

**CENTRE EUROPEEN DE RECHERCHE ET DE
DOCUMENTATION PARLEMENTAIRES**



**EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR PARLIAMENTARY
RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION**

**EUROPÄISCHES ZENTRUM FÜR PARLAMENTARISCHE
WISSENSCHAFT UND DOKUMENTATION**

ECPRD

ACTIVITY REPORT

MARCH 2008 - MARCH 2010

This document is available in English, French and German.

The text was completed in April 2010.

It has been published jointly by the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The contents of this publication do not necessarily represent the official views of these institutions.

.

Contents

1. Contacts
2. Introduction by the Co-Directors
3. What is the ECPRD
 - 3.1. How did it all start ?
 - 3.2. Who are the members ?
 - 3.3. How is the ECPRD run ?
 - 3.4. How is it financed ?
4. Annual Programmes
 - 4.1. ECPRD Programme 2008
 - 4.2. ECPRD Programme 2009
 - 4.3. ECPRD Programme 2010
 - 4.4. ECPRD Draft Programme 2011
5. ECPRD Activities 2008-2009
 - 5.1. General
 - 5.2. The evolution of comparative requests
 - 5.3. Meeting of the Secretaries General of ECPRD parliaments, Strasbourg 23 May 2008
 - 5.4. Areas of Interest
 - 5.5. The Executive Committee
 - 5.6. Correspondents and Deputy Correspondents
 - 5.7. EUROVOC
6. The ECPRD website
7. ECPRD publications
8. Annexes
 - Annex 1.* Statutes ECPRD
 - Annex 2.* List of ECPRD Correspondents and Deputy-Correspondents
 - Annex 3.* Statistics of comparative requests, of replies and of final comparative summaries 2003 - 2009
 - Annex 4.* Titles of comparative requests 2008 - 2009
 - Annex 5.* Attendance at ECPRD Seminars 2008 – March 2010
 - Annex 6.* Guidelines for Comparative Requests and Studies
 - Annex 7.* Guidelines for the organisation of Seminars
 - Annex 8.* ECPRD Co-ordinator tasks and duties
 - Annex 9.* Tasks and responsibilities of Correspondents
 - Annex 10.* Guidelines on Honorary Association with the ECPRD
 - Annex 11.* Minutes of Annual Conferences of Correspondents, Brussels 2008 and Bratislava 2009

1. Contacts

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
Ms Christine Verger (ECPRD Co-Director 2009 -) European Parliament Rue Wiertz, 60 B - 1047 BRUSSELS (+ 32) 2 284 46 61 christine.verger@europarl.europa.eu Mr Ulrich Hüschen (ECPRD Co-Secretary and Webmaster) European Parliament Rue Wiertz, 60 B - 1047 BRUSSELS (+ 32) 2 284 48 70 Fax (+ 32) 2 284 90 05 ulrich.hueschen@europarl.europa.eu	Mr Wojciech Sawicki (ECPRD Co-Director) Council of Europe Avenue de l'Europe F - 67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX (+ 33) 388 41 36 30 wojciech.sawicki@coe.int Mr Mario Heinrich (ECPRD Co-Secretary) Council of Europe Avenue de l'Europe F - 67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX (+ 33) 388 41 20 97 Fax (+ 33) 390 21 55 80 mario.heinrich@coe.int

Members of the Executive Committee

Ms Christine Verger (ECPRD Co-Director 2009 -) European Parliament Rue Wiertz, 60 B - 1047 BRUSSELS (+ 32) 2 284 46 61 christine.verger@europarl.europa.eu Mr Piotr Nowina-Konopka (ECPRD Co-Director 2007 - 2009) European Parliament Rue Wiertz, 60 B - 1047 BRUSSELS (+ 32) 2 284 21 72 piotr.nowinakonopka@europarl.europa.eu Mr Robert Clements House of Commons GB - LONDON SW1A 0AA (+ 4420) 7219 3622 clements@parliament.uk Ms Siiri Sillajoe Chancellery of the Riigikogu Lossi Plats 1a EST - 15165 TALLINN (+ 372) 631 65 05 siiri.sillajoe@riigikogu.ee Mr Borys Kolisnychenko (2006 - 2009) Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine 5 Hrushevskoho Str. KYIV - 8 UKRAINE 01008 (+ 380 44) 255 27 92 kolisnychenko@rada.gov.ua Ms Anna Okruhlicova (2009 -) Narodna rada Slovenskej republiky SK - 812 80 BRATISLAVA (+ 421 2) 59.72.28.60 Anna.Okruhlicova@nrsk.sk	Mr Wojciech Sawicki (ECPRD Co-Director) Council of Europe Avenue de l'Europe F - 67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX (+ 33) 388 41 36 30 wojciech.sawicki@coe.int Mr Jean-Pierre Bloch (2006 - 2009) Assemblée Nationale Palais Bourbon F - 75355 PARIS 07 SP (+ 33) 1 40 63 43 11 jpbloch@assemblee-nationale.fr Mr Gunnar Fors (2008 -) Sveriges Riksdag SE - 100 12 STOCKHOLM (+ 46 8) 786 6663 gunnar.fors@riksdagen.se Mr Italo Scotti (2009 -) Camera dei Deputati Piazza Montecitorio IT - 00186 ROMA (+ 39 06) 67.60.34.10 scotti_i@camera.it
---	--

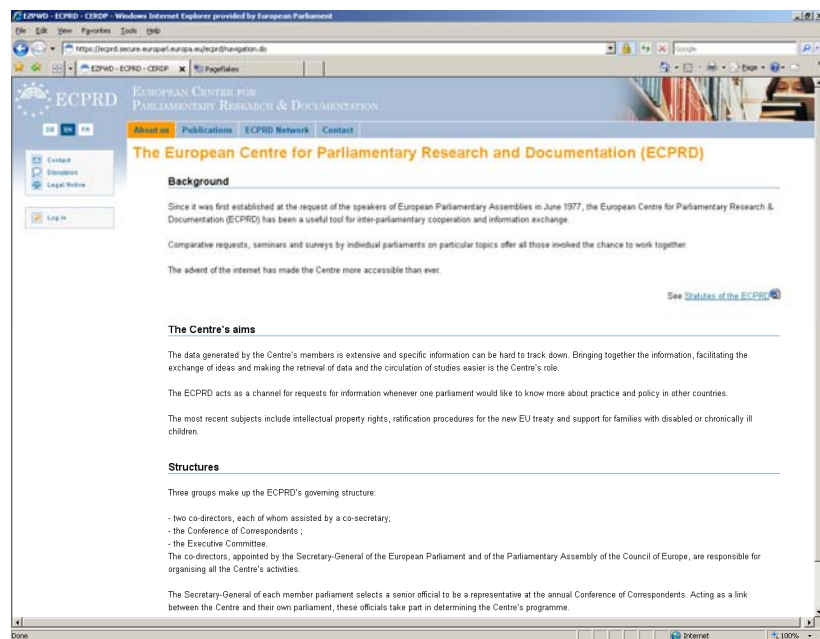
AREAS OF INTEREST	
ICT in Parliaments	
COORDINATOR	Mr Carlo Simonelli (2010 -) Camera dei Deputati Piazza Montecitorio IT - 00186 ROMA (+ 39 06) 67 601) simonelli_c@camera.it Mr Joao Viegas Abreu (2007 - 2009) Assembleia da República Portugal
Economic Research	
COORDINATOR	Mr Kjell Torbiörn Council of Europe Avenue de l'Europe F - 67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX (+ 33) 388 41 21 20 kjell.torbiorn@coe.int
Parliamentary Practice and Procedure	
COORDINATOR	Mr Marc Van Der Hulst Chambre des Représentants Palais de la Nation B - 1008 BRUXELLES (+ 32) 2 549 80 71 marc.vanderhulst@dekamer.be
Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives	
COORDINATOR	Ms Elisabeth Dietrich-Schulz Austrian Parliament Parlamentsdirektion Dr.Karl Renner-Ring 3 A - 1017 WIEN (+ 43 1) 401 10 28 19 elisabeth.dietrich-schulz@parlament.gv.at

ECPRD Website

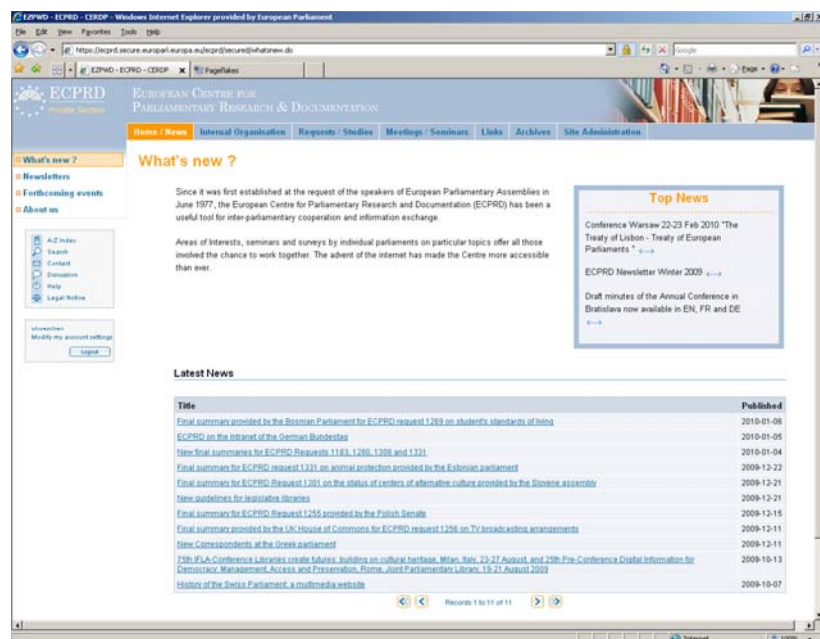
www.ecprd.org or www.ecprd.europarl.europa.eu

Email: ecprd@europarl.europa.eu

Public site



Private section



2. Introduction by the Co-Directors

During the period covered in this report – March 2008 to March 2010 – Europe has seen many changes, within its borders and outside of them. To mention just a few: the near collapse of the world's financial system - rescued only through a massive infusion of public money, and the struggle is not yet over; the consolidation of the European Union in its 27-member state configuration, with membership negotiations under way with Croatia, Turkey and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”; the entry into force of the EU's Lisbon Treaty after many hurdles; the holding of a historic climate change conference in Copenhagen, alas missing the strong European imprint we had hoped for but still paving the way for more resolute action down the road; and, finally, the coming entry into force, after lengthy complications, of Protocol 14 to the Council of Europe's European Convention on Human Rights, opening a pathway to a much needed reform of that Convention's application.

Among the key characteristics that can be garnered from the above cable-style enumeration of developments – and this holds also for an ECPRD centrally involved in and concerned by them via its component parliaments – are concepts like challenges, opportunities, perseverance, patience and a readiness to try anew even after setbacks.

Take the Lisbon Treaty. It offers national parliaments new opportunities to influence EU legislation via “subsidiary monitoring” and the much richer flow of information that is now becoming obligatory from various EU institutions. At the same time the Lisbon Treaty presents national parliaments with new challenges for existing institutions, as bodies such as COSAC, IPEX and the representations of national parliaments to EU bodies will have to learn to live with the Treaty's new provisions. The ECPRD itself will inevitably see its workload increase and change in content, as a result of the closer interaction between national parliament and EU bodies – and in particular the European Parliament - that will follow from the Treaty.

Meanwhile, the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly are dealing gingerly with the one European country still out in the cold, namely Belarus. On 23 June 2009 the Parliamentary Assembly decided to “call on its Bureau to lift the suspension of special guest status for the Parliament of Belarus after a moratorium on the execution of the death penalty is decreed by the competent Belarusian authorities”. Once this special guest status is reestablished for the Belarus parliament, it will be able to join the ECPRD as an observer. Observer status would, in the words of the ECPRD's statutes (Art. 3.1.), give the Belarusian parliament the right to “participate in the different activities of the ECPRD” but not to vote in its bodies.

The period of March 2006 - March 2008 saw a strong increase in the number of questionnaires and replies channelled through the ECPRD by its component parliaments - this being one of the ECPRD's central tasks. Such was the increase that our Executive Committee felt it had to try to stem the flow of questionnaires somewhat in order to avoid overly burdening already strained parliamentary staff. This seems to have had an effect. Thus, the number of questionnaires - which had risen from 278 in 2004-2005 to 400 in 2006-2007 - remained at a relatively steady 440 in the period 2008-2009. Let us hope this stabilisation continues. The ECPRD has repeatedly pointed to the need for those who present questionnaires to first make sure that similar queries have not been made previously, and to keep questions - and for that matter answers - as clear and succinct as possible.

Similarly welcome is the fact that the number of replies to these questionnaires - which had risen from close to 6,000 in 2004-2005 to over 8,000 in 2006-2007 - rose a further 2,000, to over 10,000, in the period in review, namely 2008-2009, signifying an increase of 25 per cent. This is most gratifying, for it shows a clear wish on the part of correspondents and those around them to satisfy the requests. Perhaps it also reflects a development where the questions asked are even more relevant and hence more attractive for the addressees to answer.

The period under review (March 2008 – March 2010) has seen many activities start up and reach fruition. Thus, a total of 10 seminars were held in locations as varied as Madrid, Vienna, Strasbourg, Frankfurt, Copenhagen, Ljubljana, Lisbon, Bern, London, Rome and Paris. The events in question benefited from a wide variety of speakers from within and outside parliamentary life. In addition, Executive Committee meetings were held in Strasbourg, Lisbon, Brussels and Rome. Furthermore, two Annual Conferences of Correspondents took place: in Brussels in 2008 and in Bratislava in 2009.

Moreover, the ECPRD website has undergone major improvements during the period in question, thanks to the dedicated work of the staff members concerned.

It is our belief, then, that the ECPRD has fully continued to live up to its mandate, which is to promote knowledge and exchanges among participating parliaments and to further personal contacts and friendships among the staffs of parliamentary administrations across Europe. In fulfilling these missions, the ECPRD tries to make a tangible contribution to the continent's peace, prosperity and further development. It goes about its work with an organisational structure and working methods that are straightforward, transparent and flexible. We are particularly appreciative of the constant support we receive from the Secretaries General of the ECPRD parliaments and by our Correspondents. Ultimately, the ECPRD's success depends on their input and guidance.

One of the undersigned, Christine Verger, in December 2009 had the honour of succeeding the departing Piotr Nowina-Konopka as new ECPRD Co-Director on behalf of the European Parliament a post which Mr Nowina-Konopka had occupied since December 2006. We thank Piotr for his major contribution to the ECPRD's work during this time and wish him every possible success in his new distinguished function as the Director of the European Parliament's Liaison Office with the US Congress in Washington D.C.

It must be rare for a 33-year old institution to have someone still working with it who was there at its origin. But this is indeed the case with the ECPRD - that is to say, up until September 2010. For then our much esteemed, indeed beloved, colleague and ECPRD Co-Secretary on the Parliamentary Assembly side - Mario Heinrich - will go into well-deserved retirement, after starting out in assisting the ECPRD at its beginning in 1977. Mario has a truly encyclopedic knowledge of ECPRD affairs – to which should be added all matters related to the Parliamentary Assembly, the Council of Europe and Europe in general. There are so many of us who have Mario Heinrich to thank for so much: his constant readiness to lend a helping hand, his humour, idealism and loyalty to his innumerable friends in the ECPRD and elsewhere, and his wide-ranging culture as exemplified in his great love of opera. We will miss Mario profoundly, but look forward to staying in regular touch with him.

In conclusion, it is our hope that the present Activity Report, which will be presented to the Secretaries General at the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament to be held in Cyprus on 11 and 12 June 2010, will meet with their endorsement.

Christine Verger
Co-Director
European Parliament

Wojciech Sawicki
Co-Director
Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe

3. What is the ECPRD ?

3.1. *How did it all start ?*

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. At its meeting in Madrid in 1980, the Conference expressed the desire that the ECPRD should work for and with all parliamentary assemblies and that national parliaments should authorise their services to participate actively in the activities of the Centre. The dramatic political events of 1989 in central and eastern Europe, combined with the information technology revolution, led to a period of rapid evolution which was reflected in the adoption of a new action programme for the Centre by the Conference in The Hague in 1994. The trend towards more interaction and greater reliance on cooperative organisations such as the ECPRD was amongst the subjects on the agenda at the meeting in Budapest in 1996, including the new Statutes and objectives of the Centre. The Conference in Stockholm in June 1998 confirmed the importance of the ECPRD in maintaining links between officials of national parliaments. Whereas the Conference in Strasbourg in May 2000 focused particularly on the use of new technologies to increase parliamentary cooperation, discussions between the Speakers of EU parliaments in Rome in September 2000 and subsequent meetings of the Secretaries-General in March and November 2001, highlighted the role which a strengthened ECPRD might play in the field of legislative cooperation on EU matters.

This initiative developed in the ensuing years into a formal project called IPEX (Inter-parliamentary EU Information Exchange) at which an increasing number of EU parliaments participated. The IPEX project benefited initially from the structure of the ECPRD, as it was hosted on ECPRD website until its final official launch in 2007. However, ECPRD remains an associate member of the IPEX Board.

At the Speakers' Conference and meeting of the Secretaries General of ECPRD parliaments which convened in Zagreb in May 2002, the overall mission of the Centre was reaffirmed and attention was drawn to the wide range of its activities. In fact it was deemed necessary to appoint Deputy-Correspondents for each parliament to increase the efficiency of the network.

At the May 2004 Conference of Speakers and Secretaries General, the decision was taken to modify the ECPRD statute. This was deemed necessary because the existing statutes were the ones drawn up in 1996 and therefore in need of revision due to the "Big Bang" enlargement of the European Union in 2004 and the continuing enlargement over the years of the Council of Europe, which today has all of 47 member states. The new Statute was adopted by the meeting of Secretaries General in Tallinn on 31 May 2006. Its text can be found in Annex 1 to this report.

3.2. *Who are the members ?*

The European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Security and Defence Assembly (ESDA) / WEU Assembly and all parliaments of member states or special guests at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe are members. For parliaments with two chambers, each chamber is a member in its own right.

Parliaments outside Europe which wish to cooperate in the work of the Centre are also welcome. At present the Centre has 47 member countries and four guest or observer countries, together with three international parliaments. This results in more than 70 parliamentary assemblies which may participate in the activities of the ECPRD.

3.3. How is the ECPRD run ?

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. Correspondents are appointed by Secretaries General of their respective parliaments. Secretaries General may also appoint Deputy Correspondents. An overview of various tasks and responsibilities of Correspondents can be found in Annex 9 to this Report.

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. The working languages of the Centre are English, French and German.

Currently, the Co-Directors are Ms Christine Verger (European Parliament) and Mr Wojciech Sawicki (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe). The Co-Secretaries are Mr Ulrich Hüschen (European Parliament) and Mr Mario Heinrich (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe).

3.4. How is it financed ?

The ECPRD has neither an 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 finances certain 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 and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to ensure participation in seminars and meetings.

4. Annual Programmes

4.1. **ECPRD Programme 2008**

Title	Place	Date
Meeting of the Executive Committee and Coordinators	Tallinn	7 March
Seminar "Parliament, Independent Agencies and Public Sector Companies" (<i>Area of Interest: Parliamentary Practice and Procedure</i>)	Madrid	18 - 19 April
Meeting of the Secretaries General (in the framework of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments)	Strasbourg	23 May
Seminar "Parliamentary Libraries: Sharing Knowledge" (<i>Area of Interest: Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives</i>)	Vienna	29 - 30 May
Meeting of the Executive Committee and Coordinators	Strasbourg	5 September
Seminar "The European Central Bank in a New European and World Economy" (<i>Area of Interest: Macroeconomic Research</i>)	Strasbourg and Frankfurt	11 - 12 September
Annual Conference of Correspondents	Brussels, European Parliament	9 - 11 October
ECPRD Seminar "Designing Specific IT Solutions for Members of Parliament and Parliaments" (<i>Area of Interest: ICT in Parliaments</i>)	Copenhagen	29 - 31 October

4.2. **ECPRD Programme 2009**

Title	Place	Date
Meeting of the Executive Committee and Coordinators	Lisbon	5 March
Seminar "Control of a Parliament over State Budgetary Spending / The Financial Autonomy of a Parliament" (<i>a joint project of the Areas of Interest: Macroeconomic Research and Parliamentary Practice and Procedure</i>)	Ljubljana	27 - 28 March
Seminar "Parliaments on the Net VII - How to bring parliament closer to the citizens through the use of the Internet" (<i>Area of Interest: ICT in Parliaments</i>)	Lisbon	28 - 29 May
Seminar "Press Services for Members of Parliament" (<i>Area of Interest: Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives</i>)	Bern	18 - 19 June
Meeting of the Executive Committee and Coordinators	Brussels	11 September
Seminar "Research and information for Parliaments – new challenges, new opportunities" (<i>Area of Interest: Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives</i>)	London	17 - 18 September
Annual Conference of Correspondents	Bratislava	8 - 10 October
Seminar "Advanced IT services for MPs, Citizens and Parliamentary Cooperation" (<i>Area of Interest: ICT in Parliaments</i>)	Rome	26 - 27 November

4.3 Outlook: ECPRD Programme 2010
(see also the document "priorities and programme 2010 - 2011")

Title	Place	Date
Meeting of the Executive Committee and Coordinators	Rome	5 March
Seminar "Lessons from the Current Financial and Economic Crisis: A Parliamentary Research Stock-Taking" (<i>Area of Interest: Economic Research</i>)	Paris	26 March
Seminar "Parli@ments on the Net VIII – On the brink of the third generation" (<i>Area of Interest: ICT in Parliaments</i>)	The Hague	6 - 7 May
Seminar "Opposition Rights and Responsibilities" (<i>Area of Interest: Parliamentary Practice and Procedure</i>)	Oslo	20 - 21 May
Seminar "Services provided to the General Public by Parliamentary Libraries and Archives" (<i>Area of Interest: Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives</i>)	Athens	28 - 29 May
Meeting of Secretaries General of Parliament (in the framework of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament)	Limassol, Cyprus	12 June
Meeting of the Executive Committee and Coordinators	Vienna	17 September
Annual Conference of Correspondents	Ankara	14 - 16 October
Seminar IT in Parliaments (<i>Area of Interest: ICT in Parliaments</i>)	Bucharest	18 -19 November

4.4. ECPRD Draft Programme 2011

Title	Place	Date
Meeting of the Executive Committee and Coordinators		March
Seminar on parliamentary history (<i>Area of Interest: Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives</i>)	Berlin	Spring
Seminar IT in Parliaments (<i>Area of Interest: ICT in Parliaments</i>)	Athens	Autumn
Meeting of the Executive Committee and Coordinators		September
Annual Conference of Correspondents	Stockholm	13 – 15 October

5. ECPRD Activities 2008 – 2009

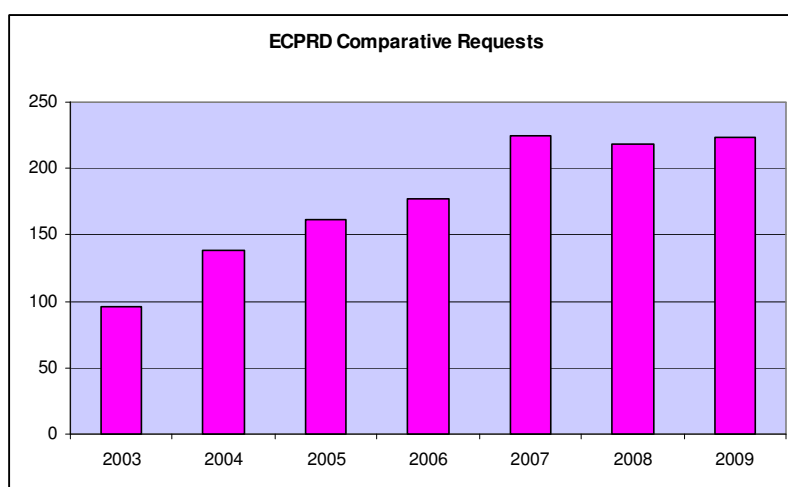
5.1. *General*

The chapters below will provide evidence that ECPRD has reached a level of maturity in the period under review. The number of requests has stabilized on a high level and underlines thus the unbroken commitment of member parliaments. Seminars have been organised successfully on topical issues and were attended by a large number of officials. Thanks to the European Parliament the website has been re-designed from scratch and turned into a well-accepted platform for information exchange.

Furthermore, the network of Correspondents has been completed by nominations from Monaco, Montenegro and Canada. More and more parliamentary chambers have appointed Deputy-Correspondents in order to deal better with the increase of Comparative Requests.

5.2. *The evolution of comparative requests*

The so-called Comparative Requests have become a key feature of ECPRD activities. Since 2003 their number has more than doubled, illustrating that this service has filled a lacuna in the exchange of information among parliaments. Several factors explain this success. Firstly, there is no alternative to such sources of information and communication channels in Europe. Secondly, ICT tools like email and web technologies very much facilitate the information flow between parliamentary chambers in Europe.



The Table above demonstrates the strong increase in requests between 2003 and 2007. Since the latter date the number of requests has stabilized around an average of 220 per year, or about one per working day. In other words, ECPRD requests connect parliaments in Europe on a daily basis.

By the same token, this last figure may reflect the maximum that can realistically be treated by ECPRD members. It should not be forgotten that Correspondents in many cases will have to contact other services and state bodies outside the parliament in order to obtain the information sought. This takes time and perhaps also some persuasion and may thus in practice limit the number of requests that can be properly handled.

However, the real workload in responding cannot be seen simply via the number of requests, especially if these become more complex over time. Such information cannot be readily found on the Internet.

Correspondents have several options when choosing a target group for their request:

Requests by target groups				
	2004 - 2005	2006 - 2007	2008	2009
Requests to all countries	50,5 %	40 %	39 %	42 %
Requests to the EU countries	25 %	27,5 %	37 %	32 %
Requests to selected countries	19,5 %	32,5 %	24 %	26 %

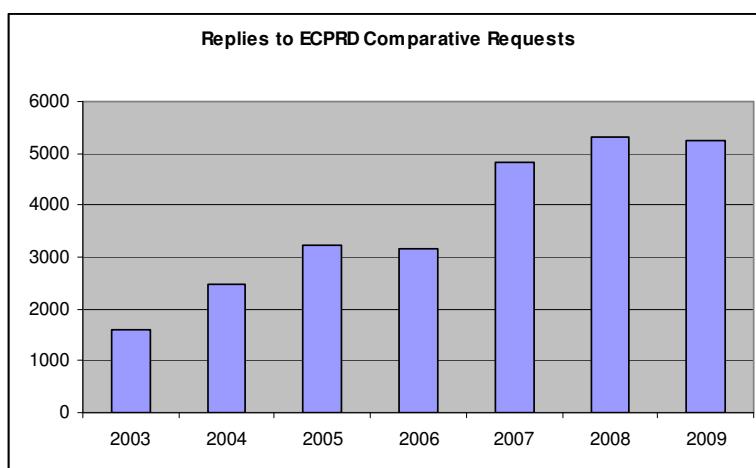
The ECPRD service becomes possible when a minimum of four countries are targeted. It does not replace more individual queries between parliamentary chambers. Not surprisingly, the share of requests for EU countries has increased over the years as today a majority of ECPRD members are from EU countries. The figures do not allow any more detailed identification of trends, even though they do show a rather stable distribution as among the different types of requests.

The database does not as of yet offer the option of classifying the requests by detailed descriptors. Only a very approximate analysis of requests by subject is therefore possible. It is clear, however, that requests focus increasingly on legislative rather than on parliamentary matters, reflecting the strong need for comparative legislative information in national law-making. Indirectly, the figures also reveal the lack of alternative sources of information. Databases and the Web are not yet capable of matching the exchange of personal expertise in the field of comparative legislative information, so the ECPRD clearly maintains its *raison d'être*.

Requests by subject matters		
	2008	2009
Parliamentary practice and procedures (including MPs, inter-institutional and constitutional matters)	36 %	34 %
National legislation and policies	57 %	59 %
Others	7 %	7 %

Overall, the Guidelines for Comparative Requests are respected in regard to model replies, the call for questions to be clear and providing background information. Sometimes deadlines are set rather tight, but then this may well reflect the needs of the clients of questioners rather than insufficient planning on the part of questioners themselves. Similarly, Correspondents do their utmost to provide replies within deadlines. Still, on several occasion it was pointed out that too tight deadlines could adversely affect the quality and quantity of replies.

The number of replies to Comparative Requests follows the same trend as requests, that is, a strong increase between 2003 and 2007, followed by a stabilisation on a very high level. Today, over 5000 replies per year are provided by ECPRD Correspondents.



This is a clear indicator of the commitment by parliaments to share information with their counterparts.

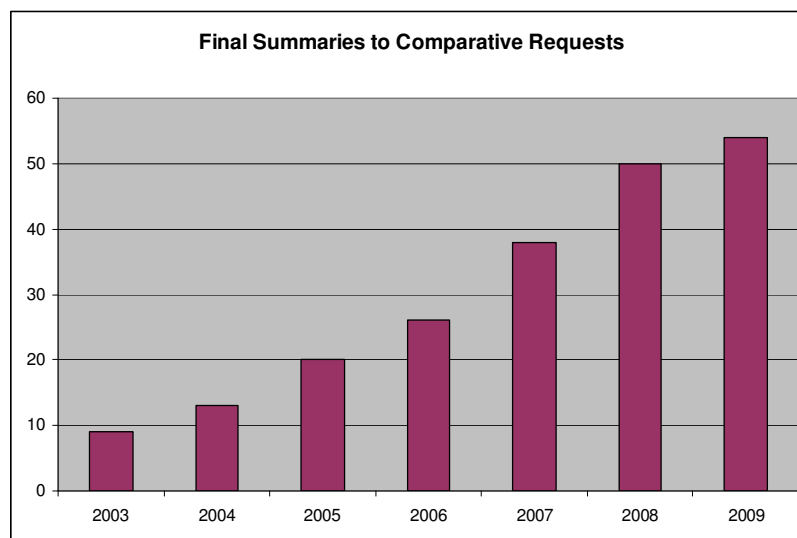
This high responsiveness can be seen as a clear achievement over the past years. Maintaining it and the use it yields to users will be key challenges for the future.

Sample evidence from the database shows that all requests are answered by a high percentage of chambers. The requesting chamber thereby gains a clear picture of the situation in other countries.

The Database of Comparative Requests at the end of 2009 included a total of 1237 requests and 25848 replies. It is therefore a unique source of information. The database is not accessible to the public outside the ECPRD framework and therefore offers a privileged forum for the exchange of information. It allows the search for earlier requests and helps to avoid duplication of effort.

The database is updated daily, a work which is a top priority for the ECPRD Secretariat. The improvement of the workflow for requests represents a major IT development. It is now possible for Correspondents to submit requests via the website. This enhances transparency. The time needed for the Secretariat to send out a request has been reduced significantly as a result of IT improvements.

Furthermore, the number of final summaries has increased significantly over the years, from only 9 in 2003 to 50 in 2008. The slight increase to 54 in 2009 is likely to be changed as new reports will be published in 2010 that refer to requests made in 2009. Still, less than a quarter of requests come complete with a final analysis, despite the requirement for this in the Guidelines for Comparative Requests. This low figure is not likely to change in the near future. Perhaps one reason is the workload involved in preparing such summaries; another might be that the political instances in the chambers concerned may be reluctant to publish a separate report. It should be added that it is not mandatory to produce a final summary in one of the ECPRD working languages.



A template for final summaries combining the logo of the chamber and of ECPRD is available on the ECPRD website.

More detailed figures on requests, replies and summaries, with a breakdown by Chamber, can be found in the annex. This table should in no way be seen as a “ranking instrument” as regards the commitment of single chambers. Each chamber contributes according to its ability and resources.

5.3. Meeting of the Secretaries General of ECPRD parliaments, Strasbourg 23 May 2008

The ECPRD Activity Report for the 2006-2008 period was approved. The Secretaries General expressed their appreciation of the report's comprehensive and logical structure, and of the Centre's capacity to form – in spite of its limited resources and infrastructure - an efficient system for the exchange of information among parliaments in Europe.

The Secretaries General agreed that the exchange of information among parliaments should remain the main task of the ECPRD. They were impressed by the growing number of comparative requests and replies, but cautioned against the risk of the system's falling victim to its own success in the event that the number of requests came to surpass the capacity to respond efficiently. The existing Guidelines for comparative requests should therefore be scrupulously respected, including as regards deadlines for replies and the preparation of comparative summaries. Secretaries General also insisted on the timely publication of reports from seminars.

The Secretaries General approved the Priorities for the Centre for years 2008-2009 which were:

1. To develop further the exchange of information via the procedure of comparative requests, and this in full respect of existing guidelines, and more particularly:
 - to encourage a higher readiness to respond to requests;
 - to increase substantially the number of comparative summary reports produced by the requesting chambers;
 - to assure timely publication of replies and summary reports on the ECPRD website.
2. To develop the exchange of information in the four Areas of Interest where Coordinators have been nominated (Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives; Information and Communication Technology in Parliaments; Parliamentary Practice and Procedure, Macroeconomic Research), in particular via thematic pages and "Forums" on the ECPRD website.
3. To continue to organise seminars for parliamentary staff on subjects of common interest on the basis of proposals made by national parliaments. To ensure timely publication of reports from seminars.
4. To develop further the ECPRD website so that it can become a truly thriving platform on which parliamentary information (on legislation, studies, administration, ICT, best practice, etc.) can be easily found and used.
5. To encourage the involvement of all ECPRD Correspondents and their deputies in the full range of the Centre's activities; and improve the understanding of ECPRD's work in national Parliaments.
6. To enlarge the Correspondents' network by having correspondents nominated parliaments which have yet to do so (Malta, Monaco, Montenegro). (Note: in June 2008 the Monaco parliament appointed a Correspondent).
7. To co-operate with other networks dealing with the exchange of parliamentary information (e.g. IPEX, EUROVOC) with a view to avoiding duplication of activities.

The records of the meeting are available on the ECPRD website in English, French and German and also appear in the Summer 2008 ECPRD Newsletter.

5.4 Areas of interests - reports delivered by the Coordinators

Area of Interest: Economic Research

For the ECPRD Area of Interest Economic Research, the period under review – March 2008 to 2010 – started and ended under the sign of the worldwide financial and economic crisis. Two seminars were devoted to various aspects of it, while a third marked a slight excursion into the area of state budgeting. In addition, one promising innovation was started, with another in the planning stages.

But first it should be noted that the Area of Interest changed its name, from “Macroeconomic Research” to “Economic Research”. The decision was taken at the ECPRD’s Correspondents Meeting in Bratislava in October 2009, at the proposal of the Area’s Coordinator, who argued that the distinction, within the ECPRD context, between “macroeconomic research” and “economic research” *‘tout court’* made less and less sense, also in view of the growing rapprochement between the two disciplines.

Seminar on The European Central Bank in a New European and World Economy, Strasbourg (F) and Frankfurt (D), Council of Europe and ECB, 11 - 12 September 2008

Attended by some 40 participants, it coincided with a sudden turn for the worse in the worldwide financial crisis, which really had started almost a year before. (Indeed, the original idea to hold the seminar was born a year earlier in Stockholm, where the Area of Interest in June 2007 held a seminar at the Swedish Riksdag on the related subject of “Relations between Parliaments and Central Banks” and where the work of the European Central Bank aroused major interest.)

The Seminar’s first day, held in Strasbourg at Council of Europe headquarters, had as its *pièce de résistance* a presentation by a leading OECD expert on the deeper causes behind the crisis. In brief, these were described as careless lending by, especially US, financial institutions, to unsafe borrowers, using opaque and increasingly incomprehensible lending instruments, leading to a loss of confidence in markets and among the general public. But also insufficient regulation by financial authorities on both sides of the Atlantic and indeed worldwide, and an overbelief in the self-discipline of financial markets by political decision-makers.

There followed presentations by Council of Europe experts on the corrosive effects on the economy and on society flowing from widespread corruption and organised crime, and by a much appreciated presentation by the ECPRD’s own Gérard Hilbert on how to make the best use of the ECPRD website.

The Seminar’s second day, held at the headquarters of the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, offered a second *pièce de résistance*, namely the work of the ECB and its role in helping to overcome the crisis. Senior ECB staff informed about the Bank’s mission, organisation and functioning; its liquidity management at times of market turmoil; and the international role of the euro. A fuller account of the seminar, as well as various Seminar documents, are available on the ECPRD website.

Seminar on the Control of a Parliament over State Budgetary Spending / The Financial Autonomy of a Parliament (*a joint project of the Areas of Interest Macroeconomic Research and Parliamentary Practice and Procedure*), Ljubljana, National Assembly, 27 - 28 March 2009

Interestingly enough, the Seminar was organised jointly by the two Areas of Interest : “Economic Research” and “Parliamentary Practice and Procedure”, and the cooperation worked extremely well, eminently received as we all were by our Slovenian hosts.

The close to 60 participants from 24 countries who attended the proceedings discussed two separate but related themes: The first was *"The Control of a Parliament over State Budgetary Spending"*, at which the results of an ambitious ECPRD-wide enquiry initiated by the Slovenian parliament were presented and followed by case studies from Italy and Slovenia. The discussions showed that, even though there was pronounced homogeneity among ECPRD countries as regards the principle of parliamentary control over state budgets, the methods for carrying it such a control varied rather widely.

The second theme was *"The Financial Autonomy of a Parliament"*, as illustrated by case studies from the Swedish, Spanish and Italian parliaments. Again, the presentations and the ensuing discussions showed no compromise by countries on the principle of parliamentary financial autonomy, but it was interesting to note the differences between countries in how far such autonomy should go in terms of parliamentary property or outside verification.

A detailed summary report of the seminar is available on the ECPRD website.

Lessons from the Current Financial and Economic Crisis: A Parliamentary Research Stock-Taking, Paris, European Security and Defence Assembly / WEU Assembly. 26 March 2010

The aim of this one-day seminar - generously hosted by the European Security and Defence Assembly / WEU Assembly at its Paris headquarters and attended by some 50 participants – was to examine the contribution made by the research services of ECPRD parliaments in helping to overcome the international financial and economic crisis from its start in 2008 up until the present time, with an attempt also to look into the future.

The seminar heard nine keynote speakers coming from the parliaments of the United Kingdom (House of Commons), Italy (Senate and the Chamber of Deputies), Sweden, Estonia, Spain (Congress of Deputies) and France (Senate) - as well as from the European Parliament and the OECD.

Subjects raised in the presentations and in the lively discussions that ensued included; the interplay between governments and parliaments in shaping crisis legislation; initiatives taken by research services themselves to examine different areas and suggest responses to legislators; the contribution by other stakeholders in society; and the cooperation between research services in different countries, including via the ECPRD. The presentations at the seminar and a full account of the proceedings can be found on the ECPRD website.

The seminar also took note of another interesting development in the ECPRD Area of Interest "Economic Research", namely the up-and-running state of a contact list of economic researchers in ECPRD parliaments. The list - containing the names, addresses and areas of specific competence of the researchers in question - now includes over 40 people from 22 ECPRD parliaments. It is available on the ECPRD website.

Area of Interest: Information and Communication Technologies in Parliaments

Seminar on Designing Specific IT Solutions for Members of Parliament and Parliaments, Copenhagen, Folketing, 29 - 31 October 2008

The meeting was attended by 74 participants from 34 countries representing 53 Parliaments and two European Institutions (European Parliament and Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe). There were eighteen presentations, followed by intensive technical discussions on the following main subjects:

- Implementation of mobile technologies to Members
- Advanced technologies in parliamentary procedures
- New perspectives for IT software standards (Open Source, VISTA, LINUX)

Seminar Parliaments on the Net VII "How to bring parliament closer to the citizens through the use of the Internet", Lisbon, Assembly, 28 - 29 May 2009

After six years without any event related with contents of parliament website, the ECPRD ICT Area resumed the organization of seminars on Parli@ments on the Net. The meeting was attended by 48 participants from 25 countries representing 28 Parliaments and two European institutions (European Parliament and Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe). There were 14 presentations, followed by discussions on the following main subjects:

- standards and maturity of parliamentary websites
- transparency tools as regards parliamentary activities
- Involving and communicating to citizens

Seminar on ICT in Parliaments "Advanced IT Services for MPs, Citizens and Parliamentary Cooperation", Rome, Italian Parliament, 26 - 27 November 2009

The seminar was attended by 77 participants (14 of the host Parliament plus 63 participants of European parliamentary Assemblies) from 33 countries representing 38 Assemblies and three International Organisations (the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the United Nations Global Centre for ICT in Parliament).

The topics presented at the event encompassed in particular IT governance, digital signatures for Members and new solutions for parliamentary websites.

IT related issues were discussed in three areas:

- The Present and Future of Advanced IT Services for MPs and Citizens"
- ICT at the Service of Cooperation between Parliaments and Institutions"
- "Multimedia Services in Parliaments", in cooperation with the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament

Area of Interest: Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives

SEMINARS

There is a good tradition of cooperation between libraries, research services and archives. Yet when the ECPRD coordinators were appointed by the Executive Committee in November 2006 the newly appointed coordinator LRA started her work by analysing the situation and felt a lack of seminars in this area of interest. The situation has changed a lot.

In the period from 1979 to 1993 twelve meetings were held by the then ECPRD Library Working Group. In those days workshops and seminars had no specific announced themes, so it is difficult to know in retrospect what had been discussed.

Apart from the Library Working Group, a Thesaurus Working Group was active, later becoming the EUROVOC Working Group. Between 1994 and 1996 the ECPRD's work focused on the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe. In those years meetings of the Library Working Group took place in Budapest and Luxembourg and were organised in cooperation with the Research Service of the US Congress. In addition a special seminar for the parliaments of the Baltic states was held in Tallinn.

Between 1997 and 2007, a period of eleven years, only 3 meetings were held. In 1998 the European Parliament organised a seminar on library management. Then in 2000 and in 2004 the House of Commons hosted seminars on electronic libraries and parliamentary library and research services, betokening a trend toward a fusion of library and research services.

Since 2008 there are one or two events per year which attract 50 to 70 participants on the average.

Seminar on "Parliamentary Libraries: Sharing Knowledge", Vienna, Austrian Parliament, 29 - 30 May 2008

73 participants from 37 countries attended this seminar, including representatives from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the European Security and Defence Assembly (the former WEU Assembly), as well as the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA), the Austrian National Library and the IFLA Section "Library and Research Services for Parliaments". Among the participants were five from the ECPRD Executive Committee.

The three themes discussed at this seminar were:

- comparative data (staff, budget, premises, holdings, catalogues, activities);
- co-operation (national, international, consortia, "win-win" situations);
- digitisation programmes (catalogues, parliamentary papers, newspapers and journals).

Each theme started with an analysis and with presentations by keynote speakers, followed by a discussion and a wrap-up session.

A detailed questionnaire was sent out on 17 December 2007, with replies received from almost all ECPRD correspondents. Comparative data on the parliamentary library, research and archive services of Europe were presented together with lectures and case studies followed by discussions. A CD with replies from 40 countries representing 58 chambers and 3 European institutions plus Israel and the United States of America was presented to all participants.

The presentations and speeches, as well as a full account of the replies to the questionnaire, can be found on the ECPRD website.

Seminar on Press Services for Members of Parliament, Bern, Bundesversammlung, 18 - 19 June 2009

The meeting was attended by 50 participants from 26 countries and three European institutions (European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Security and Defence Assembly).

The following themes discussed at this meeting were:

- Theme 1: Problems of copyright involved in operating internal press article databases / Trends and developments in the newspaper industry
- Theme 2: "What services does parliament expect the Press Service to provide?"
- Theme 3: Presentation and discussion of various systems in national parliaments

Each theme started with an analysis and with presentations by keynote speakers, followed by a discussion and a wrap-up session.

A questionnaire was answered by 36 Chambers from 28 countries and one international organisation.

One of the highlights was a lecture by Andreas Gross, Swiss MP and Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the question "What services does parliament expect the Press Service to provide?"

Seminar on Research and information for Parliaments – new challenges, new opportunities, London, House of Commons, 17 - 18 September 2009

The meeting was attended by almost 60 participants from 34 countries representing 42 parliamentary chambers and three European institutions (European Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Security and Defence Assembly)

The following topics were discussed at the seminar:

Session 1 – New services

- Challenges and changes - establishing a research service for Irish Parliamentarians
- Small but efficient: the research service of the Hungarian Parliament
- Observatories – a new approach to sharing information (Italian Camera dei Deputati)

Session 2 - New products

- House of Commons research – recent developments
- Developments in the research services of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies
- Proactive information for MPs (Bundestag)

Session 3 – New Members, new staff

- Leadership for innovation (New Zealand Parliament)
- House of Lords Research - responding to increasing demand
- Objectivity, impartiality and diversification (Swedish Riksdag)

Session 4 – Open Forum

This session offered an opportunity for any questions relating to research and analytical services to be discussed by those present.

A questionnaire to prepare the seminar was answered by 49 parliamentary chambers and two European institutions.

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, LECTURES, LRA FORUM, LRA WEBPAGE

The ECPRD already issued comparative publications on the library, research and archives activities of parliaments in the past. However directories become outdated. Two new publications could be edited in the period 2008 – 2009:

- *Parliamentary Library, Research and Archive Services of Europe : Description of the Parliamentary Library, Research and Archive Services of Europe + Israel, the United States of America, Council of Europe, European Parliament and Assembly of the WEU* compiled by Elisabeth Dietrich-Schulz. CD-ROM presented at the ECPRD Seminar Parliamentary Libraries “Sharing knowledge = Partager le savoir = Wissen gemeinsam nutzen”, Vienna (Austria), 29 - 30 May 2008. – Wien (Parlament), 2008
- *The Czech Parliamentary Library: a Tribute on its 150th Anniversary : the Central European Parliamentary Libraries from the Past to the Present / Editor: Karel Sosna. - Prague : Office of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, 2009. - 206 S. : Ill. - 24 cm*

Like other members of the Executive Committee the Coordinator LRA was invited several times to give presentations and/or lectures on the ECPRD network and thus started to play an active role in promoting the Centre and the area.

- Thematic study visit to the European Parliament: “ Meeting Parliamentarians’ needs – shared experiences of parliamentary libraries / organized by the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments in cooperation with the EP-Library, Brussels, EP, 27-28 November 2008

- Digital Information for Democracy: Management, Access and Preservation / organized by the IFLA-Section Library and Research Services for Parliaments, Rome, The Italian joint Parliamentary Library, 19-21 August 2009
- Workshop "Strengthening the Cooperation among Parliamentary Libraries in the Framework of the Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network (APKN)" / organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), through the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament and the Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan, in collaboration with the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Rome, Library of the Senate of the Republic of Italy, 15-17 December 2009

The enormous worldwide interest in successful parliamentary networks such as the ECPRD become evident at all these events. Take as an example the APKN, the Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network, formally established in 2008. On its website <http://www.apkn.org/> you find the information that APKN builds on the success of long established parliamentary networks. "Such networks have made apparent the benefits of sharing experiences and learning from best practices. Not only do they allow exploiting regional and continental dimensions to create synergies, but also they provide the critical mass necessary to deliver quality, sustainable, capacity-building activities and common information services for all Parliaments."

In the light of all these activities there has not yet been enough time to invest sufficient energy in the LRA Forum and the LRA Webpage. Despite this fact the usage figures of the LRA Section of the webpage with its categories News / Documents / Events / Links are fine.

Area of Interest: Parliamentary Practice and Procedure

Seminar on "Parliament, Independent Agencies and Public Sector Companies", Madrid, Senate, 18 - 19 April 2008

43 participants attended this seminar, including representatives of 27 national parliaments and the European Parliament.

A questionnaire in English and French was sent out in November 2007. The replies served as a basis for a comparative study presented by the Spanish Senate.

The seminar raised procedural and organisational issues arising between Parliament, independent agencies and public sector companies, with a focus on :

- independent authorities and agencies in a 21st century country,
- parliamentary oversight of independent authorities,
- relations between independent authorities and the Spanish Parliament,
- public sector companies in a 21st-century country,
- parliamentary oversight of public sector companies.

A number of parliamentary assemblies provided presentations and case studies, followed by numerous reactions and questions from participants. All presentations are available on the website.

Seminar on the Control of a Parliament over State Budgetary Spending / The Financial Autonomy of a Parliament (*a joint project of the Areas of Interest Macroeconomic Research and Parliamentary Practice and Procedure*), Ljubljana, National Assembly, 27 - 28 March 2009

See section "Area of Interest Economic Research".

Parliamentary Practice and Procedure Forum

Several targeted mailings were addressed to all the Parliamentary Practice and Procedure experts appearing on the expert lists on the Parliamentary Practice and Procedure Web Page, and to the participants of the Madrid and Ljubljana seminars. Still, the number of participants (37) remains too low to ensure a lively exchange of ideas. Moreover, although the number of views is quite satisfying, the number of reactions to the threads is low.

Four threads have been launched since April 2009 on various themes:

- US House of Representatives delegation on the authority to watch over its MPs,
- European Court of Human Rights judgment on parliamentary privilege,
- the presidency of the opening session of an assembly,
- monitoring and assessing MPs' activities.

Parliamentary Practice and Procedure Web Page

The Parliamentary Practice and Procedure Web Page is doing very well. Between March 2009 and the end of July 2009, 25 entries were made in the "News" section of the Parliamentary Practice and Procedure website, 9 in the "Other" section; the "documents"-sections received 3 entries and the "link"-section displays 2 entries.

In the "News" section, 11 entries relate to a specific Parliamentary Practice and Procedure instrument, such as expert lists, theses lists, bibliographies, keywords and the Forum. In some cases an "update alert" is used, more precisely when a new list or bibliography of an existing Parliamentary Practice and Procedure instrument goes live. Among the 14 other "News" entries, 4 focus on a new European Court of Human Rights judgment within the Parliamentary Practice and Procedure field of expertise. The other 10 news items deal with general news items on parliamentary practice and procedure.

The "Other" section of the Parliamentary Practice and Procedure website is used for the publication of three new Parliamentary Practice and Procedure instruments: the expert lists, the theses lists and the bibliographies:

- the *Parliamentary Practice and Procedure expert list* gives a selective overview of country-related experts on parliamentary practice and procedure. Three expert lists are already published (UK, the Netherlands and Sweden), while others are in progress;
- the *Parliamentary Practice and Procedure theses list* gives a selective overview of theses presented at universities in a given country on topics related to parliamentary practice and procedure. The French and the UK list have been published. Others are in progress;
- the *Parliamentary Practice and Procedure bibliographies list* gives a selective overview of country-related literature on parliamentary practice and procedure topics. Until now, 4 bibliographies have been published (the Netherlands, Germany, the UK and Belgium).

The expert lists and bibliographies are, prior to their publication, submitted to and validated by the ECPRD Correspondents concerned, whose help has been very much appreciated. The experts are always asked individually whether they can agree to appear on the list.

The "Documents" section contains two older entries, and provides a link to the e-version of the book "Parliament & Judiciary", that is, the conference book of the Brussels ECPRD seminar of 8 and 9 November 2007.

In the "Link" section are two entries on the "Bibliografía Parlamentaria" of the Spanish *Congreso de los Diputados*, as well as a brief overview of UK centres specialised in parliamentary practice and procedure.

The feeding of the Parliamentary Practice and Procedure web page with 'News' is a very time consuming task. It would be of great help if the Correspondents would bring to the attention of the Parliamentary Practice and Procedure Coordinator news about their parliament in the field of Parliamentary Practice and Procedure. (This might not always be texts; links to a website, a copy of an article in a newspaper would also be appreciated).

5.5. The Executive Committee

During the period under review, the Executive Committee was composed of the two Co-Directors: representing the European Parliament was, until November 2009, Mr Piotr Nowina-Konopka, who in December 2009 was succeeded by Ms Christine Verger. And representing the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was Mr Wojciech Sawicki and five representatives of different ECPRD parliaments. By the end of the period under review these were Mr Robert Clements (United Kingdom), Mr Gunnar Fors (Sweden), Ms Anna Okruhlicova (Slovakia), Mr Italo Scotti (Italy) and Ms Siiri Sillajoe (Estonia).

Ms Natasa Glavnik (Slovenia) left the Executive Committee in October 2008. The Annual Conference of Correspondents at its meeting in Brussels in the same month elected Mr Gunnar Fors to succeed her.

At the Annual Conference in Bratislava 2009 the following five candidates were nominated as candidates for the three vacant seats in the Executive Committee: Ms Anna Okruhlicova (Slovakia), Ms Siiri Sillajoe (outgoing member, Estonia), Mr Jean-Pierre Bloch (outgoing member, France), Mr Italo Scotti (Italy) and Mr Borys Kolisnychenko (outgoing member, Ukraine). The Correspondents were asked to ensure that the composition of the Executive Committee reflected a geographical and gender balance.

Ms Siiri Sillajoe (her second term as member of the committee), Ms Anna Okruhlicova and Mr Italo Scotti were elected as new members of the Executive Committee for a term of three years.

Meetings of the ECPRD Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met four times in the period under review.

The meeting on 5 September 2008 in Strasbourg centred on the following main points:

- the preparation of the Annual Conference in Brussels, October 2009
- the finalisation of the ECPRD Website
- the Thesaurus on Parliamentary Procedures and Practice
- the role of the Fora on the website

On 6 March 2009 it convened in Lisbon and discussed in particular the following items:

- the preparation of the next Annual Conference of Correspondents in Bratislava
- forthcoming seminars and meetings 2009 and beyond
- the procedure to grant access to the ECPRD Discussion Fora
- Contributions to the ECPRD Areas of Interest
- Access to ECPRD Seminar pages
- Situation with regard to the comparative requests and the application of the Guidelines
- future Website developments

On 11 September 2009 the Executive Committee gathered in Brussels to deal with the following items:

- Preparation of the Annual Conference 2009 in Bratislava (in particular the election procedure to fill three vacant seats in the Executive Committee)
- Re-appointment of Elisabeth Dietrich-Schulz, Joao Viegas, Kjell Torbiörn and Marc van der Hulst as Coordinators of the ECPRD Areas of Interest for another term of three years
- Update with regard to ECPRD seminars and other meetings such as the Annual Conference 2010
- Draft Activity Report 2008-2010

At its meeting on 5 March 2010 in Rome, the Executive Committee dealt with the following points:

- Preparation of the Annual Conference 2010 in Ankara
- A first discussion on a new format for the Seminar to be held in conjunction with the Annual ECPRD Correspondence Meeting in Stockholm in 2011
- Adoption of the Draft Activity Report 2008-2010, to be submitted at the meeting of Secretaries General at the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, Limassol (Cyprus), 12 June 2010
- Appointment of a new Coordinator for the Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments

The minutes of the Executive Committee meetings were published in the ECPRD Newsletter and can be found on the ECPRD website.

5.6 Correspondents and Deputy Correspondents

Canada, Monaco and Montenegro nominated Correspondents in 2008 or 2009. This means that almost all ECPRD member parliaments (with the exception of Malta) are now represented by Correspondents. In addition, more and more parliaments also appoint Deputy Correspondents. New nominations and changes in the list of Correspondents and their Deputies are indicated in the News section of the ECPRD website, and an overview is published every semester in the ECPRD Newsletter.

The complete list of Correspondents and Deputy Correspondents appears on the ECPRD Website.

In accordance with Article 3 of the Statute, parliaments possessing observer or Special Guest status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe "*may participate*" in the different activities of the ECPRD, but without the right to vote. The parliaments in question are those of Israel, Canada and Mexico. The ECPRD may also co-operate with non-European parliamentary chambers. The American Congressional Research Service (of the US Congress) has been granted a special guest status, with a Correspondent and a Deputy Correspondent.

The question as to whether the expression "*may participate*" should be interpreted to imply a right of full access to the ECPRD (nomination of Correspondent, comparative requests, other questions, etc.) was discussed by the Executive several years ago. It was agreed that the only restriction should be the right to vote in the Annual Conference of Correspondents and other ECPRD bodies.

5.7. EUROVOC

EUROVOC issues were discussed at the Annual Conference of Correspondents in Brussels 2008 in relation to the 'Thesaurus on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure', as presented by Marc Van der Hulst, Correspondent at the Belgian Chamber and ECPRD Coordinator.

No further activity in the period under review.

6. The ECPRD website

The ECPRD's website (www.ecprd.europarl.europa.eu or www.ecprd.org) is hosted by the European Parliament and is more than ever the focal point of communication for the whole ECPRD network. Whereas some pages are available to all internet users, most of the website is restricted to registered users (ECPRD members, Parliamentary Documentation Centres, etc.). The restricted character of the website has been endorsed on several occasions in order to make sure that ECPRD members have a protected area for their information exchange.

The ECPRD website has turned out to be a unique source of information on parliamentary procedures and practice.

The website offers three main sections:

- a *public section* which is open to the general public (providing a short introduction to the Centre's work, including the statutes and a list of publications);
- a *private section*, which can be reached via a login and a password provided by the secretariat to all ECPRD Correspondents and Deputy Correspondents. This section gives exhaustive information about the activities of the Centre with subsections for:
 - news,
 - a directory of members, grouped by their different roles,
 - a calendar of past and future events (conferences and seminars), with information about related documents,
 - a repository containing all comparative requests and replies handled by the Centre,
 - links to parliamentary and other websites, constitutions, parliamentary rules of procedure, legislative databases, whether at European or national level;
- the *discussion forums* for each Area of Interest, as managed by the Co-ordinators. Access to these discussions can also be gained by people from outside the ECPRD network following approval by the Co-ordinator.

In order to provide a platform to support all these activities of the ECPRD, the IT section of the European Parliament decided in 2007 to modernize the website. The new lay-out and tools of the ECPRD's website were presented at the Annual Conference of Correspondents in Yerevan and were warmly welcomed.

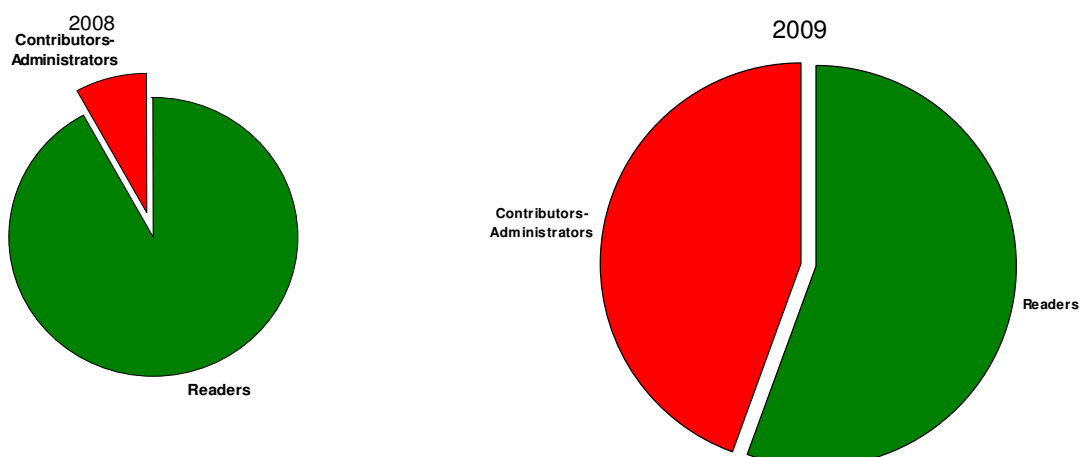
Version 3 of the ECPRD website was presented at the Annual Conference 2008 in Brussels and contained the following new features:

- specific menus and views for readers, contributors and website administrators
- an improved workflow for contributions to the website
- special fully fledged web pages for the Areas of Interests comprising sections for news and documents
- new features for the login and the modification of the account settings
- an email notification function as regards updates to the website
- a feature to provide basic statistics
- a function to export all files related to a request or seminar ("Get all files")
- an archive function

In 2009, the budget of the EP available for IT allowed only a few corrective actions and some limited evolutive maintenance work.

Furthermore, in order to increase the number of contributions it was decided in 2009 to extend the group of contributors – previously limited to Coordinators and Administrators - to all Correspondents and Deputy. A special flyer was distributed at the Annual Conference in Bratislava explaining the procedure for making contributions to the website.

Diagram: Distribution Contributors/Administrators vs Readers

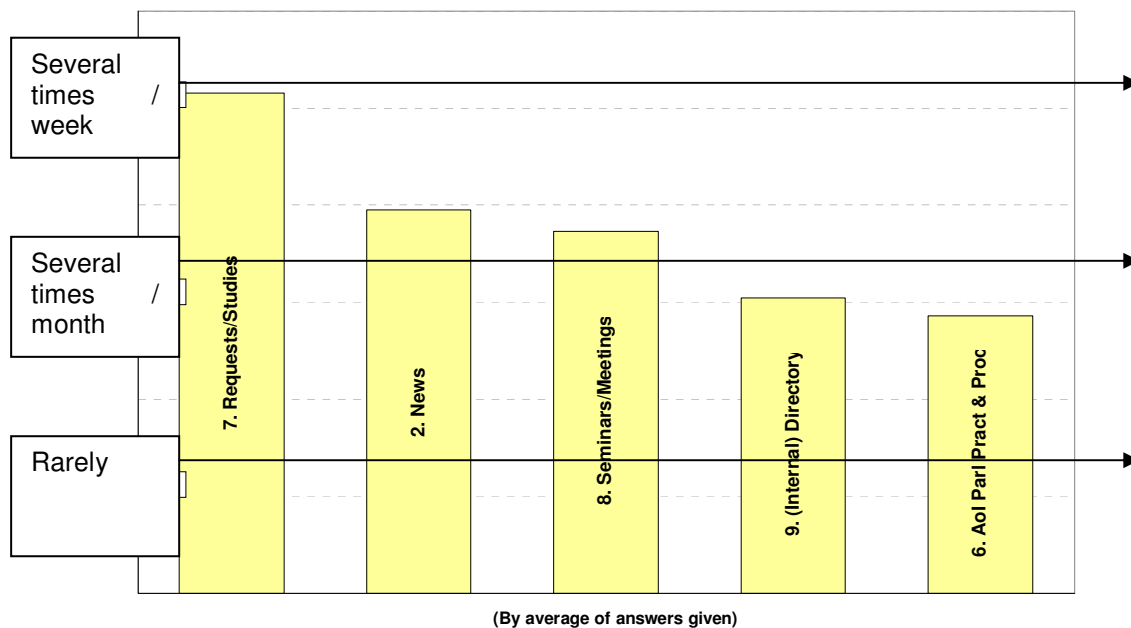


By September 2009, there were 247 accounts on the website.

Although there are no reliable data on the number of visits to the website, a recent survey among Correspondents showed intensive use of the site by ECPRD members.

In particular the Request section is consulted several times a week by users and underlines the importance of this activity.

Diagram: The Top 5 types of usage of selected sections on the website by ECPRD Correspondents (mail survey September 2009)



Future developments

The request database by the end of 2009 included almost 26.000 documents (requests and replies). The existing search function must therefore be considered as too imprecise to identify earlier similar requests or to leave many valid requests for information unanswered. Future development work should focus mainly on an improved search/browse facility that can overcome these limitations. Furthermore, the fact that virtually every day a request is sent to Correspondents means that more work, especially by the ECPRD Secretariat, will have to be devoted to ensuring that the request in question will not lead to any duplication of effort.

7. Publications

Two flyers have been produced: one in 2008 to promote the activities of the ECPRD, and a second in 2009 explaining the procedure of submitting contributions to the website. Copies were distributed to Correspondents at the Annual Conferences and at other ECPRD events.

There has been no major research publication in the period under review. The newsletter has been published twice a year.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

STATUTES OF THE ECPRD - AS ADOPTED BY THE SECRETARIES GENERAL ON 31ST MAY 2006

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.

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 Parliaments).

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 ECPRD's members are: the European Parliament; the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; the Assembly of Western European Union*, and parliamentary chambers where the President is a member of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments.

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

* the Interparliamentary European Security and Defence Assembly

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 Parliaments 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 Parliaments.

ANNEX 2

LIST OF CORRESPONDENTS AND DEPUTY-CORRESPONDENTS

State	Correspondent	Contact
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY COUNCIL OF EUROPA	Mr SAWICKI Wojciech	Email :wojciech.sawicki@coe.int Tel : (0033-3) 88.41.36.30
	Mr HEINRICH Mario (ECPRD Co-Secretary) Deputy Correspondent	Email :mario.heinrich@coe.int Tel : (0033-3) 88.41.20.97
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	Mr RIBOT IGUALADA Josep Maria	Email :josep.ribot@europarl.europa.eu Tel : (0032-2) 283 23 54
	Mr HUESCHEN Ulrich ECPRD (Co-Secretary) Deputy Correspondent	Email :ulrich.hueschen@europarl.europa.eu Tel : (0032-2) 284 48 70
EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE ASSEMBLY (ESDA/AWEU)	Mr DE GOU Floris	Email :fdégou@assembly.w eu.int Tel : (0033-1) 53.67.24.67
	Ms PRIGNEAU Judith	Email :jprigneau@assembly.w eu.int Tel : (0033-1) 53.67.24.78
ALBANIA	Ms BUFI Zana	Email :zbufi@parlament.al Tel : (00355-4) 25.69.63
	Ms SADIKU Aida Deputy Correspondent	Email :ashurdha@parlament.al Tel : (00355-4) 22 17 51
ANDORRA	Mr HINOJOSA BESOLI Josep	Email :Josep_Hinojosa@parlament.ad Tel : (00376) 877 877
ARMENIA	Ms Martyrossian Alice Acting ECPRD Correspondent	Email :alice.martyrossian@parliament.am Tel : 00374 10 588 389
	Ms ARAKELYAN Arpi	Email :arpi.arakelian@parliament.am Tel : (00374 10) 58.84.30
	Mr GRIGORYAN Arthur Deputy Correspondent	Email :arthur.grigorian@parliament.am Tel : 00374 10 588 336
AUSTRIA	Ms SIESS-SCHERZ Ingrid	Email :ingrid.sie ss-scherz@parlament.gv.at Tel : (0043-1) 401.10.22.44
	Ms DIETRICH-SCHULZ Elisabeth (ECPRD Coordinator for 'Libraries, Research and Archives') Deputy Correspondent	Email :elizabeth.dietrich-schulz@parlament.gv.at Tel : (0043-1) 401.10.28.19
AZERBAIJAN	Mr NAMAZOV Nehman	Email :international@meclis.gov.az Tel : (00994) 12.92.58.96
BELGIUM (CHAMBER)	Mr VAN DER HULST Marc (ECPRD Coordinator for 'Parliamentary Practice and Procedure')	Email :marc.vanderhulst@dekamer.be Tel : (0032-2) 549.80.71
	Mr GORIS Alberik Deputy Correspondent	Email :alberik.goris@dekamer.be Tel : (0032-2) 549.84.99
BELGIUM (SENATE)	Mr REZSOHAZY Andre	Email :ar@senate.be Tel : (0032-2) 501.72.64
	Mr VEYS Marc Deputy Correspondent	Email :mv@senate.be Tel : (0032-2) 501.70.70
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA	Ms BAJRAKTAREVIC Sena	Email :sena.bajraktarevic@parlament.ba Tel : (00387-33) 28 44 68
	Ms ANDRIJEVIC-KARIC Zaklina	Email :zaklina.karic@parlament.ba Tel : (00387-33) 28.44.33

BULGARIA	Ms KAMENOVA Elena	Email :ekamenova@parliament.bg Tel : 00359 2 939 25 35
CANADA	Mr JACKSON Joseph	Email :jacksj@parl.gc.ca Tel : 1 613 995-6363
CROATIA	Ms MARTINCIC Branka	Email :bmartin@sabor.hr Tel : (00385-1) 45.69.589
CYPRUS	Mr SOCRATOUS Socrates Ms SOLOMONIDOU Christiana Deputy Correspondent	Email :international-relations@parliament.cy Tel : (00357) 22.40.73.04 Email :International-Relations@parliament.cy Tel : (00357) 22.40.73.81
CZECH REPUBLIC (CHAMBER)	Mr SOSNA Karel	Email :sosna@psp.cz Tel : (00420-2) 57.53.44.09
	Mr VYKLICKY Robert Deputy Correspondent	Email :vyklicky@psp.cz Tel : (00420-2) 25.17.22.38
CZECH REPUBLIC (SENATE)	Mr GEORGIEV Jiri Mr KYSELA Jan Deputy Correspondent	Email :georgievj@senat.cz Tel : (00420-2) 57.07.26.64 Email :kyselaj@senat.cz Tel : (00420-2) 57.07.27.57
DENMARK	Ms RASMUSSEN Hanne	Email :hanne.rasmussen@ft.dk Tel : (0045) 33.37.34.08
	Ms RINGVARD Christina Deputy Correspondent	Email :christina.ringvard@ft.dk Tel : (0045) 33 37 3509
ESTONIA	Ms SILLAJÖE Siiri	Email :siiri.sillajoe@riigikogu.ee Tel : +372 6316505
	Ms MUUL Margit Deputy Correspondent	Email :margit.muul@riigikogu.ee Tel : +372 6316502
FINLAND	Mr RAUTAVA Antti	Email :antti.rautava@eduskunta.fi Tel : (00358-9) 432.2174
	Mr PURSIANEN Jan-Henrik Deputy Correspondent	Email :jan-henrik.pursiainen@eduskunta.fi Tel : (00358-9) 432.2184
FRANCE (ASSEMBLEE)	Mr BLOCH Jean-Pierre	Email :jpbloch@assemblee-nationale.fr Tel : (0033-1) 40.63.43.11
	Mr DEILHES Thierry Deputy Correspondent	Email :tdeilhes@assemblee-nationale.fr Tel : (0033-1) 40.63.43.68
FRANCE (SENAT)	Mr LAPORTE Jean	Email :j.laporte@senat.fr Tel : (0033-1) 42.34.26.28
GEORGIA	Ms GETIA Nino	Email :ninoge@parliament.ge Tel : 995 32 281 374 (office)
	Ms MESKHISHVILI Marika Deputy Correspondent	Email :marikame@parliament.ge Tel : (00995-32) 93.69.65
GERMANY (BUNDESRAT)	Ms GAUTSCHE Regine	Email :490.gautsche@bundesrat.de Tel : (0049-30) 18.91.00.140
	Ms KLEINERT Beatrice Deputy Correspondent	Email :494.kleinert@bundesrat Tel : 030 - 18 91 00 494
GERMANY (BUNDESTAG)	Mr BLATT Hanspeter	Email :hanspeter.blatt@bundestag.de Tel : (0049-30) 227.38631
	Mr BARTSCH Kolja Deputy Correspondent	Email :kolja.bartsch@bundestag.de Tel : (0049-30) 227.38628
GREECE	Mr SOTIRELIS George	Email :meleton@parliament.gr Tel : (+30) 210 3735067
	Ms VASSILOUNI Stavroula Deputy Correspondent	Email :stavroul@parliament.gr Tel : (+30) 210 3735069, 3735060
HUNGARY	Ms TÖRÖK Lili	Email :lili.torok@parlament.hu Tel : 0036 1 441 4243
ICELAND	Mr GISLASON Viggo	Email :viggo@althingi.is Tel : (00354) 56.30.611

IRELAND	Ms FITZSIMONS Maria	Email :maria.fitzsimons@oireachtas.ie Tel : (00353-1) 618.47.34
	Ms COUSINS Charlotte Deputy Correspondent	Email :charlotte.cousins@oireachtas.ie Tel : (00353-1) 618.47.29
ISRAEL	Ms AVRAMI Shirley	Email :avrami@knesset.gov.il Tel : (009722) 640.82.40
	Ms HATTIS ROLEF Susan Deputy Correspondent	Email :sheilamm@knesset.gov.il Tel : (009722) 675.33.33
ITALY (CHAMBER)	Mr SCOTTI Italo	Email :scotti_i@camera.it; st_affari_esteri@camera.it Tel : (0039-06) 67.60.34.10
	Mr SETA Enrico Deputy Correspondent	Email :seta_e@camera.it Tel : (0039-06) 676002013
ITALY (SENATE)	Mr MARCELLI Francesco	Email :f.marcelli@senato.it Tel : (0039-06) 67.06.21.14
	Mr STRINATI Valerio Deputy Correspondent	Email :v.strinati@senato.it Tel : 0039 0667073442
LATVIA	Ms LUKA-INDANE Ineta	Email :iluka@saeima.lv Tel : (00371) 708.71.89
	Mr KAPENIEKS Janis Deputy Correspondent	Email :jkapenie@saeima.lv Tel : (00371) 708.74.52
LIECHTENSTEIN	Mr HILTI Josef	Email :Josef.hilti@lts.li Tel : (0042-3) 236.65.76
LITHUANIA	Mr SINKEVICIUS Evaldas	Email :evsink@lrs.lt Tel : +3705) 2396372
	Mr GRIKIENIS Rimantas Deputy Correspondent	Email :rigrik@lrs.lt Tel : (00370-5) 239.61.73
LUXEMBOURG	Mr LINDEN Carlo	Email :clinden@chd.lu Tel : (00352) 46.69.66.640
	Ms KREMER Marie France Deputy Correspondent	Email :mfkremer@chd.lu Tel : (00352) 466 966 331
MOLDOVA	Ms SEREBREANSCHI Irina	Email :irina.serebreanschi@parlament.md Tel : (00373-22) 23.75.94
	Mr ROTARU Alexei Deputy Correspondent	Email :alexei.rotaru@parlament.md Tel : (00373 22) 26.85.51
MONACO	Mr WENDEN Olivier	Email :owenden@conseil-national.mc Tel : 00377 97 77 41 16
MONTENEGRO	Ms ALIGRUDIC Svjetlana	Email :svjetlana.aligrudic@skupstina.me Tel : +382 20 404 522
NETHERLANDS	Mr WIJGERGANGS Giel	Email :giel.wijgergangs@eerstekamer.nl Tel : (0031-70) 312 92 26
NETHERLANDS (CHAMBER)	Mr VAN RIJN Piet	Email :p.vrijn@tweedekamer.nl Tel : (0031-70) 318.2127
	Mr BAL Nico Deputy Correspondent	Email :n.bal@tweedekamer.nl Tel : (0031-70) 318 5612
NORWAY	Mr SKJOERESTAD Jarle	Email :jarle.skjorestad@stortinget.no Tel : (0047) 23.31.26.93
POLAND (CHAMBER)	Mr STASKIEWICZ Wieslaw	Email :wieslaw.staskiewicz@sejm.gov.pl Tel : (0048-22) 694.16.27
POLAND (SENATE)	Ms NAWROCKA Ewa	Email :nawrocka@nw.senat.gov.pl Tel : (0048-22) 694.94.32
	Ms KORZENIOWSKA Danuta Malgorzata Deputy Correspondent	Email :korzenio@nw.senat.gov.pl Tel : (0048-22) 694.98.04
PORTUGAL	Mr VALENTE Pedro	Email :pedro.valente@ar.parlamento.pt Tel : (00351) 213.917.033
	Mr MARQUES Pereira Fernando Deputy Correspondent	Email :fernando.pereira@ar.parlamento.pt Tel : (00351) 213.917.162

ROMANIA (CHAMBER)	Ms TURCU Paunita	Email :paula.turcu@cdep.ro Tel : (0040-21) 316.03.65
	Ms IORDACHE Lucretia Deputy Correspondent	Email :liordace@cdep.ro Tel : (0041-21) 414.20.85
ROMANIA (SENATE)	Ms CALINOIU Constanta	Email :calinoiu@senat.ro Tel : (0040-1) 312.18.02
	Ms RUSU Ioana Deputy Correspondent	Email :irusu@senat.ro Tel : (0040-1) 312 18 02
RUSSIA (COUNCIL)	Mr KRIVOV Victor	Email :USLeonov@council.gov.ru; gobrickiy@council.gov.ru Tel : (0070-95) 203.96.23
	Mr MAKARYCHEV Vladimir Deputy Correspondent	Email :gobrickiy@council.gov.ru Tel : (007495) 203.84.69
	Mr SEMENOV Timur Deputy Correspondent	Email :semenov@front.ru Tel : 0070-95) 697-96-32
RUSSIA (CHAMBER)	Mr SHUVALOV Yury E.	Email :j_shuvalov@mail.ru Tel : (0074-95) 982.28.36
	Ms ANDREEVA Irina Deputy Correspondent	Email :andreeva@duma.gov.ru Tel : (0074-95) 692 77 37
SAN MARINO	Ms GIARDI M. Antonella	Email :antonella.giardi.segristituzionale@pa.sm Tel : (00378) 88.22.82
SERBIA	Ms OSTOJIC Tanja	Email :tanja.ostojic@parlament.rs Tel : (00381-11) 324.29.83
	Ms STEKOVIC Milana Deputy Correspondent	Email :m.stekovic@parlament.rs Tel : (00381-11) 3026 532
SLOVAKIA	Ms OKRUHLICOVA Anna	Email :Anna.Okruhlicova@nrsr.sk Tel : (00421-2) 59.72.28.60
	Mr FAJTAK Lubomir Deputy Correspondent	Email :lubomir.fajtak@nrsr.sk Tel : (00421-2) 59.72.28.50
SLOVENIA (COUNCIL)	Mr STRUS Dusan	Email :dusan.strus@ds-rs.si Tel : (00386-1) 478.98.18
	Ms IVAS Ana	Email :ana.ivas@ds-rs.si Tel : (00386-1) 478.98.00
SLOVENIA (CHAMBER)	Ms KRASOVEC Tatjana	Email :tatjana.krasovec@dz-rs.si Tel : (00386-1) 478.94.22
	Ms STARIC Marjana Deputy Correspondent	Email :marjana.staric@dz-rs.si Tel : + 386 1 478 97 31
SPAIN (CHAMBER)	Ms RIPOLLES SERRANO Maria Rosa	Email :mrr@sgral.congreso.es Tel : (0034-91) 390.62.20
SPAIN (SENATE)	Mr SANTAOLALLA LOPEZ Fernando	Email :dired@senado.es Tel : (0034-91) 538.14.60
SWEDEN	Mr FORS Gunnar	Email :gunnar.fors@riksdagen.se; rut@riksdagen.se Tel : (0046-8) 786 6663
	Mr NIELSEN Peder Deputy Correspondent	Email :peder.nielsen@riksdagen.se Tel : (0046-8) 786.40.72
SWITZERLAND	Mr FRISCHKNECHT Ernst	Email :ernst.frischknecht@pd.admin.ch Tel : (0041-31) 322.97.31
	Mr HAYOZ Jean-Claude Deputy Correspondent	Email :jean-claude.hayoz@pd.admin.ch Tel : (0041-31) 322.97.46
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	Ms KRSTEVSKA Ankica	Email :a.krstevska@sobranie.mk Tel : (00389) 23.11.24.32
	Ms LAZAREVSKA Jadranka Deputy Correspondent	Email :j.lazarevska@sobranie.mk Tel : (00389) 23.11.22.55
TURKEY	Mr YILDIZ Ahmet	Email :armer@tbbm.gov.tr Tel : (0090-312) 420.68.38

UKRAINE	Mr KOLISNYCHENKO Borys Mykolayovych	Email :kolisnychenko@rada.gov.ua Tel : (00380-44) 255.27.92
UNITED KINGDOM (COMMONS)	Mr CLEMENTS Rob	Email :clements@parliament.uk Tel : +44 20 7219 3622
	Mr CRACKNELL Richard Deputy Correspondent	Email :cracknellrj@parliament.uk Tel : (0044-20) 7219.4632
UNITED KINGDOM (LORDS)	Ms VICTORY Isolde	Email :victoryi@parliament.uk Tel : (0044-20) 7219.5805
	Mr BROCKLEHURST Alexander Deputy Correspondent	Email :brocklehursta@parliament.uk Tel : (0044-20) 7219.6185
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Ms MANNING Jennifer	Email :jmanning@crs.loc.gov Tel : (001-202) 707 7565
	Mr MANSFIELD Jerry Deputy Correspondent	Email :jmansfield@crs.loc.gov Tel : (001-202) 707.0106

ANNEX 3

COMPARATIVE REQUESTS by Parliaments, 2003 - 2009

Country	Chamber	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
	PACE		1		2	1	3	2	9
	AWEU						1		1
	EP	9	10	13	5	8	5	3	53
Albania	Kuvendi			1	4			2	7
Andorra	Consell General								
Armenia	National Assembly		3	5	1	5	2		16
Austria	Parlament	3			2	4		4	13
Azerbaijan	National Assembly				1				1
Belgium	Chambre	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	10
	Senat				1		2	1	4
Bosnia-Herzegovina	House of Representatives	2	3	3	3	5	1	3	20
Bulgaria	National Assembly	5	3	1		4	4	2	19
Canada	House of Commons							1	
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor		2		1		2	3	8
Cyprus	House of Representatives	1	2	3	1		2	1	10
Czech Republic	Chamber	3	19	16	5	10	9	6	68
Czech Republic	Senate							2	2
Denmark	Folketinget	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	18
Estonia	Riigikogu	1	8	4	5	3	8	4	33
Finland	Eduskunta	3		5	2	2	4	3	19
France	Assemblée nationale	1	3	5	7	10	11	12	49
	Senat				1		1		2
Georgia	Parliament	2	6	11	17	13	4	12	65
Germany	Bundesrat							1	1
	Bundestag	11	4	5	22	28	29	26	125
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon		1	1	1	2	3	1	9
Hungary	National Assembly		2	4	1	5	12	11	35
Iceland	Althingi		1	2				1	4
Ireland	Houses of the Oireachtas				1	4	7	10	22
Israel	Knesset			4	8	9	10	9	40
Italy	Camera dei Deputati	3		1	1	1	2		8
	Senato		1	1	3	2	2		9
Latvia	Saeima	1	1		3	2	4	1	12
Liechtenstein	Landtag								
Lithuania	Seimas	2	1	6	2	3	3	5	22
Luxembourg	Chambre								
Malta	Parliament								
Moldova	National Assembly		2		4	1	3		10
Monaco	National Council								
Montenegro	Parliament								
Netherlands	Eerste Kamer				1				1
	Tweede Kamer	4	9	10	9	6	7	8	53
Norway	Stortinget			2	3	11	2		18
Poland	Sejm	4	4	4	7	14	9	10	52
	Senate	3	2	2	5	8	1	3	24
Portugal	Assembleia	4	2	1	4	5	3	4	23
Romania	Camera Deputatilor			2	1	3	3	5	14
	Senat					1		2	3
Russia	Duma		1	2			1		4
	Federation Council	3	4	1	1		1	5	15

Country	Chamber	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
San Marino	Consiglio Grande e Generale								
Serbia	National Assembly					3	2	3	8
Slovakia	National Council	9	8	12	7	5	6	10	57
Slovenia	National Council	1		1	1	3			6
	National Assembly	1	1	5	1	3	1	8	20
Spain	Congreso de los Diputados		1	2	1	1	3	1	9
	Senado	1	2	1	2	4	3		13
Sweden	Riksdag	8	17	11	11	13	16	18	94
Switzerland	Bundesversammlung		2	1	2	1	3	1	10
"the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Assembly	1		3	3	5	4	1	17
Turkey	The Grand National Assembly	2	4	4	7	5	6	5	33
Ukraine	Verkhovna Rada	2	1						3
United Kingdom	House of Commons		3	2	4	5	5	6	25
	House of Lords	1		1	1	1	3	1	8
United States of America	Congress					1	1	1	3
TOTAL		96	138	161	177	224	219	223	1237

* _ * _ *

Requests 2008 and 2009 by topic – SUMMARY
(table prepared by the Swedish Riksdag Research Service)

Topic	2009	2008
Total number of requests	223	219
Parliamentary practices	16 %	21 %
Parliamentary administration/staff	4 %	10 %
IT/communication in parliaments	10 %	5 %
MPs	6 %	5 %
Elections/referenda	8 %	5 %
Government & Head of state	1 %	2 %
Public administration & taxation	5 %	3 %
Law*	9 %	10 %
Other topics	42 %	38 %
Of which:		
– Agriculture	4 %	1 %
– Banking & finance	2 %	2 %
– Defence	2 %	2 %
– Education, sports & culture	5 %	4 %
– Energy & environment	4 %	4 %
– Foreign policy	2 %	1 %
– Industry, trade, transportation & construction	4 %	5 %
– Police & courts	7 %	6 %
– Social services/benefits & healthcare	5 %	4 %
– Other**	6 %	9 %

*= includes request related to legislation that do not connect to any other of the topics

**= includes requests not related to legislation or connected to any other of the topics

REPLIES TO COMPARATIVE REQUESTS by Parliaments, 2003 - 2009

Country	Chamber	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
	PACE	2	10	9	3	22	16	12	74
	AWEU	2			1	11	1	3	18
	EP	12	14	15	26	34	39	38	178
Albania	Kuvendi	7	12	30	22	37	24	9	141
Andorra	Consell General				20	59	45	55	179
Armenia	National Assembly	5	18	36	25	35	19	4	142
Austria	Parlament	62	97	111	125	160	166	151	872
Azerbaijan	National Assembly			3		7	11	6	27
Belgium	Bibliotheque							1	1
Belgium	Chambre	53	77	112	100	142	147	154	785
	Senat	60	69	102	100	127	160	165	783
Bosnia-Herzegovina	House of Representatives	25	10	51	49	57	43	50	285
Bulgaria	National Assembly	43	50	55	8	71	93	122	442
Canada	House of Commons		1					39	40
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor	29	56	65	58	91	77	90	466
Cyprus	House of Representatives	15	45	37	43	105	133	89	467
Czech Republic	Chamber	27	56	79	46	124	113	127	572
Czech Republic	Senate	16	35	41	33	49	46	39	259
Denmark	Folketinget	57	79	120	125	167	181	170	899
Estonia	Riigikogu	50	90	116	112	143	159	161	831
Finland	Eduskunta	65	103	117	126	168	186	183	948
France	Assemblée nationale	49	69	68	21	67	170	147	591
	Senat	9	10	18	12	22	16	15	102
Georgia	Parliament	27	52	57	48	73	69	35	361
Germany	Bundesrat	34	44	68	47	54	163	154	564
	Bundestag	42	58	31	121	182	175	186	795
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon	40	56	89	75	112	129	145	646
Hungary	National Assembly	7	14	20	23	28	94	112	298
Iceland	Althingi	15	25	60	32	55	55	62	304
Ireland	Houses of the Oireachtas	12	5	11	21	58	32	59	198
Israel	Knesset			48	46	38	48	50	230
Italy	Camera dei Deputati	31	63	91	106	165	179	180	815
	Senato	47	77	89	106	158	175	150	802
Latvia	Saeima	43	70	94	79	77	91	88	542
Liechtenstein	Landtag		1		8	8	27	14	58
Lithuania	Seimas	28	63	86	87	96	150	139	649
Luxembourg	Chambre	6	21	22	12	40	33	37	171
Malta	Parliament		1						1
Moldova	Assemblée nationale	4	17	2	15	15	12	4	69
Monaco	National Council								
Montenegro	Parliament								
Netherlands	Eerste Kamer	31	14	15	7	40	74	70	251
	Tweede Kamer	45	27	50	79	118	135	104	558
Norway	Stortinget	24	33	62	57	81	104	111	472
Poland	Sejm	46	86	114	114	145	156	155	816
	Senate	35	25	65	40	60	59	45	329
Portugal	Assembleia	53	83	93	85	135	125	153	727
Romania	Camera Deputailor	14	21	18	44	112	140	142	491
	Senat	3	1		10	63	36	7	120
Russia	Federation Council	11	20	26	7	37	35	28	164
	Duma	7	31	33	45	53	37	32	238

Country	Chamber	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
San Marino	Consiglio Grande e Generale								
Serbia	National Assembly				27	81	72	51	231
Slovakia	National Council	39	88	105	104	135	150	143	764
Slovenia	National Council	3	15	15	8	12	5	10	68
	National Assembly	33	62	81	78	85	92	132	563
Spain	Congreso de los Diputados	18	50	49	56	74	62	94	403
	Senado	56	89	56	42	65	60	72	440
Sweden	Riksdag	63	89	109	119	156	175	152	863
Switzerland	Bundesversammlung	29	52	73	69	82	82	96	483
"the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Assembly	23	55	65	54	81	77	82	437
Turkey	The Grand National Assembly	27	5	11	36	40	51	60	230
Ukraine	Verkhovna Rada	25	15	15	7	24	13	5	104
United Kingdom	House of Commons	68	96	125	147	184	190	184	994
	House of Lords	30	43	45	17	47	40	14	236
United States of America	Congress		1	45	32	59	65	59	261
TOTAL		1607	2469	3223	3165	4826	5312	5246	25848

FINAL SUMMARIES OF COMPARATIVE REQUESTS SUBMITTED BY PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBERS

2003 - 2009

(last update end January 2010)

Country	Chamber	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
	PACE		1		1		1	1	4
	AWEU								
	EP	1	5	7	3	4	3	1	24
Albania	Kuvendi								
Andorra	Consell General								
Armenia	National Assembly								
Austria	Parlament	2			1	4		3	10
Azerbaijan	National Assembly								
Belgium	Chambre	2	3	1	1		1		8
	Senat				1		1	1	3
Bosnia-Herzegovina	House of Representatives				1	1		2	4
Bulgaria	National Assembly					1			1
Canada	House of Commons								
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor						1		1
Cyprus	House of Representatives								
Czech Republic	Chamber			3			1		4
Czech Republic	Senate								
Denmark	Folketinget								
Estonia	Riigikogu					1	5	2	8
Finland	Eduskunta	1				1	1	2	5
France	Assemblée nationale	2		1			1		4
	Senat								
Georgia	Parliament								
Germany	Bundesrat								
	Bundestag				1	2	2	3	8
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon						1		1
Hungary	National Assembly				1	1	1		3
Iceland	Althingi								
Ireland	Houses of the Oireachtas							4	4
Israel	Knesset				1	3	3	1	8
Italy	Camera dei Deputati								
	Senato			1	1	2	2		6
Latvia	Saeima		1		1				2
Liechtenstein	Landtag								
Lithuania	Seimas						1		1
Luxembourg	Chambre								
Malta	Parliament								
Moldova	Assemblée nationale				1				1
Monaco	National Council								
Montenegro	Parliament								
Netherlands	Eerste Kamer								
	Tweede Kamer		1			1			2
Norway	Stortinget			1			1		2
Poland	Sejm				3	2	5	6	16
	Senate				1		1	2	4
Portugal	Assembleia						2	1	3
Romania	Camera Deputailor			2	1	2		4	9

Country	Chamber	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
	Senat								
Russia	Duma								
	Federation Council								
San Marino	Consiglio Grande e Generale								
Serbia	National Assembly						1	2	3
Slovakia	National Council	1	1			2	2		6
Slovenia	National Council								
	National Assembly			2	1	1		3	7
Spain	Congreso de los Diputados			1				1	2
	Senado					1	1		2
Sweden	Riksdag		1			3	3	8	15
Switzerland	Bundesversammlung				1		2	1	4
"the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Assembly								
Turkey	The Grand National Assembly				2		1	2	5
Ukraine	Verkhovna Rada								
United Kingdom	House of Commons			1	3	5	5	3	17
	House of Lords						1	1	2
United States of America	Congress					1		1	2
		9	13	20	26	38	50	55	211

ANNEX 4

TITLES OF COMPARATIVE REQUESTS 2008 - 2009 by parliaments

Request date	Destinataire	Request ID	Request title
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L EUROPE			
2008/02/14	all correspondents	929	Parliaments Role in Verifying State Obligations to comply with ECHR (including Strasbourg Court Judgments)
2008/04/24	all correspondents	967	European Sex Offender Register
2008/12/03	all correspondents	1115	The situation of human rights defenders in Council of Europe Member States
2009/10/06	all correspondents	1291	Parliamentary bodies monitoring the implementation of international legal instruments, especially in the field of violence against women
2009/12/15	all correspondents	1345	Military waste and the environment
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT			
2008/02/12	all Correspondents	927	Operational/Financial and Staff Data for New Visitor Centre of the European Parliament
2008/03/18	EU correspondents , PACE	949	Committees, External Relations and Governing Bodies in Parliaments
2008/04/28	EU correspondents	969	Regional Elections : Active and Passive Right to Vote for Citizen of other EU-countries
2008/07/14	EU correspondents	1029	Rules on MPs Hiring Family Members as Parliamentary Assistant
2008/09/25	EU correspondents	1067	Application of Article 8 of Protocol 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon
2009/04/22	all correspondents	1206	Allowances for performances of special duties by Members of Parliament
2009/07/02	all correspondents	1237	Practical modalities to elect the speaker and the vice-speakers (presidents and vice-presidents)
2009/11/06	EU correspondents	1317	Transparency and public access to EU Documents
EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE ASSEMBLY / Assembly of Western European Union (ESDA/AWEU)			
2008/10/20	all correspondents	1080	Parliamentary aspects of the recognition of the state of Kosovo
ALBANIA - KUVENDI			
2009/09/21	all correspondents	1278	Statutory audit, organization of the profession of statutory auditors and of approved accountants
2009/10/15	United Kingdom, United States, Canada, France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany	1298	Model or format of a report on the draft law
ARMENIA - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY			
2008/02/14	Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia	930	Body regulating/coordinating Civil/Public Service
2008/02/21	all Correspondents	933	Procedure to Recognize (de facto or de jure) a foreign State
AUSTRIA - PARLAMENT - NATIONALRAT and BUNDESRAT			
2009/03/24	all correspondents	1190	Assistance for deaf and hearing-impaired members of parliament, cost and practices
2009/04/03	EU correspondents	1201	Annual Reports and/or Parliamentary Journals
2009/06/16	EU correspondents	1230	Renovation and designation of areas in parliaments
2009/12/21	EU correspondents, Switzerland, USA, Canada	1348	Parliamentary control and accountability of public prosecutors
BELGIUM - CHAMBRE DES REPRESENTANTS			
2008/02/28	all correspondents	936	Crossroads Database for Legislation
2009/10/13	Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	1295	Departure allowances for MPs (update to request 29)
BELGIUM - SENAT			
2008/07/30	EU correspondents	1042	Filibustering and Parliamentary Obstruction

2008/12/02	EU correspondents	1112	Elaboration of an event database
2009/06/30	EU correspondents	1236	Satisfaction Enquiries on Internal Communication Policy
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA - PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES			
2008/03/10	all correspondents	945	Voting Time and Reporting by Media Reporters from Parliament
2009/03/16	EU correspondents, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania	1183	Taxation of luxury goods
2009/09/02	Italy, Germany, France, Spain, United Kingdom, Sweden, Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Norway, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania	1269	Students' standard of living
2009/11/05	EU correspondents, Russia, Switzerland, Norway, Ukraine	1316	Ban on denying holocaust and genocide, on speech of hatred and xenophobia
BULGARIA - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY			
2008/02/04	EU correspondents	920	TV Studios at National Parliaments - Equipment, Staff, Budget
2008/06/18	Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Romania	1002	Act of Hunting (sent out directly)
2008/06/27	EU correspondents	1013	Legislation on Funeral Services
2008/12/16	EU correspondents	1119	Forms of parliamentary scrutiny and control over the draft legislative acts of the EU at the parliaments of the member states
2009/08/10	selected chambers	1257	University hospitals legislation (sent directly)
2009/11/20	Germany, Poland, France, Greece	1326	Associations of Agricultural Producers
CANADA - HOUSE OF COMMONS			
2009/12/29	all correspondents	1352	Young Farmers: The Next Generation on the Farm
CROATIA - HRVATSKI SABOR			
2008/03/03	all correspondents	937	Spokesperson in Parliament
2008/05/13	all correspondents	977	Accreditation of Journalists in Parliaments (update)
2009/09/14	all correspondents	1275	Oversight of Intelligence Agencies
2009/10/13	all correspondents	1296	Organization and activities of Public relations departments in parliaments
2009/12/01	all correspondents	1333	Tasks and responsibilities of ECPRD and IPEX correspondents
CYPRUS - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES			
2008/04/10	EU correspondents	962	Transposition Directive 2005/35/EC (2005/09/05) on Ship-source Pollution and Introduction of Penalties for Infringements
2008/12/03	EU correspondents	1114	Definition of serious crime in national legislation (in the framework of the transposition of Directive 2006/24/EC)
2009/01/16	EU correspondents	1141	Prohibition of smoking
CZECH REPUBLIC - CHANCELLORY OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES			
2008/01/07	all correspondents	907	Survey on Nominations and Elections held in parliaments
2008/02/08	all correspondents	925	Proprietary Relationship between Health Insurance Companies and Health Care Providers
2008/03/03	United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Poland, Germany, Slovakia, Austria	939	Legislative Background for Operating of Voluntary Fire Brigades
2008/03/26	EU correspondents	952	Electricity Sector (Unbundling Regulation, Supervision)
2008/03/26	EU correspondents	954	Car Accident Liability
2008/05/07	EU correspondents	971	Electricity Sector Tenders
2008/05/16	EU correspondents	979	Organisation of pre-primary education system
2008/07/09	EU correspondents	1026	Distribution of Tax Income to Regions and Municipalities
2008/10/07	EU correspondents	1072	How is video (electronic) surveillance regulated in your country?
2009/02/10	Austria, Germany, Spain	1160	Legislation for the handling of explosives
2009/03/02	Austria, Belgium, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	1172	Compulsory car accessories
2009/06/24	Finland, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom	1235	Cleaning and clearing pavements next to private houses
2009/08/17	Austria, Belgium, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy,	1252	E85 (ethanol based fuel) usage

	Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom		
2009/11/05	EU correspondents, Norway, Switzerland	1313	Corporations with undisclosed stock holders, public tenders, conflict of interest
2009/12/22	Austria, France, Sweden, United Kingdom	1351	Catalogue firms, competition regulation, frauds
CZECH REPUBLIC - SENAT			
2009/04/01	EU correspondents	1196	Parliamentary procedures relating to the simplified method of revisions of the Lisbon Treaty
2009/12/04	EU correspondents	1338	Ratification of International Treaties
DENMARK - FOLKETINGET			
2008/01/07	EU correspondents , Norway	905	Are MPs Provided with Credit Cards by the Parliament?
2008/05/19	all correspondents	981	Specific IT Solutions for MPs
2008/05/26	Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom	986	Supplementary Housing for MPs
2008/07/01	Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Netherlands, Germany	1019	Structure and Function of Parliamentary Committees
2009/03/30	EU correspondents, Norway, Iceland	1194	Payment of compensation for CO ₂ emissions incurred when Members of Parliament (MP) travel by plane
2009/05/20	Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, United Kingdom (House of Commons), Ireland, The Netherlands (both chambers), Germany (Bundestag), France (both chambers), Italy (both chambers), Portugal, Austria, Switzerland and Greece	1220	Use of shared service centres in parliaments for members and employees
2009/06/04	Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom (House of Commons), Ireland, Germany (Bundestag), France (both chambers), Italy (both chambers), United States of America	1227	Psychiatry law with regard to mentally ill persons
ESTONIA - RIIGIKOGU			
2008/01/21	Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden	915	Redundancy Compensation
2008/05/07	EU correspondents	973	Internal and External Audit over Parliament
2008/06/30	Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	1014	Social Security and Social Tax
2008/07/24	Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom	1036	Offences against Minors and Prosecution
2008/10/22	Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden	1081	Ferry transport - benefits for permanent residents of the islands
2008/11/04	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Sweden	1090	Procedures for preparing verbatim records
2008/11/19	EU correspondents	1105	Marginal rates of interest for consumer credit agreements
2008/11/27	Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom	1109	Legislation and Subsidies for Inhabited Islands
2009/04/02	EU correspondents, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland	1197	Payment of unemployment allowances, benefits and pensions simultaneously with working
2009/04/08	Finland, Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic	1233	Levy collected from civil proceeding (sent directly)
2009/07/17	EU correspondents	1244	Handling of strong home-produced alcoholic beverages (fusel)
2009/11/26	EU correspondents	1331	Animal Protection
FINLAND - EDUSKUNTA			
2008/03/07	EU correspondents	943	Practises of Giving and Receiving Gifts in context of Official Visits of the Parliament (sent out directly).
2008/10/17	EU correspondents, Norway	1078	Occupational safety and health activities in parliaments
2008/10/30	EU correspondents, Norway	1095	Renovation of the Parliament Buildings (sent out directly by the Finnish Parliament)
2008/11/10	Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Norway,	1098	Resources used in keeping records of plenary sessions of parliaments

	Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden, United Kingdom (House of Commons)		
2009/02/13	all correspondents	1163	Doctors in public hospitals
2009/04/15	EU correspondents, Norway	1216	Personal assistants of MPs (sent directly)
2009/11/06	Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway	1315	Customer satisfaction surveys
FRANCE - ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE			
2008/01/08	EU correspondents	909	Comparative Tables: 1- Legislative Procedure, 2- Plurality of Mandates/Offices, 3- Parliamentary Elections, 4- Information/Control Procedures
2008/03/03	Germany, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom	938	Relations between large-scale Distributors and Producers
2008/06/25	Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	1007	Population Census Methods and their Consequences
2008/06/26	EU correspondents	1012	Financing of Electoral Campaigns - Rules, Monitoring and Sanctions
2008/07/29	EU correspondents, USA	1041	Internal Monitoring, Inspection and Audit Departments in Parliament
2008/09/08	Austria, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands	1057	Agencies and Authorities competent in matters of Food Health Safety, of Environment and of Labour
2008/09/23	Belgium, Italy, Germany, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	1066	Statute of limitations for injury and defamation committed on Internet
2008/10/23	Belgium, Germany, Spain, Italy, United Kingdom	1083	Declarations of wealth by Members of Parliament
2008/12/01	all correspondents	1111	National provisions organising a ban on the selling/offering of alcoholic beverages as well as provisions organising a ban on candy-flavoured cigarettes
2008/12/15	Germany, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom	1118	Access of the justice / law courts to data concerning defence and national security
2008/12/19	Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	1122	Legal framework for national computer files used by police, the justice system and domestic intelligence services
2009/01/28	EU correspondents	1149	Profession of sports agents
2009/01/30	all correspondents	1153	Time limits for appeal for the different parties in criminal court proceedings
2009/02/03	all correspondents	1179	Arrangements for Members of Parliament in the event of maternity (sent out directly)
2009/03/10	EU correspondents	1177	Right of EU residents to be elected at the executive level (such as Mayor/Deputy Mayor) of a local authority
2009/03/18	Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.	1188	Protection and civil security services
2009/04/30	all correspondents	1209	Preparation of legislative texts in parliaments
2009/04/30	all correspondents	1210	Consultation of citizens and their organisations by parliaments in the legislative practice
2009/05/06	Denmark, Finland, Spain and Sweden	1213	'Tax shield' procedures in Denmark, Finland, Spain and Sweden
2009/07/29	Belgium, Germany, Poland, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom	1249	National legislation on changing the family name and its reversal
2009/07/30	all correspondents	1250	Open source software market share in parliaments
2009/12/03	EU correspondents	1336	Publicity requirements of criminal hearings for juvenile offenders coming of age
2009/12/03	EU correspondents	1337	Enforcement and execution of sentences
FRANCE - SENAT			
2008/07/16	all correspondents	1032	Institutional Films of national Parliaments
GEORGIA - PARLIAMENT			
2008/06/25	all correspondents	1008	Legal Defence of a Person who became Insane after Committing Criminal Offence
2008/07/01	EU correspondents	1017	Regulation of Street Vendors in EU Member States
2008/07/02	all correspondents	1021	Observation of Elections by Video Eye
2008/12/16	all correspondents	1120	Protection of Minors' Rights at the time of Broadcasting
2009/01/06	Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Bulgaria	1127	Legal Regulations on Fish and Fishery Products

2009/01/13	all correspondents	1134	Prohibitions laid down in electoral law at elections (state material, participation of civil servants)
2009/02/10	all correspondents (except United Kingdom)	1159	Study and Training courses for MPs and Staff members
2009/02/18	all correspondents	1166	Computer (IT) equipment in parliaments
2009/07/13	all correspondents	1242	Maximum duration of administrative arrest of citizens in European countries
2009/08/14	all correspondents	1260	Information Security Policy (sent directly)
2009/09/28	all correspondents	1281	Electoral law with regard to local government / municipalities
2009/10/07	all correspondents	1293	Procedure of Communication with the Judges
2009/10/20	Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark	1305	Military Reserve Service
2009/11/20	all correspondents	1327	Salary Regulation of State Authorities
2009/11/25	all correspondents	1330	Legal Regulation of Status of Political Public Officials and Public Servants
2009/12/01	all correspondents	1332	Military procurements and military-technical cooperations
GERMANY - BUNDESTAG			
2008/01/07	Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	906	Liability to Prosecution for Rape within Marriage
2008/01/17	EU correspondents	912	Statutory Provisions designed to Reduce Emissions of Fine Particulates from small-scale Furnaces
2008/02/05	EU correspondents	922	Parliamentary Treatment of the Topic of Globalisation
2008/03/31	EU correspondents	957	Social Quality Standards in Local Public Transport (Social Tickets)
2008/04/21	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	964	Compulsory Fuel-economy Labelling for Used Cars being sold Commercially
2008/04/28	Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom	968	Corporate Identity of Parliament
2008/05/07	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom	972	Data Retention
2008/06/02	EU correspondents	993	Domestic Deployment of the Armed Forces
2008/06/09	EU correspondents , Norway, Switzerland	997	Councils for Elderly People
2008/06/18	EU correspondents , Russia	1003	MPs Remuneration and Secondary Activities
2008/07/01	EU correspondents	1018	Release of Genetically Modified Organisms into the Environment
2008/07/09	EU correspondents , USA	1027	Registers of Lobbyists
2008/07/22	EU correspondents	1034	Adoption of Stepchildren
2008/07/30	EU correspondents	1043	Copyright Fees for Television in Hotels
2008/08/06	Austria, Czech Republic., Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	1047	Cooling-off Period for Civil Servants
2008/08/25	Finland, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	1048	Military Technology Industry (sent out directly)
2008/09/03	EU correspondents, Switzerland	1055	Court-Appointed Defence for Prisoners on Remand
2008/09/03	EU correspondents , Norway, Switzerland	1054	Visiting Rights of Grandparents of Children whose Parents are divorced
2008/09/15	EU correspondents	1060	Parliamentary State Secretary
2008/09/22	EU correspondents, Switzerland	1065	Research laws – an international comparison
2008/09/30	EU correspondents	1069	Reimbursement of assistance expenses for Members of the European Parliament via the national parliaments
2008/10/08	Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom	1076	Amount of compensation paid for wrongful prosecution
2008/10/17	EU correspondents, USA	1079	Launching bilateral development cooperation - involvement of parliaments
2008/10/23	Austria, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom	1084	Bilateral aviation agreements

2008/11/05	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	1093	New instruments of financing in Official Development Assistance
2008/11/12	Austria, France, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Switzerland	1101	Statutory Regulations on the Installation of High-Voltage and Extra-High-Voltage Electricity Lines as Buried Cables
2008/11/24	all correspondents	1107	Training for Members of Parliament regarding their position as employers
2008/12/05	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	1116	EU driving licence regulations regarding the driving of fire engines
2008/12/09	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	1117	Remote or online searches of a computer hard drive
2009/01/07	Denmark, Italy, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom	1129	Legal options for the blocking of access to certain web content by Internet providers
2009/01/07	EU correspondents	1128	Electronic submission and distribution of documents in Parliament
2009/01/14	Austria, Belgium, France, Netherlands, United Kingdom	1138	Rights of consumer organisations in dealings with firms
2009/02/09	all correspondents	1156	Working hours per week, pay and pensions of police officers
2009/02/24	Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania	1180	Exemptions in parliamentary elections for parties representing national minorities (sent out directly)
2009/02/25	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	1182	Centralised marketing of agricultural products (sent out directly)
2009/03/02	EU correspondents	1173	Protection from expulsion for EU citizens and third-country nationals with an equivalent legal status
2009/03/05	EU correspondents	1175	State support for the press
2009/03/17	EU correspondents	1187	Legal regulations concerning war toys
2009/04/02	EU correspondents	1199	Support provided during the Iraq war
2009/04/08	Finland, Greece, Portugal, United Kingdom	1217	Ancillary copyright for press publishing houses (sent directly)
2009/04/09	EU correspondents, in particular Austria, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom	1218	Legal regulations concerning private ownership of firearms (sent directly)
2009/04/20	Austria, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Sweden	1203	Display screen in the plenary chamber
2009/04/23	EU correspondents	1207	Regulation of access to cable television networks regarding their use for the provision of telecommunications services
2009/04/30	Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, Greece, Cyprus	1211	Statutory obligation to vote (compulsory voting)
2009/04/30	EU correspondents, Switzerland, Iceland	1212	Donations to political parties by financial institutions receiving state support due to the current financial crisis
2009/05/08	EU correspondents	1215	Home-schooling
2009/05/20	EU correspondents	1219	Creation of a point of single contact in administrative matters for companies within the framework of the EU Services Directive
2009/07/14	EU correspondents, USA, Canada	1243	Wealth Tax and Inheritance Tax
2009/07/27	EU correspondents	1247	National anti-discrimination bodies
2009/08/19	EU correspondents	1261	Parental Custody
2009/10/06	EU correspondents	1289	Public spending on noise mitigation measures on existing railway lines
2009/11/13	EU correspondents, Switzerland, Canada, USA	1320	Plebiscites / referenda in Europe
2009/11/17	Denmark, France, Netherlands, United Kingdom	1322	What are the legal requirements or conditions for access which must be met by foreign service providers in the field of local and regional passenger rail services in your country?
2009/11/18	EU correspondents	1323	Special Investigator in Committees of Inquiry
2009/11/24	France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland	1329	Urgent Request: Organization and police functions of Customs in contrast to other authorities with (financial) police functions
2009/12/08	Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA, Canada	1340	The organisation of voting for voters living abroad
2009/12/15	EU correspondents	1346	"Tied-aid" instruments in development policy/development cooperation

2009/12/18	EU correspondents	1347	Commissioner for Matters relating to Disabled Persons
GREECE - VOULI TON ELLINON			
2008/02/27	EU correspondents	935	MPs Pay, Allowances and other Benefits (and percentage of Budget of Parliament)
2008/05/13	all correspondents	976	Supporting Documentation for Draft Bills
2008/06/24	EU correspondents	1006	Participation in Voting of Members of Parliament (absent due to illness or bad Health)
2009/11/04	all correspondents	1311	Taxation of dividends and capital gains from the disposal of shares - tax avoidance and tax evasion through the use of offshore companies
HUNGARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY			
2008/02/04	all correspondents	921	End of Mandate of an elected MP due to Permanent Incapacitation/Illness
2008/02/14	all correspondents	931	Media and Society: Critical Approach on Parliament, MPs and their Privileges
2008/03/03	EU correspondents, Croatia, Serbia, Ukraine	941	Committee on Immunity, Incompatibility and Mandate
2008/03/07	all correspondents	948	Interaction between Parliaments and Civil Society
2008/03/26	all correspondents	953	Security in the Courtroom
2008/06/02	all correspondents	991	Connection between Parliament and Citizens: Social Effects of Internet and parliamentary Homepages
2008/06/18	all correspondents	1000	Biometric Identification
2008/06/18	EU correspondents , Norway, Switzerland	1001	Temporary Employment in the Agricultural Sector
2008/07/23	all correspondents	1035	Nationwide Charta (Communication, Recommendation or Code of Ethics) on Consumer Protection
2008/08/04	all correspondents	1044	Actions and Concepts in order to Moderate the Price of Food
2008/10/30	all correspondents	1094	Allowances of MPs terminated or resign due to incapacity / serious illness and their widow due to death (sent directly by Hungarian Parliament)
2008/11/14	all correspondents	1103	National legislation on forest protection with regard to illegal wood cutting and timbering
2009/01/05	EU correspondents	1125	CO2 emission trading in EU Member States
2009/01/05	all correspondents	1126	Pay and allowances of MPs in the light of the financial and economic crisis (update of previous requests)
2009/01/27	all correspondents	1148	Whistle-blowing
2009/02/16	all correspondents	1164	Media and Society: Critical Approach on Parliament, MPs and their Privileges (update 931)
2009/02/16	all correspondents	1165	Dress and Behaviour Code for Press and Media Workers
2009/04/02	all correspondents	1198	Reforming the election system in particular with regard to the reduction of number of Members of Parliament
2009/07/13	all correspondents	1241	Environmental management in parliaments (based on previous request number 1062)
2009/10/21	EU correspondents	1306	Commerce of home-made agro-products
2009/11/03	EU correspondents	1309	Code of conduct concerning unilateral changes to consumer loan contracts
2009/12/09	EU correspondents	1342	Ecovillages (self-sufficient villages as regards food production)
2009/12/14	all correspondents	1344	Statutes of parliamentary groups (factions)
ICELAND - ALTHINGI			
2009/02/09	all correspondents	1158	Seating arrangement in Chamber of the Parliament
IRELAND - HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS			
2008/01/23	EU correspondents	917	Ethics Legislation and Committee of Members Interests
2008/04/03	EU correspondents	959	Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research (in the European Union)
2008/06/18	Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Norway	1004	Election Spending
2008/07/14	all correspondents	1031	Resources of Parliamentary Human Rights Committees and National Human Rights Commissions
2008/07/25	France, Germany, Norway, United Kingdom	1037	Mining and Exploration Industry
2008/08/28	EU correspondents	1050	Elections Spending - Disclosure and Limits
2008/11/19	all correspondents	1106	Corporate Services in National parliaments - functions

2009/01/09	all correspondents	1132	Recording of Parliamentary Debates
2009/01/09	EU correspondents	1131	The Regulation of Referendum Processes
2009/01/19	EU correspondents	1143	Powers of Parliamentary Committees: nomination and election to extra-parliamentary bodies (in particular to a broadcasting content regulator)
2009/03/03	Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Finland, United Kingdom	1174	Household and Packaging Waste
2009/04/21	Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom	1204	Resources of Parliamentary Communications Units
2009/07/22	all correspondents	1246	Regulation of Grocery Sector
2009/09/01	all correspondents	1268	Podcasting in parliamentary Library and Research Services
2009/10/19	EU correspondents	1302	House loans in default and repossessions
2009/11/09	EU correspondents	1318	Human rights and overseas development committees
2009/12/09	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain	1343	Samples of ballot papers
ISRAEL - KNESSET			
2008/01/17	all correspondents	914	The Freedom of Movement of the Accredited Media Reporters in the Parliamentary Building and Precinct
2008/03/27	all correspondents	955	Volunteers in Parliament
2008/04/01	all correspondents	958	Wiretapping of Members of Parliament and Government Ministers who are under criminal or security related Investigations.
2008/05/13	all correspondents	974	Official Day of Mourning
2008/06/30	all correspondents	1015	National Language Academies
2008/07/01	all correspondents	1016	Autonomous Religious Education
2008/08/25	all correspondents	1053	Charity and Election Financing
2008/08/25	all correspondents	1052	Youth Parliaments: Establishment, Elections and Representation
2008/11/05	all correspondents	1092	Existing schemes or apparatuses as incentives for encouraging the use of public transportation by employees
2008/11/17	all correspondents	1104	Extra-curricula sports activities among children and youth
2009/01/14	all correspondents	1136	Postponement of general elections
2009/01/26	Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom	1146	The possibility of carrying out criminal investigations and prosecuting a Prime Minister or President while he/she is still in office
2009/01/30	all correspondents	1152	Parliamentary reporters (stenographers)
2009/05/07	all correspondents	1214	Votes of no-confidence and other measures available to the parliament to bring down the Government
2009/06/15	all correspondents	1229	Numbers, Tasks and Remuneration of Members of Local and Municipal Councils
2009/06/22	all correspondents	1231	Length of service (duration) for officials in certain senior positions in the civil service
2009/09/07	all correspondents	1272	How members of the public can contact the social security authorities to enquire about their rights
2009/10/20	all correspondents	1304	Road safety education
2009/11/05	all correspondents	1312	Nepotism in the public civil service
ITALY - CAMERA DEI DEPUTATI			
2008/06/09	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom	998	Means of Financing of the Judicial System
2008/06/25	all correspondents	1010	Fair Electronic Vote in Plenary, Technical Measures to Prevent Voting on behalf of absent MPs
ITALY - SENATO DELLA REPUBBLICA			
2008/03/14	EU correspondents	946	Directory of European and National Rules on Web Applications
2008/06/19	all correspondents	1005	Parliamentary Scholarships and/or Traineeships
LATVIA - LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS SAEIMA			

2008/02/15	EU correspondents	932	Whether it is legal for a MP to hire a Relative as Assistant
2008/03/31	EU correspondents	956	Allowable Noise Level outside Premises
2008/08/04	EU correspondents	1045	People's Rights to Dismiss Parliament (Hindrances set by State to Prevent Electorate from Referendum)
2008/08/25	EU correspondents	1051	Workload for Doctor Psychiatrist in Public Clinics
2009/02/18	EU correspondents	1169	Rules to visit the national parliament
LITHUANIA - SEIMAS			
2008/04/16	all correspondents	963	Financing of Political Parties - Ban of Donations
2008/05/22	EU correspondents	984	Number of visitors of parliamentary Internet Legal database in 2007
2008/12/02	all correspondents	1113	Process of appointing a diplomatic representative in foreign states
2009/07/03	EU correspondents	1238	Translation of laws in national parliaments
2009/09/16	all correspondents	1277	Maintenance and preservation of the exteriors of privately owned buildings
2009/10/19	all correspondents	1300	Eligibility requirements to construction project managers
2009/11/20	all correspondents	1325	Rules and practices for issuing access passes to the building of parliament for members of foreign diplomatic missions accredited in your country.
2009/12/08	all correspondents	1341	Liability for graffiti
MOLDOVA - ASSEMBLEE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDAVIE			
2008/01/14	all Correspondents (not France and Hungary)	910	Monitoring and Control over the Implementation of Laws and/or Conduct of Researches on overall Impact of adopted Laws on the Society
2008/01/14	all correspondents	911	Electoral Blocks or Alliance
2008/06/25	all correspondents	1009	Social Corporative Responsibility (social partnership) realized at State-Business or State-Civil Society Level
NETHERLANDS - TWEDE KAMER DER STATEN-GENERAAL			
2008/01/07	all correspondents	908	Improving the Performance of Parliament
2008/01/22	all correspondents	916	Embargo on the National Budget
2008/05/16	EU correspondents	980	Day of Account
2008/05/21	Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA	983	Minority / Majority (Legal Age) in Criminal Cases
2008/06/16	EU correspondents	999	Composition of the Presidium
2008/11/04	all correspondents	1085	Code of conduct for parliaments with regard to inter-institutional and public relations
2008/11/10	all correspondents	1097	Parliamentary self reflection on inter-institutional relations between parliament and government
2009/01/15	all correspondents	1140	Information Technology Governance Model
2009/01/15	EU correspondents	1139	Duration of adoption leave
2009/02/18	EU correspondents	1168	The use of videoconference facilities in Parliament
2009/03/16	all correspondents	1185	Search technology in Parliaments
2009/03/16	EU correspondents	1186	Early consultation and information of parliaments about financial and economical crisis
2009/08/13	all correspondents	1258	The future of parliamentary work (sent directly)
2009/09/21	all correspondents	1279	Experiences regarding e-learning
2009/10/20	United Kingdom, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Poland	1303	Serious breach of confidentiality concerning the Budget
NORWAY - STORTINGET			
2008/03/10	all correspondents	944	Appointment of Ombudsmen
2008/09/15	all correspondents	1061	Inheritance Tax
POLAND - SEJM			
2008/04/09	all correspondents	961	Status of Parliamentary Services
2008/04/22	EU correspondents	965	Transposition of Lisbon Treaty
2008/05/13	all correspondents	975	State Care for Soldiers and Policemen (that were injured during abroad missions)
2008/05/27	all correspondents	987	Voting Privileges for Students

2008/05/27	EU correspondents	988	Heavy Schoolbags carried by Students Primary and Secondary Schools
2008/07/25	EU correspondents	1038	Participation of MEPs in Sitzings of National Parliaments
2008/08/25	France, Germany, Italy, Spain	1049	Public Procurement Procedure in relation to Supplies of Police Equipment
2008/09/11	EU correspondents	1058	Documenting Expenses by Economic Entities
2008/10/08	all correspondents	1075	Legal rules concerning the founding of Deputies' groupings
2009/01/13	all correspondents	1135	Availability of information concerning the state of health of heads of state and government
2009/01/22	all correspondents	1145	Electronic central register of voters
2009/02/18	all correspondents	1167	Issuance of national identity cards (ID)
2009/03/25	Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Spain, Germany, Sweden, Italy	1191	Forms of copyright and neighbouring rights protection
2009/03/25	all correspondents	1192	Access of adopted person to the data concerning his/her biological parents (adoption)
2009/03/31	France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA	1195	Access of Parliamentary Defence Committee to Classified Information (sent directly)
2009/06/02	Germany, Italy, France, Lithuania, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden, Finland	1224	Assistance for Teenage Mothers
2009/10/14	Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary	1297	Public access of citizens to state-owned inland waters
2009/10/19	Austria, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	1299	What arrangements (regulation, legal provisions, decisions) have been made for the election of additional MEPs for your country upon the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty?
2009/12/22	EU correspondents	1350	New method of state budget preparation and implementation called Performance-Based Budgeting
POLAND - THE SENATE			
2008/11/07	EU correspondents	1096	Information on the functioning programmes aiming to give meals to malnourished school children and on the financing of the programmes
2009/06/02	Estonia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, Slovakia, PACE	1226	Parliamentary budget in the framework of the result-based State budget
2009/08/03	all correspondents	1254	In vitro fertilisation (IVF) - regulations (sent directly)
2009/08/05	all correspondents	1255	Nuclear power plant sites and public opinion (polls) with regard to recreational areas (sent directly)
PORTUGAL - ASSEMBLEIA DA REPUBLICA			
2008/06/05	all correspondents	995	Impact Assessment on Legislative Initiatives
2008/06/26	all correspondents	1011	IT Budget in Parliament
2008/08/05	EU correspondents	1046	Regulation of Temporary Labour Contract
2009/02/20	all correspondents	1171	Questionnaire for the ECPRD Seminar Parliaments on the Net 2009, Lisbon
2009/03/25	EU correspondents, USA	1193	Permanent Projection Screen in (Plenary) Session Hall / Do journalists have access to the Session Hall to take photographs and film?
2009/11/23	all correspondents	1328	MPs travel regulations
2009/12/07	all correspondents	1339	Fight against corruption and crime of illegal enrichment
ROMANIA - CAMERA DEPUTATILOR			
2008/04/23	EU correspondents	966	Legal Texts on the Relation between Teacher/Trainer and Children under School Age/Pupil
2008/07/08	EU correspondents	1024	Handbook for New Staff
2008/09/08	EU correspondents	1056	Pension Scheme for Parliamentary Civil Servants
2009/02/11	all correspondents	1161	Statute of parliamentary civil servants (legislative texts and internal regulations)
2009/07/09	EU correspondents	1239	Bank recovery debts' officer (banking enforcement agents)
2009/08/21	EU correspondents, USA	1263	Management and financing of land improvement and in particular irrigation systems
2009/08/21	EU correspondents	1264	Special (professional) pensions for army forces, magistrates and diplomats
ROMANIA - SENAT			
2009/01/05	all correspondents	1124	The rights, benefits or allowances of Members of Parliament representing the nationals from abroad

2009/09/02	all correspondents of a bicameral system	1271	Joint sittings of the chambers in parliaments
2009/10/01	all correspondents	1285	Legislative measures that have been taken in European countries against the global economic crisis
RUSSIA - COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION			
2008/02/13	all correspondents	928	Conditions of Ratification European Charter Local Self-Government
2009/01/12	all correspondents	1133	Annual general meeting of the parliamentary staff
2009/04/20	all correspondents	1202	The administration of justice by nonprofessional judges
2009/07/30	all correspondents	1251	Practice of acceptance of modelling acts (model laws)
2009/09/02	all correspondents	1270	Criteria for the health-care system quality
2009/09/28	all correspondents	1282	Anti-corruption expertise of legislation
RUSSIA - DUMA			
2008/05/27	all correspondents	989	Tractor Industry and the Agricultural Machinery Industry
SERBIA - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY			
2008/09/16	all correspondents	1064	Anti-Corruption Agencies
2008/11/05	all correspondents	1091	Register for owners of media (TV, radio, newspaper)
2009/01/28	all correspondents	1151	Live broadcasting of government's sessions on television
2009/01/28	all correspondents	1150	The use of means of communication (mobile devices, phones, pagers) at the polling place
2009/10/05	all correspondents	1287	Legal framework with regard to hooligans in sport
SLOVAKIA - NATIONAL COUNCIL			
2008/01/17	Austria, Belgium, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Slovenia	913	University Teachers Working Hours
2008/03/04	EU correspondents	942	Government Sessions - Publishing Politics for Public (including Audio Records)
2008/04/29	Austria, Germany, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom	970	Security Clearances (concerning Classified Information)
2008/06/02	EU correspondents	994	Army Service in Foreign Country
2008/07/28	EU correspondents	1040	Contracts concerning Real Property
2008/09/11	EU correspondents	1059	Price of the Arable Land
2009/01/07	EU correspondents	1130	National legislation on the protection of ethnic minorities and against racism, extremism and xenophobia
2009/01/21	EU correspondents	1144	Construction police (building police)
2009/03/12	Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom, France, Austria, Italy, Denmark, Finland, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary	1181	Universities from foreign countries and their entrepreneurs activities
2009/06/02	all correspondents	1225	Moratorium on political campaign
2009/08/03	United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Belgium	1259	Old age pensions from social insurance funds and mechanism of its valorisation (adjustment) (sent directly)
2009/08/18	EU correspondents	1253	The Night Silence (Silent Hours during Night)
2009/08/24	EU correspondents	1265	Immunity and conflict of interest (update of previous requests)
2009/09/11	EU correspondents	1274	Disciplinary Courts
2009/10/02	Austria, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, France, Germany, Czech Republic, United Kingdom	1286	Sport Financing
2009/11/11	EU correspondents	1319	"Non-Party/Independent" Candidates in the Local and Regional Elections
SLOVENIA - DRZAVNI ZBOR (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY)			
2008/04/07	Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Slovak Republic, United Kingdom.	960	Rules on Naming important Infrastructure Facilities (such as airports, ports, railway stations, sports facilities, etc.).
2009/01/14	all correspondents	1137	Internal communication in parliaments for better information and greater satisfaction of parliamentary staff
2009/01/16	all correspondents	1142	The Control of a Parliament over State Budgetary Spending / The Financial Autonomy of a Parliament (preparation of the ECPRD seminar Macro-Economics Ljubljana 2009)

2009/01/27	all correspondents	1147	Explanation of the vote
2009/01/30	all correspondents	1154	Crisis communications - how parliaments cope with crisis events
2009/04/23	Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	1208	Appointment of directors of police directorates
2009/05/25	all correspondents	1222	Sports activities of Members of Parliament
2009/07/10	EU correspondents	1240	Procedure for dealing with resolutions and other non-legislative documents of the European Parliament
2009/10/19	Belgium, Norway, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland	1301	Status of the centres of alternative culture
SPAIN - CONGRESO DE LOS DIPUTADOS			
2008/05/14	all correspondents	978	Procedures regarding Last Honours on the Demise of an MP
2008/05/20	Denmark, France (AN), Germany (Bundestag), Italy (Camera), Portugal, United Kingdom (House Commons)	982	Structure of Order of Business for Plenary Sitings
2008/06/02	all correspondents	992	Delegation of Vote and Temporary Substitution/Replacement of MPs
2009/03/09	EU correspondents	1176	Blogs and personal pages of MPs
SPAIN - SENADO			
2008/10/02	EU correspondents	1070	Electoral ballot paper - regulations and working practices
2008/10/08	EU correspondents	1073	Procedures in parliaments for the award of contracts with suppliers
2008/10/08	EU correspondents	1074	Access to parliamentary civil service
SWEDEN - RIKSDAG			
2008/02/06	France, Germany, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom	924	Use/Hoisting of National Flag (on Parliamentary Premises) in the Event of Serious Accidents
2008/03/18	Spain, Italy, France, Portugal, Czech Republic	950	Apanage/Salary to Heads of State and other costs connected to this office 2003-2008
2008/05/26	Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom	985	Care of Elderly in Private respectively Public Financed Regime
2008/06/02	all correspondents	990	Terrorist Listings of Hezbollah
2008/07/01	Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, United Kingdom	1020	Sectarianism - Help in Leaving Sects
2008/07/08	Finland, France, Germany, United Kingdom	1023	Procedures pertaining to the Appointment of Senior Public Service Officials
2008/07/14	Belgium, Denmark, France, Portugal	1030	Alert System for Abducted and Disappeared Children
2008/07/22	France, Germany, Norway, United Kingdom	1033	Defence Industry
2008/09/15	EU correspondents , Norway, Switzerland	1062	Environmental Management System in Parliament
2008/09/30	EU correspondents	1068	Legal form of the organising bodies of public funded private schools
2008/10/16	Denmark, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Spain, Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Poland, Austria	1077	National parliaments right to send opinions directly to international organisations
2008/11/04	EU correspondents	1087	Legal provisions concerning night work
2008/11/04	Germany, France, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom	1088	Lay offs, notice and unemployment benefits in the industrial sector
2008/11/14	EU correspondents	1102	Parliament's relationship to the diplomatic corps
2008/12/18	Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway	1121	Work experience programmes within the national government administration for people with disabilities
2008/12/19	Denmark, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Belgium, France, Italy and Greece	1123	Subsidies to the press by governments
2009/02/11	United Kingdom, Germany, France, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Spain, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Austria, Ireland, Greece, Poland, Czech Republic	1162	Organization of the National Theatres
2009/02/19	EU correspondents	1170	The use and export of oral (smokeless) tobacco
2009/03/16	EU correspondents	1184	Legislation on hate crimes (publicly inciting to violence or hatred directed against a group of persons)

2009/05/27	Denmark, Finland, Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands	1223	Bio fuels or other renewable fuels used in the road transport sector
2009/06/10	Germany, Italy, France, United Kingdom	1228	Job losses in the vehicle industry
2009/06/22	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland.	1232	Survey on parliamentary support to former MPs
2009/07/14	all correspondents	1245	Secret ballot in Parliament
2009/08/19	EU correspondents	1262	Rape within marriage (violence against women)
2009/08/26	EU correspondents	1266	Males in preschool
2009/08/27	Denmark, Finland, France, Norway	1267	Costs of military officer's training
2009/09/28	all correspondents	1283	Vaccination against the influenza A(H1N1) (swine flu)
2009/09/30	EU correspondents	1284	Subsidies for repairs and renovations in the building sector
2009/10/23	Denmark, Spain, Germany, United Kingdom, USA.	1307	Investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency
2009/11/03	EU correspondents	1308	Subsidies and or other forms of financial support for the construction of residential flats
2009/11/04	Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Italy, United Kingdom	1310	Parliamentary Research Service - Vision and strategies for the future
2009/11/05	Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands	1314	Revocation of granted citizenship
2009/11/13	all correspondents	1321	Indictments and criminal investigations in the wake of the UN Oil for Food Programme
2009/12/02	United Kingdom, USA, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Finland, France, Spain, Switzerland	1335	Juvenile courts
SWITZERLAND - ASSEMBLEE FEDERALE			
2008/03/03	all correspondents	940	Form of Publication of Parliamentary Debates
2008/11/12	all correspondents	1100	Parliamentary Sports Groups
2008/12/01	all correspondents	1110	Press services for members of parliament (for the Bern Seminar 2009)
2009/02/09	Germany, Austria, Italy, France, United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Czech Republic and Latvia	1157	Rules of self-exclusion and their application
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA - ASSEMBLY			
2008/01/30	all correspondents	919	Access to the Databases on Legislation
2008/07/03	all correspondents	1022	Dress Code in Parliamentary Building (MPs, Staff, Visitors)
2008/09/15	EU correspondents, PACE, EP	1063	Rules of Procedure of Budgetary Council
2008/11/10	all correspondents	1099	Social dimension of energy poverty (social tariffs or other types of legal measures, subsidies or allowances)
2009/10/06	all correspondents	1290	Inter Community Relations Committee
TURKEY - THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY			
2008/02/05	all correspondents	923	Opening Ceremony of Parliament
2008/02/11	all correspondents	926	Allocation of Official Cars to Public Officials
2008/03/14	all correspondents	947	Parliamentary Committees on Equality between Women and Men - update
2008/07/08	all correspondents	1025	Horn Ban for Motor Vehicles
2008/07/10	all correspondents	1028	Criteria and Establishment Process for Metropolitan / Agglomeration / Mega City / Greater City Municipalities
2008/10/23	all correspondents	1082	Legal liability on unintentional homicide or injuries as a consequence of a traffic accident
2009/02/09	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Croatia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Cyprus, Romania	1155	The date of the accession to the EU as the date of entry into force of the laws
2009/04/21	all correspondents	1205	Electoral system of MP's from Nationwide Constituencies
2009/06/23	all correspondents	1234	Presenting unusual materials to the MP's in plenary session

2009/09/24	EU correspondents	1280	National legislation on firearms / weapon bills
2009/11/19	all correspondents	1324	Governmental Decisions on National Holidays in Case of an Epidemic Disease
UNITED KINGDOM - HOUSE OF COMMONS			
2008/01/24	all correspondents	918	External Members of Management Board in Parliament
2008/03/26	all correspondents	951	ICT Training to MPs and/or Staff
2008/06/09	all correspondents	996	Complaints about Answers by Ministers to Written Questions
2008/10/06	EU correspondents	1071	What is the maximum level (if any) to which personal bank deposits by individuals are protected by the government or some other agency, if the bank collapses?
2008/10/27	EU correspondents	1108	What limits, if any, are there in your country on the interest rate which loan companies or banks can charge personal customers (i.e. individuals)? (sent directly by the UK House of Commons)
2009/02/06	EU correspondents	1178	Military health insurance (sent out directly)
2009/03/20	EU correspondents	1189	Exemption from regulation for small businesses
2009/04/03	all correspondents	1200	Questionnaire for London Seminar September 2009 on research services
2009/08/12	all correspondents	1256	Parliamentary Broadcast Television arrangements (sent directly)
2009/10/12	all correspondents	1294	Public engagement by Parliament (media, outreach, education, facilitation, communication, events for citizens)
2009/12/01	all correspondents	1334	Parliamentary libraries and research services: helping Members find information
UNITED KINGDOM - HOUSE OF LORDS			
2008/02/25	all correspondents	934	Facility within the Chamber for Members to illustrate their speeches using PowerPoint
2008/07/28	all correspondents	1039	Policy on Corporate Social Responsibility
2008/11/04	France, Germany, Italy, Spain	1089	Procedures for summoning witnesses to parliamentary investigatory committees
2009/07/27	Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Canada, USA	1248	Second / Upper Chambers: Membership and Costs
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - CONGRESS			
2009/10/05	all correspondents	1288	Public Disclosure of official allowances claimed by individual MPs (follow up to ECPRD request #80 of 2002)

ANNEX 5

ATTENDANCE AT ECPRD SEMINARS

2008 – March 2010

Event	Place	Date	Participants
Seminar on "Parliament, Independent Agencies and Public Sector Companies" (<i>Area of Interest : Parliamentary Practice and Procedure</i>)	Madrid, Senado	18-19 April 2008	43 from 28 parliamentary assemblies and inter-parliamentary institutions
Seminar on "Parliamentary Libraries: Sharing Knowledge" (<i>Area of Interest: Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives</i>)	Vienna	29-30 May 2008	73 from 47 parliamentary assemblies and inter-parliamentary institutions
Seminar on "The European Central Bank in a New European and World Economy" (<i>Area of Interest: Macroeconomic Research</i>)	Strasbourg and Frankfurt	11-12 September 2008	40 from 21 parliamentary assemblies and inter-parliamentary institutions
Seminar on Designing Specific IT Solutions for Members of Parliament and Parliaments (<i>Area of Interest: ICT in Parliaments</i>)	Copenhagen	29-31 October 2008	74 from 55 parliamentary assemblies and inter-parliamentary institutions
Seminar on the Control of a Parliament over State Budgetary Spending / The Financial Autonomy of a Parliament (<i>a joint project of the Areas of Interest: Macroeconomic Research and Parliamentary Practice and Procedure</i>)	Ljubljana	27-28 March 2009	60 from 24 parliamentary assemblies and inter-parliamentary institutions
Seminar on Parliaments on the Net VII "How to bring parliament closer to the citizens through the use of the Internet" (<i>Area of Interest: ICT in Parliaments</i>)	Lisbon	28-29 May 2009	48 from 31 parliamentary assemblies and inter-parliamentary institutions
Seminar on Press Services for Members of Parliament (<i>Area of Interest: Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives</i>)	Bern	18-19 June 2009	50 from 30 parliamentary assemblies and inter-parliamentary institutions
Seminar on Research and information for Parliaments – new challenges, new opportunities (<i>Area of Interest: Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives</i>)	London	17-18 September 2009	60 from 46 parliamentary assemblies and inter-parliamentary institutions
Seminar on "Advanced IT services for MPs, Citizens and Parliamentary Cooperation" (<i>Area of Interest: ICT in Parliaments</i>)	Rome	26-27 November 2009	77 from 38 parliamentary assemblies and inter-parliamentary institutions
Seminar on "Lessons from the Current Financial Economic Crisis: A Parliamentary Stock-Taking" (<i>Area of Interest: Economic Research</i>)	Paris, WEU Assembly	26 March 2010	48 from 35 parliamentary assemblies and inter-parliamentary institutions
Total			573 participants in 10 ECPRD seminars

ANNEX 6

GUIDELINES FOR COMPARATIVE REQUESTS AND STUDIES (13 November 2006)

Comparative requests are one of the most important functions of the ECPRD network. These guidelines provide a framework for submitting comparative requests with the aim of helping both those chambers that make requests and those that answer them. All individual replies, and the comparative studies resulting from them, will be put on the ECPRD website.

The following guidelines, which were approved by the Conference of Correspondents in October 2006, apply from January 2007.

In these guidelines:

- a 'comparative request' is a request for information sent to three or more member chambers via the ECPRD network.
- a 'comparative study' is a summary of the responses to a comparative request, prepared initially for the requesting chamber and subsequently made available to all Correspondents via the ECPRD website.

1. Article 9.1 of the ECPRD Statutes says that "the ECPRD promotes *co-operation between member chambers through the exchange of information, compilation of documentation and studies and the organisation of seminars...*".

2. Information is exchanged and documentation (comparative studies) prepared at the request of and by the staff of member chambers. Once prepared, this information is made available to all ECPRD Correspondents.

3. If a member chamber wishes to undertake a comparative study, its Correspondent (or Deputy Correspondent) should arrange for the preparation of a questionnaire and subsequently request its dispatch to all or to a group of Correspondents.

4. The ECPRD Secretariat is responsible for sending out questionnaires to Correspondents. Hence, all draft questionnaires should be sent by chambers making requests to the Secretariat in electronic form (see: www.ecprd.europarl.europa.eu) on the ECPRD website). The Secretariat will verify questionnaires in order to avoid duplication, number each request and subsequently dispatch them to both the Correspondents and Deputy Correspondents for reply.

GUIDANCE ON COMPARATIVE REQUESTS

5. Before forwarding the draft questionnaire to the ECPRD Secretariat Correspondents should ensure:

- that the information they are looking for is not already available (e.g. via earlier comparative studies, websites such as those of national parliaments, ASGP, IPU etc.);
- that requests are formulated in such a way that they do not lead to any confusion and that answers can be provided relatively easily.

6. There is no limit on the number of requests that each chamber may put. However, all Correspondents should take into account the burden they put on their colleagues from other parliaments when asking them to answer questionnaires, and wherever possible seek alternative ways of finding the information they need.

7. In all cases, comparative requests should:

- be as short and as simple as possible. *Short and simple questions will encourage more replies.*
- give as long a deadline as possible. *Unnecessarily short deadlines will lead to fewer replies.*
- be accompanied by a 'model' answer from the Chamber making the request. *Legal systems and policies vary considerably from country to country and, as a result, requests framed in one country are often difficult to understand in others. A model answer will always help countries answering comparative requests to understand what is required.*

8. A request for the distribution of questionnaires should be made using the template on the ECPRD website, and include:

- the full name of the requesting chamber;
- the name, title and contact details (telephone, fax, e-mail address) of the person responsible in the requesting chamber;
- a clear and, if possible, self-explanatory title for the questionnaire (*this will make it easier to find comparative requests on the ECPRD website, as the site's search engine searches on words in titles*);
- detailed background information including the reason for the questionnaire and the intended use of the results;
- an indication as to which group of Correspondents the questionnaire should be addressed (e.g. all Correspondents, EU Correspondents, etc.);
- a deadline for answers;
- a model answer drafted by the requesting chamber using their own situation as a basis

9. In principle, comparative requests can be drafted in any of the three ECPRD working languages, but an accompanying translation in English would expedite the replies.

GUIDANCE ON REPLYING

10. Answers to questionnaires should be provided by appropriate parliamentary staff and should be addressed to the person indicated by the requesting chamber within the specific deadline. A copy should also be sent to the ECPRD Secretariat in Brussels. Answers should be drafted in one of the ECPRD languages, but preferably in English. Wherever possible they should be sent by email.

11. Replies may be provided by one chamber or by both (in bicameral legislatures) depending on the nature of the request. Where the reply of each chamber would be the same, the two chambers should agree which should reply on behalf of them both and state that they are doing so in their reply.

GUIDANCE ON COMPARATIVE STUDIES

12. The requesting chamber will be responsible for preparing a comparative study on the basis of answers received to requests. If it anticipates that it will not be able to produce a comparative study, it should state this clearly when it makes its initial request.

13. This comparative study should be made available to all ECPRD Correspondents, as soon as possible after it is completed. It should be sent in electronic format to the ECPRD Secretariat (see the ECPRD website: www.ecprd.europarl.europa.eu) as soon as possible after completion. The Secretariat will send confirmation of receipt. A comparative study prepared for an ECPRD seminar should initially be made available to the conference participants (on paper in the conference file and on the conference website) and subsequently to all ECPRD Correspondents, along with the seminar proceedings and other relevant documents.

14. A study will ideally be produced in one of the three ECPRD working languages but may be produced in the requesting chamber's mother tongue.

15. All comparative studies will be available to ECPRD Correspondents via the ECPRD website (www.ecprd.europarl.europa.eu), alongside the initial replies provided by the parliaments.

16. Two or more member chambers may cooperate in preparing or updating a comparative study on an issue, or to create an electronic dossier. Such cooperation may be informal or as an ad hoc working group established under Article 9.4 of the ECPRD's statutes.

**Flow chart of action
to undertake an ECPRD comparative study**

1	<u>Requesting Correspondent</u>
	Arranges for the preparation of a request in accordance with the guidelines, using the template on the ECPRD website; and includes a model answer.
2	Requesting Correspondent
	Sends the request to the ECPRD Secretariat for dispatching
3	ECPRD Secretariat
	Verifies the request to avoid duplication and sends it to the requested Correspondents and Deputy Correspondents
4	Correspondents
	Arranges for replies to the request, within the deadline specified, to the requesting Chamber and the ECPRD Secretariat
5	Requesting Correspondent
	Ensures that a comparative study on the basis of answers received is submitted to the ECPRD Secretariat
6	ECPRD Secretariat
	Ensures the timely publication of requests, replies and comparative studies on the ECPRD website

ANNEX 7

GUIDELINES FOR THE ORGANISATION OF SEMINARS

12 October 2007

Preface

In response to requests by Correspondents, the Executive Committee of the ECPRD in 1998 drafted a brochure to assist parliaments in organising ECPRD sponsored events.

This new and revised version takes into account suggestions made over the last few years. It was approved by the Conference of Correspondents at its meeting in Yerevan on 12 October 2007.

The guidelines are intended to help in the practical organisation of ECPRD seminars.

These guidelines are also available on the website of the ECPRD (www.ecprd.europarl.europa.eu), together with the logo files, which can be downloaded. The files are also available via e-mail from the ECPRD Secretariat.

Any comments on this publication should be addressed to the ECPRD Co-Secretary.

Piotr NOWINA-KONOPKA
Co-Director
European Parliament

Wojciech SAWICKI
Co-Director
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

* _ * _ *

Introduction

Seminars constitute one of the working methods of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (article 9.1 of the Statutes of the ECPRD). They are usually organised by national parliaments in cooperation with the ECPRD Secretariat. This paper outlines the procedure which should be followed when organising an ECPRD seminar.

- a. A **proposal to organise a seminar** should be submitted by the ECPRD Correspondent to the ECPRD Secretariat, not later than September of the preceding year, in order to allow the Executive Committee to present the proposal to the annual Conference of Correspondents of the ECPRD (which usually takes place in October) for approval.
- b. If the subject of a proposed seminar is considered as falling within a field of activity for which an ECPRD Coordinator has been appointed, the Executive Committee will consult the Coordinator concerned on the organisation of the seminar in question. The Coordinator will – together with the ECPRD Correspondent of the host parliament – subsequently be responsible for the coordination of the preparations for the seminar.
- c. In the light of the proposals received, the Executive Committee will endeavour to draw up a well-balanced list of seminars as regards their location, timing in the year and proposed topics.
- d. The proposal should contain a proposed subject, a preliminary agenda and a proposed date. The proposed subject should be of common interest to national parliaments and should be in line with the statutes of the Centre.
- e. The seminar should also, where possible, take into account previous ECPRD conferences organised on the same subject, in order to ensure continuity in parliamentary debate.
- f. The **agenda of the seminar** should be drafted in such a way that the subject to be discussed is presented on the basis of the experience of several national parliaments or countries. The seminars should give participants a wider, European perspective rather than concentrate on the experience of one country only. It is therefore recommended that colleagues from other parliaments or outside experts should be invited as keynote speakers.
- g. If an outside sponsor is involved, the host parliament should inform the Executive Committee.
- h. If the organising Parliament is seeking financial support from the ECPRD, a preliminary budget should be included.
- i. The agenda should encourage active participation (enough time for debate, simultaneous discussion groups (working groups), etc.).
- j. The agenda should include - if possible - a welcoming address by the Secretary General of the host parliament and a statement by a representative of the Executive Committee of the ECPRD.
- k. A draft agenda should be sent to the ECPRD Secretariat not later than 9 weeks before the seminar, for approval by the Co-Directors.
- l. The seminar should be geared to parliamentary staff. The proposal should clearly specify whether it is addressed to some specific group (e.g. librarians, committee secretaries, legal staff, administration, information technology staff, etc.).
- m. The days of the seminar should preferably be Thursday/Friday, Friday/Saturday or Monday/Tuesday to enable participants to obtain cheaper air fares (APEX, PEX).
- n. The initial proposal should clearly indicate a set of objectives to be achieved during the seminar.

Invitations

Invitations to attend the seminar should – if possible - be prepared not later than 12 weeks beforehand. They should be sent by e-mail to the ECPRD Secretariat for onward transmission to all Correspondents of the Centre. In the invitation letter, Correspondents will be asked to nominate participants from their respective parliaments. No invitations should be sent directly to members of staff of member parliaments.

The invitation should include:

- an invitation letter containing general information on the seminar (subject, date, to whom it is addressed, what are the objectives etc.);
- the proposed agenda of the seminar;
- a questionnaire (if appropriate) to be returned to the organisers before the seminar in order to allow them to prepare a comparative study on the subject of the seminar;
- a list of suggested (pre-booked) hotels;
- a registration form (where applicable, with an indication as regards discussion group preference).

Registration forms should be returned to the organisers not later than three weeks before the event.

ECPRD website / host website

In order to permit Correspondents properly to prepare their contribution and participation, all relevant information regarding seminars is also to be available on the ECPRD website (<http://www.ecprd.europarl.europa.eu>) and/or host website.

These sites can also be used to edit final reports, questionnaires and comparative studies resulting from the seminars.

Meeting place

It is recommended that ECPRD seminars be held in one of the conference rooms of the national Parliament hosting the event. The programme may include a short visit to the Parliament building.

The room must be equipped with interpreters' booths, microphones and headphones. Water, glasses, pencils and paper should be available to the participants. Information documents on the ECPRD (as provided by the ECPRD Secretariat) should also be available. An information file on the host parliament, city and country is always welcome. The ECPRD logo (provided by the ECPRD Secretariat) should be placed visibly in the room.

Notices (in English and French) must be posted in easily visible locations to enable participants to find the meeting room. Identification badges for participants should be prepared.

Hotel reservation

An initial pre-booking of hotel rooms by the organisers in hotels in the vicinity of the meeting place would be welcomed. This pre-booking should take into account that some participants may prefer to stay over the weekend in order to benefit from cheaper air fares. The opportunity to choose between two or three hotels in different categories (2, 3, 4 stars) is always appreciated. The list of suggested hotels appended to the invitation letter should include their addresses, telephone and fax numbers and, where relevant, a reservation code if a special rate has been negotiated.

Interpretation for seminars

Simultaneous interpretation in the usual working languages of the ECPRD is very much appreciated. The host parliament should meet the cost associated with interpretation and with the use of interpretation equipment (booths, microphones, headphones etc.).

Simultaneous interpretation should also - if possible - be available in the discussion groups. If this is not the case, the registration form should indicate the languages to be used in these groups.

Sponsoring

In principle, the cost of the seminar should be covered by the host parliament. The cost of participation of representatives of certain parliaments may be covered by the European Parliament or by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Correspondents of the countries concerned will be directly informed about this possibility by the ECPRD Secretariat.

It may happen that the host parliament seeks additional sources of financing (e.g. to cover the cost of interpretation, participation of experts, official meals etc.). Any sponsoring should be carried out in line with the national rules applicable for events organised by or in the national parliament. If the host parliament decides to accept outside sponsors, the ECPRD Executive Committee should be informed beforehand about the proposal and about the national rules on sponsoring. The Executive Committee may raise an objection to the proposed sponsoring if it finds it inappropriate. Special attention should be given to commercial sponsoring – in which case the Executive Committee may ask the host parliament to provide a detailed explanation demonstrating the need for this particular sponsorship.

ECPRD Secretariat assistance

The host parliament will receive from the ECPRD Secretariat a package of ECPRD materials for distribution during the seminar. The Secretariat can also provide technical and graphical data on the ECPRD layout which can be used when printing seminar documents.

Host parliaments are encouraged to contact the ECPRD secretariat in order to be able to benefit from its wide expertise, so that they can be briefed and assisted in practical and technical matters in the organisation of seminars. This is essential when financial support is requested from the ECPRD.

Evaluation form

Before the end of the seminar, each participant should receive and complete an evaluation form. This form should be prepared by the host parliament on the basis of the model appended (see Annex). After being examined by the host parliament, an analysis/summary of these forms should be forwarded to the ECPRD Secretariat.

Report

The ECPRD Correspondent of the host parliament is requested to prepare a report on the seminar for publication on the ECPRD website and in the ECPRD Newsletter. The report should briefly describe the seminar (subject, objectives, date, place, agenda, participants and results reached) and should also present the results of the above-mentioned evaluation. The report should be sent to the ECPRD Secretariat no later than one month following the seminar. A single publication of seminar documents (papers presented by speakers, a comparative study based on the questionnaire distributed before the seminar, minutes of discussions, etc.) would be greatly appreciated.

ECPRD SEMINAR - EVALUATION FORM

- 1. Why did you wish to participate in this seminar?
Please pick one or more of the following options:**

To obtain information – update my knowledge – on the seminar's theme	
To establish contacts with speakers	
To establish contacts with other parliaments	
Other reasons [please explain]:	

- 2. Has the seminar contributed to attaining your objectives?**

Considerably	Adequately	A little	Not at all

- 3. (a) I would have liked to receive more information on the following topics:**

(b) for the following reasons:

- 4. (a) I propose the following topics for a future seminar:**

(b) for the following reasons:

5. How do you evaluate the overall organisation of the seminar, in terms of:

	Highly Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory	Not at all Satisfactory
Administrative arrangements				
Conference room and interpretation				
Time schedule				
Quality of speakers				
Overall organisation				

**6. How did you learn about this seminar?
Please pick one or more of the following:**

Via ECPRD website	
Via direct e-mail	
From ECPRD Correspondent	
Other: [please indicate]	

7. Any remarks/suggestions (on practical matters):

ANNEX 8

ECPRD CO-ORDINATOR TASKS AND DUTIES

ECPRD coordinators are appointed by the ECPRD Executive Committee in accordance with Article 9.3 of the ECPRD Statutes. They are appointed from among the competent staff of member chambers, with the consent of the chamber concerned, for a renewable term of three years.

The ECPRD coordinator shall be responsible for:

- coordinating ECPRD activities in his/her area of responsibility;
- promoting close cooperation, exchange of experience and best practices between the ECPRD member chambers in the area he/she is responsible for;
- following developments and keeping abreast of new ideas and concepts in his/her area of responsibility;
- analysing the information obtained and transforming it into new ideas and proposals for future ECPRD programmes;
- creating a network of, and keeping contacts with, staff of member chambers and other inter-parliamentary networks who are active in his/her area of responsibility (e.g. email groups, via websites etc.) with a view to facilitating a rapid exchange of information;
- liaising with the ECPRD Correspondents and with those civil servants in the member chambers who are active in his/her area of responsibility with a view to discussing with them the possible interest of their chambers in organising an ECPRD activity;
- assisting member chambers in organising an activity in his/her area of responsibility;
- contributing to the establishment of a detailed programme of activities organised by member chambers in his/her area of responsibility, taking account of past events in order to avoid unnecessary duplication;
- regularly reporting to the ECPRD Executive Committee and to the Conference of Correspondents on his/her activities;
- co-operating with other ECPRD coordinators in order to promote synergies and to avoid duplication.

ECPRD Areas of Interest and subjects covered by them

Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives:

- General questions:
 - organisation;
 - staffing;
 - policies;
 - services;
 - budgets and resources;
 - client relations and marketing;
 - performance criteria.
- Libraries:
 - collection development;
 - space considerations;
 - use of databases;
 - reference sources;
 - current awareness services;
 - electronic libraries.
- Research services:
 - analysis and support for Members, party groups and committees;
 - new products;
 - dissemination and availability;
 - legislative analysis.
- Archives:
 - paper and digital;
 - availability to the public.

Information and Communication Technology in Parliaments:

- ICT developments in parliaments:
 - e-Parliament (services & technologies);
 - Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) and Web Services;
 - Digital signature;
 - Electronic voting system;
 - Digital information archiving;
- ICT strategies in parliaments:
 - Security & Business continuity;
 - Open source versus licence-based systems;
- ICT knowledge database (structure and functioning of ICT in Parliaments);
- E-Representative Project to support the mobile elected Representative.

Parliamentary Practice and Procedure:

- Parliament and Constitution/ Parliamentary regime/ Representative democracy;
- Composition and dissolution of parliamentary assemblies;
- Bodies of parliamentary assemblies;
- Functions of parliamentary assemblies:
 - law making;
 - control of the government;
 - budgetary power;
 - specific powers;
 - international dimension;
 - incidents and security;
- Status of the MPs:
 - material status;
 - parliamentary immunities;
 - declaration of interests and/or assets;
 - incompatibilities;
 - deontology;
- Internal organization of parliamentary assemblies:
 - personnel;
 - departments;
 - logistics and buildings;
 - legal personality and lawsuits;
 - press relations;
 - protocol;
 - public relations, publications and visitors.

Economic Research:

- General macroeconomic developments in Europe;
- The organisation of macroeconomic research in parliaments;
- Europe and globalisation - including economic reform; intra-European trade and investment; and the WTO process;
- The relationship between economic development on the one hand, and democracy, human rights and the rule of law on the other (including the fight against economic crime and corruption);
- The parliamentary budgetary process;
- European monetary affairs, including the Economic and Monetary Union and other currency developments;
- Energy and economic development;
- Europe and development cooperation.

ANNEX 9

TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CORRESPONDENTS

The Statutes of the ECPRD (Article 5) state:

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.

Correspondents are central to the successful functioning of the ECPRD and should develop and lead an active network of colleagues who will co-operate effectively with others in the various fields of ECPRD activity. In doing this they may be assisted by a Deputy Correspondent.

Correspondents should, therefore, ideally be senior and experienced officials who have the capacity to be **pro-active in leading the range of ECPRD activities** in their chamber. They should have good working relationships with colleagues in their chambers, in particular with those in information and research services and elsewhere who are most likely to answer comparative requests.

Correspondents should :

- Regularly publicise the work of ECPRD among officials in their chamber: especially the ECPRD website, including ECPRD discussion forums, the newsletter and other ECPRD publications.
- Do their best to ensure that comparative requests sent to their chamber are answered by the deadline; or, if this is not possible, inform the chamber making the request, at an early stage, that this will not be possible.
- Ensure that comparative requests made by their chamber meet the guidelines on requests¹ (particular attention is drawn to paragraphs 5, 6 and 7).
- Following a comparative request from their chamber, ensure that a comparative study is prepared and sent to the ECPRD Secretariat.²
- Encourage colleagues to attend ECPRD seminars.
- Consider whether their chamber could host an ECPRD seminar and discuss this with their Secretary General and other senior officials.
- Send information that is likely to be of wider interest to the ECPRD Secretariat, which will make it available on the ECPRD website.
- Regularly update the ECPRD Secretariat with changes in names and contact details for officials included in the ECPRD Directory.
- Liaise with the IPEX and Eurovoc Correspondents in their Parliaments, and with colleagues involved in other information networks (for example IFLA), to promote synergies and minimise duplication.
- Come to the annual Conference of Correspondents prepared to contribute, having discussed the agenda with colleagues in their chamber.
- Report periodically on ECPRD activities to their Secretary General and other senior officials, for example to brief them before their meetings held on the occasion of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments at which they approve the activity report and action programme of the ECPRD.

¹ <https://ecprd.secure.europarl.europa.eu/ecprd/getfile.do?id=25>

² see paragraphs 12 to 16 of guidelines for comparative requests

ANNEX 10

GUIDELINES on Honorary Association with the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD)

adopted by the Conference of Correspondents on 10 October 2008

- 1. Conditions governing the award of the title of Honorary Associate of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation**
 - a. The title of “Honorary Associate of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation” may be awarded to any former Correspondent, Deputy-Correspondent, Co-ordinator, Co-Secretary or Co-Director of the ECPRD who has been fulfilling his/her duties for at least ten years, consecutively or not, and who has rendered outstanding services to the ECPRD.
 - b. The title of “Honorary Associate” shall be granted by the Conference of Correspondents at the proposal of the Executive Committee.
- 2. Prerogatives of honorary associates**
 - a. Honorary Associates of the ECPRD may attend ECPRD meetings and seminars.
 - b. They shall, upon request, be included on the mailing list for the ECPRD Newsletter.
 - c. They shall, upon request, have access to the private section of the ECPRD website.

ANNEX 11

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCES OF CORRESPONDENTS

Annual Conference of Correspondents, Brussels 10 October 2008

1. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

Mr Nowina-Konopka (ECPRD Co-Director) opened the meeting at 9.30 a.m. and welcomed participants. He invited any new colleague, or anyone else who might wish to introduce him or herself, to do so. There followed brief presentations by Mr Grigorian, Ms Bajraktarevic, Ms Solomonidou, Ms Ringvard, Mr Deilhaes, Ms Diez, Ms Szekrenyes, Ms Lazarevska, Mr Nielsen, Mr Semenov, Ms Iordache, Ms Serebreanschi and Ms Cousins.



Mr Nowina-Konopka wished all new colleagues every success in their work and excellent cooperation with their colleagues.

He proposed the following changes to the draft agenda:

- the insertion of a new item after point 2, to read: "Guidelines on Honorary Association with the ECPRD";
- discussing items 5 and 11 jointly;
- the inversion of items 12 and 13 for the sake of logic.

Thus amended, the draft agenda was **agreed**.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS (Yerevan, 12 October 2007)

The draft minutes were **approved**.

3. GUIDELINES ON HONORARY ASSOCIATION WITH THE ECPRD

Mr Sawicki, ECPRD Co-Director, presented draft guidelines on Honorary Association with the ECPRD, apologizing for the fact that it had been possible to present them to Correspondents only shortly before the meeting. The members of the Executive Committee had been consulted on the idea and had indicated that they found it useful for the ECPRD to offer honorary association to departing colleagues who had given great service to it, provided they met certain conditions. One should be a length of service of at least five years. The decision to decide on this should lie with, first, the Executive Committee and then with the Conference of Correspondents.

Following a question by **Mr Scotti** (Italy, Chamber of Deputies), **Mr Sawicki**, replied that any person should be able to propose the granting of ECPRD Honorary Association status.

Mr Laporte (France, Senate), considered this a most welcome proposal, which would further strengthen the ECPRD's friendly and convivial character. Both national and international parliamentary institutions were already granting honorary association. It could, however, prove somewhat embarrassing to award this title to officials from national parliaments. Perhaps one could make a distinction between, on the one hand, the correspondents and deputy correspondents appointed by the Secretaries General of national parliaments and, on the other, ECPRD Co-Directors and Co-Secretaries.

Mr van Rijn (Netherlands, Second Chamber) felt this was a well-meant proposal reflecting the strong bonds of friendship between ECPRD participants. However, he doubted if it should be done in this way. At least thirty people present here today could rightly claim to be given the status. Correspondents and deputy correspondents should not be beneficiaries and the number of years of service should be increased to ten or fifteen.



Mr Scotti supported Mr Laporte. He proposed to amend paragraph 2a of the draft as follows: "Honorary Associates of the ECPRD may attend ECPRD meetings and seminars".

Mr Nowina-Konopka said that any parliament hosting an ECPRD event could invite outside personalities, in the way that the European Parliament had invited Professor Maurer to address the present meeting the previous day. He supported the Honorary Association initiative, as it rewarded outstanding work and enhanced friendly relations.

Mr Clements (United Kingdom, House of Commons) felt that Honorary Association should be granted only exceptionally.

Mr Sawicki said that honorary association existed in other organisations, such as the ASGP. It included not only former Presidents but also former members and ASGP co-secretaries, many of whom were still officials of their national parliaments. He was himself an honorary member of the ASGP. The draft guidelines had been inspired by the ASGP example. In his view ECPRD correspondents and deputy correspondents should be eligible for Honorary Association. It should be up to Correspondents to fix the minimum number of years of service required. He could agree with ten years if this was the general opinion.

The meeting approved the draft guidelines on Honorary Association with the ECPRD subject to the following changes :

- in paragraph 1 a. replace "five years" with "ten years"
- replace the current text of paragraph 2 a. with the following: "Honorary Associates of the ECPRD may attend ECPRD meetings and seminars"

Following a proposal by the Executive Committee, whose members had been consulted on 9 and 10 October 2008, the Correspondents **agreed** to award the title of "Honorary Associate of the ECPRD" to Ms Hanneke Coppolecchia.

4. CHANGES IN THE ECPRD SECRETARIAT

Mr Sawicki pronounced warm words of farewell and thanks to Ms Coppolecchia, who had retired on 30 September 2008.³ He recalled that the Centre had had time to reconcile itself with the sad prospect of Ms Coppolecchia's looming retirement since its meeting in Yerevan a year ago, when a song of lamentation and pleading had been spontaneously composed and performed in unison before her. The anniversary publication "ECPRD 30 years, 1977-2007" had again mentioned the unavoidable in moving terms, and the matter had again been raised, again seemingly to little avail, at the meeting of Secretaries General of parliaments in Strasbourg in May 2008.

Now had come the time for the final farewell. Ms Coppolecchia's Honorary Association with the ECPRD as just granted would open the door to all ECPRD meetings and to those of all and any of her former ECPRD colleagues on her future odysseys across Europe. One place she was sure to visit would presumably be Rome. There she had passed a degree in biblio-economics at the Vatican Biblioteca Apostolica. From 1968 to 1978 she had been Head of the Library of the Dutch Historical Institute in Rome.

Since 1978 she had been working for the European Parliament, both as assistant to the late Mr Pöhl, the ECPRD Co-Director at the time and as an information specialist in the EP library. In 2000 she had been appointed ECPRD Co-Secretary (from the EP). In this position she had also been in charge of the management of the ECPRD secretariat and the ECPRD website.

Mr Sawicki wished Ms Coppolecchia a very happy future and thanked her for everything she had done for the ECPRD and for himself. In the last years they had worked very closely together, in a spirit of great confidence.

Ms Coppolecchia said that she had always felt very grateful to have been able to work for the ECPRD, also because its Co-Directors and institutions had given her much latitude of action. She continued by

³ The full text of the speech is available on the ECPRD website among the documents listed under the 2008 conference of correspondents

stating that after having been involved with the ECPRD for so many years, her retirement from the ECPRD was a very strange feeling. She thanked all Correspondents and others in the ECPRD for their cooperation expressing particular gratitude to Mr Sawicki and to Mr Nowina-Konopka for whom she had worked directly, as well as to MM Ribot, Heinrich, Torbiörn and Hilbert for their close cooperation. Her successor Mr Hüschen would, she was convinced, invest all his knowledge and energy in his new job with the ECPRD and was the ideal person for it.

Mr Nowina-Konopka in turn expressed his gratitude to Ms Coppolecchia for all her hard work for the ECPRD over the years and paid tribute to her professional and personal qualities. Her successor, Mr Hüschen, was a specialist in languages and had spent all his professional life in libraries, first in Germany and then, since 1996, in the EP. He was perfectly suited to become Ms Coppolecchia's successor.

5. MEETING OF THE SECRETARIES GENERAL OF PARLIAMENT (23 May 2008)

Mr Sawicki said that the minutes of this meeting were in the files. Mr Nowina-Konopka and himself had presented the 2006-2008 Activities Report to the Secretaries General (SGs). They had expressed appreciation for the ECPRD's work and had noted its volume with agreeable surprise, in particular the number of comparative requests and replies. When figures of replies provided by a number of parliaments had been mentioned, this had almost given rise to a competition as to which chamber had supplied the most.

The issue of avoiding a situation where the ECPRD became victim of its own success due to its being swamped with requests had been raised. A number of SGs had underlined the need to avoid any duplication of requests by taking measures to somehow limit the number of questionnaires.

The text drafted by the Executive Committee on the tasks and responsibilities of ECPRD Correspondents had been submitted to the SGs for endorsement, partly to remedy a situation where the many duties of ECPRD Correspondents and their role in the ECPRD seemed not always to be duly recognised in their national work context. It was important to try to upgrade the position of Correspondents in their national parliament, by having their work in the ECPRD, involving as it did cooperation with other national parliaments and international assemblies, taken into due account.

The text had been well received and endorsed by the SGs. The representative of the House of Commons had said that the ECPRD network could be strengthened if the SGs invested correspondents with the necessary competencies and gave them adequate support. It was now hoped that the text could be applied at the level of the national parliaments. Obviously, the ECPRD was in no position to in any way influence SG management policies. However, the text on the tasks and responsibilities of correspondents would no doubt assist them in properly assessing added work of ECPRD correspondents.

Mr van Rijn referred to a statement by Mr Delcamp in the minutes of the meeting, saying that the EUROVOC thesaurus had not been updated since 1987. If this was the case, EUROVOC would be "dead". This would be all the more remarkable since it was still in wide use in Eastern European parliaments.

Mr Sawicki, Mr Nowina-Konopka and Mr Hüschen agreed that the date of 1987 was erroneous and that there had been up-dates of EUROVOC in the 90s and even more recently. This would be checked and corrected. The minutes were still in draft version as they would be approved only at the next meeting of SGs to be held in May 2010.



6. ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2007 - OCTOBER 2008 AND STATISTICS OF ECPRD REQUESTS 2007 AND 2008

Mr Sawicki said that the June 2006 - March 2008 Activity Report had been approved by the SGs at their meeting in Strasbourg on 23 May 2008. A supplementary activity report recapitulating the Centre's activities over the last six months (April – October 2008) was also in the files. It was being presented to Correspondents to allow them to hold an exchange of views on ECPRD activities and events over the past year.

Five seminars had been organised over the last twelve months, namely in October 2007 in Ljubljana (ICT seminar on mobility for representatives); in November 2007 in Brussels on parliaments and the judiciary (organised by both chambers of the Belgian Parliament); in April 2008 in Madrid on "Parliament, Independent Agencies and Public Sector Companies"; and in May 2008 in Vienna on "Parliamentary Libraries: Sharing Knowledge". In September 2008 a seminar had taken place in Strasbourg and Frankfurt on a highly topical subject: "The European Central Bank in a new European and World Economy".

Mr Sawicki thanked the organisers of and hosts to these seminars: Ms Glavnik, MM Viegas Abreu, van der Hulst, Rezsohazy, Santaolalla, Ms Dietrich-Schulz and Mr Torbiörn for these successful and well-attended seminars.

Ms Glavnik (Slovenia, National Assembly) said that the ICT seminar on mobility for representatives, organised by the Slovenian parliament, had been highly interesting and well attended. There had been 58 participants from 34 national parliaments. Three subjects had been discussed: mobility for representatives; support to parliamentary procedures; mobility for representatives and digital divide; and examples of good practice.

Mr Viegas Abreu (Portugal, Assembly of the Republic) said that the Ljubljana seminar had achieved its objectives. During the seminar all technical features of representatives' mobility had been discussed: network, wireless, mobile devices such as PDA, smart phones, mobile computers etc. The first steps concerning the use of mobile equipment in parliaments had been made. The seminar had shown that more attention should be to equipment supporting mobility.

Mr Rezsohazy (Belgium, Senate) said that the seminar on parliaments and the judiciary had been a great success. The detailed and long questionnaire had received numerous replies from ECPRD members. Their analysis and the preparation of the seminar had given the legal services of both chambers of the parliament important new insights. A book on the seminar, including all documents relating to it, had been published in French and English and was accessible on the ECPRD website. The seminar had been academically ambitious and at the same time practical, and it had received positive reviews in many quarters.

Mr Sawicki recalled that this seminar had taken place within the "Parliamentary Procedure and Practice" Area of Interest, for which Mr van der Hulst was the coordinator.

Mr Santaolalla (Spain, Senate) said that the seminar organized by the Spanish Senate had taken up an important subject, namely relations between public sector companies, independent agencies and parliaments. These posed a challenge to parliaments as several administrations were no longer under parliamentary supervision. Therefore, the question had been asked what possibilities parliaments had to engage in relations with and supervision of independent agencies.

A comparative request had been sent out before the seminar and replies received from almost all ECPRD parliaments. Several rapporteurs had informed the 43 participants on specific issues concerning the relationship between parliaments and independent agencies. The debates had been lively. A summary of the seminar could be found on the ECPRD website, together with the replies to the questionnaire.

Ms Dietrich-Schulz (Austria, National Council and Federal Council) said that the seminar on "Parliamentary Libraries: Sharing Knowledge" had been the third ECPRD seminar hosted by the Austrian Parliament. There had been 73 participants, among them five from the Executive Committee. She thanked all colleagues who contributed. Mr Nowina-Konopka had been a most efficient chairman and Ms Coppolecchia had given her full assistance throughout.

She warmly welcomed the thematic study visit to the EP in Brussels to take place on 27 and 28 November 2008 on "Meeting parliamentarians' needs – shared experiences of parliamentary libraries": This subject was closely related to the Vienna seminar. She would report in Brussels on "Parliamentary libraries and the ECPRD".

Mr Nowina-Konopka said that the library of the European Parliament and the libraries of the French National Assembly and Senate - the country currently holding the EU presidency - were jointly organising this thematic study visit. It would offer a further opportunity for correspondents or their colleagues in charge of libraries to participate in an interesting seminar. The invitation letters for the meeting would be sent to the Secretaries General of national parliaments. It was therefore important that correspondents contact their SG and insist on the usefulness of the meeting to themselves and library staff.

Mr Torbiörn said that the inspiration to, and planning for, the seminar held on 11 and 12 September 2008 in Strasbourg and Frankfurt on "The European Central Bank in a New European and World Economy" had started shortly after the Stockholm seminar on "Parliaments and Central Banks: a Vital Relationship", at a time when one could already discern the first rumblings of the financial crisis. The ECB representatives to the Stockholm seminar had shown great enthusiasm in co-hosting the Strasbourg-Frankfurt seminar and had been extremely helpful throughout.

During the first day of the seminar, held at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, the well over 30 participants had heard a statement by a leading expert in the field, Mr Adrian Blundell-Wignall, Deputy Director for Financial and Enterprise Affairs at the OECD, on the current international financial crisis and its impact on the European and world economy. This had been followed by presentations on the Council of Europe's fight against corruption, organised crime and money laundering, and a presentation by Jerry Hilbert on the development of the ECPRD website. On the Seminar's second day, held at ECB headquarters in Frankfurt, the participants had heard presentations by ECB officials on the organisation and functioning of the Bank, its liquidity management in times of market turmoil, and the international role of the euro. Discussions throughout had been lively. He expressed particular thanks to Sylvie Kieffer for all her help in organising the event, but also to all the other ECPRD officials who had lent a helping hand at various stages.

Ms Glavnik said that the Slovenian participants had appreciated the rich contents of the seminar.

Mr Sawicki thanked the Coordinators for their statements and for the documentation they had placed on the ECPRD website. He was also grateful to the Belgian and Austrian parliaments for having prepared a book and a DVD, respectively, following the events they had hosted. During the meeting of Secretaries General of parliaments in May 2008, one participant had pointed to the sometimes late publishing of reports from seminars. There was therefore all the more reason for those concerned to place reports and documents from seminars on the website without delay.

Mr Nowina-Konopka agreed and added that the Secretaries General had also recommended the holding of approximately four ECPRD seminars per year. This number had on the whole been respected so far and he hoped it would continue to be.

To multiply the effects of seminars it was important to put all documents, texts speeches which were related to a seminar as soon as possible on the ECPRD website.

ii. Questions (comparative requests) and replies, statistics

Mr Sawicki said that, at their meeting in Strasbourg in May 2008, the Secretaries General (SGs) of parliaments had underlined the need to follow the ECPRD guidelines on questions and replies. The SG of the Swedish Riksdag had asked how the ECPRD made sure there was no duplication of effort, that no questions were asked on issues where replies could be easily found elsewhere, or questions which had already been raised in earlier questions.

It had been explained to the SGs that the ECPRD secretariat verified what questions and subjects had already been raised and answered. If so, this would be communicated to the requesters.

Mr Sawicki underlined the need for Correspondents to check carefully as to the above.

In reply to a question from Mr Sawicki, Mr Hüschen noted that the statistical tables distributed reflected the situation at the end of September 2008. Already by that time the number of comparative requests sent out had reached that of the whole of 2006. It was not yet sure if the results of 2007 would be exceeded, but the trend was in the high range, as was that for replies.

In 2007 Ms Coppolecchia had dealt with about 5000 replies. There had also been many replies in 2008. However, the number of final summaries to comparative requests received so far in 2008 – numbering only 32 – remained low although they represented a slight increase from 2007 on a *pro rata* basis. Almost the

same number of comparative requests had been addressed to the parliaments of the 27 EU States as to those of all ECPRD member parliaments. An increasing number of questions dealt with EU matters.

Mr Sawicki thanked Mr Fors and his staff for the excellent summary report of the Riksdag's research service concerning ECPRD request No. 853 on refugee and immigration policies in EU member States.

Mr Fors (Sweden, Riksdag) said that he had already received positive feedback on the summary. It had been prepared for the Riksdag's Committee on Social Security and then translated into English. Henceforth, his services would be ready to prepare summaries of replies given to questionnaires presented by the Riksdag, provided the subject matter was broad enough to make it worthwhile.

Mr Sawicki said it was important to remember not all ECPRD parliaments received the same number of questions. In particular, non EU parliaments were not 'obliged' to reply to requests on EU matters. The intention behind the statistics was just to enlighten, not to reproach. It was up to the Secretaries General of parliaments to draw any conclusions from the figures.

Mr Rezsoshazy complimented the services of the Swedish Riksdag for their summary. Such feedback was important not only for Correspondents and their staff, but for any parliamentary services that had prepared replies.

Ms Okruhlicova (Slovakia, National Council) considered that most ECPRD parliaments prepared summaries of the replies received following requests, although normally only in their own language or languages, as did the Slovak National Council. Officials who had drafted the reply often did not have the time to prepare a translation, say, into English.

It would be helpful if, in addition to English, answers to a comparative request on the ECPRD website could include a summary of replies also in a non-official language of the Centre.

Mr Sawicki supported this proposal, which would be fully in line with the guidelines on comparative requests and studies.

Mr Clements agreed with Ms Okruhlicova. It was important to increase the role of Correspondents concerning all issues related to comparative requests and encourage them to be firm with their colleagues. When officials asked him to place a comparative request with the ECPRD, he always inquired if they had already consulted the parliamentary websites and done the necessary internet research. This allowed him to avoid burdening the Centre with many unnecessary requests. He also regularly asked colleagues to prepare summaries of replies received. This was, however, difficult to follow up with officials working in other departments. A certain self-discipline was essential to ensure the success of what was a most useful comparative request network.

In reply to **Ms Nawrocka** (Poland, Senate), who had asked if colleagues could give advice as to appropriate ways to 'discipline' colleagues from other departments with respect to the preparation of replies and of summaries, **Mr Sawicki** proposed that this issue be raised under the agenda item "Tasks and responsibilities of Correspondents".

Mr Fors agreed with Ms Okruhlicova. In some cases, when a member of parliament wished the Riksdag's research service to provide information on the situation in all EU or all ECPRD countries, the member would be asked if the request could possibly be limited to a sample of fewer countries. Often such a limitation permitted the collection of better and more homogeneous replies and to have a close communication with the services of selected parliaments.

Mr Nowina-Konopka agreed with Mr Fors concerning the usefulness of homogeneous replies. However, when Poland had not yet been an EU member but only a candidate country, the country had greatly appreciated being involved in European questionnaire exercises, in the ECPRD and other frameworks. This had helped Poland and its parliament to see in advance what was important for the countries that had reached the EU level of integration. It was worthwhile to take into account the psychological effect for countries not in the EU to be able to participate in and contribute to the process of requests and replies.

The Swedish final summary concerning Comparative Request No. 853 showed that almost always papers were prepared for parliamentary committees, parliamentarians, the Secretary General, competent services etc. following the receipt of replies to an ECPRD questionnaire. Conclusions drawn up the replies should therefore regularly be forwarded to the ECPRD.

Sending final summaries to the ECPRD in a non-official language was better than none at all. But a further summary in English of, say, a third of a page was not asking for too much. This could help the reader to get the gist of the original summary even if he or she did not understand the language.

At the request of the European Parliament's Jurisconsult, two comparative requests had been launched through the ECPRD: one on rules for members of parliament hiring family members as assistants; and the other on the application of Rule 8 in Protocol 7 to the Treaty of Lisbon. Jurisconsult had been agreeably surprised by the number of replies soon received to the first questionnaire during the summer recess and had expressed its thanks to the ECPRD. Final summaries would be prepared on both requests.

Mr Sawicki referred to the agenda item "Elections to the Executive Committee" and recalled that one seat on the Committee was vacant. With the deadline for presenting candidates set for 6 p.m. on 9 October 2008, two candidatures had been received (in alphabetical order):

- Mr Hans-Peter Blatt
- Mr Gunnar Fors.

The election would be by secret ballot. Every ECPRD member chamber present would have one vote.

Ms Korzeniowska (Poland, Senate) said that comparative requests sometimes raised legislative issues, which were difficult to understand when the national laws of the replying chamber were very different. In such cases it would be most important to have a model reply from the requesting chamber.

Mr Sawicki underlined that the ECPRD guidelines for comparative requests and studies clearly stated that questionnaires should be accompanied by a model reply from the requesting chamber.

Mr Fors had raised the question of the possible selection of parliaments to which questionnaires should be addressed. He had also mentioned the possibility to sometimes try to persuade questioners to reduce the geographical scope of the information needed. Such persuasion could be sensitive, however, and should therefore be pursued with some caution.

Mr Fors said that he had not meant for questionnaires to be mainly addressed to the parliaments of bigger countries, or indeed EU countries. If members of parliament asked a research service to find out more about the situation in other parts of Europe, it was important to talk to them to learn more exactly what they were after, if only to be able to provide the best reply. Sometimes, such as in cases of great urgency, it could be proposed to a parliamentarian to limit the research to certain countries, or to select parliaments of only certain EU and/or non-EU countries to shed light on the issue. In other cases it might be better to send a questionnaire to the parliaments of all the 27 in the EU, or those of the whole ECPRD.

Ms Cousins (Ireland, Oireachtas) asked what should be done if replies to an ECPRD questionnaire were referred to only in part of a parliamentary report or document. Should only this part be included on the ECPRD website, or should the whole text be included?

Mr Sawicki said that the decision here lay with the Correspondents. It was generally useful to give access to the whole report or document even if only a portion of it had formed the object of ECPRD replies.

Mr Hüschen proposed that, in instances when only a few pages of a long report put on the ECPRD website dealt with the information received through a comparative request, these pages be indicated.

Mr Sawicki thanked all correspondents and their parliaments for all their work on Questionnaires and replies. The ECPRD's objective was not to increase the number of questions and replies every year, but rather to send out comparative requests which were truly necessary and to receive as many substantive replies as possible that could be put to maximum use in parliaments. It was also crucial that requesting chambers provided the ECPRD with final summaries, if need be only in their national language.

7. STATEMENTS BY COORDINATORS ON THE AREAS OF INTEREST

Mr Nowina-Konopka said that the Secretaries General of parliaments had, at their meeting in May 2008, expressed their appreciation over the creation within the Centre of four Areas of Interest and the appointment of Coordinators for each. Admittedly, the Centre was still trying to find the best formulae for managing subjects of interest in these areas, for running forums created within the areas, and for linking forums, areas and seminars together. He proposed to hold a joint discussion after the statements of the four Coordinators.

Ms Dietrich-Schulz said that she had analysed the seminars and meetings held in the Area of Interest "Libraries, Research and Archives" since the creation of the ECPRD. In the period 1979-1993, twelve meetings had been held by the then ECPRD Library Working Group. In those days workshops and seminars had had no specific announced themes, so that it was difficult to know in retrospect what had been discussed.

Apart from the Library Working Group, a Thesaurus Working Group had been active, later becoming the EUROVOC Working Group. Between 1994 and 1996 the ECPRD's work had focused on the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe. In those years meetings of the Library Working Group had taken place in Budapest and Luxembourg and had been organised in cooperation with the Research Service of the US Congress. In addition, there had been a special seminar with the parliaments of the Baltic states in Tallinn.

Between 1997 and 2007 there had been little activity. In 1998 the European Parliament had organised a seminar on library management during that period. Furthermore, the House of Commons had, in 2000 and in 2004, held seminars on electronic libraries and parliamentary library and research services, betokening a trend toward a fusion of library and research services.

When the chance had come in 2008 to hold a seminar in Vienna on parliamentary libraries, the title "Sharing knowledge" had been chosen. Furthermore, the seminar had been structured such that it could serve as a model for future similar events. There had been three working sessions, each with a moderator and a keynote speaker, and giving sufficient time for discussion. All documents submitted to the seminar and a summary of the discussions were on the ECPRD website. She expressed special thanks thanks to the work of Mr Hilbert in developing the the website more and more.

The ECPRD had already in the past issued comparative publications on the library, research and archives activities of parliaments. However, the directories they included were now somewhat outdated. With a view to preparing a new comparative publication, questionnaires had been sent through the ECPRD in December 2007. Some 130 replies had been received and had been included in a book and on a CD, both of which had been sent to participants. They constituted the final report of the seminar and described the parliamentary library, research and archive services in Europe, Israel, the USA, the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the WEU. Since some of the replies to the questionnaires had only been received during the seminar, a revised version of the CD was planned for early 2009.

Two seminars were already programmed for 2009: one in Bern in May on press services for MPs, and the other in London in September on parliamentary research services.

Mr Viegas Abreu said that the main activity in 2008 was the seminar to be held at the end of October in Copenhagen on designing special ICT solutions for parliamentarians. The Danish parliament had prepared a special website to support the seminar. Close to 70 participants were expected. A comparative request had been sent out to identify those parliaments which had the best ICT practices for the purposes of the seminar, so that their representatives could present them to the seminar.

Concerning future ICT activities, the Spanish Congress would organise a seminar in November 2009, and the Romanian parliament one in 2010. Furthermore, the series of "Parliaments on the Net" meetings which had been discontinued five years ago, would be resumed with a seminar in Lisbon in the early summer of 2009. While "ICT in Parliaments" covered specific, technical subjects, the "Parliaments on the Net" seminars dealt with more non-technical matters of a substantial nature. By the end of 2008 a comparative request would be sent out in order to obtain contributions from ECPRD parliaments and to find good practices.

Mr van der Hulst presented the activities in the Area of Interest "Parliamentary Practice and Procedure". He thanked Mr Santaolalla for excellent organisation and cooperation in the preparation of the seminar on "Parliament, independent authorities and the public sector" in Madrid. In March 2009 a seminar covering both the Areas of Interest "Macroeconomic Research" and "Parliamentary Practice and Procedure" would be held in Ljubljana on the themes "The Control of a Parliament over State Budgetary Spending / The Financial Autonomy of a Parliament".

He would welcome it if a parliament could host a seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure at the end of 2009 or early in 2010, and would place a list of possible topics for such a seminar on the website.

The forum "Parliamentary Practice and Procedure" was now active and three subjects were under discussion. The quality of contributions was high. However, despite all his efforts, such as presenting the forum during ECPRD seminars and sending targeted mails to potentially interested persons, there were not yet enough participants. The time had probably come to open up the forums to others than ECPRD members. One should be able to find an ECPRD forum when a relevant question was asked on Google.

He had sent e-mails to UK specialists in parliamentary law after having discussed the matter with Rob Clements, asking them if they would be ready to be included in a list of experts and be interested in

participating in a forum on parliamentary practice and procedure. All had replied positively. Opening up in particular his forum would therefore seem a useful exercise.

As with the other Areas of Interest Forums, there was a special webpage for parliamentary practice and procedure on which documents, news, links etc. could be presented by the Coordinator. If one clicked on "News", the summary of a recent Court decision on parliamentary immunity could be seen, to which the full text of the decision was attached. This was the type of information to be made available on this particular type of webpage. Similarly, in the category "Documents" the full text of the book on the seminar "Parliaments and the Judiciary" could be found. The website also contained a shortlist of three important links to British institutions active in the field of parliamentary practice and procedure. This was only the beginning and he wished in due course to include information on all ECPRD countries. It would therefore be most useful if he could receive information from the parliaments of other countries, in particular those whose official languages he did not master.

There was also a category "Others" on the website, which included the already mentioned list of UK experts, as corrected and completed by Mr Clements. All experts had agreed to the list being published on the private website of the ECPRD. In case of, say, a problem on UK constitutional law or a question regarding the British parliament, one of these experts could be chosen. Lists of experts for France and Belgium were under preparation. Mr van der Hulst said that he could not finalize lists for all ECPRD countries unless colleagues gave him names.

Furthermore, a list of descriptors had been prepared, constituting a simplified thesaurus. The descriptors could be attached to any type of document and allowed the classification of the full material on the webpage "Parliamentary practice and procedure".

The running of an interesting webpage with current news would only be possible with the help of colleagues. It would be most useful if they could inform him of important new developments in the field of parliamentary practice and procedure.

Mr Torbiörn reported on the activities in the Area of Interest "Macroeconomic Research". The full material relating to the seminar in Strasbourg and Frankfurt was now on the website, including a summary of what had transpired and the statements and PowerPoint presentations of the speakers. In March 2009 a seminar on "The Control of a Parliament over State Budgetary Spending / The Financial Autonomy of a Parliament" would be held in Ljubljana. These were perhaps not strictly speaking macroeconomic research subjects, but with the good will of all concerned and respecting the wish of the host parliament to address these themes, it would no doubt be possible to at least approximate the seminar to the mandate of the Area of Interest, especially since it would be organised jointly with Mr Van der Hulst, Coordinator for the Area of Interest "Parliamentary Practice and Procedure".

At the Strasbourg-Frankfurt seminar it had been agreed that the ECPRD Forum for the "Macroeconomic Research" Area of Interest would have to become more active, not least in view of all the efforts deployed by Mr Hilbert in creating such an excellent technical format for it. He had followed with great interest discussion at the present meeting on how open the Forums ought to be. Admittedly, if they were kept too restricted in terms of membership, they risked dying. However, if they were wide open it could be difficult to keep the overview. Another risk was that statements or contributions by officials, including the Coordinator him or herself, could be deemed too political or be misconstrued.

Mr Nowina-Konopka thanked the Coordinators for their contributions. The four Areas of Interest could be seen as multi-purpose tools thanks to many activities they represented. The best format for the various activities connected with the Areas of Interest might still have to be found. Therefore a broad discussion on the issue was always welcome.

Mr Sawicki recalled that the issue of the Forums had been prominent in the discussion of all the four Areas of Interest, at this meeting as at the last meeting of the Executive Committee, including the question of how open they should be. It would be most useful if Correspondents could continue to discuss this issue, so as to give further elements to more final proposals to be made by the Executive Committee in due course.

The conference engaged in an in-depth discussion about the various ECPRD Forums, initiated by **Mr Nowina-Konopka's** (EP) question how far openness should go and where its limits should lie.

Mr Van der Hulst (BE, Chambre) said there was some confusion about the difference between the Areas of Interest (AOIs) and the Forums. The two were not the same. AOIs were located in the private section of the ECPRD website and hence restricted in terms of access. Furthermore, they offered only limited means to interact. Forums by contrast could be accessed from the outside by permission of the Coordinator. The difference in approach for AOIs and Forums opened the way for different policies with regard to openness.

Jerry Hilbert (EP, DG ITEC) explained the functional difference between the two systems, which are based on two different technologies and may have two different usergroups. The workspaces for the Area of Interest, located in the section "Internal Organisation" of the restricted website, aim at promoting, giving visibility and collecting feedback by the co-ordinators to the activities of her/his area, among the members of the restricted site. The discussion fora being hosted in a separate system than the ECPRD website, addresses a different usergroup, filling the need to outline a structured discussion. Yet the current policy to invite such users and request them to register to this system, gives little visibility to those discussions that tend to be held instead by simple email exchange. Opening the Discussion fora would not prevent from controlling the input as it was at the discretion of the Co-ordinator to decide on who can contribute, with most of the audience to act as readers only.

The discussion forums, hosted in a system separate from the ECPRD website, addressed themselves to a different user group interested in a more structured discussion. However, the current policy to invite such users and request them to register to this system, gave little visibility to discussions that many people might instead prefer to pursue via simple email exchanges. Opening the Discussion Forums more widely would still permit Co-ordinators to have control over the content as they decided who could contribute, while most of the readership could be expected to do only that, namely read

Ms Fitzsimmons (IE, Houses of the Oireachtas) proposed to open up one of the Forums more widely as a first step in order to gauge the amount of work involved and other consequences.

Mr Sawicki (PACE) raised the question whether participants in the Forums could be expected to remain 'open' knowing that their contributions would be seen by a broader public. A more restricted approach would mean less hesitation to speak out.

Mr Clements (UK, House of Commons) said involving academics in some areas, such as parliamentary practice and procedures, was essential. Problems might arise when delicate questions were raised by contributors. It might not be advisable to let each and every "thread" be open, while in some areas openness would be of the essence.

Mr Abreu (PT, Parliament) said one reason for the low interactivity in the Forums was that potential users did not know the ECPRD website and in particular the password to access it. Actions to promote the website had brought only limited success. His target group, the IT experts, had been surprised by the need to obtain a password and remember it. It was against all practice in the IT world that there were no email notifications, with the consequence that users were obliged to enter the forum on a regular basis in order to stay tuned. Forums should not be too open as the ECPRD formed a restricted group. Experts preferred emails to Forums. Emails were at any rate a better option when organising seminars.

Mr Nowina-Konopka (EP) was in principle in favour of enlarging the audience but expressed doubts as to whether this would be the best way to improve the ECPRD as a working tool. "Discussion threads" on delicate issues risked being leaked to the media. Transparency in this sense could have a negative impact. Parliamentary "cuisine interne" dealt with within the ECPRD network should not become too public. Issues of a private professional nature should be raised in Intranet types of contexts. This being said, individual solutions, such as opening a Forum to a university professor, should at all times be possible, but it must be avoided that Forums were some day harvested by Google. Furthermore, more openness might in the end require the approval of a political authority concerned, as participation might imply a commitment outside the remit of a parliamentary civil servant. By contrast, personal invitations to experts could be entirely in order.

Mr van Rijn (NL, Tweede Kamer) supported Marc Van der Hulst's idea to extend Forum audiences to include outside individuals.

Mr Van der Hulst felt that delicate questions should rather be raised in ECPRD requests to maintain confidentiality. Too strong an insistence on privacy could lead to stagnation if discussants were too few. More openness could bring in fresh views. Of course, access to the Forums needed somehow to be controlled. He in this context drew attention to a Turkish forum on parliamentary law on Google which could become a competitor to the ECPRD Forum on Parliamentary Practice and Procedures. He pointed out that the discussion at the present meeting of the Forums actually preceded that on the Areas of Interests. Perhaps it would some day come down to a decision of either putting an end to the Forums while continuing only with the Areas of Interest, or making the Forums more open and hence more dynamic.

Mr Sawicki, supported by **Mr Scotti** (Italy, Camera dei Deputati), proposed to approve the proposal by Ms Fitzsimmons to test the idea of more openness within a selected Forum.

Mr Bartsch (Germany, Bundestag) asked whether contributions to the Forums should be seen as reflecting the opinions of the parliaments or simply those of the contributors. He was not sure if parliamentary officials were permitted to write for public consumption without clarifying in what capacity they did so. He felt therefore that any discussion of this kind should take place in a protected setting.

Mr Bloch (France, Assemblée Nationale) agreed. A public forum might attract extreme statements from outside and these might find their way into the media. Academic input could be valuable, but the resulting workload for all concerned risked being considerable.

Mr Torbiörn (PACE) agreed and suggested that a passage would have to be found between, on the one hand, the Scylla of too wide an access, leading to excessive caution on the part of ECPRD participants for fear their positions might be distorted, placed out of context and leaked to the wider internet; and, on the other, the Charybdis of an increasingly incestuous discussion among too few contributors.

Mr Nowina-Konopka thanked the participants for their contributions and suggested that Executive Committee discuss the matter further before resubmitting it to the Conference of Correspondents.

7. THESAURUS OF PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE (PPP)

Mr Van der Hulst presented notes he had prepared and which had been distributed beforehand to the Executive Committee and others for comments, which he had gratefully received. Recalling decisions taken at Yerevan, he highlighted the basic intentions behind a thesaurus. First, it should help new parliaments build up documentation. Second, it should be used to classify ECPRD requests so that they could be searched more easily. Third, the thesaurus should serve as a list of keywords for Areas of Interest.

There was no intention whatsoever to compete with Eurovoc, which was indeed not used for the ECPRD website. Additional classifications could be created for new areas. The approach chosen for the thesaurus did not have its roots in the library and documentation realm and it was different from Eurovoc. The thesaurus was meant for parliamentary units such as table offices, committee secretariats and the like. The main principle for the procedure part of the thesaurus was based on a 'sequence' resembling the table of contents in a book. The structure was 'chronological' in line with parliamentary procedures, which were also not covered by Eurovoc. The same thing applied to the part on Members of Parliament, which was structured along the principle of "the life of a Member". Eurovoc did not cover these areas adequately.

Eurovoc and the PPP Thesaurus could by all means be used in parallel, but needed fine-tuning by users according to their specific needs. The new version, which could be regarded as an "open source" thesaurus" was more general and "less Belgian". Parliaments could integrate specifics in the general version. The Thesaurus should be used to classify ECPRD requests. New requests should be sent along with descriptors to the ECPRD Secretariat. The Coordinators of other Areas of Interest were invited to build up their own thesauruses.

Mr Fors (SE, Riksdag) considered the Thesaurus a useful tool to improve the retrieval of requests.

Mr Wijgergangs (NL, Eerste Kamer) supported Mr Van der Hulst's initiative. Recalling the discussion at the Annual Conference of Correspondents held 2007 in Yerevan, he thought the time had now come for a fully fledged text search to become available.

In reply to a call by **Ms Korzeniowska** (PL, Senate) for an updating of Eurovoc, **Mr Hüsch** (EP, ECPRD Secretariat) referred to several new versions published since 1997.

Mr Blatt (DE, Bundestag) supported Marc Van der Hulst's proposal and considered it necessary to build up versions for additional sectors.

Mr Abreu felt there would be no need for any more voluminous thesaurus. Rather, users needed a tool for quick retrieval. A database that included descriptors and was managed by a documentalist was what was needed.

Mr Santaolalla (ES, Senate) expressed his support for the thesaurus initiative presented by Mr Van der Hulst. **Ms Nawrocka** (PL, Senate) agreed and recommended a good balance between general and specific descriptors.

Ms Glavnik (SLO, National Assembly) said more and more parliaments were now using Eurovoc and recommended that ECPRD do the same. Any missing descriptors could be added. She suggested the inclusion of two fields in ECPRD requests: one for Eurovoc descriptors and one for specific descriptors such as those appearing in the PPP.

Ms Korzeniowska recalled that all changes in Eurovoc had to be approved by the Eurovoc Editorial Board. Furthermore, the use of Eurovoc required a licence.

Mr Van der Hulst thanked his colleagues for their valuable comments and pointed out his thesaurus was organised along a different intellectual approach. He recommended it should not become too specific when used for ECPRD purposes, while the situation at the level of an individual parliament might well require it to be so.

8. ECPRD PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2009-2010

Mr Sawicki recalled that it had been approved by the Secretaries-General and was therefore to be followed. He drew the attention to two modifications made by the Secretaries General: Thus, in paragraph 1 (Comparative Requests) the words "in full respect of the Guidelines" had been added, while in paragraph 3 (Seminars) they had asked for the "timely publication of reports of seminars".

A Correspondent had been nominated for Monaco. A Correspondent for Montenegro was expected shortly but no official confirmation had so far been forthcoming.

In reply to a question by **Mr Wijgergangs** regarding any Kosovo representation, **Mr Sawicki** stressed that ECPRD could not take political decisions. Membership of the ECPRD required that the President of a Chamber concerned belonged to the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments and thus to the Council of Europe. This meant that Kosovo, before becoming a member of the ECPRD, would first have to become member of the Council of Europe. Kosovo had not yet applied for membership of the Council of Europe. The item was therefore not on the agenda.

He went on to declare the Priorities and Programme document as approved.

He announced that next meeting of the Executive Committee will take place on March 13th 2009 in Lisbon [Post meeting note: date has been changed; Confirmation now for March 6th]

Mr Torbiörn said that Natasa Glavnik and himself were suggesting a slightly modified title for the Ljubljana seminar, now to read: "The Control of a Parliament over State Budgetary Spending / The Financial Autonomy of a Parliament". The date had been set for 27-28 March 2009.

Mr Frischknecht (CH, Bundesversammlung) announced that a seminar on "Press/media analyses for parliaments" would take place in Bern on 7 and 8 May 2009. It would aim to provide an overview of existing technical modalities in the field in question, including copyright. A questionnaire would be sent out in November focussing on products, working methods and technical solutions.

Mr Abreu said that the Seminar "Parliaments on the Net" would probably be held in May - June 2009.

Mr Clements informed the meeting that the next Seminar on Parliamentary Research Services would probably be held on 17 and 18 September 2009 (since confirmed). A questionnaire would be sent out late 2008 or early 2009. One aim was to update the factual parts of Bill Robinson's ECPRD study 'Knowledge and Power'

Ms Ripolles (ES, Congreso) said the 2009 Seminar on IT in Parliaments was now scheduled for 11-13 November in Madrid.

Ms Okruhlicova (SK, National Council) confirmed that the next Annual Conference of Correspondents would be held in Bratislava from 8 to 10 October 2009.

Mr Sawicki said that the ICT seminar to be held in Bucharest in 2010 at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the Romanian Chamber had been confirmed as to its principle while the date had not yet been fixed.

He then called for proposals to host the 2010 Annual Conference of Correspondents. In the event no offer was forthcoming the conference would take place in Strasbourg.

Mr Blatt said that 2009 would be a special year for the Bundestag, as it would celebrate both its own 60th anniversary and that of the German Constitution. He therefore offered to organise a seminar on parliamentary history for the beginning of 2010.

Ms Ripolles said a seminar within the “Macroeconomic Research” Area of Interest was foreseen for 2010 in her country. The exact title would be discussed with Mr Torbiörn, Coordinator, and suggested to the ECPRD in due course.

Mr Scotti reported that his Chamber was in contact with the OECD to organise a conference in the spring of 2009 on “Parliamentary State Budget Departments in OECD Countries”. Then event would be coordinated with the related ECPRD seminar in Ljubljana.

9. TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CORRESPONDENTS

Mr Sawicki introduced the document which had been elaborated in the Executive Committee and endorsed by the Secretaries-General. One of its aims was to be of help to Correspondents in explaining their Correspondent function to colleagues in their own parliaments, another to provide guidance in their day-to-day work in this capacity. The Annual Conference was a suitable forum to discuss best practices.

Mr Clements asked how colleagues went about promoting the ECPRD at home. He would be happy to try to use any ideas proffered in his own parliament.

Mr Fors in reply described the practice he followed in the Riksdag of distributing summaries of ECPRD findings and events. Summaries were particularly appreciated – and the reputation of the ECPRD correspondingly enhanced – if they were closely honed to the needs of recipients.

Mr Sawicki, joined by **Mr Nowina-Konopka**, said they would be happy to speak directly with their counterparts in national parliaments about the role and work of Correspondents, if asked by the latter to do so.

With regard to the situation in her country Austria, **Ms Dietrich-Schulz** (AT, Parliament) explained that it had been difficult to provide ECPRD summaries to interested parties for as long as the Library had been organisationally joined with the Parliamentary Research Service. After the Library had moved to the Legal Services Department in 2006, more staff had become available for this purpose, so that services could be improved. In a further effort to raise the ECPRD profile its logo will be placed on the Library website in the course of a web relaunch in 2009, in emulation of the Latvian example.

Mr Blatt related a conversation he had had with his own hierarchy about the amount of work required to convert an original ECPRD request into a form which could be dealt with by the experts in his parliament. In many cases Director Generals were not aware at all of the amount of work occasioned by requests. More publicity also carried the risk of receiving more requests, which in turn might exceed the answering capacity of the services concerned.

Mr Bloch said that the ECPRD was better and better known inside his parliament. Comparative requests also served as a way to promote the Centre.

Mr Sawicki stressed the importance of communicating to members of parliament that the information they had received was in fact based on work done by the ECPRD network.

Mr Viegas Abreu said that in the Intranet portal of the Portuguese Parliament there is a page with the following information about the ECPRD: What is the ECPRD, the ECPRD statute, link to the ECPRD website with username and password, the ECPRD Correspondent for the Portuguese Parliament, Forthcoming Seminars, the most recent requests.

Ms Dietrich-Schulz added that the function of ECPRD Correspondent and Deputy-Correspondent had been listed since 2006 in the Austrian Amtskalender, enhancing the prospects of good cooperation with the federal Ministries and their liaison officers.

In closing the discussion, **Mr Sawicki** repeated his and **Mr Nowina-Konopka's** offer to provide any individual support sought to Correspondents in discussions with their hierarchies.

10. ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr Sawicki informed the meeting that the term of office of Natasa Glavnik had come to an end after three years. He thanked her for her most active and appreciated work on the Executive Committee during this time.

Ms Glavnik said that the work on the Executive Committee had been an extremely interesting and enriching experience.

Mr Sawicki explained the procedure for electing Ms Glavnik's successor. Each Chamber had one vote, to be confirmed by the signing of the voters' list.

There were two candidates: **Mr Blatt and Mr Fors**. In the ensuing secret voting, 46 votes were cast, none of them invalid. **Mr Fors** received 29 votes, and **Mr Blatt** received 17.

Mr Sawicki accordingly declared Gunnar Fors elected new member of the Executive Committee for the next three years and extended his warmest congratulations to him, while also congratulating Mr Blatt on his altogether honourable score.

He reminded colleagues that three vacant posts on the Executive Committee would have to be filled in 2009.

11. (ex item 13) ECPRD WEBSITE DEVELOPMENTS

Mr Hilbert introduced Version 3 of the website and its main elements:

- History
- Layout
- Login and user account
- Main menus (Home/News, Internal Organisation, Requests/Studies, Meeting/Seminars, Links, Archives, Contact and Search Box)

New features included Email Notifications, Archives and a special workflow for Contributors and Administrators.

He went on to present the latest draft version of the user manual which would be issued in three volumes: Reader, Contributor and Administrator. It would be validated in the near future and made accessible on paper and on the Website. He formally presented **Ms Coppolecchia** with a first copy.

Mr Sawicki thanked Jerry Hilbert and the other contributors for all the work they had done to set up the new ECPRD Website.

In reply to a question by **Ms Nawrocka** regarding the meaning of the word "old" in connection with the Archive, **Mr Hilbert** replied that it would be for the administrator to judge to what extent the new features added had given rise to a "new" Archives system.

Ms Korzeniowska expressed her appreciation for the improved search engine, which would facilitate the retrieval of requests.

In an additional remark **Mr Sawicki** proposed to add a section on ECPRD Co-Secretaries to the Internal Organisation page.

12. ECPRD STUDIES DATABASE

Mr Hüschen briefly presented a document submitted to the Conference. It should be considered as a reflection paper which had as its purpose to launch a discussion not only on the technical feasibility aspects of the ECPRD network but also on its prospects for full acceptance. He recalled Article 1 of the ECPRD Statutes: "The objectives of the ECPRD are [...] to collect, exchange and publicise studies produced by parliamentary services." The present situation as regards the ECPRD Website could not be considered satisfactory but instead called for a strategic decision either to close the existing section on the website or to opt for a new and more collaborative approach. The latter would focus on enhanced interactivity among ECPRD members, who would be expected to submit selected new studies to a 'studies database'. This procedure could be compared with the one used for "News". The procedure to be chosen should be easy to grasp, open and with as few rules as possible to assure the broadest possible acceptance. The main aim would be to share knowledge and expertise. Two options were presented for uploading data: direct upload or upload upon validation.

Mr Clements expressed his support in principle for the idea but cautioned that its success would depend entirely on the willingness of colleagues to submit material.

Mr Van der Hulst questioned the point in the document arguing that only references should be put into the database. It would better also to be able to submit full texts.

Mr Hüschen replied that it would be possible but not mandatory to provide links to documents or uploads to the website. The main aim of the project would be to share information about new topical studies.

Mr Nowina-Konopka closed the discussion and referred the project to the next meeting of the Executive Committee for a more in-depth discussion.

13. (ex item 14) – OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Sawicki informed the audience that Pedro Valente, Correspondent of the Portuguese Parliament, was still seriously ill and was sure that all would include him in their thoughts and prayers.

He went on to announce that colleagues Arpi Arakelian of Armenia and Venetta Trifonova of Bulgaria were expecting babies. The Conference asked Mr Sawicki to convey to them its best wishes for the future.

There was no other business.

Mr Sawicki and Mr Nowina-Konopka joined in thanking members for this very fruitful meeting, which would continue the following day with an excursion to Waterloo and Mechelen.

The Conference was closed on 10 October 2008 at 5.30 pm

Annual Conference of Correspondents, Bratislava 8 - 10 October 2009

1. Opening of the Conference



Wojciech Sawicki, ECPRD Co-Director (PACE), opened the Conference and welcomed participants to Bratislava. On behalf of his fellow ECPRD Co-Director Piotr Nowina-Konopka and all participants, he thanked Ms Anna Okruhlicova, ECPRD Correspondent of the Slovak Parliament and through her the Slovak Parliament and authorities for hosting the present Annual ECPRD Conference of Correspondents in their beautiful parliament and capital.

He also expressed the gratitude of all to Mr Nowina-Konopka and through him the European Parliament for the delicious dinner

of the previous evening. It had marked the culmination of a day that had included a highly interesting Pre-Conference on the subject "Electoral Systems and Participation in Europe".

The meeting then heard brief presentations about themselves by the following new Correspondents and Deputy Correspondents:

- Mr Alex Brocklehurst, House of Lords, United Kingdom
- Ms Charlotte Cousins, Oireachtas, Ireland
- Mr Richard Cracknell, House of Commons, United Kingdom
- Mr Lubomir Fajtak, National Council, Slovakia
- Mr Joseph Jackson, Library of Parliament, Canada
- Ms Tatjana Krasovec, National Assembly, Slovenia
- Ms Beatrice Kleinert, Bundesrat, Germany
- Mr Peder Nielsen, Riksdag, Sweden
- Mr Timur Semenov, Federation Council, Russia
- Mr Evaldas Sinkevicius, Seimas, Lithuania
- Ms Lili Török, Parliament, Hungary

2. Adoption of the Draft Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Annual Conference of Correspondents Brussels, 10 October 2008

The minutes were adopted.

4. Activity Report, October 2008 – October 2009

Mr Sawicki gave a brief summary of the activity report, the final version of which would be approved by the Secretaries General of ECPRD parliaments at their meeting in Cyprus in June 2010. Participants were asked to contribute any necessary updates, including under the section on seminars. He in this context asked all parliaments which had hosted seminars 2009 to provide short oral reports which could assist in such updating.

Hanne Rasmussen (Folketing, DK) gave a brief summary of the ICT seminar held in Copenhagen in October 2008 on the theme "Solutions for Members of Parliament and Parliaments" (Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments). Close to 80 participants from 35 countries had attended the event. Eighteen presentations had been given on subjects arising from the pre-seminar questionnaire. The lively discussions and the positive feedback received indicated great participant satisfaction.

Tatjana Krasovec (National Assembly, SI) reported on the seminar held in Ljubljana in March 2009 on the subject "Control of a Parliament over State Budgetary Spending/The Financial Autonomy of a Parliament" (Area of Interest Macro-economic Research). The replies to a detailed questionnaire had been summarised in a report presented at the seminar. Experts from Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden had given presentations on specific subjects.

Pedro Valente (Assembleia da República, PT) gave a summary of the 7th seminar 'Parliaments on the Web' held on the theme "How to Bring Parliament Closer to the Citizens via the Use of the Internet" (Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments), organised in Lisbon in May 2009, gathering 48 participants from 25 countries and 28 national chambers. The seminar had met the high expectations of the audience. A specific website had been created to provide new information about the event and allow registration. A survey among participants showed that 19 % of them had used the ECPRD website often, 64 % occasionally, while 17 % had not consulted it.

Ernst Frischknecht (Bundesversammlung, CH) said the seminar "Press Services in Parliaments" (Area of Interest Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives), held in Bern in June 2009 had been the first in this particular subject area. Replies to the questionnaire showed that 30 % of the press services were located in the parliament's library and 70 % in other information services. There had been six presentations, including one on the newspaper industry suggesting that paper publications seemed to be in continuing decline. The social events held in connection with the seminar had permitted lively exchanges of views. In addition, the organisation of such a seminar provided an excellent occasion for staff teambuilding on the part of the hosting parliament.

Rob Clements (House of Commons, UK) said that the preparation of a seminar implied hard but rewarding work. The seminar on "Research and Information for Parliaments – New Challenges, New Opportunities" (Area of Interest Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives) held in London in September 2009 had been practical and constructive. A detailed questionnaire had received informative replies, giving rise to a comprehensive exhaustive summary report. He recommended reading the many individual replies illustrating the wide range of parliamentary services available in the many countries that had responded. A novel form of exchange, an 'Open Forum', had been held at the conclusion of the seminar. It had allowed participants to air specific questions and concern that had been on their minds. He suggested it might form part of other seminars in the future.

Kjell Torbiörn (PACE) thanked Ms Krasovec and her colleagues for all their work in organising and hosting the Ljubljana Seminar, which had been held on the joint initiative of the Area of Interest Macroeconomic Research and the Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure). He in this context thanked his fellow Coordinator for the latter Area, Marc van der Hulst (Kamer, BE), for his contribution to the success of this event.

Elisabeth Dietrich-Schulz (Parlament, AT) said that the wide range of subjects covered during the seminars showed how varied the tasks of Coordinators in fact were.

Mr Sawicki asked participants to convey to their Secretaries General the ECPRD's sincere gratitude to them for hosting the events mentioned under this point, to which he added his thanks to Correspondents and the parliamentary staff concerned for all the work they had done on these occasions.

5. Elections to the Executive Committee

Mr Sawicki thanked the outgoing members of the Executive Committee - Siiri Sillajoe, Borys Kolisnychenko and Jean-Pierre Bloch - for their hard work since 2006 and pointed out that their activities on behalf of the ECPRD were in addition to their normal parliamentary duties.

There were, as a consequence, now three vacant seats on the Executive Committee, for which five candidatures had been received by the 8 October deadline. Only three crosses could therefore be made on the ballot paper.

PACE Rules of Procedure would govern the voting procedure, wherever the ECPRD Statutes were silent. The first round of voting would require an absolute majority of votes cast, while for any second round a simple majority would be needed. Each national chamber would have one vote.

Francesco Marcelli (Senato, IT) wondered whether the called-for additional consideration of a geographical balance among the members of the Executive Committee was truly compatible with a democratic election of this kind.

Mr Sawicki replied that the notion of geographical balance had its origin in the Statutes, which recommended that "due consideration [be] paid to the need to maintain geographical balance in the membership of the Executive Committee".

There followed short presentations of their persons by candidates Ms Anna Okruhlicova (National Council, SK), Ms Siiri Sillajoe (Riigikogu, EE), Mr Jean-Pierre Bloch (Assemblée nationale, F), Mr Italo Scotti (Camera dei Deputati, IT) and Mr Borys Kolisnychenko (Rada, UA).

The committee of tellers consisted of Mr Horst Schade (PACE) and Mr Ulrich Hüschen (European Parliament).

There were 44 votes cast, all valid, the absolute majority being 23 votes.

Mr Sawicki announced the results of the election

Mr Borys Kolisnychenko	7	votes
Mr Jean-Pierre Bloch	20	votes
Ms Siiri Sillajoe	29	votes
Ms Anna Okruhlicova	35	votes
Mr Italo Scotti	35	votes

Mr Sawicki in consequence welcomed Siiri Sillajoe, Anna Okruhlicova and Italo Scotti as new members of the Executive Committee.

He went on to announce that Mario Heinrich, unfortunately prevented from attending the conference, was planning to retire from the Council of Europe in 2010, implying his retirement also from his function as ECPRD Co-Secretary. No proposal had as yet been made as to who would succeed him.

For anyone to don Mr Heinrich's fallen mantle would be an extreme challenge. Mr Heinrich had, as a young man, been there already at the start of the ECPRD, and had remained faithful to it ever since. His friendliness and kindness, his encyclopaedic knowledge of the institution and his high-quality work had made a lasting impression on all. On behalf of the participants, he thanked Mr Heinrich in his absence for all he had done and meant for the ECPRD over the years, and expressed the hope that the Annual Conference of Correspondents would be given an opportunity to express its gratitude to him also in his presence.

Furthermore, **Mr Nowina-Konopka** would leave the ECPRD as of January 2010 in order to take over a new function within the European Parliament. His succession was also open. Mr Sawicki thanked Mr Nowina-Konopka for his great commitment to the ECPRD and for his successful efforts to raise awareness of the Centre within the European Parliament.

Mr Nowina-Konopka expressed his regret at having to leave his ECPRD position for other important duties within the European Parliament. He had greatly enjoyed working for the ECPRD with its Europe-wide activities.

6. Information on the appointment of ECPRD Co-ordinators

The meeting was informed about the decision of the Executive Committee, taken at its meeting in Brussels on 11 September 2009, to re-appoint Ms Elisabeth Dietrich-Schulz, Mr Marc van der Hulst, Mr Kjell Torbiörn and Mr Joao Viegas-Abreu as Co-ordinators for their respective Areas of Interest for the second term of three years, starting on 11 November 2009.

Mr Nowina-Konopka recalled that Coordinators carried out their ECPRD functions on top of their ordinary duties in their respective parliaments. He felt they did an extraordinary job, not only with the seminars as such but also in building and maintaining the social networks resulting from them. He wished them every success for the future.

The four Coordinators thanked the meeting for the confidence expressed in them and pledged to do their utmost to live up to expectations.

7. Statements by the ECPRD Co-ordinators on their Areas of Interest

Ms Dietrich-Schulz had no new developments to report with regard to the intended seminar on parliamentary history (Berlin, autumn 2010). She would contact Mr Blatt, German Bundestag ECPRD Correspondent, in due course to learn more.

She went on to present the preparations underway for a seminar for libraries and archives to be held in Athens from 26 to 28 May 2010, at the kind invitation of the Greek parliament, which had also drawn up a draft programme for the event. The subject was "Services provided to the general public by parliamentary libraries and archives". The seminar would pay particular attention to the role of parliamentary libraries in south-eastern Europe, including for the preservation of the cultural heritage, and could also take up various assistance programmes by other European parliaments to libraries in this region. A questionnaire would be prepared in advance of the event.

She also recalled the most interesting Thematic Visit for Libraries held at the European Parliament in November 2008. The Director of the European Parliament's Library, Mr de Feo, would be interested in organising another Thematic Visit in cooperation with ECPRD.

She would herself give a presentation on the ECPRD at a forthcoming IFLA Conference in Rome. The next IFLA event would be held in Stockholm in 2010.

Ms Dietrich-Schulz went on to present a publication issued by the Czech parliament on parliamentary libraries in Central Europe. Finally, she reported on her visit to US libraries within the framework of the US International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP).

She then informed the meeting about a contact she had had with a library representative from the Korean National Assembly, who had learnt about the ECPRD through an article written by Ms Dietrich-Schulz for the German version of Wikipedia.

Finally, she informed the meeting about her correspondence with a representative of the Research Service of the Korean National Assembly concerning the project to set up a parliamentary Research Service Centre for the Asia-Pacific Region. The representative had expressed a wish to engage in an exchange of views with the ECPRD.

Mr Van der Hulst renewed his thank to the Norwegian Storting for offering to host his 2010 Seminar on "Minority Rights in Parliamentary Procedures". He then turned to the ECPRD Forums for Areas of Interest and their well-known difficulties in generating anything resembling a lively debate. His own Forum within the Area of Interest Parliamentary Procedures and Practice was perhaps something of an exception, in that it now had close to 40 active participants sharing new developments in this field. He had made it a habit of asking all participants after each seminar he had organised to join the Forum, and this had certainly helped. He asked himself whether there is a real need for the Forums, especially given the fact that the web pages of the Areas of Interest now offer a – limited – degree of interactivity.

With regard to the PP&P Web page, he considered that it was doing very well.

Between March 2009 and the end of September 2009, more or less 30 entries were made, and a number of innovations were introduced :

- the PP&P expert list gives a selected overview of country-related experts on parliamentary practice and procedure. Three expert lists are already published (UK, the Netherlands and Sweden), others are in process;
- the PP&P theses list gives a selected overview of theses presented at universities in a given country on topics related to parliamentary practice and procedure. The French and the UK list have been published. Others are in process;
- the PP&P bibliographies list gives a selected overview of country-related literature on parliamentary practice and procedure topics. Until now, 4 bibliographies have been published (the Netherlands, Germany, the UK and Belgium).

All lists and bibliographies are, previously to their publication, submitted to and validated by the respective ECPRD-correspondents (whose help has been very much appreciated); the experts have always been asked individually whether they agreed to be on the list.

He had been encouraged by the progress reached and was now determined to try to do even more. But he would greatly appreciate it if Correspondents or their services could inform him immediately about new developments in the area of parliamentary practice and procedure that could be of potential interest to their ECPRD peers. And his overall doubts as to the long-term viability of the Forums in their present form had not been allayed. His own Forum, despite its comparatively high number of active participants, still had difficulties reaching cruising speed, bespeaking a need for all to search for potentially better formats.

Mr Torbiörn said he wished to raise three ideas related to his Macroeconomic Research Area of Interest. The first two ideas resulted from a visit he had carried out to the Swedish Riksdag in May 2009 at the invitation of Mr Gunnar Fors, Swedish ECPRD Correspondent.

The first idea would be for the Macroeconomic Research Area of Interest to build an electronic network of economic researchers in ECPRD parliaments, permitting them to turn to each other for specific queries. Correspondents could be asked to gather the email and other addresses of all staff in ECPRD parliaments dealing with economic matters, ideally with indications as to their areas of special competence. Such a network might function outside the Forum or, preferably, within it.

It would follow from this that the name "Macroeconomic Research Area of Interest" could well be changed to that of "Economic Research Area of Interest", since there was hardly any strict borderline any longer between these two fields of enquiry.

The second idea was for some kind of internet 'crawler' service to be established that could dig up new studies on economic subjects of interest, with the results being announced in the appropriate ECPRD web space. Mr Fors had indicated that he might be able to mobilise one of his staff to help out in this regard, at least part-time, in the event the ECPRD did not have sufficient staff resources for this purpose.

As for a Seminar within his Area of Interest for 2010, he recalled that the most recent Macroeconomic Research Seminar related to financial/monetary policy had taken place in September 2008, just as the - still present - financial and economic crisis broke. The theme for the seminar, held in Strasbourg (Council of Europe) and Frankfurt (European Central Bank) had been "The European Central Bank in a New European and World Economy".

If the meeting then had been held at a moment of worldwide panic and consternation, the intervening year had permitted, firstly, a gradually increased understanding of what had caused the crisis and, secondly, the formulation of a first framework of policies to overcome it and avoid a recurrence.

Economic research services in ECPRD parliaments had been very active in this process, helping to prepare both emergency and long-term measures and policies for parliamentary consideration, in cooperation with national governments and international institutions as the case may be. The purpose of the Seminar, proposed for the first half of 2010, would be to assemble economic researchers involved in this process for a sharing of knowledge and experiences, both for their benefit and for that of ECPRD parliaments generally. It was his hope that a parliament interested in hosting an event of this kind would come forward. The seminar could have a title such as: "Lessons from the Financial Crisis: a Parliamentary Research Stock-Taking".

Mr Viegas Abreu elaborated on his planned future seminars within his Area of Interest IT in Parliaments, including a seminar in Rome on 26 and 27 November, one in Bucharest in the autumn of 2010, and one possibly to be held in Athens in 2011. He would return with further details in the near future.

Mr. Viegas Abreu also confirmed that everything is agreed with the Dutch House Representatives to host the seminar Parliament on the Net VIII, at Hague, between 6-7 of May 2010, With the following main subject: "On the brink of the third generation Parliamentary websites"

Turning to the Forums, he agreed with previous speakers as regards the difficulties of reaching a "critical mass" of active participants to get dialogue going. There were other concerns, such as participants not remembering their passwords or making very few contributions. Furthermore, people often received replies to queries more quickly via direct emails than via the Forums or the general ECPRD website. He pleaded with Correspondents to ask their IT colleagues to use the Forums more actively.

Ms Maria Rosa Ripollés thanked her Italian colleagues for having taking over the role of hosting the imminent IT Seminar so quickly.

Mr Francesco Marcelli, speaking also on behalf of his colleague of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Mr Italo Scotti, said his parliament would do its utmost to organise the seminar in question, even though it did so at short notice. As for the Forums, he persisted in believing they could have a future if they became more visible. Then participation would surely increase.

Mr Sawicki said serious thought had to be given to the question of whether the Forums should be kept, especially since the experience of the last two had been rather sobering.

Mr Fernando Santaoalla López said he would encourage his colleagues in the Spanish Senate to obtain ECPRD passwords. He suggested that the Forums be given one more year to prove their usefulness.

Mr Piotr Nowina-Konopka shared Mr Santaoalla López's opinion on the one-year additional grace period. Correspondents needed to make their colleagues in the national parliaments more aware of the existence of the Forums. If the proverbial horse was dead, there was no use flogging it.

Mr Rob Clements said the problem was maybe also that there were too many forums and other forms of electronic meeting places in existence. It was very difficult for the Forums to gather speed. The subject area was highly complex, with many interrelated issues. He agreed on the one-year extension suggested, following which a decision on whether to close them down or continue them should be taken. He was joined by Mr Bartsch.

In conclusion, the Conference of Correspondents agreed to decide on the future of the ECPRD Areas of Interest Forums at its 2010 Annual Conference.

Furthermore, the Conference of Correspondents welcomed the two ideas raised by Mr Torbiörn regarding his Area of Interest Macroeconomic Research. These were for the establishment of:

- 1) an electronic network of economic researchers in ECPRD parliaments, and
- 2) an internet 'crawler' service that would identify new studies on economic subjects of interest, on the understanding that the results would be announced in the appropriate ECPRD web space

It also approved the proposal that the "Macroeconomic Research Area of Interest" change its name to become the "Economic Research Area of Interest".

Finally, it approved the proposal of the Coordinator for this Area of Interest to organise a seminar in 2010 on the subject "Lessons from the Financial Crisis: a Parliamentary Research Stock-Taking" and asked ECPRD parliaments interested in hosting such an event to contact Mr Torbiörn.

8. ECPRD Priorities and Programme of activities 2010 and 2011

Mr Sawicki introduced this document, which had been agreed by the Executive Committee in March 2009 and would be submitted for approval to the Secretaries General of ECPRD parliaments at their meeting in Cyprus in June 2010.

As regards the programme of seminars and other meetings:

- Seminar on ICT in Parliaments, Rome 26 – 27 November 2009
The initiative of the Italian colleagues was agreed

- Seminar Parliaments on the Web, The Hague 6 – 7 May 2010

Piet van Rijn (Tweede Kamer, NL) informed the conference that the new title chosen for this seminar was "Parli@ments on the Net VIII – "On the brink of the third generation of parliamentary websites"

- Seminar Oslo May, 2010

Jarle Skjoerestad (Stortinget, NO) explained that the seminar would deal with the rights of opposition parties representing minorities in parliaments. An ECPRD request from Austria and a publication by the Council of Europe on the seminar topic had already been received. Mr Sawicki indicated the theme of the role of the opposition in parliaments would also be dealt with at the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments in Cyprus in June 2010.

- Seminar on Parliamentary libraries at the service of the general public, Athens May, 2010

Ms Dietrich-Schulz confirmed that the seminar would pay special attention to the situation of libraries in the Balkans region.

- Seminar on ICT in Parliaments, Bucharest Autumn, 2010

Paunita Turcu (Camera Deputatilor, RO) informed about the proposal emanating from her IT department. The exact date would be communicated in due course.

- Seminar on “Lessons from the Current Financial Crisis: a Parliamentary Research Stock-Taking”, 2010

Mr Torbiörn said that a number of colleagues had indicated a possibility that their parliament might be able to host a seminar of this kind. He would engage in further consultation with them in the weeks to come.

- Seminar on parliamentary history, Berlin

Mr Bartsch said preparations were proceeding but that the seminar would have to be postponed until early 2011 for technical reasons. The ECPRD would be officially informed shortly.

- Executive Committee meeting Spring 2010

The precise date and venue for this meeting would be fixed shortly.

- Annual Conference of Correspondents 2010

Mr Yildiz informed the Correspondents about the invitation to hold next year's Conference in his country, with the precise venue to be indicated in due course. The meeting warmly welcomed this proposal.

- Annual Conferences of Correspondents 2011

Mr Sawicki said that a preliminary proposal had been made by Azerbaijani Correspondent Nehman Namazov to hold a forthcoming annual conference in his country. While warmly welcoming this proposal, Mr Sawicki recalled that the conference for 2011 would take place in Stockholm.

Mr Sawicki concluded that there were now already five seminar proposals scheduled for 2010, leaving little if any place for more. He reminded the audience of the guidelines set up by SGs to limit the number of seminars to four or five per year. He went on to observe that only two seminars had so far been proposed for 2011, namely an ITC seminar in Athens and another seminar in Berlin. He encouraged colleagues to submit more proposals for 2011.

Mr Fors suggested to organise a seminar on the production of studies and the additional knowledge gained in this context. Such a seminar could even be offered annually and lead to a "Annual Studies Yearbook".

Mr Sawicki proposed that this idea be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Ms Dietrich-Schulz raised the idea of having seminars related to national Presidencies of the European Union. Mr Nowina-Konopka cautioned that this risked not only colliding with projects in his own EP Directorate but would also concern merely the parliaments of countries in the European Union.

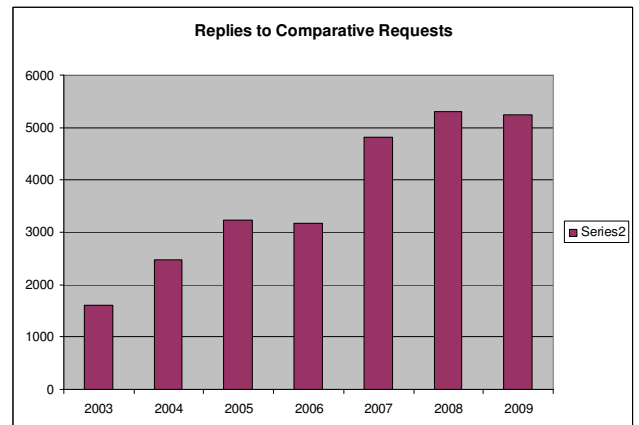
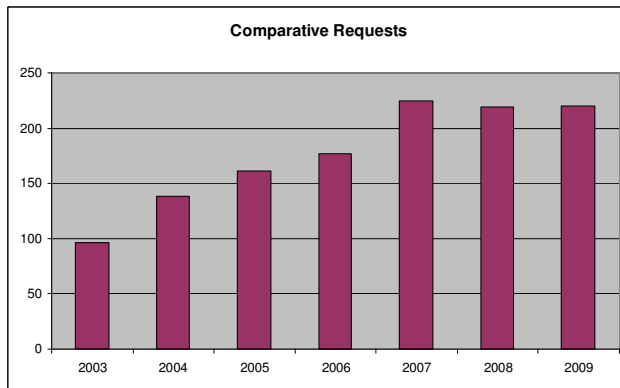
Ms Török (Parliament, HU) said that a report by the Hungarian parliament on the EU Presidency could be consulted on their website.

Mr Sawicki suggested a seminar on the management of human resources in parliaments, in particular as regards appraisal systems. Additional remarks on this idea were made by Ms Cousins.

9. Exchange on comparative requests (statistics, experiences, best practices)

Mr Sawicki introduced this item on the agenda underlining that the statistics in question should in no way be understood as constituting any evaluation or 'ranking' of parliamentary chambers as regards their degree of engagement in the ECPRD query-and-answer process.

Mr Hüschen briefly explained the statistics on display. There had been a slight decrease in the number of requests in 2008 from the preceding year, but a noticeable increase in replies. Figures for the present year of 2009 were not only, for obvious reasons, incomplete, but they did also not allow the identification of any trend – save perhaps that which suggested that the absorption capacity of parliaments in dealing with demand might have been fully reached.



(updated Dec 2009)

Few submitted requests had been denied transmission to member parliaments. This showed the commitment of Correspondents to only submit requests which could not be answered by other means. The obligation to provide a model answer in his view remained as valid as ever. This being said, it could be asked whether the present system was perhaps too rigid to permit sufficient clarifications to be exchanged between sender and receiver.

Mr Nowina-Konopka pointed to the continued, disappointingly low number of final summaries. Only a handful of chambers effectively prepared them. He suggested that a user-friendly tool for drafting final summaries be drawn up but that Correspondents in the meantime do their utmost to raise their number.

Mr Marcelli suggested making the database of comparative requests more user-friendly, for example by adding descriptors to the records. This should be another ECPRD priority for 2010 – 2011. Final summaries should become more visible and possibly be given more space on the website. Also the Forum would enjoy a wider and more engaged audience if this could be achieved.

Ms Krasovec added that final summaries would offer additional advantages if they were duly sent to the requesting departments within each parliament.

Mr Clements, supported by Mr Fors, expressed his satisfaction at the increasing number of model replies, which encouraged the requester to be more clear about what information was sought.

Mr Sawicki called on Correspondents to try harder as regards final summaries. Nobody could be forced to prepare them, but a more active encouragement could have an effect. He in this context reminded Correspondents who faced difficulties in explaining the extent of their ECPRD duties to their SGs to contact Mr Nowina-Konopka or himself for assistance in doing so.

Mr Valente raised the question about the best way to answer a questionnaire (in the mail text or in a separate Word file). Mr Hüschen suggested to put the answers into a Word file, but underlined that the choice was eventually that of the replying chamber.

Mr Bartsch (Bundestag, DE) asked colleagues to address limited, direct requests which bypassed the website to the Correspondent instead of any other person in the parliament concerned. This would avoid the risk that their request be overlooked.

10. ECPRD Website

a. Decision on opening of Seminar pages on the ECPRD Website to the public

Mr Sawicki recalled the Conference's earlier discussion about whether to open up the seminar pages to the public or not, especially considering that information on seminars was already generally available on the webpages of the parliaments hosting such seminars. Needless to say, related questionnaires would have to remain restricted.

Mr Frischknecht did not feel the time was as yet ripe for a general opening, as his parliament observed a number of copyright restrictions on the material it published. He was joined by Mr Bartsch, who said that the media department of the German Bundestag also had restrictions, and by Ms Judith Prigneau (WEU), who cautioned that any wholesale opening could also have security implications.

Mr Van der Hulst felt that any material reaching the ECPRD was anyway more or less public. Making seminar information open to the public could be seen as good marketing for the ECPRD.

Mr Clements said that, while he was generally in favour of maximum openness and transparency, it would be a different matter if personal information, such as email addresses, was included in what was rendered open. The ECPRD would have to think twice before taking such a step. He was joined by Mr Scotti, who felt that a decision to open might have to be taken on a case-by-case basis, and by Ms Ripollés Serrano, who believed that members needed time to reflect on the matter.

In conclusion, the Correspondence Conference decided to return to this matter at its next meeting, on the basis of a document to be prepared by the Secretariat outlining possible ways forward, including intermediary solutions.

b. Interactivity on the ECPRD Website - Role of Contributors

The meeting heard a presentation by Mr Hüschen on contributions to the ECPRD website.

In reply to a question by Ms Dietrich-Schulz, who said she sometimes experienced problems with opening up attachments and with reediting past contributions, Mr Hilbert said this might be due to security restrictions on the part of sending parliaments. He offered to look into the matter.

Mr Clements believed the problems referred to could readily be solved. He himself found the ECPRD website easy to use and user-friendly.

c. Analysis of users and usage of the ECPRD Website

The meeting heard a presentation by Mr Hilbert, EP Project Manager of the ECPRD website, on the website's recent evolution and current facets. The site had become increasingly dynamic and used, as illustrated for instance by the growing number of contributors-administrators when compared to the number of readers. The most widely used pages were those for publications, requests, Homepages/News, and meetings. Most users stayed for more than 15 minutes on the site. The activation of email notification was still relatively insignificant, however, and it was his hope that it would go up so as to enhance involvement.

In reply to a question by Mr Van der Hulst regarding the possibility for members of parliamentary teams to obtain personalised log-ins, Mr Hüschen said he would be happy to oblige if given their names and email addresses.

d. Development needs for the ECPRD Website in 2010

Mr Hilbert said it had not been possible to realise a number of website developments foreseen for 2009 due to budgetary restrictions. However, during the year a first search engine had been introduced. He wondered what priorities the meeting felt should be observed for 2010.

Mr Hüschen believed the priority areas should be the development of the search engine, easier interactivity and the setting up of a studies database.

Mr Sawicki thanked Mr Hilbert and Mr Hüschen for their presentations and their excellent work to further improve the ECPRD website.

11. Other business and the next meeting

There was no other business.

In concluding the meeting, **Wojciech Sawicki** (PACE) thanked Anna Okruhlicova and her colleagues for all they had done to make the present Correspondents Conference such a success, and asked them to convey the gratitude of all participants to the Secretary General of the Slovak Parliament and all others concerned. In closing the meeting he wished participants a safe journey home.