

## Written report of the IPEX Information Officer on the work of IPEX in 2023

For IPEX, 2023 was a year packed with further technical upgrades and fine-tuning of existing capabilities, the return to regular face-to-face meetings of the IPEX Board, national Correspondents and IPEX Users, as well as the end of the 2nd IPEX Work Programme (WP) and the drafting of the 3rd version of the WP. The use of IPEX and its tools by national Parliaments has also recorded an uptick, hinting toward a return to pre-pandemic levels. The amending of the IPEX Guidelines under Slovenian Chairmanship has synchronized the technical developments in V3 with the reality of the activities performed by the national Correspondents and IPEX Board, prepared IPEX for the next enlargement wave, as well as clarified certain aspects regarding to governance.

### 1. The 2nd Work Programme 2021 - 2023

The 2nd WP was adopted on 8 March 2021 and it had as its focus the newly-released 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 on 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.

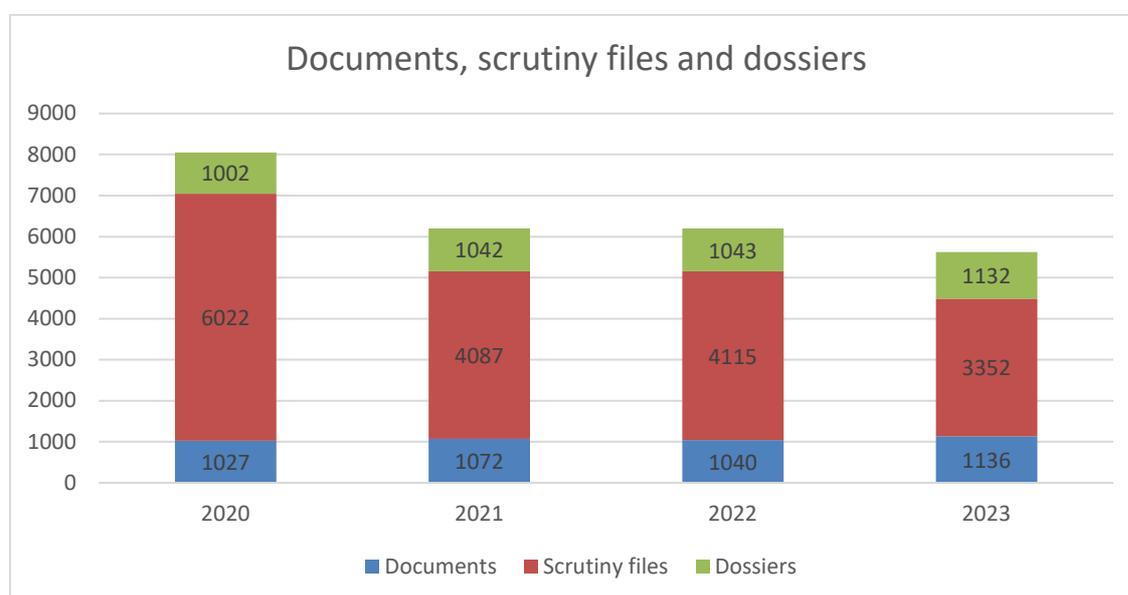
During **the Czech Chairmanship of the Board (2022/23) the final activities and review of the 2nd WP were performed** and a new, draft WP was prepared, for its 3rd edition.

The 2nd WP came to finish with **ample progress regarding the technical development and fine-tuning of IPEX V3, as well as new content added** with the help of the new tools deployed - OWN documents, the new format of News, a wider range of visual materials, keywords and social media channels.

## 2. The IPEX Legislative Database

The Legislative Database and the scrutiny of documents by national Parliaments, is the core task of IPEX from 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, more unreliable dossier level.

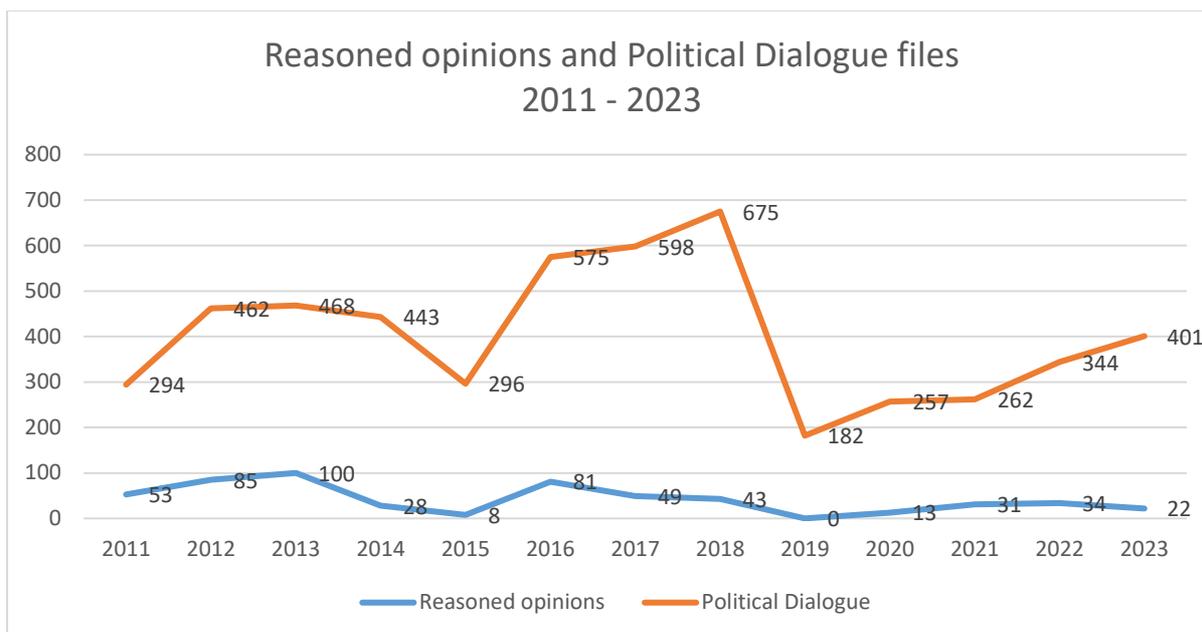
Currently, IPEX publishes **over 124.000 pages (2024)** from national parliaments and the European Union institutions, holding **scrutiny-related information in 97.000 files (2024)** produced by national Parliaments, linked to **a little over 19.000 documents (2024)**. In **2023**, a number of **1136** legislative and non-legislative documents were recorded in IPEX, with **3352 scrutiny files (2022: 1040/4115; 2021: 1072/4087)**.



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.

**The slow pick-up predicted last year, based on the numbers used for the graphics above, can be now seen in practice, with the benefits coming out of the new tools and functionalities of IPEX V3.**

**Another trend observed for a long while in the activity of national Parliaments and, from that, in how they use IPEX, is following the explanation above, but also a possible change in the interests, procedures or content the national Parliaments choose to work with: a sharp decrease of Reasoned opinions issued, doubled by a steep increase of Political dialogue procedures (in some years, even to a magnitude of x10, as seen in the analysis below).**



**In 2023, out of the 22 ROs issued, only 3 national Parliaments/chambers issued on the same proposal (COM/2022/0677 a Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC), with the rest distributed between 13 other proposals.**

**The Reasoned opinions and Political dialogue files uploaded by national Parliaments into the IPEX database in 2023<sup>1</sup> can be seen in the table below.**

Nr.crt	Chamber/national Parliament	Reasoned Opinions	Political Dialogue
1.	Austrian Federal Council (AT1)	0	5
2.	Austrian National Council (AT2)	0	1
3.	Belgian Senate (BE1)	0	(3)*
4.	Belgian House of Representatives (BE2)	0	0
5.	Bulgarian National Assembly (BG)	0	0
6.	Croatian Parliament (HR)	0	1
7.	Cyprus House of Representatives (CY)	1	1
8.	Czech Senate (CZ1)	0	53
9.	Czech Chamber of Deputies (CZ2)	1	51
10.	Danish Parliament (DK)	0	2
11.	Dutch Senate (NL1)	1	10
12.	Dutch House of Representatives (NL2)	1	0
13.	Estonian Parliament (EE)	0	1
14.	Finnish Parliament (FI)	0	2

<sup>1</sup> 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 2023, including for procedures started in 2022 (data centralized and verified by the Information Officer and the national Correspondents, 22 January 2024)

15.	French Senat (FR1)	3	15
16.	French National Assembly (FR2)	0	18
17.	German Bundesrat (DE1)	0	34
18.	German Bundestag (DE2)	0	0
19.	Hellenic Parliament (EL)	0	0
20.	Hungarian National Assembly (HU)	1	2
21.	Irish Houses of Oireachtas (IE)	0	13
22.	Italian Senate (IT1)	3	29
23.	Italian Chamber of Deputies (IT2)	6	41
24.	Latvian Saeima (LV)	0	0
25.	Lithuanian Seimas (LT)	0	3
26.	Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies (LU)	0	2
27.	Maltese House of Representatives (MT)	0	0
28.	Slovak Republic National Council (SK)	0	0
29.	Spanish Cortes Generales (ES)	0	4
30.	Polish Senat (PL1)	0	1
31.	Polish Sejm (PL2)	0	0
32.	Portuguese Assembleia da Republica (PT)	0	43
33.	Romanian Senat (RO1)	0	30
34.	Romanian Chamber of Deputies (RO2)	0	35
35.	Slovenian National Assembly (SL2)	0	0
36.	Swedish Parliament (SE)	5(+2**)	3
	<b>TOTAL =</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>401</b>

*\*Political dialogue files from parliaments of the federated entities (Regions and Communities) of Belgium transmitted by the Belgian Senate to the European Commission. Based on declaration 51 of Belgium to the Lisbon Treaty and in accordance to the internal constitutional order of Belgium, the parliamentary assemblies of the Communities and Regions act as chambers of the Belgian national Parliament and are thereby entitled to submit reasoned opinions and political dialogue files.*

*\*\* The Swedish Riksdag has formally adopted seven Reasoned Opinions during 2023. Two of them concern COM(2023) 331 and COM(2023) 258, which were not flagged for subsidiarity checks by the Commission, and no referral letters were transmitted. The Riksdag, however, considers the principle of subsidiarity to be applicable also in these two cases.*

### 3. Technical upgrades and the use of the IPEX platform

Over the course of 2023, **ample development and upgrade work has been done, resulting in the roll-out of 5 versions.** These versions were **prepared, discussed and tested in over 40 meetings** between DG ITEC technical development team, the IPEX IO and with test groups, in different formats (trainings, testing group, business alignment and acceptance meetings etc).

**All the technical upgrades were doubled by the development of training materials, procedures for their use and trainings, as part of the activity of the Working Group (WG) on Training.** The WG is constantly focusing on creating new training materials, improving existing ones and exploring new methods for delivering training and advice in the use of IPEX V3 to the IPEX national Correspondents.

To this end, the WG has developed a first list of materials (“How to” guides) detailing in a visual, step-by-step manner, the most usual operations a NC has to perform in order to fulfil its professional duties. These guides come to complement their tasks and duties, as described in the IPEX Guidelines.

While these **guides cover an extensive range of operations** - from setting up an IPEX account to managing contacts, performing scrutiny operations and uploading News and OWN content - we are also looking into new areas of interest for the NCs. In addition, taking into account new iterations of IPEX V3 and technical improvements and upgrades deployed by DG ITEC colleagues, as well as empirical resources (internal exchanges with NCs and Users, surveys, documents etc), the existing guides are being improved and updated.

The existing **guides are available on an external Dropbox account**, available via a link shared with the NCs, focusing on:

- How to ACCOUNT;
- How to SCRUTINY;
- How to Double Dossiers;
- How to CONTACTS MANAGEMENT;
- How to National Parliaments section;
- How to NEWS;
- How to OWN/New Content;
- A list of all available guides, their individual links and the general link to the Dropbox account;
- Under development - new Search implementation in the Legislative Database (pending v3.16 and v3.17 updates);
- Under development - in cooperation with WG Promotion and Social Media, training videos (pending v3.16 and v3.17 updates);

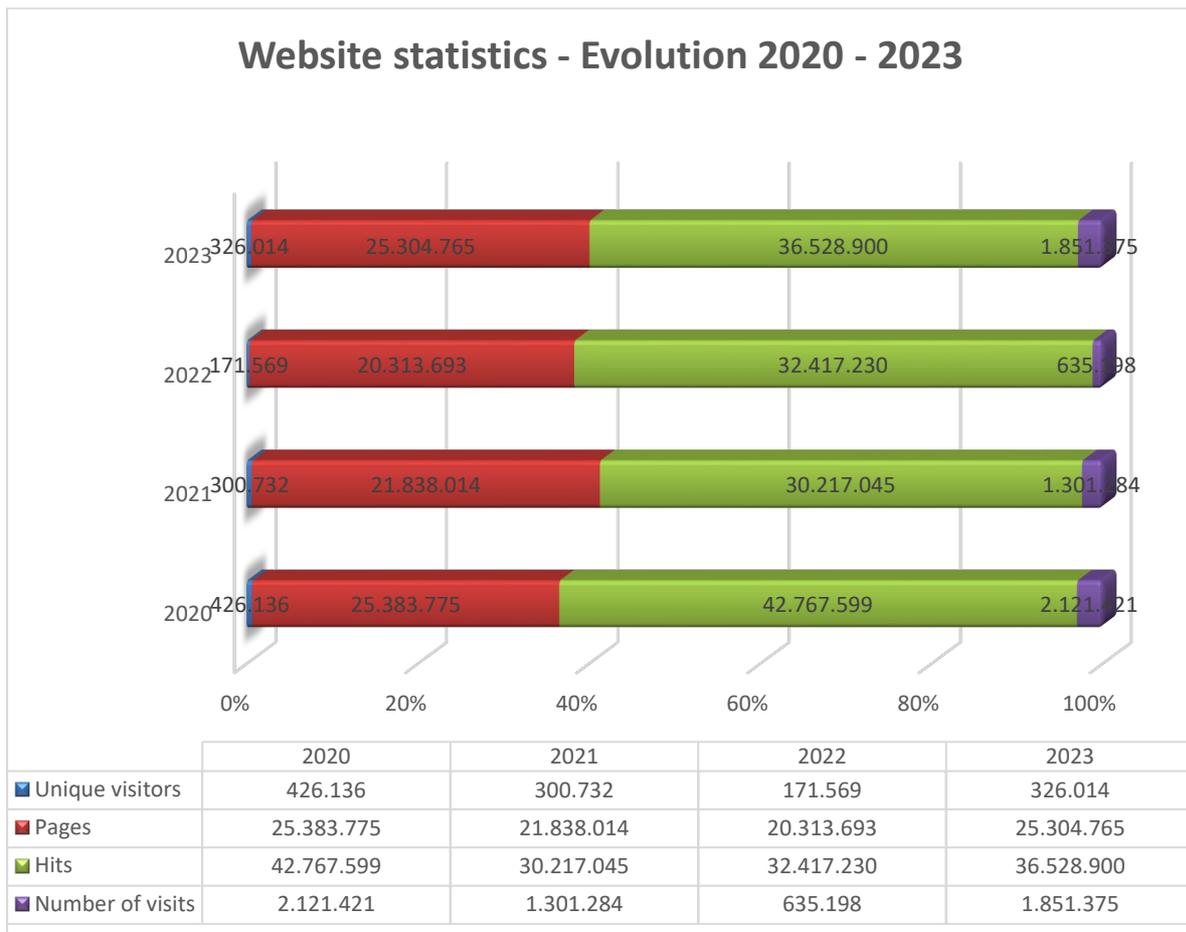
WG Training is currently analyzing resources available and planned technical developments, in order to develop new activities for the 3rd WP, taking into account the 1st Follow-up to the Baseline Study of WG Content, COSAC Bi-annual Report contributions, data analytics results etc.

**Beside already delivering on-request training and IPEX presentations - as requests from national Parliaments** (e.g. Portugal, Greece, Ireland) **or as part of the EP’s Presidency Parliament Support Programme** (PPSP with Czechia, Sweden, Spain, Belgium, Hungary) - short on-line sessions, focused on specific topics or operations (e.g. new versions releases, explaining new functionalities etc) , are taken into account as a way to improve communication and professional training among IPEX NCs and a programmed activity for the 3rd WP Action Plan. Regular training sessions and presentations were delivered during the IPEX Users and IPEX national Correspondents meetings.

Special attention was given to **establishing and building up a work relationship with the new candidate countries and their presence on IPEX**: Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Version #	Scope	Release Date
IPEX 3.15.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'User creation' flow               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>User Matrix defining the rights of users on the application</li> <li>User Groups clean-up and renaming</li> <li>User Roles clean-up and renaming</li> <li>Verification messages and Email notifications upgraded</li> </ul> </li> <li>Various other fixes</li> </ul>	21/02/2023
<b>IPEX 3.16.0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated Search functionality               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rework of Search forms, filters, results &amp; cards</li> <li>Change of philosophy and upgrade of filtering options</li> <li>'Save Search' Email notifications rework</li> <li>Upgrade of powerful search engine (<b>Elastic Search</b>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>WEB accessibility</li> <li>Various other fixes</li> </ul>	Q4 → 24/07/2023
IPEX 3.16.1	Technical migration	08/09/2023
IPEX 3.16.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social media sharing integration on every page (FB, X, LinkedIn, WhatsApp, email)</li> <li>IPEX social media redirection (X &amp; YouTube)</li> <li>DSN Contributors – new dynamic contact page &amp; creation manageable in the BO</li> <li>Technical updates to the communication flow eTrust → IPEX (transfer of legislative documents)</li> <li>Security fixes</li> </ul>	10/10/2023
IPEX 3.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of the Search functionalities               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Search philosophy (based on EURLEX model – search with special characters)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Released in PP 21/12/2023

The activities performed in 2023 are also reflected in the increased level of use the IPEX platform has seen, a trend indicated by the figures below, in comparison to the past 3 years. This evolution is monitored with new tools - Piano Analytics, for the platform, and Opinio, for creating and processing surveys.

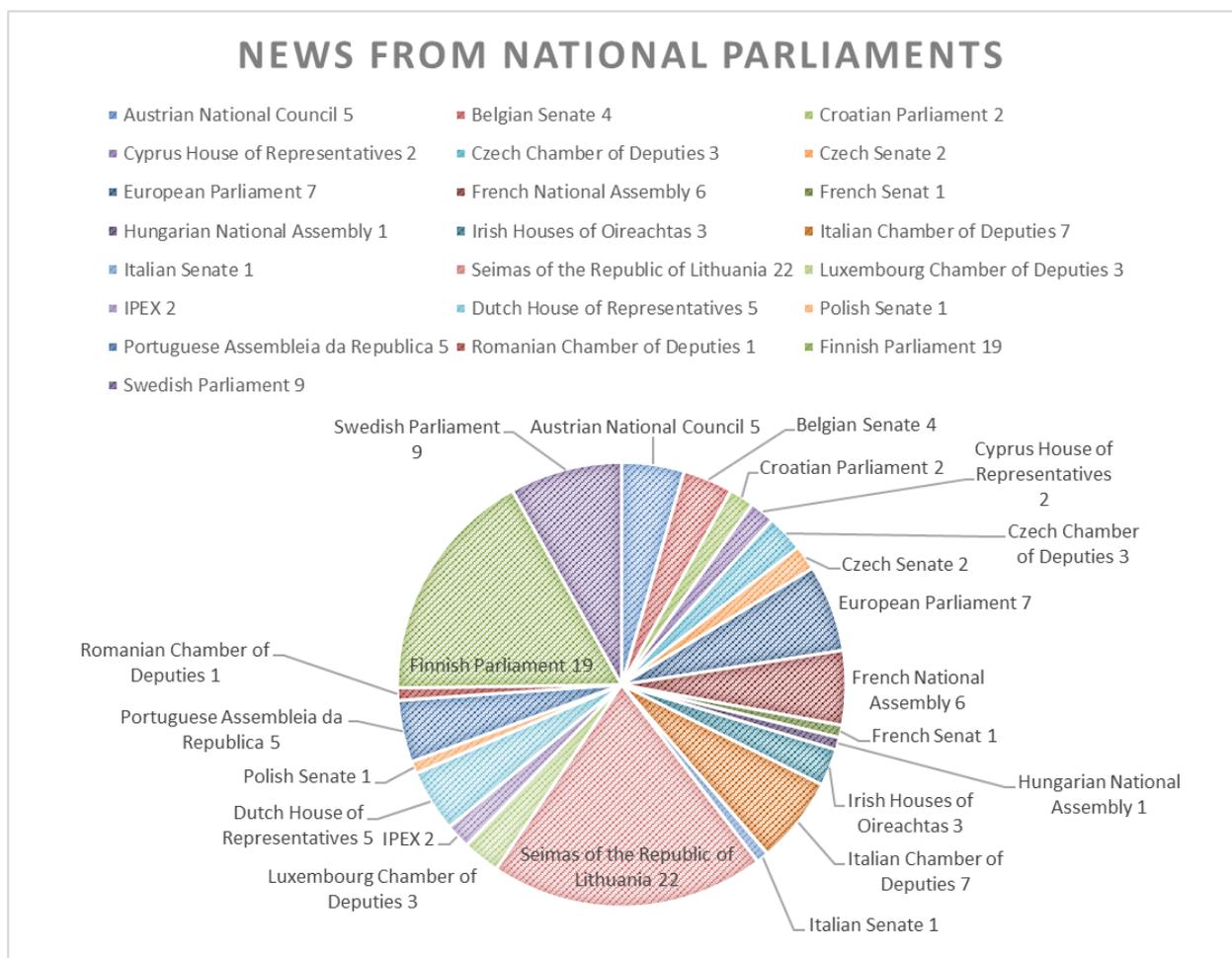


#### 4. News from Parliaments on IPEX

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 **2023**, **113 news articles** on European Affairs-related issues were published in the News from Parliaments section, with materials coming from **22 contributors from mono- and bicameral parliaments** (in 2022, also 22 contributors uploaded 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 98 in use today (ranging from events to institutions to policy areas meeting formats). An example of such keywords could be the ones setup for the **events of the parliamentary dimension of the EU Council Presidency, the latest being - #PARLEU2023ES and #PARLEU2024BE**.

Today, the **#IPEXEU channel is following 133 channels** belonging to EU national Parliaments/chambers, European institutions, as well as leaders, personalities and influencers from the European Affairs sphere.

Most of the Twitter posts **focus on interparliamentary events, such as COSAC, Inter-Parliamentary Conferences and the Parliamentary Dimension of the EU Presidency**, but also on the **positions of national Parliaments/chambers on certain events** (e.g. the war in Ukraine, State of the Union address, visits of EU officials to capitals, etc).

The **IPEX YouTube** channel was first used as a repository of IPEX-related introductory videos, now also showing the **recordings of the IPEX Users Conference in Lisbon** and the visual on **IPEX in the 39th COSAC Bi-annual report**.