

Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments 29 January 2024, Madrid

DRAFT CONCLUSIONS ON IPEX

Draft as of 17 January 2024

The Secretaries General

1. Take note of the Annual Report on IPEX and thank the IPEX Board for its work in 2023.
2. Approve the following composition of the IPEX Board during the Spanish Chairmanship, starting after the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments which will take place on April 21-23, 2024:

Ex-officio members:

- Spain (Spanish Parliament), which will assume the Chairmanship of the IPEX Board after the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments
- Hungary (National Assembly)
- Denmark (Danish Parliament)
- Belgium (Senate)
- European Parliament

National Parliaments willing to actively participate in the Board and its activities:

- Portugal (Assembly of the Republic of Portugal)
- Poland (Senate)
- France (National Assembly, Senate)
- Slovenia (National Assembly)
- Bulgaria (National Assembly)
- Cyprus (House of Representatives)
- Romania (Chamber of Deputies)
- The Netherlands (House of Representatives)
- Finland (Finnish Parliament)
- Germany (Bundestag)
- Ireland (Houses of the Oireachtas)
- Italy (Senate)
- Austria (Austrian Parliament)

[to be updated after the Board Meeting and after the meeting of the Secretaries General]

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

3. Recognize IPEX as a unique platform that fosters interparliamentary cooperation and provides a wide range of EU-related information and appreciate the efforts put into the development of IPEX v3. Moreover, the Secretaries General are in favour of continuing to raise awareness about the role of IPEX within interparliamentary cooperation, paying special attention to adjustments to users' needs and ensuring the technical accuracy, accessibility, and reliability of the entire IPEX platform.
4. Recognize the successful implementation of the IPEX Rolling Work Programme for years 2021-2023 as well as the work done by the members of the current Working Groups during the Rolling Work Programme 2021-2023, their effort aimed at the development of IPEX v3, training National Correspondents and the promotion of IPEX, as well as their input for the preparation of the new cycle of the IPEX Rolling Work Programme.
5. Take note of the follow-up to the baseline study called "IPEX through the eyes of its users: Take Two (2023 users survey)" which was presented at the Board meeting in October 2023 and thank the Working Group on Content for the preparation and analysis of results of this follow-up study. Its suggestions for further action represent a major input for the 2024-2026 Rolling Work Programme.
6. Acknowledge the new Rolling Work Programme for years 2024-2026 adopted by the Board on XX and believe that the new work programme will support the smooth development of IPEX v3 to be reliable one-stop-shop for EU-related matters in the context of interparliamentary cooperation. The Secretaries General invite members of the IPEX Board to actively participate in the work of the Working Groups.
7. Thank the Czech Chairmanship of the IPEX Board for organising the Annual IPEX Correspondents Meeting on November 2 and 3, 2023, in Prague. The Secretaries General underline the importance of the Annual IPEX Correspondents Meetings as an excellent opportunity for additional training, exchange of best practices, and for further encouraging the Correspondents to promote IPEX within their Parliaments.
8. Underline the essential role of IPEX National Correspondents for providing the information and therefore encourage the IPEX National Correspondents to upload content on the IPEX website timely and if need be, with a summary in English to facilitate to exchange of information.
9. Appreciate that the Czech Chairmanship of the IPEX Board resume the organisation of IPEX Now meetings, the practice introduced by the German Chairmanship in 2021/2022. These informal online meetings within the IPEX network should improve and intensify the exchange of information and best practices between the IPEX National Correspondents. The Secretaries General encourage future IPEX Board Chairmanships to continue to use this digital format.
10. Thank Belgian Senate for its continuous availability to formally employ the IPEX Information Officer, the European Parliament for providing financial and human resources for the development and operation of the IPEX v3 website, and the Portuguese Parliament for hosting the IPEX Users Conference in March last year. The Secretaries General also appreciate the willingness of the Italian Parliament to organise the next IPEX Users Meeting.

11. Welcome the continuous cooperation between IPEX and the Democracy Support Network (DSN) and call on national Parliaments to actively share information on democracy support activities through the IPEX platform and the DSN.
12. Welcome the decision of the Parliament of Moldova and the Parliament of Bosnia and Hercegovina to join the IPEX network and invite the Parliament of Ukraine to do the same. Following the decision of the European Council from December 2023 granting the candidate status to Georgia, the Secretaries General extend the invitation to join the IPEX network to the Parliament of Georgia and look forward to future constructive cooperation with all new members of the platform.