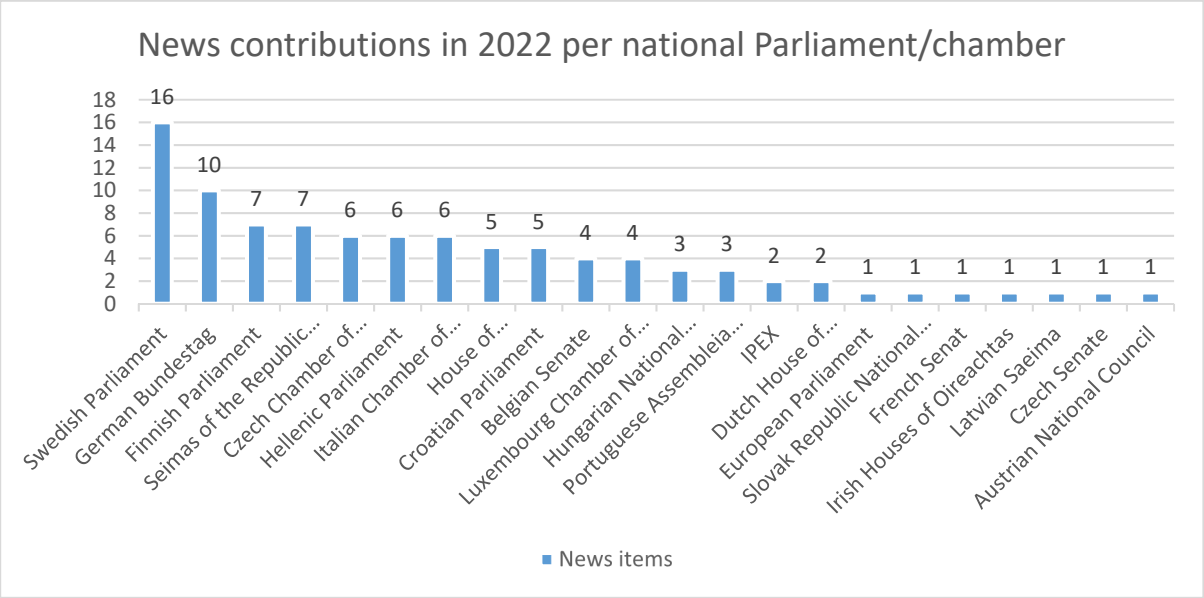


3.3 News from Parliaments on IPEX

The whole structure of how news from national Parliaments look like and can be used was redesigned:

- **national Parliaments now have full control on the when and how they upload news;**
- **visual elements can be uploaded into the body of the news, like pictures or graphs;**
- **the news can be shared on social media platforms or be linked to content on outside websites and platforms**
- **the news can be linked to new content files uploaded in other sections across the website**
- **keywords can be inserted in the description of the news items, making them visible immediately on the "important issues" section on the Homer page and make them searchable by keyword.**

In 2019, **61 news articles** on European Affairs related issues were submitted for publication in the News from Parliaments section, with materials coming from **22 contributors (mono- and bicameral)**. **In 2022, a similar number of contributors (mono- and bicameral), contributed with 93 items**:



In 2019, **the IPEX Twitter account #IPEXEU was launched** during the Annual IPEX National Correspondents Meeting in Vienna. #IPEXEU is part of the Social Media Strategy of IPEX and it is focusing on accessing new communication areas and on raising the visibility profile of IPEX and national Parliaments in EU affairs. **With the new IPEX V3 tools**, the #IPEXEU can be used to share content uploaded on the website, but also be **linked to keywords created and added to files and events**. The list of keywords is continuously expanding and improving with suggestions coming from the core users, with 39 being in use today. An example of such keywords could be the ones setup for the **events of the parliamentary dimension of the EU Council Presidency - #PARLEU2022CZ and #PARLEU2023SE:**

Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (IPC-SECG)

Event type: Interparliamentary meetings organised by the EU Presidency
Start date: 10/10/2022 (10:00)
End date: 11/10/2022 (16:00)
Deadline for registration: 01/01/1970
Place: Prague, Czech Republic
Organizers: Czech Chamber of Deputies
PARLEU2022CZ SECG

Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)

Event type: Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol
Start date: 26/03/2023 (18:00)
End date: 27/03/2023 (14:00)
Place: Stockholm, Sweden
Organizers: European Parliament Swedish Parliament
PARLEU2023SE Europol