

50 years
ECPRD



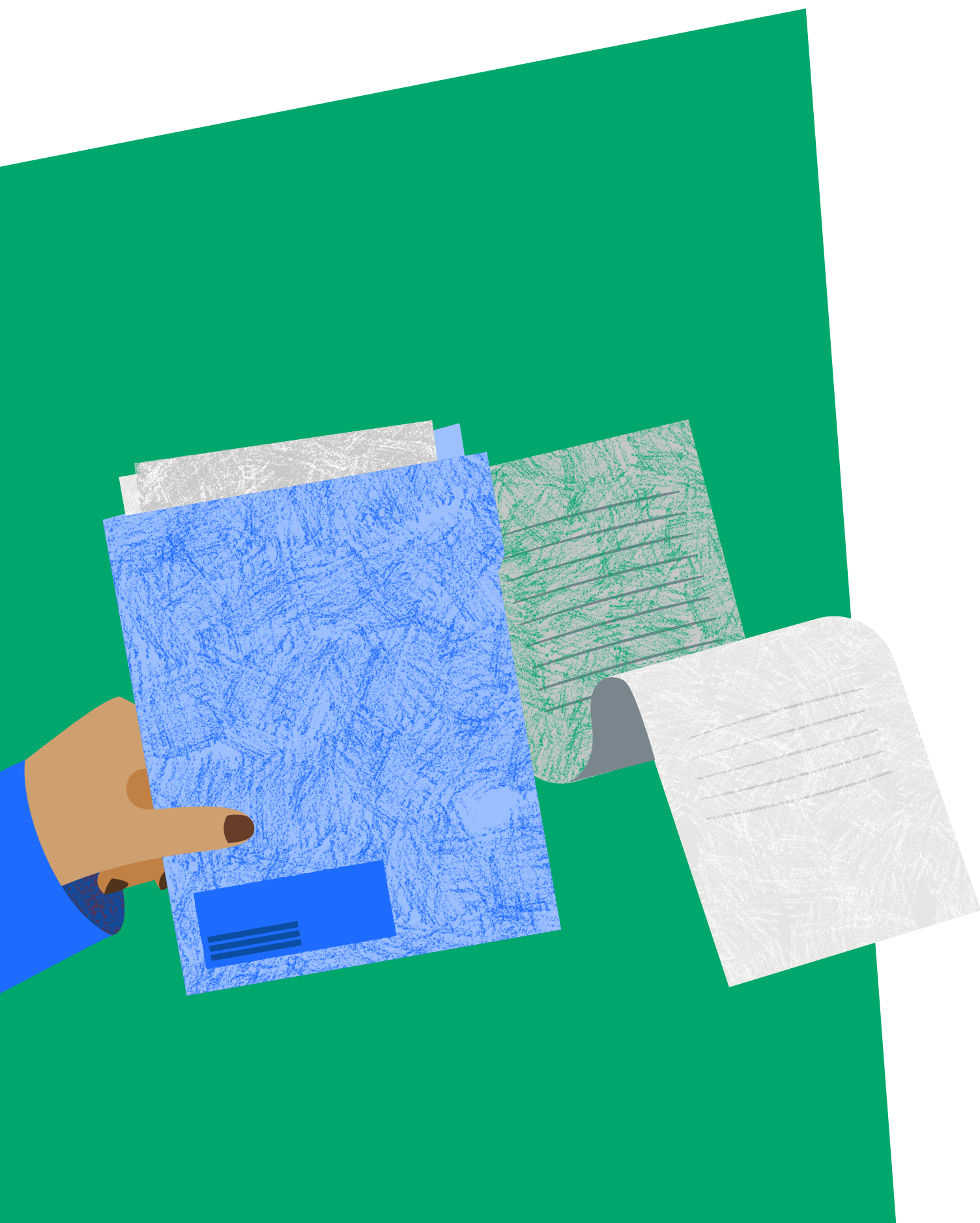
Connecting parliaments:
a journey of knowledge-sharing

Priorities and Programme

ECPRD

This document is available in English, French and German.

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2027 – 2028

The main objective of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) as laid down in its Statutes is to promote the exchange of information, ideas, experience and good practice among the administrations of parliaments in Europe.

For nearly 50 years, the ECPRD, a network of people, has been at the service of its stakeholders in the member parliaments. Through its comparative request process, its seminar programme and the ongoing exchanges between correspondents, the network strengthens the capacity of parliaments to fulfil their core functions – legislating, scrutinising and informing – and contributes to the health of parliamentary democracy across Europe. The almost daily flow of information and the exchange of best practice at the ECPRD seminars contribute to creating a European public sphere at the level of parliamentary administrations. Active input by all parliaments and services concerned is more than ever essential for the Centre to keep up this momentum.

Each chamber has appointed an ECPRD correspondent and deputy. The ECPRD also has an Executive Committee composed of five elected members, plus coordinators for four Areas of Interest. In most cases, those persons combine their ECPRD function with other jobs in their parliament. The functioning of the ECPRD network is therefore dependent on sufficient staff time and resources being available for those roles in each parliament.

It is essential for the functioning of the ECPRD that the European Parliament continues to provide the necessary technical, financial and human resources for the Secretariat and the ECPRD website.

The 2027– 2028 cycle is of particular significance for the network. The priorities set out below build on the work of the past years, with a commitment to deepening the network's impact, extending its reach and ensuring that its structures serve member parliaments effectively. In 2027, the ECPRD will mark its 50th anniversary, crowning half a century of democratic exchange and interparliamentary co-operation. The anniversary offers an opportunity to celebrate its achievements, to reflect on the network's evolution and to articulate a shared vision for its future direction.

Considering the statutory objectives, the ECPRD priorities for the years 2027–2028 are proposed to be defined as follows:

Objectives

1. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ECPRD in 2027. The Annual Conference of Correspondents will serve as the central moment of celebration for the network. An Anniversary Working Group has been established to oversee the organisation of the occasion. Member parliaments are also invited to mark the anniversary through their own events and activities, supported by common materials developed for that purpose. The anniversary will also serve as an opportunity to promote the role and added value of the ECPRD within parliamentary administrations and to increase the visibility of its activities across services.
2. To ensure the full and effective use of the new ECPRD website. The platform simplifies processes, improves accessibility and centralises the network's resources. Efforts will focus on familiarising all users with the new tool, notably through targeted guidance and training materials, and on transitioning all comparative requests to the online system. This will enable better search capabilities and support the long-term efficiency of the network. The website could also increasingly serve as a central platform for knowledge exchange within the network, supporting the sharing of good practices, facilitating access to resources, and encouraging its wider use by colleagues across parliamentary administrations, including beyond the established correspondents' network.
3. To further encourage the involvement of all ECPRD correspondents and their deputies in the full range of the network's activities and to improve the understanding of the ECPRD's work in national parliaments, with the strong support from their respective Secretaries General.
4. To encourage and support the ECPRD Coordinators of the Areas of Interest in their work to foster the information exchange on topical issues, chiefly by organising and hosting seminars.
5. To encourage parliamentary staff to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the ECPRD network and its website, in particular to retrieve information and establish contacts and co-operation with other member parliaments of the ECPRD. Particular emphasis will be placed on promoting the ECPRD within parliamentary administrations, including through targeted internal communication and outreach, in order to broaden participation beyond the established correspondents' network. To improve the engagement of junior staff it should be facilitated their participation in ECPRD activities and exchanges.

6. To further develop the exchange of information via the procedure of comparative requests in accordance with existing guidelines, notably by maintaining a high level of responsiveness to requests and ensuring, to the greatest extent possible, the systematic production of final summary reports by requesting chambers.
7. Particular attention will be given to enhancing the quality of both requests and responses, including by promoting clearer guidance, encouraging well-structured and targeted contributions, and fostering a shared understanding of good practices across the network.
8. To strengthen 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; Economic and Budgetary Affairs), and especially via the thematic spaces on the ECPRD website.
9. To develop internal guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence tools within the ECPRD network. These guidelines will be practical and accessible and will be reviewed regularly to reflect the pace of change in this area. They aim to support member chambers navigating similar questions in their own institutional contexts.
10. To continue to organise and host seminars for parliamentary staff on subjects of common interest, based on proposals made by national parliaments, enabling staff to participate and contribute to these events. Where appropriate, virtual or hybrid formats will also be used, allowing for greater flexibility and improved cost-efficiency, particularly in light of the increasing budgetary constraints faced by many member parliaments.
11. To build on the success of the ECPRD webinars and continue organising regular virtual forms of expert meetings with the requisite resources, as a complement to face-to-face seminars. The ECPRD nonetheless remains a network that relies on human interpersonal relationships.
12. To provide regular updates to the parliamentary factsheets and the directory.
13. To foster contacts with other parliamentary exchange networks (e.g. IPEX, IFLA, IPU Parline and CIP), as well as with the network of National Parliament representatives based in Brussels, with a view to not only avoiding duplication of activities but also identifying potential fields of synergies and the sharing of experiences.
14. To explore, if necessary, a second release of the ECPRD website later in 2027, based on user feedback and evolving needs, to further enhance functionality and address any emerging requirements.

ECPRD Events in 2026

Event	Meeting	Place	Date
Meeting of the Executive Committee	Statutory meetings	Brussels- Belgium European Parliamen Remote	21 January 2026
Seminar	Area of Interest ICT in Parliament "Institutional Integration and Governance of Artificial Intelligence in Core Parliamentary Processes"	Yerevan, Armenia	21–22 May 2026
Meeting of the Executive Committee	Statutory meetings	Bratislava - Slovakia	11–12 June 2026
Meeting of the Executive Committee	Statutory meetings	Brussels- Belgium European Parliamen Remote	16 September 2026
Seminar	Area of Interest Practice and Procedure "New Developments in Parliamentary Oversight"	Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina	24–25 September 2026
Seminar	Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives "Parliamentary libraries and research services: People, services and spaces"	London, UK	24–25 September 2026

Event	Meeting	Place	Date
Annual Conference of Correspondents	Statutory meetings	Luxembourg – Luxembourg	12–13 November 2026
Seminar	Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs “The role of the research services and the use of new tools in providing Parliaments with economic and financial information”	online	2 December 2026
ECPRD/EPRS Seminar	Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives “Proximity in practice: How Parliamentary Research Services and Libraries stay connected to Members”	Brussels – Belgium	10–11 December 2026

ECPRD Events in 2027

Event	Meeting	Place	Date
Meeting of the Executive Committee	Statutory meetings	Brussels–Belgium European Parliament Remote	16 February 2027
Seminar	Area of Interest ICT in Parliament	TBC	TBC
Seminar	Area of Interest Practice and Procedure	Lisbon – Portugal	20–21 May 2027, tbc
Seminar	Joint seminar Areas of Interest - Libraries, Research Services and Archives - ICT in Parliaments - Parliamentary Practice and Procedure - Economic and Budgetary Affairs	Prague, Czechia	TBC
Meeting of the Executive Committee	Statutory meetings	Lisbon – Portugal	19 May 2027, tbc
Seminar	Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs	TBC	TBC
Seminar	Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives	TBC	TBC
Meeting of the Executive Committee	Statutory meetings	Brussels–Belgium European Parliament Remote	14 September 2027
Annual Conference of Correspondents	Statutory meetings (50th Anniversary of the ECPRD)	Brussels – Belgium	November 2027