Centre Européen de Recherches
et de Documentation Parlementaires

European Centre for Parliamentary
Research and Documentation

Europäisches Zentrum für Parlamentarische
Wissenschaft und Dokumentation

18 April 2016

ECPRD

ACTIVITY REPORT

DRAFT

2014-2015

This document is available in English, French and German.

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Contents

1.   Introduction by the Co-Directors

"I was looking for information concerning the situation in other European countries on an issue of high topicality and therefore asked our Correspondent to launch an ECPRD request. It was an amazing experience to see the concise replies coming in and in turn providing me with an almost complete picture as was needed!" This quotation from a senior manager of a parliament in Europe illustrates perfectly in a few words the success story of ECPRD as a unique model of smooth and non-bureaucratic information exchange in the world.

At the end of 2015, the ECPRD counted 66 Parliamentary chambers (including 41 in the European Union) from 54 countries and Parliamentary European institutions. 114 Correspondents and Deputy Correspondents represent their respective Parliaments within the network and contribute to ECPRD activities. The high rate of exchange between Parliaments, as indicated in this report, impressively underlines the unbroken demand for cross-boundary and comparative information on topical matters in Europe.

Last, but not least, the sustained good cooperation between the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe as its founding fathers, ensures the long-term stability of the network.

Comparative requests

In general, the statistics show no significant changes to the previous period under review. In 2014 and 2015, ECPRD member parliaments submitted in total 555 comparative requests to the network which produced 13136 replies. Matters relating to the administration of parliaments rank also in this period of review on the top of the statistics. Social policies, as well as health and legal issues, once again appear as the most requested subject areas. Not surprisingly, a proportionally high number of requests were made in the field of migration and asylum.

Despite a high workload, Correspondents still very much remain committed to the network. Statistics show that, on average, 80% have provided a reply very shortly after the preferred deadline. In general, the response rate remains at around 67%; in this context one should bear in mind that there are not only heavy contributors but also parliaments which are much less active in providing information.

ECPRD conferences and seminars

Despite the prevailing budgetary constraints in many capitals, between 2014 and 2015 ECPRD member Parliaments organised 11 seminars on topical subjects and best practices attracting more than 600 participants. These seminars help to forge personal networks of experts in Parliaments.

One should not forget that the organisation of seminars constitutes a considerable effort for the hosting Parliament. However, it is clearly an honour for a parliament to welcome colleagues to an international event as it constitutes an opportunity to present its model of parliamentarism. We would like to thank the Secretaries General for their willingness to provide the necessary authorizations which are vital for the functioning of the ECPRD. Our thanks also go to their staff as well as to those who provided contributions to the seminars.

Last but not least, one should not neglect the role and commitment of the ECPRD Coordinators of the four Areas of Interest as a crucial factor for the success of an ECPRD seminar.

ECPRD Website

Thanks to the financial contributions by the European Parliament, it was possible to implement major improvements in the website of ECPRD www.ecprd.org in 2014 and 2015.

The biggest share of the budget was devoted to improving the presentation of available data on the ECPRD member parliaments. New so-called 'Parliamentary Factsheets' allow consulting, at a glance, information on a specific parliament such as key data, their requests and replies, and last but not least a completely refurbished directory of people.

In particular, for the section on key data it was necessary to establish a set of principal indicators, to develop appropriate structures and procedures and to convince parliaments to contribute to this exercise.

Secretaries General are thus kindly called upon:

1. to endorse the present activity report and the priorities and programme for the coming years;
2. to maintain their support for the ECPRD and in particular to strengthen the position of their respective correspondent in their own House as a vital condition for the functioning of the network;
3. to implement measures in their Parliaments which stimulate the publication of final summary notes to comparative requests;
4. to ensure that the parliamentary factsheets are regularly updated;
5. to maintain their high level of commitment as hosts, also for future ECPRD seminars, and to allow their staff to participate in these events.

Christine Verger	Horst Schade
ECPRD Co-Director	ECPRD Co-Director
European Parliament	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

2. Organisation

Co-Directors

      Christine Verger, European Parliament

      Horst Schade, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Co-Secretaries

      Ulrich Hüschen, European Parliament

      Yann de Buyer, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Executive Committee

      Elisabeth Dietrich-Schulz, Parlament, Austria

      Gunnar Fors, Riksdag, Sweden

      Claus Koggel, Bundesrat, Germany

      Ewa Nawrocka, Senat, Poland (until October 2015)

      George Sotirelis, Voulí , Greece

      Wieslaw Staskiewicz, Sejm, Poland (as of October 2015)

ECPRD Coordinators of Areas of Interest

Economic and Budgetary Affairs

      Paola Bonacci, Camera dei Deputati, Italy

ICT in Parliaments

      Carlo Simonelli, Camera dei Deputati, Italy (until March 2016)

      Jerry Hilbert, European Parliament (as of March 2016)

Libraries, Research Services and Archives

      Siiri Sillajoe, Riigikogu, Estonia (until September 2016)

      Robin Travis, Riksdag, Sweden (as of September 2016)

Parliamentary Practice and Procedure

      Marc Van der Hulst, House of Representatives, Belgium (until September 2014)

      André Rezsohazy, Senate, Belgium (as of September 2014)

ECPRD Website

Webmaster

      Ulrich Hüschen, European Parliament

IT Project Manager

      Jerry Hilbert, European Parliament

3. What is the ECPRD?

The ECPRD was created in 1977 in Vienna by the Conference of Speakers of European Parliamentary Assemblies, which delegated to the Presidents of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe its formation and management.

The objectives of the ECPRD are to promote the exchange of information, ideas, experience and good practice among the administrations of parliaments in Europe on subjects of common interest; to strengthen close co-operation among parliamentary services in all fields of parliamentary administration, legislation, information, research and documentation; and to collect, exchange and publicise studies produced by parliamentary services (Article 1 of the Statutes).

ECPRD should be seen as a network of experts in parliaments rather than a physical centre. Its strength lies in the un-bureaucratic exchange of information based very much on the voluntary commitment of people. This exchange materializes in the form of comparative requests and experts seminars.

Who are the members?

According to Article 2 of the ECPRD Statutes members are the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and parliamentary chambers where the President is a member of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament. Furthermore, there are some parliaments having observer and Partners for Democracy status.

At present the Centre consists of 66 parliamentary chambers (including 41 in EU Member States) from 54 countries and European institutions. Almost 114 Correspondents and Deputy Correspondents represent their respective parliament in the network and contribute to main ECPRD activities.

How is the ECPRD organised?

Each member assembly appoints a senior official to act as the *correspondent* for the assembly. The Correspondent is the privileged point of contact for the assembly and should thus have access to the Secretary General and must be in a position to coordinate the contribution of the officials of his or her chamber to the work of the Centre. The success of the centre largely depends on the input provided by the Correspondents.

The European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments, consisting of the Presidents or Speakers of Parliamentary assemblies of members and special guests of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, is the supreme authority for the ECPRD and meets every second year.

The Secretaries General have administrative responsibility for the activities of the Centre and these are discussed when they meet during the Conference of Speakers. As regards the two Co-Directors and the two Co-Secretaries - representing the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe - these are appointed by the respective Secretaries General of these institutions. The Co-Directors and Co-Secretaries, who carry out their functions for the Centre in addition to their normal duties, are responsible for the day-to-day running of the ECPRD. The Conference of Correspondents is the annual meeting of Correspondents, at which the activities of the ECPRD are discussed and broader policy decisions are taken.

The Executive Committee is composed of the Co-Directors and five Correspondents (appointed by the Conference of Correspondents). It ensures the continuity of work between the annual meetings. The Executive Committee meets at least twice a year. The Secretariat of the Centre, including the staff responsible for the Centre's website, is provided by an official of the European Parliament.

Furthermore, in 2006 four Areas of Interest have been set up: Economic and Budgetary Affairs (EBA), Information and communication Technologies in Parliaments (ICT) Libraries, Research Services and Archives (LRA), Parliamentary Practice and Procedure (PPP). The objective of these Areas of Interest is to foster the exchange of information and best practice mainly in form of specific seminars on topical issues hosted by an ECPRD member parliament. Four ECPRD Coordinators are appointed by the Executive Committee to fuel the activities within each area.

Not only the excellent cooperation between people but also the implementation of modern IT technologies is responsible for the success of the network. The activities of the ECPRD are supported by a fully-fledged website. Its private section, being only accessible to the members of the networks, hosts a powerful electronic workflow for requests and replies, a growing number of specific seminar mini-sites and, last not least, parliamentary factsheets on each Chamber providing data and contacts.

How is it financed?

The ECPRD has neither its own budget nor does it receive financial contributions from the member Parliaments. The expenses for staff, secretariat and IT expenses are paid from different budget lines of the European Parliament. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe also contributes financially to the activities of the Centre.

Indirect financing takes the form of member Parliaments hosting seminars and meetings of the Centre and providing meeting rooms and interpreters. Some publications are also financed in this way. All Parliaments pay the travel and subsistence costs of their own officials attending seminars and meetings. A number of Parliaments of countries in Central and Eastern Europe benefit from financial support from the European Parliament to ensure participation in seminars and meetings.

4. ECPRD Activities 2014-2015

4.1 The evolution of comparative requests

In the period under review ECPRD member parliaments submitted in total 555 comparative requests to the network, 268 in 2014 and 287 in 2015. In the previous period 2012/2013, in total 551 requests was made, which means that the level of research activities is remaining on a high and sustainable level. The all-time peak of 2012 was not reached in 2015 but the trend since then allows us to state that the system of comparative requests has reached a certain level of saturation indicating the maximum number of requests which parliamentary services can effectively process. Given the high workload involved in providing the requested information and ensuring high quality, it seems unlikely that the number of requests will continue to increase. For the exact figures on specific parliaments, please consult annex 3.
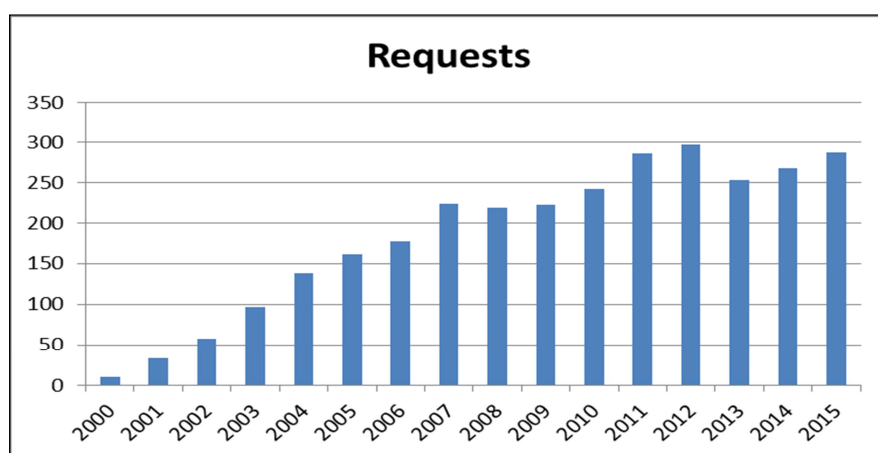
The system of comparative requests is based on mutual trust and support. Statistics show that this confidence between Correspondents was maintained in the period under review. Between 2014 and 2015 Correspondents submitted 13136 replies which is almost the same amount as in the previous period 2012-2013 where 13139 replies were submitted.
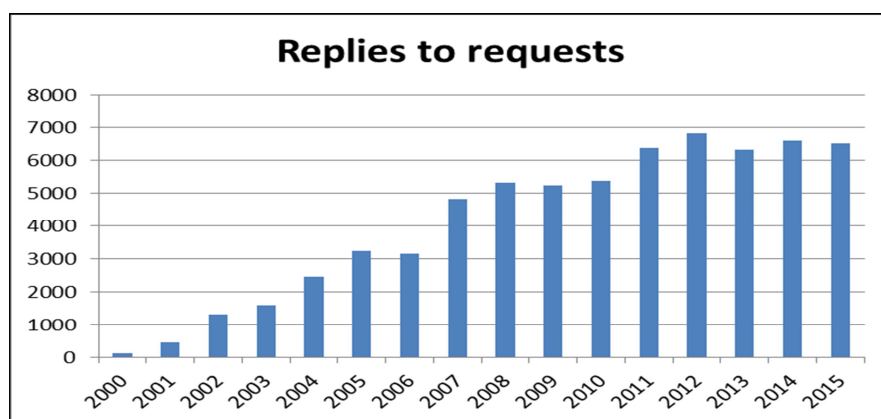
The figures show that over the years Correspondents have done their utmost to keep pace with the growing number of requests. The median average of the reponse rate per request was 62% in 2014/2015 which is almost the same level as in 2012/2013 with a median of 63%. However, the maximum pourcentage of replies to a small number of requests went down from 83% in 2012/2013 to 75% in 2014/2015. No request obtained a 100% response rate compared to the set of chambers.

There are several remarks to be made to put these figures into context. Certain parliaments rarely or never provide a reply which means that a 100% response rate is very difficult to attain in the event that a request is sent to all member parliaments. On the other hand, a detailed analysis request by request shows that a better response rate is quite realistic when a request is submitted to a much smaller selection of countries.

In general it is possible to conclude from the daily practice that issuing guidelines and discussing their practical application at the annual conferences has clearly born fruit to improve the quality of requests. Requests are mostly well prepared (precise questions, model reply), and one can assume that Correspondents have informed their clients on the working methods of ECPRD in order to manage expectations.

Deadline analysis

A detailed analysis of the data on the ECPRD website indicates that 67% of the replies were delivered by the requested deadline. 80% had reached the parliaments at least 5 calendar days after the deadline and hence probably still in time presuming that Correspondents had left themselves a certain margin of time until they finally had to report back to their client. These figures correspond to the trend in the period of 2012-2013 where around 70% of replies were sent within the the desired deadline. Furthermore, it should not be forgotten that certain parliaments rarely or never provide a reply which means that a 100% response rate is very difficult to attain in the event that a request is sent to all member parliaments. On the other hand, a detailed analysis request by request shows that a better response rate is quite realistic when a request is submitted to a much smaller selection of countries.
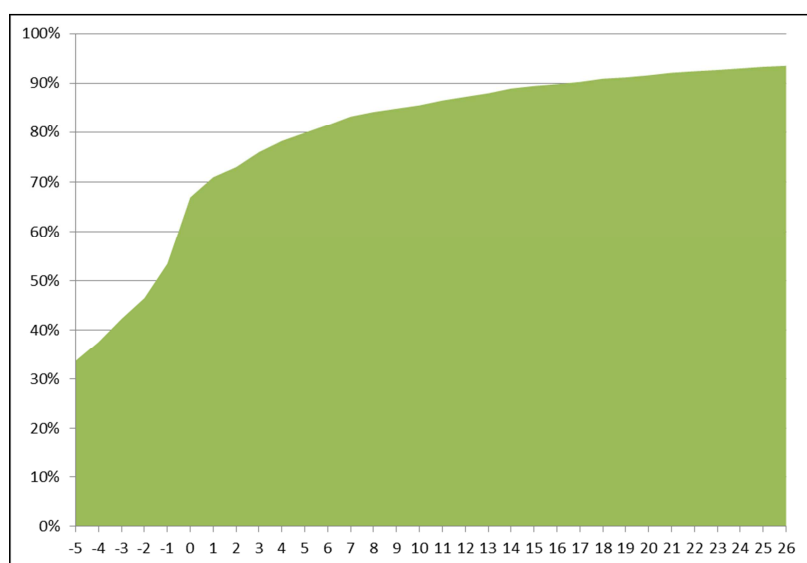
Subjects

In terms of the topics which have been put forward to the ECPRD network, statistics show that 40% are connected to matters related to the functioning and managament of parliaments (elections, bodies, procedures, administration and Members) whereas the remaining 60% are devoted to political and legislative projects involving Members and commitees. This ratio is roughly in line with the figures in the previous reports.
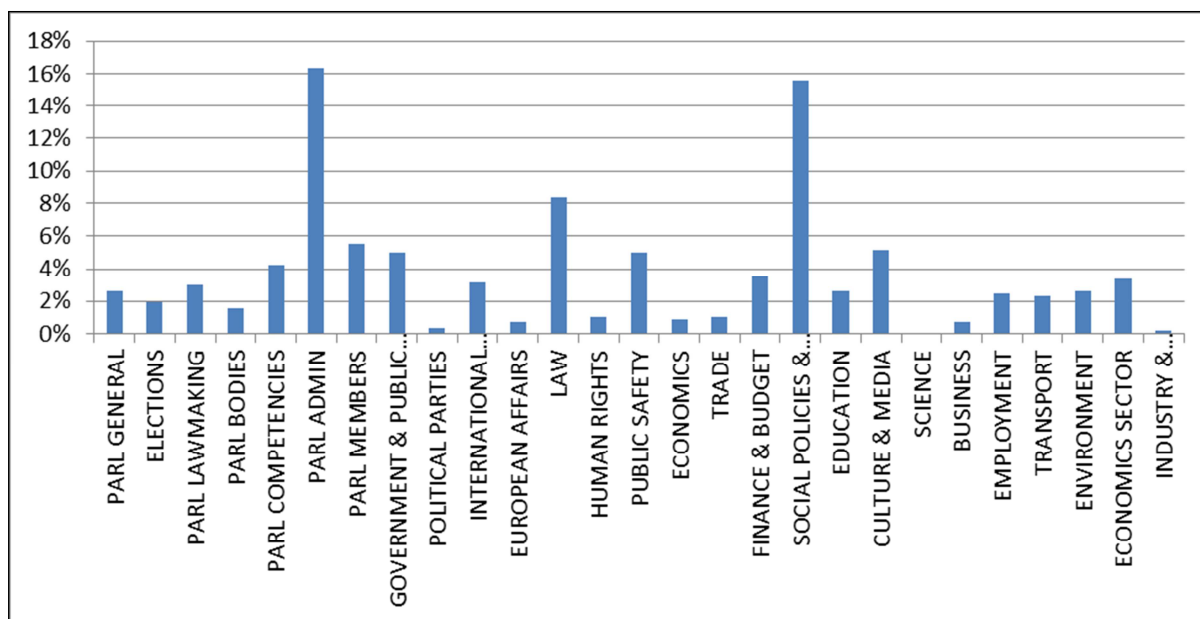
The diagram above confirms once again the importance of the information exchange on matters related to the administration of parliaments. Compared to the previous period under review the request connected to the administration of parliaments decreased from 18% in 2012/2013 to 16%. Requests related to Member's affairs remained stable at 5%.

Not surprisingly, the requests on so-called legislative and political issues are spread over a large spectrum of subject areas. Social policies in a very broad sense kept its top position and increased from 13% in 2012/2013 to 16%. This can be explained by the fact that it also includes also the requests on migration and asylum issues. Some countries heavily affected by the migration crisis, such as Sweden in particular and also Germany and United Kingdom, submitted requests of high topicality, hence reflecting the political debate in their countries. Requests connected to law matters kept their second position with 8% compared to 7% in the previous report. Requests on public safety (police, crime etc) and on cultural and media issues defend their third position in the list in comparison to the 2012/2013 figures.

Final summaries

Positive news can be stated for the trend concerning final summaries: there is an increasing trend again and final summaries are at an all-time peak for 2015. Nevertheless, it has to be accepted that, in total, less than 25% of requests were concluded with a final summary. The reasons have been known for some time, mainly the lack of time and the matter of language.
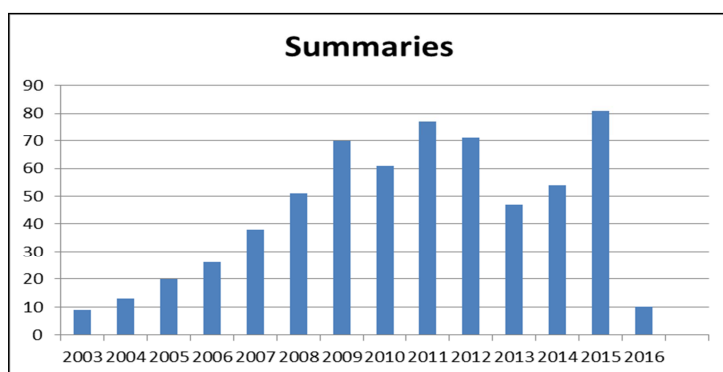
All requests, their replies and final summaries can be consulted easily on the ECPRD website. A powerful search engine, a classification by subject groups and links between associated requests allows to exploit easily the existing wealth of information in order to avoid duplicates. In urgent cases it is even possible to help parliamentary clients only with the existing information in the database.

4.2 ECPRD statutory meetings

Meeting of Secretaries General at the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament

Oslo, Stortinget, 11 September 2014

Presidents of Parliament from the 47 Council of Europe member states, as well as many neighbouring and observer countries, met on 11 and 12 September 2014 in Oslo, on the occasion of a conference organised by the Storting and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

Secretaries General of the participating parliaments and assemblies gathered on the margin of the conference to discuss the ECPRD Activity Report 2012-2013 and the priorities and programme for 2015 and 2016. Secretaries General appreciated the good functioning of the network and adopted the activity report and the future priorities and events without changes.

With regard to the situation of Partners of Democracy Parliaments, a clear majority of Secretaries General voted in favour of the proposal to extend the current arrangement which allows Partners to access the website and attend conferences and seminars but not to make comparative requests. There was therefore no need to change the Statute of the Centre.

Executive Committee

Berlin, Bundesrat, 28 March 2014

The Executive Committee discussed the draft programme of the Annual Conference in Belgrade in October. The situation as regards the proposed annual conference in Moscow 2016 was the subject of an exchange of views. Co-Directors provided a brief report on the state of play with regard to the 'Partners for Democracy' Parliaments. Furthermore, members of the committee analysed in detail the proposal for a list of indicators established by the Working Group Comparative Parliamentary Data.

Executive Committee

Tallinn, Riigikogu, 5 September 2014

The Executive Committee discussed details of the draft programme of the Annual Conference in Belgrade in October. The situation as regards the proposed annual conference in Moscow 2016 was once again the subject of an exchange of views. In view of the upcoming meeting of Secretaries General at the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament in Oslo, the committee heard a brief report on the state of play with regard to the 'Partners for Democracy' Parliaments. Furthermore, the members of the committee finalised the proposal for a list of indicators established by the Working Group Comparative Parliamentary Data and discussed its implementation on the ECPRD website including the new concept of parliamentary factsheets. The committee appointed Mr André Rezsohazy (Belgium, Senate) as the new Coordinator for

the Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure as successor to Mr Marc Van der Hulst. The term of Ms Paola Bonacci as Coordinator of the Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs was prolonged for another three years.

Annual Conference of Correspondents 2014

Belgrade, National Assembly, 16-17 October 2014

The pre-conference started with a lecture on capacity building measures introduced by the research service of the National Assembly of Serbia. It was followed by a presentation on scrutiny services in parliaments. Two speeches focused on the question how research services were engaged in matters related to affairs of the European Union.

The conference continued with a report on the results of the working group on comparative parliamentary data. Following this, Correspondents could attend one of four workshops either on budgetary scrutiny, introduction programmes to new Members, IT tools for research services or the validation of powers by the legislative chamber.

Executive Committee

Rome, Camera dei Deputati, 27 March 2015

The Executive Committee discussed the programme of the next annual conference in Bern, 15-16 October, and agreed in particular on the topics of the pre-conference. It was decided not to accept the invitation for the Annual Conference in Moscow in 2016 due to political circumstances and to re-consider the venue at a later stage. Furthermore, it was decided to remind correspondents of the obligation to correctly use the internationally agreed names of countries in their requests and replies. The Committee heard about the progress made in the field of comparative parliamentary data and agreed to the proposals made for the further development of the ECPRD website. The ECPRD Coordinators informed the Committee of seminars already organised and also put forward their dates for future events.

Executive Committee

Strasbourg, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 11 September 2015

At its meeting in Strasbourg the Executive Committee heard an update of the preparations for the upcoming Annual Conference in Bern. There was a preliminary undertaking and a collection of ideas concerning the 40th anniversary of ECPRD in 2017 which will be organised jointly by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. Mr Jerry Hilbert from the European Parliament and IT Project Manager for the ECPRD website expressed his interest in becoming the successor to Mr Carlo Simonelli as ECPRD Coordinator of the Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments in 2016. The final decision will be taken at the next meeting of the Executive Committee. ECPRD Coordinators informed the Committee on seminars already organised and submitted their intentions for future events. New items in the ECPRD Directory and for the mailing groups were set forth and agreed upon. The committee initiated a discussion concerning a more suitable format for the ECPRD logo.

Annual Conference of Correspondents 2015

Berne, Federal Assembly, 15-16 October 2015

The programme of the pre-conference was influenced by the fact of being in Switzerland and its constitutional model of direct democracy. The conference was opened by introductions on the particularities of the Swiss Parliament and the functioning of Swiss federalism in general. Subsequently, the analysis of existing ECPRD requests on direct democracy and referenda provided insights on the situation in other European countries. The day was concluded by a presentation on security issues in parliaments based on ECPRD research material.

As usual, ECPRD-related matters such as the quality of requests were at the centre of the following conference day. A presentation made by the Head of Research Service of the German Bundestag on their obligation to provide public access to their studies triggered high attention.

The workshops of the conference focussed on parliamentary budget offices, pro-active strategies in libraries and research service, changes in political affiliation by an MP ("floor-crossing") and reflections on how information technologies have changed work in parliaments.

4.3 ECPRD Seminars in the Areas of Interest

Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs

Growing income inequality and democratic stability (Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs)

London, House of Commons, 5-6 June 2014

35 participants from 30 parliamentary chambers attended the seminar on social inequality and its impact on democracy.

The first session shed light on how Parliaments are dealing with income inequality problems. The second session dealt with potential implications on the welfare state. The third session discussed the redistributive role of fiscal policy. The seminar concluded with a fourth session on the question of redefining the social contract while preserving cohesion and equal opportunity.

Seminar 'Some crucial issues for Parliaments in Europe: fiscal policy towards boosting accountability, social security and technological progress' (Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs)

Warsaw, Polish Senate, 28-29 May 2015

52 participants from 30 Parliaments and three Polish national experts attended this EBA seminar which was organised for the first time in a multi-subject format focussing not only on procedural matters in Parliaments but also on topical political issues.

The first session was devoted to performance budgeting and parliamentary consideration of budget results. The second session focussed on those challenges facing an aging population in Europe. Trans-European Mega-projects and Parliaments' involvement was the subject of the third session.

Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments

Parliaments on the Net XII "From e-Parliament to smart-Parliament: How to improve citizen's participation using web technologies and Social Media? And how can parliamentary rules of procedure support transparency and participation?" (Areas of Interest Parliamentary Procedure and Practice and Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments)

Rome, Camera dei deputati and Senato della Repubblica, 12-13 June 2014

97 participants from 41 parliamentary chambers and a number of external organisations gathered in Rome for the 2014 edition of 'Parliaments on the Net'.

The programme was divided into three sections. The first section was devoted to projects in parliaments related to the use of social media. Section 2 saw contributions on the implementation of open parliamentary data. Section 3 comprised contributions on the potential impact of social media on parliamentary rules of procedures.

Seminar 'The e-Parliament in action: best practices about ICT strategic planning, information security, mobility and cloud computing (Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments)

Podgorica, Parliament of Montenegro, 6-7 November 2014

36 experts from 25 Parliaments and international institutions gathered in the Parliament of Montenegro on the occasion of the first ECPRD seminar in this country.

The programme was centred on three main subjects. Session 1 dealt with ICT strategic planning in parliaments. Session 2 concentrated on an exchange on mobility and cloud computing. Session 3 concluded the seminar by focussing on information security.

Seminar 'Communication, digitalisation of processes and transparency in Parliaments' (Parli@ments on the Net XIII) (Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments)

Brussels, European Parliament, 16-17 April 2015

89 experts representing 36 parliamentary chambers met at the European Parliament for the 13th edition of "Parliaments on the Net".

The seminar brought together high-level representatives, communications specialists and IT experts in an attempt to underline the best ways to present web content. During the two-day event, participants presented and explored the synergies between IT and Communication in modern Parliaments. They analysed the role played by ICT in fostering transparency and access through innovation. Presentations were made with examples and techniques on the way the European Parliament uses the web and social media as a main communication platform in order to provide information to the citizen.

Seminar "e-Parliament ICT services from everywhere and at any time: New challenges and projects" (Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments)

Ankara, Grand National Assembly of Turkey, 5-6 November 2015

53 experts from 32 parliamentary chambers gathered in Ankara as guests of the Turkish Parliament to present topical projects in IT.

The programme was made up of four sessions. Session 1 dealt with multimedia processing and publication. Session 2 consisted of presentations on mobile devices for MPs and staff. Electronic voting for MPs and citizens was the topic of session 3. The seminar concluded with a session on IT security.

Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives

Stenographic Records: 'Hansard' in the 21st Century (Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives)

Ljubljana, National Assembly, 5-6 June 2014

51 experts from 27 parliamentary assemblies attended this seminar which was the first seminar on this matter in ECPRD.

The seminar was mainly a stock-taking exercise in which participants had the opportunity to present the specific way in which they each produce their verbatim reports. Contributions were centred on five main points of 'Hansard' production: transcription, editing, publication, archiving and the role of audio-visual recordings on the web.

Seminar 'Libraries and research services serving openness and transparency of parliament' (Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives)

Budapest, Hungarian Parliament, 24-25 September 2015

68 experts from 36 chambers gathered in the building of the Hungarian Parliament to discuss issues related to services which parliamentary libraries and researchers can provide to the public.

The seminar was divided into three sessions. The first one was devoted to public access to the publications of the research service. Of particular topical interest in this context was the report of the German Bundestag on a recent court ruling on the obligation to provide access to its research papers. The second session provided insights into activities carried out in libraries in order to implement tools which allow a better and more effective access to parliamentary documents. Last but not least, programmes for the general public and youth were the main focus of the third session. A detailed survey prepared in advance provided a synthesis of the situation in national parliaments.

<p style="text-align:center"><u>Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure</u></p>

Structures and Procedures with Regard to the Code of Conduct for MPs and with regard to the Integrity of Parliamentary Staff (Area of Interest Parliamentary Procedure and Practice)

Skopje, Assembly of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", 8-9 May 2014

51 experts from 34 parliamentary chambers and two international bodies attended the ECPRD seminar on structures and procedures with regard to the Code of Conduct for MPs but also with regard to the integrity of parliamentary staff.

Session 1 dealt with Codes of Conduct and other legal instruments for building public trust in Parliaments. Session 2 consisted of presentations on structures and procedures for the implementation of the Codes of Conduct in national Parliaments. Session 3 focussed on matters related to the integrity of staff.

Seminar 'Public involvement in the procedure of the drafting and enactment of laws' (Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure)

Zagreb, Croatian Parliament, 11-12 June 2015

51 participants from 33 parliamentary chambers met in Zagreb at the Croatian Sabor to discuss the possibilities of citizens' law-making in their respective countries.

The two-day seminar was divided into two main parts. The first section (day 1) consisted of a number of presentations on the Croatian experience of participatory governance enriched with case studies from Slovenia. Day 2 started with presentations on the implementation and success of the European Citizen Initiative. Contributions from national Parliaments outlined the respective possibilities of citizens to propose legislation or to participate in the law-making progress.

'The practicalities Seminar, advantages and disadvantages of unicameral and bicameral parliamentary systems' (Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure)

The Hague, Eerste and Tweede Kamer, 5-6 November 2015

The Dutch Parliament celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2015. On this occasion, the First and the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament, the Staten-Generaal, took the initiative of organizing a seminar, devoted to unicameral and bicameral parliamentary systems. 50 participants from 25 countries, representing 30 chambers, attended the seminar.

The seminar programme was divided into three parts. A keynote speech in session 1 presented the outcome of a study commissioned by the Dutch Parliament on the concept of political representation with a critical look at contemporary developments including the crisis of democratic elected institutions. Session 2 focussed on trends in unicameral systems, session 3 on bicameral systems with presentations made by participants from the national parliaments.

4.4 Development work for the ECPRD website

The work in 2014 was centred mainly on the implementation of the results of the Comparative Parliamentary Data Project. It comprised the creation of a data input tool for Contributors and the display of information on the website. In this context, it was decided to put in place a new concept of parliamentary factsheets which regroups the existing data on a specific parliament (people, data, requests and replies) into a more transparent and informative framework.

Minor changes were implemented in the section where requests were listed by subject areas allowing a better navigation.

The new Parliamentary Factsheets provide more transparency on key data and request activities. Improvements linked to the seminars, as well as to the Parliamentary Factsheets, have given more visibility to the content of the ECPRD Directory, requiring some adaptation and improvements to its overall management.

One should remember that the purpose of the ECPRD Directory is to foster contacts and an exchange of information between staff in ECPRD Member Parliaments. Since online registration for seminars is in place, the directory section of each parliament has been growing continuously and it had thus become necessary to improve the tools for users and group management.

In order to guarantee that the information made available by a user/correspondent is consistent and up-to-date, everyone now has the possibility to recheck and self-edit their data, be it on their own initiative or following a request from the webmaster. Furthermore, the display of information in the Directory is now finished and the result is more transparent.

The use of groups, some of them automatically created for every new event, has been granted to ECPRD Coordinators to facilitate the preparation of seminars and the transmission of topical information. New information sections have also been added to the Area of Interest pages about seminars and persons interested in the subject in ECPRD Member Parliaments.

Impact of IT to boost the information exchange between Parliaments

The statistics of requests and replies allow us to conclude that the main enhancements implemented on the ECPRD website had a clear impact on the development of requests and replies.
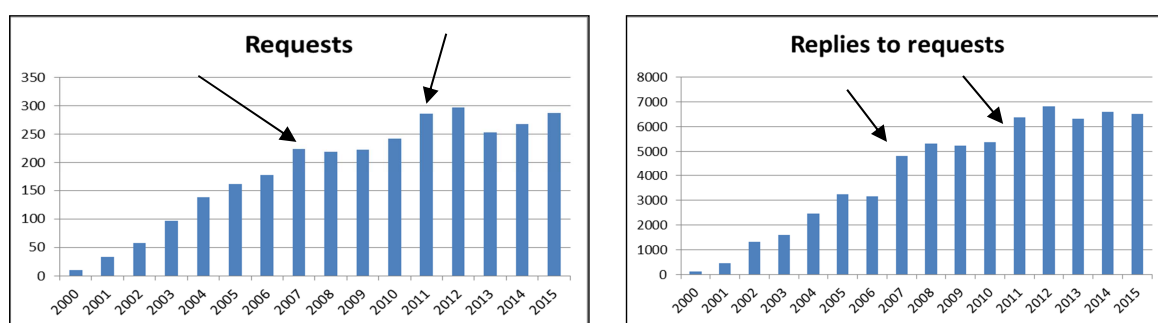
In 2007, the new website in its present structure was introduced allowing a greater transparency of activities and better access to information. In particular, it allowed an easier access to requests and replies.

At the end of 2010, the new electronic workflow for requests and replies was implemented successfully allowing a seamless submission of contributions from parliaments without manual intervention from the ECPRD Secretariat. Since then one click is enough to send new requests and replies and simultaneously upload them to the ECPRD website.

Annexes

Annex 1. **Statutes ECPRD**

STATUTES OF THE ECPRD [SEPTEMBER 2012]

The Statutes of the ECPRD were adopted by the ECPRD Secretaries General meeting at the Conference of Speakers in Budapest on 7 June 1996 and subsequently amended in Tallinn on 31 May 2006 and in Strasbourg on 21 September 2012.

PREAMBLE

The European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) was created in 1977 at the request of the Conference of Speakers of European Parliamentary Assemblies (as from 2004: the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament).

I. AIMS

Article 1

1.   The objectives of the ECPRD are to promote the exchange of information, ideas, experience and good practice among the administrations of parliaments in Europe on subjects of common interest; to strengthen close co-operation among parliamentary services in all fields of parliamentary administration, legislation, information, research and documentation; and to collect, exchange and publicise studies produced by parliamentary services.
2.   In the exchange of information the ECPRD shall promote, wherever possible, the use and development of Information and Communication Technology.
3.   The ECPRD shall co-operate with other networks dealing with the exchange of information among parliaments in Europe.

II. COMPOSITION OF THE ECPRD

Article 2

The ECPRDs members are: the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and parliamentary chambers where the President is a member of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament.

Article 3

1.   A parliament possessing special guest or observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe may participate in the different activities of the ECPRD but may not vote in its bodies.
2.   The ECPRD may co-operate with non-European parliamentary chambers.

III. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE ECPRD

i. THE MEETING OF THE SECRETARIES GENERAL

Article 4

The ECPRD operates under the authority of the Secretaries General of member chambers. At their meetings held every two years on the occasion of the European Conference of Presidents of

Parliament, they approve the activity report and action programme of the ECPRD and establish priorities for its functioning.

ii. THE CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS

Article 5

1.   The Secretary General of each parliamentary chamber appoints a senior official (Correspondent) to represent the chamber within the Conference of Correspondents of the ECPRD. Secretaries General may also appoint Deputy Correspondents.
2.   The Correspondent is selected from officials whose activities bring them into close contact with the ECPRD and who have direct access to the Secretary General of the chamber. He/she can thereby co-ordinate the activities of those officials of his/her chamber who are asked to play an active role in the ECPRD.

Article 6

1.   The Conference of Correspondents is responsible, in co-operation with the Co-Directors (see Article 8), for the organisation of the activities of the ECPRD. It examines the draft report on the activities of the ECPRD, drafted and presented by the Co-Directors, which includes the action programme of the ECPRD for the following two years.
2.   The report, together with the action programme, is then submitted for approval to the Secretaries General and subsequently to the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament which is invited to take note of it.
3.   Meetings of the Conference of Correspondents, chaired by the Co-Directors, take place at least every twelve months.
4.   Decisions of the Conference of Correspondents are reached, in principle, by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, issues will be decided by a vote with a necessary majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast, representing a majority of members of the ECPRD (see Article 2).

iii. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 7

1.   The Executive Committee is composed of the two Co-Directors and five Correspondents elected by the Conference of Correspondents. The Committee will meet as often as necessary, at the request of at least two of its members or five Correspondents.
2.   The members of the Executive Committee, other than the Co-Directors, shall be elected for a period of three years. They may be re-elected. Elections will take place at the Correspondents' annual meeting, with due consideration being paid to the need to maintain geographical balance in the membership of the Executive Committee.
3.   The Executive Committee may take decisions when a majority of its members is present. Decisions shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast.

iv. THE CO-DIRECTORS

Article 8

1.   The Secretaries General of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe each nominate a senior official as a Co-Director of the ECPRD.
2.   The two Co-Directors are responsible for the management of all activities of the ECPRD and are assisted by the two Co-Secretaries of the ECPRD and by other officials of their respective institutions.
3.   The Co-Directors may at the same time be the Correspondents for their assemblies.

IV. WORKING METHODS

Article 9

1. The ECPRD promotes co-operation between member chambers through the exchange of information, compilation of documentation and studies and the organisation of seminars; and by the sharing of knowledge of parliamentary ICT applications. On a proposal from the Executive Committee, the Conference of Correspondents shall establish detailed guidelines for studies and comparative requests and for the organisation of ECPRD seminars.
2. The ECPRD may also participate in or initiate other activities organised within its fields of interest.
3. When it considers that a given area requires a continuity of activity, the Conference of Correspondents may decide on the appointment of a Co-ordinator responsible for promoting close co-operation between the member chambers in that area. The Co-ordinator shall be appointed by the Executive Committee from among the competent staff of member chambers, with the consent of the chamber concerned, for a renewable term of three years.
4. On a proposal from the Executive Committee, and to meet specific terms of reference, the Conference of Correspondents may also decide to set up ad hoc working groups composed of staff of member chambers. The Executive Committee shall determine their duration, which must not exceed three years.

V. FINANCING OF THE ECPRD

Article 10

1. Member chambers of the ECPRD meet the cost of participation of their officials in ECPRD activities as well as the costs of communication with the ECPRD.
2. Member chambers may organise activities of the ECPRD, such as meetings, seminars etc., and bear the costs of such events. They may also make voluntary financial contributions to the ECPRD.
3. The operating costs of the ECPRD are covered by the budgets of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in conformity with current practice.
4. The ECPRD may accept outside donations following a favourable opinion from the Conference of Correspondents.

VI. REVISION OF THE STATUTES

Article 11

The revision of these Statutes is the responsibility of the Secretaries General of the member chambers gathered at their meeting on the occasion of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament.

Annex 2. List of ECPRD Correspondents and Deputy-Correspondents

The first name is always the Correspondent, the second the Deputy Correspondent

EUROPE (PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE)

Mr DE BUYER Yann
Ms LAYLE Kathleen

EUROPEAN UNION (EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT)

Mr HÜSCHEN Ulrich
Mr ATZORI Paolo

ALBANIA - KUVENDI

Ms BUSHATI Lidra
Ms BALA Enkeleda

ANDORRA - CONSELL GENERAL

Ms CARBO NOGUES Meritxell

ARMENIA - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Ms ARAKELYAN Arpi

AUSTRIA PARLAMENT - BUNDESRAT

Ms DIETRICH-SCHULZ Elisabeth

AUSTRIA PARLAMENT - NATIONALRAT

Ms DIETRICH-SCHULZ Elisabeth
Mr KONRATH Christoph

AZERBAIJAN - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mr NAMAZOV MEHMAN

BELGIUM - OUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr GORIS Alberik

BELGIUM - SENAT

Ms DASSONVILLE Dominique
Mr VEYS Marc

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA - PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Ms BAJRAKTAREVIC Sena
Ms ANMRIJEVIC-KARIC Zaklina

BULGARIA - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Ms TSENKIN Venetta

CANADA - LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

Mr JACKSON Joseph

CROATIA - HRVATSKI SABOR

Ms MARTINCIC Branka
Ms NEJASMIC Anamarija

CYPRUS - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms ANASTASSIADOU Vassiliki
Ms SOLOMONIDOU Christiana
Ms MARANGOU D'AVERNAS Gabriella

CZECH REPUBLIC - CHANCELLORY OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

Mr VYKLICKY Robert
Mr CALETKA Stanislav
Mr TIKOVSKY Ondrej

CZECH REPUBLIC -SENAT

Ms KYSELOVA Sylva
Mr GRINC Jan

DENMARK - FOLKETINGET

Ms RASMUSSEN Hanne
Ms RINGVARD Christina

ESTONIA - RIIGIKOGU

Mr HABICHT Antero
Ms MUUL Margit

FINLAND - EDUSKUNTA

Mr RAUTAVA Antti
Mr PURSIANEN Jan-Henrik

**FRANCE - ASSEMBLEE
NATIONALE**

Mr PINON Xavier
Ms CHAPPOTTEAU Pensée

FRANCE - SENAT

Mr TICCHI Jean-Marc

GEORGIA - PARLIAMENT

Ms GETIA Nino
Ms MESKHISHVILI Marika

GERMANY - BUNDESRAT

Mr KOGGEL Claus
Ms GERZON Marina

GERMANY - BUNDESTAG

Ms BELL Ursula
Mr KERSTEN Mathias

**GREECE - VOULI TON
ELLINON**

Mr SOTIRELIS George
Ms PAPAIOANNOU Chara

**HUNGARY - NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY**

Ms KELEMEN Ida
Mr BUKVAI Zoltán

ICELAND - ALTHINGI

Mr GISLASON Viggo

**IRELAND - HOUSES OF THE
OIREACHTAS**

Ms COUSINS Charlotte
Ms McNAMARA Maedhbh

ISRAEL - KNESSET

Ms AVRAMI Shirley
Ms ZWEBNER Sarah

**ITALY - CAMERA DEI
DEPUTATI**

Mr FERRARI Annibale
Ms MONGUZZI Lorena

**ITALY - SENATO DELLA
REPUBBLICA**

Mr GIANNITI Luigi
Ms TEODORI Raissa

**LATVIA - LATVIJAS
REPUBLIKAS SAEIMA**

Ms LUKA-INDANE Ineta
Mr KAPENIEKS Janis

**LIECHTENSTEIN - LANDTAG
DES FÜRSTENTUMS
LIECHTENSTEIN**

Mr HILTI Josef
Ms WACHTER Gabriele
Maria

LITHUANIA - SEIMAS

Mr SINKEVICIUS Evaldas
Mr GRIKIENIS Rimantas

**LUXEMBOURG - CHAMBRE
DES DEPUTES**

Mr LINDEN Carlo
Mr FRIESEISEN Bob
Mr FAGNART Gaetan

**MALTA - HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES**

Ms SCERRI Eleanor

MOLDOVA - ASSEMBLY

Ms SEREBREANSCHI Irina
Ms GAMURAR Ecaterina

MONTENEGRO - PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO

Ms ULIC Jelena
Ms MILAJIC Sandra

MOROCCO - CHAMBRE DES REPRESENTANTS

Mr LOUKILI Sidi Mohamed

NETHERLANDS - EERSTE KAMER DER STATEN-GENERAAL

Mr WIJGERGANGS Giel

NETHERLANDS - TWEEDE KAMER DER STATEN-GENERAAL

Mr VAN RIJN Piet
Mr BAL Nico

NORWAY - STORTINGET

Mr REITE Dag Erlend
Ms SANDGRIND Gro

PALESTINE - PALESTINIAN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr HAMAD Anan H. A.
Mr SULAIMAN Bashar

POLAND - SEJM

Mr STASKIEWICZ Wieslaw

POLAND - SENAT

Ms NAWROCKA Ewa
Ms KORZENIOWSKA Danuta Malgorzata

PORTUGAL - ASSEMBLEIA DA REPUBLICA

Mr MARQUES Pereira Fernando
Ms MAULIDE Dalila

ROMANIA - CAMERA DEPUTATILOR

Mr MOCEAROV Andrei
Ms JULA Any-Mary

ROMANIA - SENAT

Ms TRUINEA Roxana
Ms RUSU Ioana

RUSSIA COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION

Mr KRIVOV Victor
Ms MOLOCHKOVA Elena
Mr SEMENOV Timur

RUSSIA DUMA

Mr SHUVALOV Yury E.
Ms ANDREEVA Irina

SAN MARINO - CONSIGLIO GRANDE E GENERALE

Ms GIARDI M. Antonella

SERBIA - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Ms OSTOJIC Tanja
Ms STEKOVIC Milana

SLOVAKIA - NATIONAL COUNCIL

Ms SVECOVA Natalia
Mr FAJTAK Lubomir

SLOVENIA - DRZAVNI SVET

Mr STRUS Dusan
Ms IVAS Ana
Ms OBREZA MODIC Eva

SLOVENIA - DRZAVNI ZBOR

Ms KRASOVEC Tatjana
Ms STARIC Marjana

SPAIN - CONGRESO DE LOS DIPUTADOS

Ms RIPOLLES SERRANO Maria Rosa

SPAIN - SENADO

Mr DORADO FRIAS Fernando
Ms FERNANDEZ Maria José

SWEDEN - RIKSDAG

Mr FORS Gunnar
Mr TRAVIS Robin

SWITZERLAND - BUNDESVERSAMMLUNG

Mr LEUTHOLD Jérémie
Mr HAYOZ Jean-Claude

"THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA" - SOBRANIE

Ms DIMOVSKA Marina
Mr ATANASOV Zlatko

TURKEY - THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mr YILDIZ Ahmet
Ms YAPICI KAYA Havvana

UKRAINE - VERKHOVNA RADA

Mr KOLISNYCHENKO Borys

UNITED KINGDOM - UK PARLIAMENT - HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr CRACKNELL Richard
Ms STURT Jenny

UNITED KINGDOM - UK PARLIAMENT - HOUSE OF LORDS

Mr VOLLMER Patrick
Mr PURVIS Matthew

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - CONGRESS

Ms MANNING Jennifer
Mr MANSFIELD Jerry

Comparative requests

Country	Chamber	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
	PACE					1		2	1	3	2	3	4	2	6	5	4	33
	AWEU										1		1					2
	EP	3	11	7	9	10	13	5	8	5	3	9	10	16	8	5	13	135
Albania	Kuvendi		1	1			1	4			2	1		1	3	12	10	36
Andorra	Consell General																	
Armenia	National Assembly					3	5	1	5	2					1	1	1	19
Austria	Parlament			1	3			2	4		4	2	2	3	3	4	1	29
Azerbaijan	National Assembly							1				1				1		3
Belgium	Chamber	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	22
	Senat	1		1				1		2	1	1	5	1	1		1	15
Bosnia-Herzegovina	House of Representatives				2	3	3	3	5	1	3	4	2	2	2	1	1	32
Bulgaria	National Assembly			1	5	3	1		4	4	2	12	5	10	3	4	7	61
Canada	Parliament										1	2	1	1	1	1		7
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor					2		1		2	3	1		9	9	9	8	44
Cyprus	House of Representatives		1		1	2	3	1		2	1	1	3	5	6	4	4	34
Czech Republic	Chamber			1	3	19	16	5	10	9	6	8	7	6	5	12	18	125
Czech Republic	Senate										2	1	1		1			5
Denmark	Folketinget			1	3	2	2	1	3	4	3		2	1	4	4	2	32

Country	Body																	Total
Estonia	**Riigikogu**			3	1	8	4	5	3	8	4	2	5	4	2	1	1	**51**
Finland	**Eduskunta**			1	3		5	2	2	4	3	3	4	2	4	4	3	**40**
France	**Assemblée nationale**				1	3	5	7	10	11	12	17	13	8	8	11	4	**110**
	Sénat								1		1			2	1	2	2	**9**
Georgia	**Parliament**				2	6	11	17	13	4	12	10	11	6	18	15	14	**139**
Germany	**Bundesrat**											1		1	1				**3**
	Bundestag	2	1	3	11	4	5	22	28	29	26	51	51	50	24	37	53	**397**
Greece	**Vouli ton Ellinon**					1	1	1	2	3	1	5	5	2	5	7	1	**34**
Hungary	**National Assembly**			1		2	4	1	5	12	11	6	10	9	9	11	5	**86**
Iceland	**Althingi**					1	2				1				1			**5**
Ireland	**Houses of the Oireachtas**	1						1	4	7	10	5	11	6	5	8	5	**63**
Israel	**Knesset**						4	8	9	10	9	9	10	11	10	6	7	**93**
Italy	**Camera dei Deputati**		1	3	3		1	1	1	2		1		2	3	2	1	**21**
	Senato	1		1		1	1	3	2	2				2	1		6	**20**
Latvia	**Saeima**				1	1		3	2	4	1		1	5	3	2	3	**26**
Liechtenstein	**Landtag**																	
Lithuania	**Seimas**			1	2	1	6	2	3	3	5	5	8	5	5	7	9	**62**
Luxembourg	**Chambre**												1				1	**2**
Malta	**Parliament**													3	1	1		**5**
Moldova	**National Assembly**					2		4	1	3		5	9	9	3	4	7	**47**
Monaco	**National Council**																	
Montenegro	**Parliament**											2	2	4	3	8	4	**23**
Netherlands	**Eerste Kamer**	1	1	1					1				2					**6**
	Tweede Kamer			1	4	9	10	9	6	7	8	4	4	8	6	4	1	**81**
Norway	**Stortinget**						2	3	11	2		6	2	4	3	5	3	**41**
Poland	**Sejm**			1	4	4	4	7	14	9	10	6	6	12	11	7	5	**100**
	Senat			2	3	2	2	5	8	1	3	1	1	5	4	1	2	**40**
Portugal	**Assembleia**			6	4	2	1	4	5	3	4	4	3	5	1	4	3	**49**
Romania	**Camera Deputalilor**		1				2	1	3	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	**33**
	Senat								1		2	6	8	2	4	1	8	**32**
Russia	**Duma**					1	2			1							1	**5**
	Federation Council			1	3	4	1	1		1	5		5	1	3	1	3	**29**

San Marino	Consiglio Grande e Generale																	
Serbia	National Assembly								3	2	3	4	3	12	7	5	6	45
Slovakia	National Council		2	4	9	8	12	7	5	6	10	7	19	10	16	21	18	154
Slovenia	National Council				1		1	1	3			1			1			8
	National Assembly		2	5	1	1	5	1	3	1	8	4	4	2	4	2	5	48
Spain	Congreso de los Diputados		3			1	2	1	1	3	1		2	4	4		1	23
	Senado				1	2	1	2	4	3		2					1	16
Sweden	Riksdag		2	3	8	17	11	11	13	16	18	10	18	19	16	5	20	187
Switzerland	Bundesversammlung					2	1	2	1	3	1	1		1	2	1	3	18
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Assembly				1		3	3	5	4	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	25
Turkey	The Grand National Assembly		1	1	2	4	4	7	5	6	5	4	7	7	5	6		64
Ukraine	Verkhovna Rada				2	1								1				4
United Kingdom	House of Commons		4	4		3	2	4	5	5	6	5	9	5	2	10	4	68
	House of Lords			2	1		1	1	1	3	1	2	1	2			1	16
United States of America	Congress								1	1	1		5	3	1			12
Total		10	33	58	96	138	161	177	224	219	223	243	286	297	254	268	287	2974

Replies to comparative requests[1]

NB: Please bear in mind that requests sometimes go only to a selection of parliaments and not to the entire ECPRD network

Country	Chamber	2000*	2001*	2002**	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
	PACE				2	10	9	3	22	16	12	12	20	30	22	6	10	**174**
	AWEU				2			1	11	1	3	2						**20**
	EP	2	2	10	12	14	15	26	34	39	38	29	35	38	38	21	20	**373**
Albania	Kuvendi		8	18	7	12	30	22	37	24	9	13	18	17	23	81	66	**385**
Andorra	Consell General							20	59	45	55	60	56	82	72	62	27	**538**
Armenia	National Assembly	1		4	5	18	36	25	35	19	4			2	4	1		**154**
Austria	Parlament	4	18	48	62	97	111	125	160	166	151	139	233	222	210	216	224	**2186**
Azerbaijan	National Assembly						3		7	11	6		2	4	4	15	11	**63**
Belgium	Chamber	5	13	43	53	77	112	100	142	147	154	139	190	196	180	158	183	**1892**
	Senat	6	23	62	60	69	102	100	127	160	165	149	136	149	153	152	160	**1773**
Bosnia-Herzegovina	House of Representatives			6	25	10	51	49	57	43	50	9	14	40	25	37	20	**436**
Bulgaria	National Assembly		6	13	43	50	55	8	71	93	122	95	57	35	41	39	16	**744**
Canada	Parliament					1						39	72	84	103	91	105	82	**577**
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor	2	12	39	29	56	65	58	91	77	90	84	86	99	120	179	180	**1267**

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[1] *Figures for 2000 and 2001 based on number of replies by date of request

** Figures since 2002 based on the date of publication of the reply (when put on the website). Activated was the filter "Select by date of publication of the replies (instead of date of the requests) "

Country	Chamber																	Total
Cyprus	House of Representatives		8	22	15	45	37	43	105	133	89	125	155	167	159	129	81	**1313**
Czech Republic	Chamber	2	7	20	27	56	79	46	124	113	127	117	122	147	142	135	158	**1422**
Czech Republic	Senate		3	13	16	35	41	33	49	46	39	38	39	36	44	11	25	**468**
Denmark	Folketinget	3	12	45	57	79	120	125	167	181	170	164	175	200	149	142	164	**1953**
Estonia	Riigikogu	2	12	31	50	90	116	112	143	159	161	162	188	200	187	190	195	**1998**
Finland	Eduskunta	5	17	51	65	103	117	126	168	186	183	182	208	226	192	204	212	**2245**
France	Assemblée nationale	5	22	50	49	69	68	21	67	170	147	146	212	240	209	216	228	**1919**
	Sénat	1	7	11	9	10	18	12	22	16	15	17	13	18	49	37	49	**304**
Georgia	Parliament	4	7	25	27	52	57	48	73	69	35	64	59	36	51	71	55	**733**
Germany	Bundesrat	2	13	34	34	44	68	47	54	163	154	149	174	181	200	214	211	**1742**
Germany	Bundestag	3	8	26	42	58	31	121	182	175	186	181	211	230	207	216	243	**2120**
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon	2	11	28	40	56	89	75	112	129	145	160	191	196	173	190	191	**1788**
Hungary	National Assembly	1	2	11	7	14	20	23	28	94	112	131	163	166	165	179	188	**1304**
Iceland	Althingi	1	6	18	15	25	60	32	55	55	62	65	68	76	55	58	53	**704**
Ireland	Houses of the Oireachtas	3	5	18	12	5	11	21	58	32	59	61	49	49	60	56	48	**547**
Israel	Knesset						48	46	38	48	50	38	55	58	61	52	46	**540**
Italy	Camera dei Deputati	2	10	36	31	63	91	106	165	179	180	192	220	211	180	154	143	**1963**
	Senato	4	19	47	47	77	89	106	158	175	150	164	224	211	188	171	138	**1968**
Latvia	Saeima	1	7	22	43	70	94	79	77	91	88	115	137	154	157	143	142	**1420**
Liechtenstein	Landtag					1		8	8	27	14	18	8	23	3	7	2	**119**
Lithuania	Seimas	1	4	17	28	63	86	87	96	150	139	153	171	173	180	187	178	**1713**
Luxembourg	Chambre	1		3	6	21	22	12	40	33	37	23	77	96	107	132	104	**714**
Malta	Parliament					1								15	3	2		**21**
Moldova	National Assembly	1	2	6	4	17	2	15	15	12	4	44	71	27	11	30	52	**313**
Monaco	National Council																	
Montenegro	Parliament											2	38	77	71	76	77	**341**
Netherlands	Eerste Kamer			2	31	14	15	7	40	74	70	53	48	43	21	39	45	**502**
	Tweede Kamer	4	11	37	45	27	50	79	118	135	104	135	184	186	155	159	157	**1586**
Norway	Stortinget	1	3	14	24	33	62	57	81	104	111	87	113	132	112	112	92	**1138**
Poland	Sejm	2	9	25	46	86	114	114	145	*156*	155	158	185	188	176	187	194	**1940**
	Senat	2	8	28	35	25	65	40	60	*59*	45	59	70	64	136	183	197	**1076**

Portugal	Assembleia	6	12	31	53	83	93	85	135	125	153	150	186	200	183	194	188	**1877**
Romania	Camera Deputalilor	2	2	8	14	21	18	44	112	140	142	142	153	140	151	157	149	**1395**
	Senat	1		3	3	1		10	63	36	7	15	28	27	28	29	57	**308**
Russia	Federation Council		3	8	11	20	26	7	37	35	28	36	24	55	83	73	55	**501**
	Duma		1	2	7	31	33	45	53	37	32	34	30	28	22	9	6	**370**
San Marino	Consiglio Grande																	
Serbia	National Assembly							27	81	72	51	68	50	50	69	87	76	**631**
Slovakia	National Council	1	5	24	39	88	105	104	135	150	143	142	166	169	161	168	185	**1785**
Slovenia	National Council	2	7	17	3	15	15	8	12	5	10	21	20	7	27	6	17	**192**
	National Assembly	2	6	27	33	62	81	78	85	92	132	110	124	162	118	152	152	**1416**
Spain	Congreso de los Diputados	1	14	24	18	50	49	56	74	62	94	113	186	205	182	198	196	**1522**
	Senado	3	21	56	56	89	56	42	65	60	72	90	100	59	68	70	73	**980**
Sweden	Riksdag	8	24	65	63	89	109	119	156	175	152	174	185	206	189	202	213	**2129**
Switzerland	Bundesversammlung	1	8	29	29	52	73	69	82	82	96	84	79	95	88	82	76	**1025**
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Assembly	1	2	10	23	55	65	54	81	77	82	80	75	77	25	28	37	**772**
Turkey	The Grand National Assembly	1	4	11	27	5	11	36	40	51	60	60	55	51	57	54	39	**562**
Ukraine	Verkhovna Rada	3	5	24	25	15	15	7	24	13	5	8	18	24	10	13	25	**234**
United Kingdom	House of Commons	8	24	66	68	96	125	147	184	190	184	186	213	206	161	161	175	**2194**
	House of Lords	4	12	29	30	43	45	17	47	40	14	23	70	176	98	162	136	**946**
United States of America	Congress					1	45	32	59	65	59	47	49	31	21	7	8	**424**
Total		**117**	**445**	**1317**	**1607**	**2469**	**3223**	**3165**	**4826**	**5312**	**5245**	**5389**	**6370**	**6811**	**6328**	**6606**	**6530**	**65760**

Final summaries to comparative requests

Country	Chamber	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
	PACE		1		1		1	1		2	2		2	3	13
	AWEU								1						1
	EP	1	5	7	3	4	3	3	7	5	9	2	2	4	55
Albania	Kuvendi													3	3
Andorra	Consell General														
Armenia	National Assembly														
Austria	Parlament	2			1	4		3	1	2	2	2	2	2	21
Azerbaijan	National Assembly														
Belgium	Chambre	2	3	1	1		1		1	1	3	1	1		15
	Senat				1		1	1	1		3	1	1		9
Bosnia-Herzegovina	House of Representatives				1	1		3				1			6
Bulgaria	National Assembly					1									1
Canada	Parliament									1					1
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor						1	3	1		7	2	6	10	30
Cyprus	House of Representatives													1	1
Czech Republic	Chamber			3			1		1	3		1		4	13
Czech Republic	Senate														
Denmark	Folketinget										1				1
Estonia	Riigikogu					1	5	2		3	2		1	1	15
Finland	Eduskunta	1				1	1	2	1			1	1		8
France	Assemblée nationale	2		1			1				1	1			6
	Sénat													1	1
Georgia	Parliament								1		1		1	1	4
Germany	Bundesrat						1	2			1			1	5
	Bundestag				1	2	2	4	10	8	2	1	4	18	52
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon						1	1	1	3		4		2	12
Hungary	National Assembly				1	1	1						7	3	13
Iceland	Althingi														

Ireland	Oireachtas						4	4	8	3	4	2	1	**26**
Israel	Knesset				1	3	3	1	4			2	1	**15**
Italy	Camera dei Deputati									1	1			**2**
	Senato				1	1	2	2		1				**7**
Latvia	Saeima		1		1					1	2	1		**6**
Liechtenstein	Landtag													
Lithuania	Seimas							1		1				**2**
Luxembourg	Chambre								1					**1**
Malta	Parliament													
Moldova	National Assembly				1				7	1			4	**13**
Monaco	National Council													
Montenegro	Parliament													
Netherlands	Eerste Kamer								1					**1**
	Tweede Kamer		1		1					1		2		**5**
Norway	Stortinget			1		1			1					**3**
Poland	Sejm			3	2	5	6	1	1	8	1			**27**
	Senat			1		1	2	1		3	1	2	2	**13**
Portugal	Assembleia						2	2		2		1	1	**8**
Romania	Camera Deputalilor			2	1	2		4	3	3	1	1		**17**
	Senat													
Russia	Duma													
	Federation Council								2	1	1	1	1	**6**
San Marino	Consiglio Grande													
Serbia	National Assembly						1	2	1			1		**5**
Slovakia	National Council	1	1			2	2		4					**10**
Slovenia	National Council										1			**1**
	National Assembly			2	1	1	3	4	3	2	1	3	3	**23**
Spain	Congreso			1				1	2	1	5		1	**11**
	Senado						1	1					1	**3**
Sweden	Riksdag		1		3	3	11	5	12	10	9	5	12	**71**
Switzerland	Bundesversammlung			1		2	1	1		1		1		**7**
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Assembly								2	1		1		**4**

Country	Body														Total
Turkey	**National Assembly**				2		1	2	2	1	1	1	4		**14**
Ukraine	**Verkhovna Rada**														
United Kingdom	**House of Commons**			1	3	5	5	4	4	1		1			**24**
	House of Lords						1	1	1		1		1		**5**
United States of America	**Congress**					1		1		2		1			**5**
Total		**9**	**13**	**20**	**26**	**38**	**51**	**70**	**61**	**80**	**71**	**47**	**54**	**81**	**621**

Annex 4. Attendance at ECPRD Seminars 2014 – 2015

Event	Number of participants
Structures and Procedures with Regard to the Code of Conduct for MPs and with Regard to the Integrity of Parliamentary Staff (Area of Interest Parliamentary Procedure and Practice) **Skopje, Assembly of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", 8-9 May 2014**	51 from 34 parliamentary chambers
Stenographic Records: 'Hansard' in the 21st Century (Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives) **Ljubljana, National Assembly, 5-6 June 2014**	51 from 27 parliamentary chambers
Parliaments on the Net XII "From e-Parliament to smart-Parliament: How to improve citizen's participation using web technologies and Social Media? And how can parliamentary rules of procedure support transparency and participation?" (Areas of Interest Parliamentary Procedure and Practice and Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments) **Rome, Camera dei deputati and Senato della Repubblica, 12-13 June 2014**	97 from 41 parliamentary chambers
Growing income inequality and democratic stability (Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs) **London, House of Commons, 5-6 June 2014**	35 from 30 parliamentary chambers
Seminar 'The e-Parliament in action: best practices about ICT strategic planning, information security, mobility and cloud computing (Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments) **Podgorica, Parliament of Montenegro, 6-7 November 2014**	36 from 25 parliamentary chambers
Seminar 'Communication, digitalisation of processes and transparency in Parliaments' (Parli@ments on the Net XIII) (Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments) **Brussels, European Parliament, 16-17 April 2015**	89 from 36 parliamentary chambers
Seminar 'Some crucial issues for Parliaments in Europe: fiscal policy towards boosting accountability, social security and technological progress' (Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs)	52 from 30 parliamentary chambers

Warsaw, Polish Senate, 28-29 May 2015	
Seminar 'Libraries and research services serving openness and transparency of parliament' (Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives) Budapest, **Hungarian Parliament, 24-25 September 2015**	68 from 36 parliamentary chambers
Seminar 'Public involvement in the procedure of the drafting and enactment of laws' (Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure) **Zagreb, Croatian Parliament, 11-12 June 2015**	51 from 33 parliamentary chambers
'The practicalities Seminar, advantages and disadvantages of unicameral and bicameral parliamentary systems' (Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure) **The Hague, Eerste and Tweede Kamer, 5-6 November 2015**	50 from 25 parliamentary chambers
Seminar "e-Parliament ICT services from everywhere and at any time: New challenges and projects" (Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments) **Ankara, Grand National Assembly of Turkey, 5-6 November 2015**	53 from 32 parliamentary chambers
Total	**633 participants**