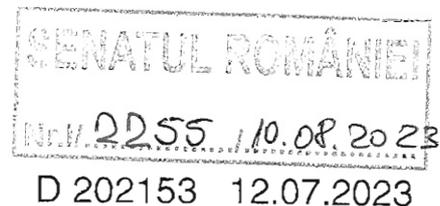


The President

Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă
Președinte Senat
Senatul României
Calea 13 Septembrie, nr. 1-3,
Intrarea A 1, Sect. 5
050711 BUCUREȘTI



Stimate domnule Președinte, stimate coleg,

În cadrul eforturilor noastre permanente de consolidare a dialogului politic și legislativ dintre instituțiile noastre, am plăcerea de a vă transmite calendarul activităților interparlamentare din al doilea semestru al anului 2023.

Calendarul include evenimentele interparlamentare organizate de Parlamentul European, precum și cele organizate de Parlamentul spaniol în cadrul dimensiunii parlamentare a Președinției spaniole a Consiliului Uniunii Europene.

El constă din cinci reuniuni interparlamentare interinstituționale: Conferința organelor parlamentare specializate în chestiunile Uniunii ale parlamentelor Uniunii Europene (COSAC) și reuniunea pregătitoare a președinților COSAC; Conferința interparlamentară privind stabilitatea, coordonarea și guvernarea economică în Uniunea Europeană (articolul 13 din pactul bugetar); Conferința privind politica externă și de securitate comună și politica de securitate și apărare comună; a treisprezecea reuniune a Grupului de control parlamentar comun pentru Europol. Calendarul include, de asemenea, zece reuniuni interparlamentare la nivel de comisii organizate de Parlamentul European la Bruxelles.

Totodată, aș dori să profit de această ocazie pentru a prezenta versiunea originală în limba engleză a Raportului anual pe 2022 referitor la relațiile dintre Parlamentul European și parlamentele naționale din UE. Raportul prezintă principalele forme de cooperare interparlamentară, precum și principalele evenimente care au avut loc în cursul anului trecut. Veți primi ulterior o versiune a raportului în limba dumneavoastră oficială, prin intermediul serviciilor dumneavoastră responsabile cu relațiile cu Parlamentul European.

Am convingerea că activitățile noastre interparlamentare aduc o contribuție importantă la procesul decizional al UE și vor întări și mai mult dimensiunea parlamentară a Uniunii Europene.

Cu deosebită considerație,

Roberta Metsola

Anexă:

- Calendarul activităților interparlamentare cu parlamentele naționale – al doilea semestru al anului 2023
- Raportul anual pe 2022

CALENDAR 2023

INTERPARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES WITH NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

SPANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE EU COUNCIL

2nd semester *
1 July - 31 December

*Activities organised by the Parliament of the EU Council Presidency,
the Spanish Parliament*

Activities organised by the European Parliament

Interparliamentary meetings with national Parliaments

Date	Meeting	EP Committee	Location
17-18 September	Spanish Presidency Meeting COSAC Chairpersons meeting		Congress of Deputies, Madrid
20 September	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting to deepen the cooperation with the petitions committees in national parliaments with a view to exchanging best practices and reflecting on new approaches	PETI	EP, Brussels
20-21 September	13th Meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol pursuant to Article 88 TFEU and the Europol Regulation (EU) 2016/794	LIBE	EP, Brussels
1-2 October	Interparliamentary Conference on Common Foreign and Security Policy and Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC CFSP/CSDP)	AFET	Congress of Deputies, Madrid
25 October	Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Taxation	FISC	EP, Brussels
25 October	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the preparations of the European elections 2024 (exact title TBC)	AFCO	EP, Brussels
26-27 October	Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (Conference under Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union) (IPC SECG)	ECON BUDG EMPL	Senate, Madrid

7 November	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the evaluation of activities of the Eurojust	LIBE	EP, Brussels
7 November	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the Future of Cohesion Policy : Opportunities, Challenges and Next Steps	REGI	EP, Brussels
Date TBC	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on food security in the EU	AGRI	EP, Brussels
26-28 November	Spanish Presidency Meeting LXX COSAC Plenary		Congress of Deputies, Madrid
27-28 November	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the European Citizenship Education	CULT	EP, Brussels
29 November	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on strengthening EU action on Human Rights in the UN Human Rights Council	DROI	EP, Brussels
4 December	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the participation of disabled persons in the electoral process	EMPL	EP, Brussels
4 December	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the situation of the Rule of Law in the EU	LIBE	EP, Brussels

See latest changes via the following QR code and/or Web link:



<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl/en/home.html>

* endorsed by the Conference of Presidents on 08/06/2023 and 13/07/2023

**DIRECTORATE FOR RELATIONS
WITH NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS**

ANNUAL REPORT 2022
**Relations between the European Parliament
and the EU national Parliaments**

The annual activity report of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments provides an overview of the activities and main political developments in interparliamentary cooperation with national Parliaments in 2022 in the area of institutional cooperation, legislative dialogue and joint parliamentary scrutiny. This cooperation involved 39 national Parliaments and Chambers across the 27 Member States and the European Parliament.

This is a publication of the European Parliament's Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, which constitutes part of the European Parliament's Directorate-General for Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships.

Katrin RUHRMANN

Director

Jesús GÓMEZ

Head of Unit, Legislative Dialogue Unit

Ms Anne Louise MCLAUHLAN

Head of Unit, Institutional Cooperation Unit

Manuscript completed by:

Zsuzsanna BALÁZS

Administrator, Legislative Dialogue Unit

Manuscript closed on 31 March 2023.

Relations with National Parliaments (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/reinatparl/en/home.html>)

All photos and illustrations © European Union, unless otherwise stated.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword by the European Parliament's Vice-Presidents responsible for relations with EU national Parliaments	4
KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND MAIN TOPICS ON THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY AGENDA IN 2022	6
1. INSTITUTIONAL INTERPARLIAMENTARY BODIES	13
1.1. Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC)	13
1.2. Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments (EUSC)	17
2. INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCES (IPCs)	21
2.1. European Parliamentary Week (EPW), the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU and the European Semester Conference (IPC SECG)	21
2.2. Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC CFSP/CSDP)	26
3. INTERPARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT IN THE AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE	30
3.1. Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol	30
3.2. Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the Evaluation of Eurojust	33
4. INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND OTHER INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION	36
4.1. Interparliamentary Committee Meetings (ICMs)	36
4.2. National Parliament Speakers Meeting with the Speaker of the Parliament of Ukraine and Meeting of the Women Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union	42
4.3. Interparliamentary cooperation in the field of EU external action and multilateral parliamentary assemblies	44
4.4. Bilateral visits and other bilateral exchanges	46
5. LEGISLATIVE COOPERATION WITH EU NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS	47
5.1. Early Warning System and Protocol N° 2 to the Treaties	47
5.2. Informal Political Dialogue and Protocol N° 1 to the Treaties	52
6. NETWORKS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION	54
6.1. Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange (IPEX)	54
6.2. European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD)	55
6.3. Presidency Parliament Support Programme	60
6.4. Network of EU national Parliaments' representatives in Brussels	61
6.5. Staff seminars	62
7. TOOLS AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	64
7.1. Organisation of remote meetings and videoconferencing	64
7.2. CONNECT – the European Parliament's database of national Parliaments' submissions	65
7.3. Directory of Corresponding Committees (CorCom)	66
7.4. National Parliaments' Submission Tool (NPS Tool)	66
7.5. Publications of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments	67
8. DIRECTORATE FOR RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS	69
ANNEXES	70
ANNEX I – COSAC meetings – Topics and keynote speakers 2022	71
ANNEX II – Interparliamentary Committee Meetings and Interparliamentary Conferences organised by the European Parliament in Brussels in 2022 - number of participants	73
ANNEX III – Visits of EU national Parliaments to the European Parliament in 2022 (including videoconferences facilitated by the Directorate)	74
ANNEX IV – Early Warning System Data	77
ANNEX V – Contributions under Protocol N° 1 – Informal Political Dialogue	79
ANNEX VI – European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD)	80
GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS	84

Foreword by the European Parliament's Vice-Presidents responsible for relations with EU national Parliaments



Othmar Karas, EP First Vice-President and Dita Charanzová, Vice-President.

EP premises in Strasbourg © EU 2021 – EP/Andrea Adriani

The Russian Federation's unprovoked, illegal and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine was a central issue and concern in interparliamentary cooperation in 2022. The terrible war being waged by the Kremlin against the Ukrainian population has upended the European and global security order. In these times of war, the European Union has been resolutely united in its unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and in defending European values, democracy, freedom and the rule of law.

The war in Ukraine, being waged at the border of the EU, also had a strong impact on the post-COVID-19 economic recovery in the Member States of the European Union. Growing inflation and increasing food and energy prices have affected the lives of citizens in all EU Member States. As parliamentarians, we need to come up with answers to these enormous challenges and to the concerns of European citizens.

Interparliamentary meetings in 2022 provided the opportunity for Members of national Parliaments and the European Parliament to exchange views, ideas and best practices on these issues.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact also remained on the agenda of many interparliamentary meetings. The discussion and analysis of a complex situation, ranging from health issues to social and economic challenges and post-pandemic recovery plans, and the question of how to deal with these challenges were often discussed during interparliamentary events.

Following the work conducted in 2020-2021, the Conference on the Future of Europe completed its mandate in 2022. Both national Parliaments and the European Parliament cooperated closely in the Conference and played a key role in the debate on shaping Europe's future. They worked together to defend the interests of citizens to play their part in reshaping the EU's policies and institutions, as well as the role of Parliaments as the elected representatives of their citizens.

Interparliamentary activities were finally able to fully resume in 2022, with most meetings being held in person once again after the pandemic, although for practical reasons some were held in a hybrid format. Bilateral personal contacts again became an essential part of interparliamentary meetings and, more than ever before, the war in Ukraine made us aware of how important the role of Parliaments is in defending our common values, democracy and the rule of law as the foundation of peace and stability in both Europe and the wider world. Parliaments will also play an important role in reconstructing Ukraine, as well as in supporting its path towards joining the European Union.

As Vice-Presidents for relations with national Parliaments, we are strongly committed to developing further interparliamentary dialogue in challenging times. We are convinced that the European Parliament and the EU's national Parliaments remain key partners in shaping the future of Europe as a peaceful and prosperous place for its citizens.

Othmar Karas

EP First Vice-President

Dita Charanzová

Vice-President

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND MAIN TOPICS ON THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY AGENDA IN 2022

The work of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments in 2022 was conducted under the political leadership and guidance of Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, Othmar Karas, First Vice-President, together with Vice-President Dita Charanzová, both responsible for relations with national Parliaments, and Antonio Tajani, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) and the Conference of Committee Chairs. Following his election as Member of the Italian Parliament, and his subsequent appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister of Italy, Antonio Tajani was replaced by the new AFCO Chair Salvatore de Meo on 17 October 2022.

The major recurrent topics discussed at numerous interparliamentary meetings included the EU's security and external action in response to the war in Ukraine, the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery, the state of the rule of law in the Member States and the EU's NextGenerationEU and economic recovery plans.

The war in Ukraine featured prominently on the agendas of the main interparliamentary activities in 2022. Extraordinary meetings were held with the Parliament of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Government, and specific points on Ukraine were included on the agendas of all relevant interparliamentary meetings through the year such as the Speakers Conferences, the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation (IPC) for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), COSAC, the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) on Europol and other IPCs.



Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament in the EP hemicycle on 24 March 2022 showing solidarity with Ukraine by displaying the Ukrainian flag and the EU flag.
© European Union 2022 EP/ Daina Le Lardic

As the first partially post-COVID-19 year, 2022 was expected to be a politically challenging one. The post-pandemic recovery and the question of how to deal with its economic and social aftermath, while achieving a green, digital and sustainable recovery, and ensuring parliamentary scrutiny, have been major political challenges in the EU and the Member States. During the course of the year, Parliaments exchanged views, experiences and best practices of post-COVID-19 social, economic and healthcare measures, as well as on the developments of rising food and energy prices, and their serious consequences for businesses and consumers alike.

The outcome and the Conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe were also recurrent topics on the agendas of interparliamentary meetings. National Parliaments were fully involved in the Conference and the topic was discussed intensively in interparliamentary meetings.

In 2022, many, though not all, interparliamentary meetings could be held in person again, for the first time since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the pandemic accelerated the use of

digital tools, which will of course remain available and may still be very useful for organising certain meetings in hybrid or remote formats. Overall, the return to face-to-face and in-person meetings was very much welcomed and lent a new dynamic to interparliamentary activities in 2022.

The return to meetings with participants present in person also allowed the adoption of political texts, which are usually the subject of intense negotiations during meetings, to resume. In COSAC, written conclusions were adopted. The Speakers Conference was held again in person, and written 'Conclusions of the Presidency' were adopted by consensus.

The European Parliament continued to intensify its relations with national Parliaments through formal and informal exchanges by Othmar Karas, its First Vice-President responsible for relations with national Parliaments and for COSAC. The visit of a delegation of COSAC Chairs and the First Vice-President of the European Parliament to Ukraine in September 2022, which strongly signalled their support for the Ukrainian people, was possible as a result of the resumption of interparliamentary cooperation and the revival of personal contacts.

Bilateral visits from EU national Parliaments to the European Parliament's premises were also fully relaunched in 2022 with 29 visiting delegations.

In the aftermath of the health crisis, the intensity of online and electronic (written) exchanges of information between Parliaments, in particular within the framework of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD), has remained stable at a high level. The ECPRD network was also able to start meeting again in person. Of the 12 meetings organised in 2022 – 4 statutory meetings and 8 webinars – 2 were held in person, 1 was a hybrid meeting and the others were held remotely.

2022 marked the first full year of activity for the new Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange platform (IPEX v3), which now enables Parliaments to upload new types of documents, and not only those linked to the subsidiarity parameter (reasoned opinions or contributions under the informal political dialogue). The IPEX network reached a final compromise on the revision of the IPEX Guidelines, finalised the baseline follow-up study and questionnaire for users and adopted the Visual Identity Packs.

Following the major increase in the number of submissions received under Protocol N° 2 of the Treaties in 2021, once the EU institutions and the national Parliaments had adapted to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and were working at their full legislative capacity, there was a comparative lull in 2022. However, national Parliaments still made quite a large number of contributions under Protocol N° 2, notably in response to a number of legislative proposals mainly on the environment and in the area of justice and home affairs. Statistics confirm that EU national Parliaments still use the Protocol as a means to express their views on the substance of proposals more often than on subsidiarity. This could reflect their desire to be more closely involved in the substance of the legislative process.

Traditionally, interparliamentary cooperation focuses on political and institutional issues and discussions. The Early Warning System, linking national Parliaments to the EU legislative process through the subsidiarity check, has sparked an extensive legislative dialogue that goes well beyond subsidiarity.

During recent years, attention has also been given to parliamentary scrutiny and oversight of European executive action and agencies, in particular in the field of justice and home affairs. Parliamentary cooperation is also developing in the field of the EU's external policies, mainly in the framework of CFSP/CSDP, but also in parliamentary diplomacy, democracy support and cooperation in multilateral and even global forums, to promote European values and interests.

In 2022, the following recurrent topics were raised in several interparliamentary forums and bilateral discussions:

i. The war in Ukraine – supporting the Parliament of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people

The Russian Federation launched a military attack and illegal invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, which coincided with the first day of the CFSP/CSDP IPC held in the French Senate. The co-organisers reacted swiftly to this international situation, modifying the agenda which had been drawn up in advance to focus on different aspects of the events unfolding in Ukraine. The holding of a Special Session on the situation in Ukraine, with the contribution of the Ukrainian Ambassador to France, and the adoption of a Declaration on Ukraine were key developments in this IPC.

Subsequently, the war in Ukraine occupied a prominent place on the agendas of all main interparliamentary events in the first half of 2022.

On the initiative of the EP President, Roberta Metsola, and shortly after the Russian aggression had commenced, the Speakers of the national Parliaments held a remote meeting online with Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Parliament of Ukraine on 4 March 2022.



Roberta Metsola, EP President, during her visit to Marseille, participating in the extraordinary online meeting of European national Parliaments' Speakers with the Chairman of the Parliament of Ukraine, Ruslan Stefanchuk, on 4 March 2022
© European Union 2022. EP/ Dana Le Lardic

At the COSAC Plenary meeting from 3 to 5 March 2022 in Paris, an urgent debate session on Ukraine was added to the programme and a Troika statement was adopted. At committee level, at the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) Interparliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM) entitled 'An ambitious future for Europe's women after COVID-19', held online in the EP on 3 March 2022, participants expressed their solidarity with the Ukrainian people and Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Parliament of Ukraine's Committee for Ukraine's Integration into the European Union, provided the latest news on the situation in Ukraine.

The Speakers conference from 28 to 29 March 2022 in Slovenia heard a special address by Ruslan Stefanchuk, who was connected via videoconference from Kyiv. In the Conclusions of the Presidency, the Speakers condemned 'in the strongest possible terms Russia's military aggression against the sovereign state of Ukraine', considering it an attack on the international order of democracy, the rule of law and human rights. The Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) dedicated an ICM on 27 June 2022 to 'EU Enlargement Policy in the Aftermath of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine'.



A joint ICM organised by FEMM, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) on 'The rights of Ukrainian women fleeing the war' was held on 12 July 2022.

Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Chair of the Parliament of Ukraine's Committee for Ukraine's Integration into the European Union, was invited to the COSAC Chairpersons meeting in Prague on 11 July. She expressed her thanks for the support given to Ukraine against the Russian aggression and for the European Council's decision to grant Ukraine EU candidate country status.

In addition, she invited the COSAC Chairs to pay a solidarity visit to Kyiv, which took place on 30 September 2022, with Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the European Parliament, as Head of Delegation. Participants adopted a [joint press statement](#) reiterating their unequivocal support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.



Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the EP during a meeting with Yevhen Perebyinis, Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine, in Ukraine on 30 September 2022 during the COSAC Chairpersons' visit to Kyiv.

The CFSP/CSDP IPC in Prague from 4 to 5 September 2022 dedicated a session to 'Ukraine: modes of political support and reconstruction'. The joint statement by the Co-Chairs also focused on the war in Ukraine among other issues.

At the informal meeting of the Women Speakers of Parliaments of the EU on 12 October 2022, a Co-Chairs' statement was adopted on the situation in Ukraine.

The JPSG on Europol in the framework of the LIBE ICM in Brussels held a thematic debate on the 'Impact of the war in Ukraine on the area of security' on 25 October 2022. Session IV of the LXVI COSAC Plenary Meeting in Prague, 13-15 November 2022 was entitled 'Ukraine – state of play, reconstruction, migration'.

The Third Annual ICM on Eurojust's Activities took place on 30 November 2022 in the European Parliament. The discussion centred around the fact that further to the extraordinary circumstances linked to the war in Ukraine, the Eurojust Regulation had been swiftly amended with new provisions, which extended the mandate, giving the agency the legal possibility to collect, preserve and share evidence on war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. On the same day, 30 November 2022, a second ICM was organised by AFET in Brussels with the title 'Europe in the world – Supporting Ukraine'.

ii. The EU's response to the pandemic and the post-COVID-19 recovery plans

In 2022, EU parliamentarians debated the EU's response on how to address the social and economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. The main focus of the exchanges of views was on how to deliver a sustainable and green recovery. This issue dominated discussions at the European Parliamentary Week in Brussels as well as the 18th session of the IPC on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in Prague. Exchanges focused on the impact of a defined exit strategy from the crisis, creating new own resources, strengthening Europe's economic resilience and response as a result of the war in Ukraine and its spillover effect on the EU's economies. The cost of energy independence, the creation of the Social Climate Fund 2025-2032 and preparedness for future crises were also high on the agenda.



European Parliamentary Week - EU Economic Governance from a Parliamentary Perspective, Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union, keynote speech by Antonio Costa, Prime Minister of Portugal on 16 March 2022.

© European Union 2022 EP/ Alain Roland

iii. The green and digital transitions, inflation and the impact of the conflict on the gas supply

The green and digital transitions were a key priority of the French Presidency and were one of the main subjects of the debates in interparliamentary meetings, not least during the 2022 European Parliamentary Week. As the EU sanctions against Russia were adopted and implemented as a result of the war in Ukraine, the reduction in the supply of Russian gas was used as a countermeasure. The EU had to adapt quickly and efficiently in 2022 to secure its supplies from alternative sources and suppliers, as well as to introduce measures to decrease gas consumption in order to achieve independence from Russian fossil fuels.

The main negative effect on the EU economy was rising inflation and energy prices, which generated a fear of recession for the EU economy. The REPowerEU initiative was a response to tackle the developments on the global energy markets and their disruption. This was discussed in detail at both the European Parliamentary Week 2022 and the Article 13 IPC in Prague. The main objective was to incorporate REPowerEU into the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). It was designed in a such a way as to help reduce dependence on fossil fuels through reforms and investment in the green transition and the creation of a more resilient energy system.

iv. The rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights in the EU

As respect for the rule of law became a cross-cutting priority in all EU policies, this was also reflected in various interparliamentary debates, taking into account the crucial role of national Parliaments in the protection and enforcement of the EU's values and laws.

COSAC Chairpersons' meetings have also put this topic high on the agenda. At their meeting in Prague on 10 and 11 July 2022, the second session was dedicated to 'Media and Democracy: Current Challenges'. They also held a videoconference on 27 October 2022 on the Rule of Law report and the Media Freedom Act with Věra Jourová, European Commission Vice-President for Values and Transparency.



Chair of the LIBE Committee, Juan Fernando López Aguilar and Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice at the LIBE Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the situation of the rule of law in the EU.
© European Union 2022 EP/ Philippe Buissin

In this perspective, on 1 December 2022, the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) organised the second annual ICM on the situation of the rule of law in the EU. The meeting, which has permitted a regular exchange between national Parliaments and the European Parliament since 2020, aims to promote and safeguard the EU's common values in order to further the debate about the role of the EU, the Member States and of the national Parliaments in this respect.

v. The EU's role in the world

As the dire economic, social, political and geopolitical consequences of the war in Ukraine and the pandemic continued to have an impact on key aspects of the EU's CFSP and CSDP, the EU's security environment also continued to deteriorate in 2022 and was one of the most keenly debated topics in interparliamentary forums on foreign policy issues.

In the framework of IPC CFSP/CSDP, the exchanges focused on the strategic autonomy of the EU. Members stressed the fundamental importance of the EU's internal resilience, of developing new partnerships and of strengthening the EU's multilateral vision worldwide. Their main request was that the autonomous EU energy supply and defence structure be speeded up and built without delay. Members advocated that strong sanctions against Russia, in particular targeted sanctions against its main leaders, be adopted and implemented.

They called for the Member States to show genuine political will to push on with EU foreign policy goals and counter non-EU countries' attempts to divide the EU. In most of the meetings, Members requested the EU to strengthen its role in its neighbourhood, particularly in the Western Balkans, advocating a clear roadmap towards granting EU membership to the Western Balkan countries. In 2022, representatives of the Parliaments of Ukraine and Moldova were invited as observers to several interparliamentary meetings, as countries that were granted EU candidate status on 23 June 2022 by the European Council.

vi. The Conference on the Future of Europe

Members of the European and national Parliaments continued to reflect on the future of Europe in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFE), which concluded its work in 2022. The development of the 'sense of belonging to European values' with the finalisation of the CoFE was an important priority of the French Presidency, which was discussed both at the COSAC Chairpersons' and at the COSAC Plenary meetings in Paris. Věra Jourová, European Commission Vice-President for Values and Transparency also took the floor at the COSAC Plenary meeting on 14 November 2022 in Prague during the session on the 'Future of the EU'.



Speech by Guy Verhofstadt, EP Co-Chair of the CoFE Executive Board at the AFCO Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on 26 October 2022 on the 'Conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe and the Role of National Parliaments in the EU'
© EU 2022 EP/ Eric Vidal

The AFCO Committee held a first ICM specifically dedicated to the CoFE on the 'First results of the Conference on the Future of the European Union' remotely on 17 May 2022 and a second AFCO ICM on the 'Conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe and the role of national Parliaments' on 26 October 2022. In both ICMs Members discussed the follow-up and the implementation of the proposals of the Conference. During the ICM in October, Members of the EP with Members from national Parliaments and the three Co-Chairs of the Executive Board of the CoFE agreed on the important role of national Parliaments in the EU, as well as on the promotion of citizens' participation through involving citizens in the EU policy-making process.

1. INSTITUTIONAL INTERPARLIAMENTARY BODIES

1.1. Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC)



COSAC, or the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs, was established in November 1989 in Paris. It is unique in that it is the only interparliamentary forum enshrined in the Treaties (Protocol N° 1 on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union). The national Parliament of the Member State holding the rotating Council Presidency plays a leading role in defining the direction and work of COSAC. A Presidential Troika, of which the European Parliament is a permanent member, supports it. The Presidency relies on the organisational backing of a small secretariat, hosted by the European Parliament and led by an official seconded from a national Parliament ('Permanent Member'). See www.ipex.eu.

1.1.1. After two years of fully remotely organised videoconference meetings, the COSAC Chairpersons' meeting during the French EU Council Presidency took place on 13 and 14 January 2022 in Paris, in a hybrid format. The hybrid format was chosen because of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which had continued in early 2022. The meeting was hosted by the French Senate at its premises. The meeting began with a tribute to President David Sassoli, who had passed away on 11 January 2022, followed by an address from Clément Beaune, Secretary of State to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, responsible for European Affairs. He focused on the priorities of the French Presidency, such as strengthening the sovereignty of Europe; the 'European model of climate, social and digital transition' and of the 'sense of belonging to European values' with the finalisation of the Conference on the Future of Europe. Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank, was also invited to the meeting to speak about the 'Twentieth anniversary of the euro: achievements and future of the euro'. Among other things, she announced the launch of a phase of work with a view to introducing the digital euro within five years, in response to the increasing dematerialisation of payments and the proliferation of cryptocurrencies.



COSAC Chairpersons' meeting, Paris, France, 13-14 January 2022

© French Presidency

During the Chairpersons' meeting of January 2022, the French Presidency also proposed the creation of two Working Groups with a view to giving more visibility to the work of COSAC, which was approved by consensus. While it was agreed that these Working Groups would not involve any obligations for the forthcoming Czech or other Presidencies, each national Parliament and the European Parliament was invited to nominate up to two members to represent it in each Working Group on a voluntary basis. The first Working Group was on 'The role of national Parliaments in the EU' and the second on 'The place of European values at the heart of the feeling of belonging'. The proceedings began in February 2022 and were finalised in June 2022. They both adopted reports and conclusions, summarising the exchanges that took place during the first semester of 2022.

1.1.2. The LXVII COSAC Plenary meeting in Paris, France, 3-5 March 2022, took place at the premises of the Assemblée Nationale (French National Assembly). The meeting was scheduled at a relatively early stage in the French Presidency semester owing to the French Presidential elections on 10 and 24 April 2022. The atmosphere and discussions were heavily impacted by the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, which had taken place the previous week. An urgent debate on Ukraine was added to the programme and a Troika statement was adopted with the support of the other delegations. All parliamentary delegations condemned the Russian aggression and expressed their solidarity with the democratically elected authorities of Ukraine and with the Ukrainian people. The rest of the programme focused on the initial assessment of the French Presidency, with a contribution by Prime Minister Jean Castex on the recovery plan for Europe and emerging from the crisis, on climate change and the energy transition and on the Conference on the Future of Europe. Another brief session gave an opportunity to present a first progress report on the outcome of both Working Groups set up by the COSAC Chairpersons.



*Opening session of the COSAC Chairpersons' meeting in Prague, Czechia at the Senate of Czechia on 11 July 2022
© Czech Presidency*

1.1.3. The parliamentary dimension of the Czech EU Council Presidency began with the COSAC Chairpersons' meeting in Prague, Czechia, on 11 July 2022, hosted by the Czech Senate. Jan Lipavsky, the Czech Minister for Foreign Affairs, presented the priorities of the Czech Presidency, under the motto 'Europe as a Task: Rethink, Rebuild, Repower', inspired by former President Václav Havel. Věra Jourová, Vice-President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency, introduced the second session on 'Media and Democracy: Current Challenges' with a video message, while the First Vice-President of the European Parliament, Othmar Karas, gave the keynote speech, along with Michal Klíma, Commissioner for Media and Counter-Disinformation of the Czech Government.



Contribution of Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Chair of the Parliament of Ukraine's Committee for Ukraine's Integration into the European Union, at the COSAC Chairpersons' meeting on 11 July 2022 in Prague, at the Senate of Czechia

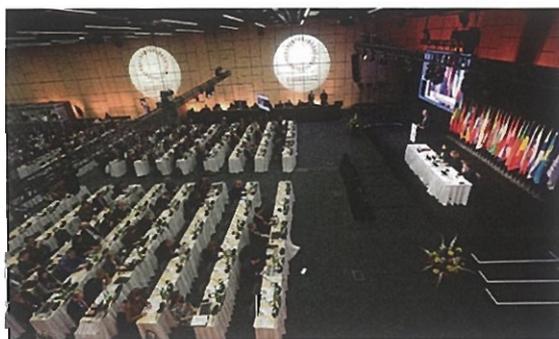
© Czech Presidency

Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Chair of the Parliament of Ukraine's Committee for Ukraine's Integration into the European Union, and Adrian Băluțel, Member of the Standing Committee on Foreign Policy and European Integration of the Parliament of Moldova, were also invited to the meeting, for the first time, as representatives of Parliaments from countries which were granted EU candidate status by the European Council on 23 June 2022. They expressed their thanks for the support given to their countries against the Russian aggression and for the European Council's decision to grant each of them EU candidate country status. In addition, Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze invited the COSAC Chairs to pay a solidarity visit to Kyiv in the following weeks.



Welcome address at the LXVIII COSAC Plenary meeting by Markéta Pekarová Adamová, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Czechia, in Prague on 14 November 2022

© Czech Presidency



The fourth plenary session of the LXVIII COSAC Plenary on 'Ukraine – state of play, reconstruction, migration' on 15 November 2022

© Czech Presidency

1.1.4. The LXVIII COSAC Plenary meeting in Prague, 13-15 November 2022 took place in full in-presence mode. Mikuláš Bek from the Czech Ministry for European Affairs presented the results of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU. During a session on the Future of the EU, First Vice-President of the European Parliament, Othmar Karas, and Commission Vice-President Věra Jourová both stressed the importance of following up on the Conference on the Future of Europe. Parliamentarians also had the opportunity to discuss the strategic autonomy of the EU, the state of play in Ukraine and the European perspective for the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries. The Plenary also adopted a Contribution and Conclusions for the first time since the outbreak of the pandemic.



Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the European Parliament and Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Parliament of Ukraine, during a meeting with Chairpersons of several committees of the Parliament of Ukraine on 30 September 2022.

© European Union 2022 / EP Sergei Chuzavkov

As an important sign of support, the Chairs of Committees on European Affairs of EU national Parliaments and the First Vice-President of the European Parliament paid a solidarity visit to Ukraine on 30 September 2022. Participants adopted a joint press statement reiterating their unequivocal support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. It was highly appreciated by the Ukrainian side, as it signalled clearly that COSAC was 'determined to stand for freedom and democracy in Europe, in accordance with the purpose of inter-parliamentary cooperation'.



Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the European Parliament and the delegation of COSAC Chairpersons during a meeting with Vitali Klitschko, Mayor of Kyiv, on the right, in Ukraine on 30 September 2022.

© European Union 2022 / EP Sergei Chuzavkov

In addition, the traditional informal videoconferences between COSAC delegates and members of the Commission, which began during the pandemic, continued in 2022, offering 'an opportunity for timely and detailed discussions about concrete European initiatives and enhancing the political dialogue and inter-parliamentary cooperation'. It was agreed that the practice would continue, as confirmed by the Conclusions adopted at the LXVIII COSAC Plenary.

See Annex I for the detailed list of COSAC events and meetings.

Main developments in 2022:

- The COSAC meetings in 2022 began in hybrid format and returned during the Czech Presidency semester to their 'full in person' traditional format.
- Political texts, such as a Contribution and Conclusions, were adopted for the first time in three years by the LXVIII COSAC Plenary.
- The first ever visit of a group of Chairs of COSAC and of the European Parliament to a non-EU country, took place in Kyiv, in Ukraine, in September 2022.
- Two COSAC Working Groups were set up during the first semester of 2022 at the initiative of the French Presidency.
- COSAC exchanges further increased in number in 2022: the informal exchanges of views with high-level speakers (from the Commission) continued to take place and additional exchanges were held in the framework of the two COSAC Working Groups.
- The European Parliament maintained a consistent and relevant presence at the COSAC meetings.

1.2. Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments (EUSC)

The Stockholm Guidelines for the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments were adopted in 2010. They provide for one annual meeting of the Speakers, organised by the Member State holding the second semester Presidency in a given year, to take place during the spring Presidency of the following year. This Conference adopts non-binding Presidency conclusions. It also has the task of overseeing the coordination of interparliamentary EU activities.

The EUSC agenda is prepared by the Meeting of the Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments. See www.ipex.eu



Group photo of the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments, Slovenia, 28-29 March 2022

© Slovenian Presidency /Nebojša Tejić/STA

Following the cancellation of the 2020 EU Speakers Conference and a shortened half-day conference held remotely in 2021, both as result of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 saw a return to normal business with a full-length Speakers Conference organised in person in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia on 28-29 March 2022.

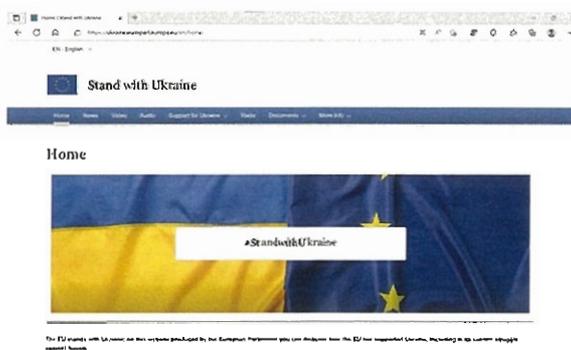
The conference opened with a welcome address by Igor Zorčič, President of the National Assembly of Slovenia, and Alojz Kovšca, President of the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia. The European Parliament was represented by President Roberta Metsola, who gave a keynote speech at the opening session, which was followed by an address by Borut Pahor, President of Slovenia.

In her keynote speech, President Metsola confirmed the European Parliament's support for Ukraine against Russian aggression, which was formalised in a resolution and also demonstrated by practical measures of solidarity with the Parliament of Ukraine, stepping up the cooperation that had begun in 2014.



Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament at the Speakers Conference in Slovenia on 29 March 2022.
© Slovenian Presidency /Matija Sušnik

Among other forms of support, the European Parliament had created the 'Stand with Ukraine' website, in both English and Ukrainian, with news and podcasts as well as legislation and resolutions, enabling the Parliament of Ukraine to share content. Stressing the need to act decisively in order to preserve clarity and hope within the European Union and beyond, particularly in times of crisis where parliamentary democracy and the rule of law must be protected. President Metsola also announced her willingness to visit Kyiv to demonstrate the extent of the European Parliament's support for Ukraine's democratic process. Her visit took place shortly after the Speakers Conference, on 1 April 2022.



As a support tool, the European Parliament has set up the 'Stand with Ukraine' (<https://ukraine.europarl.europa.eu>)

Following the opening session, the Speakers proceeded to Session I on 'The Role of Parliaments in Emergency Politics – Building Resilience for Democratic Governance', which concentrated on the recent COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine. Keynote speaker Meritxell Batet Lamaña, President of the Congress of Deputies of Spain, expressed the view that the in-person presence of legislators is critical to coordinate diverse political perspectives, to permit oversight of the executive branch and to attain consensus. Roberto Fico, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, underlined the ability of national Parliaments and the European Parliament to respond adequately in emergencies for the sake of citizens. Lastly, the third keynote speaker, Tomasz Grodzki, Marshal of the Senate of Poland, emphasised the mission of Parliaments to ensure a proper legislative process and to be the guardians of shared common values such as the rule of law and the free media. The following debate stressed that the role of Parliaments as guardians mandates them to demonstrate resilience and effectiveness in the event of emergency situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic or the war in Ukraine.



Speech by Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Parliament of Ukraine via videoconference at the second session of the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments, Slovenia, 29 March 2022

© Slovenian Presidency /Matija Sušnik

The second debate of the Conference was on 'the European Union as the Guarantor of Stability, Security and Prosperity in the Region (and Beyond)'. In this session, the Speakers shared their views on the security strategy the EU should adopt, while condemning Russia's aggression and expressing support for Ukraine. After an opening speech by guest speaker Talat Xhaferi, President of the Sobranie (Parliament) of North Macedonia, the Speakers Conference heard a special address by Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Parliament of Ukraine, who was connected by videoconference from Kyiv. Describing the Russian aggression as a war against Europe and the democratic world, he paid tribute to those who had lost their lives and the 44 % of Ukrainians who had been displaced and forced to leave family members behind. He characterised the shelling of civilian targets, including schools, as war crimes and genocide against the Ukrainian nation and called for stronger sanctions and for war materiel to be provided.

Further keynote speeches were given by Miloš Vystrčil, President of the Senate of Czechia, Constantine An. Tassoulas, President of the Hellenic Parliament of Greece and Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the National Council of Austria. In the ensuing debate, the Speakers not only condemned Russia's violation of the international law of armed conflict, its prevention of the delivery of humanitarian aid and its violation of agreed ceasefires, but also expressed condolences to the Ukrainian people, and to both the civilian and the military victims of the aggression. On the changing geopolitical context, a strong European Neighbourhood Policy in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood was considered key to addressing the governance, security, economic, social and environmental challenges in the Mediterranean, including in North Africa and the Middle East. A call was issued for more ambitious EU action, both to the east and to the south of its borders, in order to guarantee security, stability and peace on the European continent.

The fact that the Speakers Conference in 2021 had been held remotely did not allow for the adoption of conclusions, so the 2022 Conference was the first since 2019 to adopt a text.

In the Conclusions of the Presidency, which were adopted by general consensus, the Speakers condemned 'in the strongest possible terms Russia's military aggression against the sovereign state of Ukraine', considering it an attack on the international order of democracy, rule of law and human rights. They called for Europe to strengthen its role in its neighbourhood, particularly the Western Balkans, advocating a clear roadmap towards granting EU membership to the Western Balkan countries and calling for improved cooperation between the EU and Turkey.

The conclusions also referred to the importance of Parliaments in emergency situations, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, when extraordinary measures in particular require democratic oversight. The Speakers welcomed the 'tremendous amount of commitment and innovation' shown by Parliaments in adapting their work to the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic. Finally, the Speakers adopted a few paragraphs on the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange (IPEX), including encouraging Parliaments to upload the texts of their resolutions on Ukraine.

Main developments in 2022:

- The Speakers Conference was held in person in for the first time since 2019 (the 2020 Conference was cancelled and the 2021 Conference was held remotely).
- Full conclusions were adopted for the first time since 2019 (the Conference in 2020 adopted the 'Conclusions of the Presidency', as the remote format did not allow for the negotiation of a text).
- The Conference examined the ongoing conflict in Ukraine in depth, with the remote participation of Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Parliament of Ukraine.

2. INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCES (IPCs)

2.1. European Parliamentary Week (EPW), the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU and the European Semester Conference (IPC SECG)

The Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU (established in accordance with Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union [Fiscal Compact]) provides a framework for debate and exchange of information and of best practices in implementing the relevant provisions and for cooperation between EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament.

The European Semester Conference provides an opportunity to exchange information on best practices in implementing the European Semester cycles and to strengthen cooperation in order to scrutinise the actions of the executives at national and European level.

Together they make up European Parliamentary Week (EPW), bringing together parliamentarians from all over the EU to discuss economic, budgetary and social matters. The two conferences have earned a regular place in the calendar of interparliamentary activities and are consolidated forums for interparliamentary debate in these important policy areas.



European Parliamentary Week poster, 2022.

© EU, EP

The European Parliament, together with the French Parliament, organised for the second consecutive year the European Parliamentary Week 2022. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the meeting was held remotely via videoconference from the European Parliament's premises in Brussels on 15 and 16 March 2022.

It was the 11th occasion on which the European Parliamentary Week had been organised and was attended by approximately 90 parliamentarians from the 24 EU Member States and two candidate and observer countries to discuss economic, budgetary, environmental and social matters. More than 60 Members represented the European Parliament. The large number of participants is testament to the success, relevance and need for parliamentary exchange on the proposed topics in today's difficult times.

The programme included keynote addresses by Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission and Antonio Costa, Prime Minister of Portugal. This year's debates were dominated by the war in Ukraine and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on EU economies, the recovery and the next steps.



European Parliamentary Week – EU Economic Governance from a Parliamentary Perspective, Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union, 15-16 March 2022.

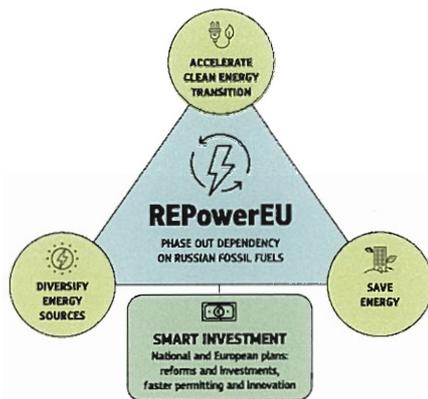
@ European Union 2022 EP/ Alain Rolland

The first plenary session was dedicated to the **EU own resources**. During the debate, Members from national Parliaments and the European Parliament stressed that the introduction of the recovery plan 'NextGenerationEU' represented a turning point. In the contributions to the debate, the participants highlighted that the huge support package for Member States, mainly financed through borrowing on the financial markets and which has to be reimbursed eventually, had created an impetus for the creation of new sources of revenue for the EU. They therefore pointed out that not having new own resources from 2027 onwards would imply a cut in the budget by an average of EUR 15 billion per year to repay the debt accrued from the recovery plan. The main conclusions drawn were that this would be not acceptable and it would be against the interests of future generations.



The motto of NextGenerationEU, the EU's EUR 800 billion temporary recovery instrument to support the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and build a greener, more digital and more resilient future.

The second plenary session was dedicated to **the reform of the Stability and Growth Pact**. MEPs and national MPs discussed the forthcoming review of the Stability and Growth Pact and listened to the introductory remarks from the responsible European Commissioners, Valdis Dombrovskis (Trade) and Paolo Gentiloni (Economy). The exchange of views between the European and national parliamentarians once again reaffirmed that the Russian invasion of Ukraine made it even more important for EU countries to act in a coordinated way when faced with the changing circumstances which are expected in the future. Members noted that in the review of the pact, an important aspect would be to strike a balance between adopting rules which deliver stable budgets and at the same time allowing for the necessary transitions. During the session, it was highlighted that the review of the macroeconomic legislative framework must build on the lessons learnt from NextGenerationEU and that the deactivation of the general escape clause should be carefully reconsidered, as new investment programmes, such as the REPowerEU Plan, are in the pipeline by way of an addition to the already agreed investment programmes.



Main objectives of REPowerEU, a plan to rapidly reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels by 2027 and fast-forward the green transition.

The third plenary session ‘**High-Level Conference on the Recovery and Resilience Facility: Lessons for the future**’ took place on the second day. The Co-Chairs from the EP and the French Parliament both stated that the Ukrainian crisis had worsened the EU’s economic and social outlook and introduced numerous new challenges, including inflation and distorted supply chains. They reiterated the necessity of an efficient and coordinated usage of the RRF, as it constituted a coordinated, rapid and bold response to the crisis and had resulted in an EU economic recovery and low unemployment. Panellists expressed the view that the Russian invasion, together with surging energy prices and distorted supply chains, required the right decisions to be taken in the future. The discussion pointed out that it had to be ensured that the reduction of deficits and debts was carried out in a politically and socially sustainable way.



The banner of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), which is the key instrument at the heart of NextGenerationEU to help the EU emerge stronger and more resilient from the current crisis.

During the following exchanges with Members of national Parliaments and the European Parliament, as well as with panellists from the private sector representing energy companies and independent fiscal institutions, it was emphasised that all of the money from this revolutionary tool is well spent. They underlined how important it was to have a strong and resilient economy, which can help minimise the economic consequences of the war in Ukraine. It was stressed that within the RRF, prominence had been given to projects on energy security and the transition to a greener economy, as well as the importance of the EU’s strategic autonomy.

As it is customary in the second half of the year, the 18th session of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU took place on 10 and 11 October 2022 in Prague, the capital of the Council Presidency. It was the first conference in this format since the COVID-19 outbreak with presence in person. During the conference, Members from national Parliaments and the European Parliament, together with representatives from the European Commission, the European Investment Bank and the Presidency, discussed current financial and economic issues in the light of the war in Ukraine and its spillover effect on the European economies.

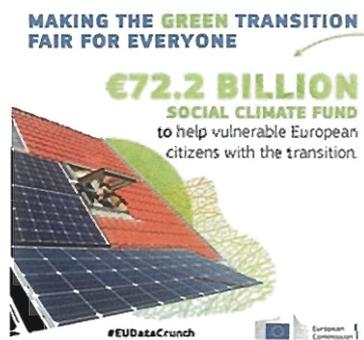


Opening remarks by Markéta Pekarová Adamová, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Czechia at the 18th IPC on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU on 10 October 2022 in Prague.

© Czech Presidency

The first session covered the current **state of implementation and new challenges of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**. Participants highlighted that the path to recovery from the COVID-19 crisis had been affected by the conflict in Ukraine. Members raised the issue of the effects of the unjustified war at the EU's borders, which had exacerbated the negative effect on the EU economy, which was facing rising inflation and energy prices. During the session, the REPowerEU initiative was discussed as a response by the European Commission to tackle the developments on the global energy markets and their disruption. It was noted that incorporating REPowerEU into the RRF would give even greater incentive to the EU Member States; moreover its design could help to reduce dependence on fossil fuels through reforms and investment in the green transition and the creation of a more resilient energy system. It was stressed that adding EUR 20 billion in grants to the RRF would allow the EU Member States to achieve these new goals and speed up their transformation to clean energies. This will be done through updating their National Recovery and Resilience Plans with the new REPowerEU chapters. The biggest concern expressed by Members was the growing inflation and the fear of recession of the EU economy owing to the energy crisis. Some points raised during the exchange of views were the problem of the weak energy infrastructure and the lack of trained specialists in the energy domain. Members also pointed out that greater emphasis should be placed on finalising the new own resources that would help repay the debt accrued under NextGenerationEU.

The second session tackled **energy independence costs and the financing of energy and climate measures**. All panellists highlighted the rise in energy prices. During the discussion it was pointed out that energy prices had started to increase slightly in the first quarter of 2021, rising at a faster pace in the second half of the year. The rise in energy prices had mainly been driven by the COVID-19 crisis and a surge in consumption associated with the economic recovery. They underlined that following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the uncertainty surrounding gas and oil supplies had further fuelled the rise in energy prices. During the session, the advantages of the Social Climate Fund 2025-2032 were discussed, in particular the fact that establishing the Fund would help to mitigate the changes, particularly for the most vulnerable citizens and industries. It was highlighted that the Fund is to be financed by the Union's own resources and, from 2026 onwards, by revenues from emissions trading from the buildings and road transport sectors (25 % of the expected revenues). Many contributors to the debate supported the joint energy purchasing proposed by the EU Energy Platform. It was also stressed that swifter diversification of the resources and supplies, and the return to and higher usage of nuclear energy could have a high impact on resolving the energy crisis that EU is currently combating.



Explanation of the Social Climate Fund 2025-2032, which will provide funding to Member States in order to support the most vulnerable households, transport users and micro-enterprises faced with the higher energy and transport costs expected to result from the extension of the Emissions Trading System (ETS) to two new sectors, namely those of buildings and road transport.

The third session dealt with **strengthening Europe’s economic resilience and its preparedness for future crises**. The speakers pointed out that Europe had barely recovered economically from the effects of the financial and debt crisis, when it was hit by the coronavirus crisis in 2019. The post-pandemic economic recovery brought with it the downside of rising prices. Members called attention to the fact that the negative pressures associated with the economic recovery had been expected to abate in 2021. However, positive development had been halted by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Participants raised the issue that the war in Ukraine was intensifying the existing negative effects on the economy and slowing down GDP growth. Inflation and rising energy prices were the biggest challenges the EU was facing today. According to the participants, uncertainty was holding back investment and resilience would be the vaccine against the next crisis. The main conclusions were that the EU needed to act in solidarity and to construct a solid EU future with all instruments, the classical as well as the temporary ones (MFF, RRF, Structural funds, REPowerEU, Social Climate Fund, etc.). On the other hand, the EU had to utilise the potential of the European Investment Bank (EIB), which provides funding for projects to meet EU objectives. Together with the European Investment Fund, of which the EIB is a majority shareholder, it was one of the main pillars for building a more resilient Europe. During the debate, it was underlined that in addition to financing innovation, infrastructure or SMEs, the EIB was also a leader in green financing.

These discussions were to be continued at the next European Parliamentary Week scheduled to be held in Brussels on 27-28 February 2023.

Main developments in 2022:

- Exchanges during both meetings focused on the impact of the exit strategy from the crisis, creating new own resources, strengthening Europe’s economic resilience and response as a result of the war in Ukraine and its spillover effect on the EU’s economies.
- The relevance of topics enabled key high-level speakers and parliamentarians to debate the possible solutions to the current complicated situation the EU is facing internally (high inflation, high energy prices) and externally (war in Ukraine).
- The 18th session of the IPC on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in Prague was the first in-person meeting since the outbreak of COVID-19. The national and European Members warmly welcomed the ‘back to normal’ format.

2.2. Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC CFSP/CSDP)

Established by a decision of the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments in 2012, the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC CFSP/CSDP) is the interparliamentary platform for debate on the EU's foreign, security and defence policy. Organised twice a year by the Parliament of the EU Member State holding the rotating Council Presidency, in close cooperation with the European Parliament, the conference is regularly attended by parliamentarians from across the EU. In addition, the European Parliament's AFET Committee frequently invites national Parliaments to its meetings in Brussels, complementing interparliamentary dialogue in this vital policy area.



Conférence Interparlementaire pour la politique étrangère et de sécurité commune (PESC) et la politique de sécurité et de défense commune (PSDC)
Sénat - Palais du Luxembourg
24 et 25 février 2022

Group photo of the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, 24-25 February 2022, Paris

© European Parliament

In 2022, the 20th session of the CFSP/CSDP IPC took place in Paris (24-25 February) and the 21st session in Prague (4-5 September), both with physical presence. After two years of remote meetings, the EP delegations to both meetings were composed of Members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and its Subcommittee on Security and Defence, and were chaired by David McAllister, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2.2.1. The 20th session of the CFSP/CSDP IPC in Paris on 24-25 February 2022 was held in the French Senate and adopted, by consensus, a 'Declaration' on Ukraine. The agenda of the IPC was changed at the last minute on the first day of the IPC, as the Russian Federation had launched a military attack and illegal invasion of Ukraine on that very day.

The conference was divided into three sessions, all dealing with different aspects of the situation in Ukraine: 'Special session on the situation in Ukraine', 'The European Union's response to the crisis in Ukraine' and 'The European Union's action in support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity'. The holding of a Special Session on the situation in Ukraine, with the contribution of the Ukrainian Ambassador to France was a key development in this IPC. The statement and participation of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the leader of the democratic opposition in Belarus and the 2020 laureate of the Sakharov Prize, in the third session was an important contribution to the IPC.

144 parliamentarians from all 27 EU national Parliaments attended the CFSP/CSDP IPC in Paris, together with an EP delegation of 15 MEPs, as well as Members of two EU candidate countries' Parliaments (Montenegro and Serbia) and four NATO member countries' Parliaments (Iceland, Norway, the UK and Turkey).



Opening remarks by David McAllister, Chair of the Committee for Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament at the CFSP/CSDP IPC in the French Senate on 25 February 2022 in Paris

© EU 2022 EP/ Jesús Gomez

For the first time in the history of the IPC, a joint Declaration was adopted by consensus, without amendments, on the war on Ukraine, therefore neither conclusions nor a co-chairs' statement were adopted. Detailed minutes of the debates are available online.

The intensive debates gave the opportunity to MPs and MEPs to take the floor and condemn Russia's military attack on Ukraine; they called on the Russian forces to cease their military activities, adopt a ceasefire and for Russia to withdraw its forces. Speakers also expressed their solidarity with the Ukrainian people and called for the EU and their own governments to support them.

The main conclusions drawn were that this represented a historical moment in Europe, which required immediate and strong actions; that it was necessary to modify the EU's defence structures and increase defence budgets to be more prepared for such challenges. It was stressed that the strategic autonomy of the EU and the autonomous EU energy supply and defence structure should be speeded up and built without delay. Strong sanctions against Russia, particularly targeted ones against its main leaders were requested, including expelling Russia from the SWIFT banking system and closing down negotiations on the Nord Stream gas pipeline. Imposing a general EU ban on Russian financial and economic interests was also demanded.



Group photo of the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, 4-5 September 2022, Prague

© Czech Presidency

2.2.2. The 21st session of the CFSP/CSDP IPC took place on 4-5 September 2022 at the Prague Congress Centre. The conference was attended by representatives of the national Parliaments of the EU Member States and the European Parliament, as well as by representatives of the Parliaments of the candidate countries (Albania, Montenegro, Turkey, Ukraine) and by representatives of the

Parliaments of Iceland, Kosovo¹, Norway and the United Kingdom as guests. Altogether the Conference was attended by 135 parliamentarians from 35 delegations, including 11 MEPs.

Although the format was slightly shorter than previous IPCs, it successfully included all of the relevant and topical issues with four sessions lasting 90 minutes each on:

1. CFSP/CSDP priorities, with special emphasis on the EU's Strategic Compass;
2. Ukraine: models of political support and reconstruction;
3. EU enlargement policy in the light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine – Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership: accelerated pre-accession support of the EU, and
4. Disinformation and hybrid threats, cyber defence.

The IPC also adopted a joint statement by the Co-Chairs focusing on the war in Ukraine, EU enlargement and reinforcement of the EU's defence policy.



David McAllister, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament moderating the first session on 'CFSP/ CSDP priorities and current issues, with special emphasis on the EU's Strategic Compass' on 5 September 2022 in Prague.

© Czech Presidency

The first session, a discussion with Josep Borrell, Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy was moderated by David McAllister, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament. Members insisted on the need to implement the Strategic Compass and to strengthen the EU's strategic autonomy, and underlined the importance of enhancing EU foreign policy and defence policies and capabilities, as well as of strengthening unity and partnership with NATO.

During the following two sessions, delegations expressed their continuing support to Ukraine, with some Members reiterating calls for a full ban on visas for Russian citizens and calling for stronger sanctions against Russia. They also called for the EU to give clear signals to Western Balkan countries, noting the strategic importance of the region.



Contribution of Karel Řehka, Chief of the General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces at the fourth session on 'Disinformation and hybrid threats, cyber defence' on 5 September 2022 in Prague.

© Czech Presidency

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1244/1999 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

In the fourth and final session, some Members suggested among other things the creation of a cyber-Schengen, the repatriation of stolen data to Ukraine, the need to protect the European underwater cables, the need to develop common cyber defence scenarios, and the need to fight against the disinformation campaigns in Africa and to ensure global access to accurate and reliable information.

Main developments in 2022:

- The resumption of interparliamentary meetings with in-person participation happened for the first time at the Paris CFSP/CSDP IPC after the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.
- The IPC demonstrated that it can adapt and react quickly to the challenges of international relations. It moved from exchanging information, debating and scrutinising the European foreign and defence policies to actively taking part in them via a very swift reaction to the military aggression by Russia against Ukraine, including adopting, for the first time, a joint Declaration by consensus, condemning the war in Ukraine.

3. INTERPARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT IN THE AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

3.1. Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol



Article 88 of the TFEU allows national Parliaments for the first time to scrutinise jointly with the European Parliament an EU agency operating in the area of freedom, security and justice. On the basis of the Europol Regulation², the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) on Europol was established in 2017 to ensure that Europol is fully accountable and transparent. The main responsibilities of the JPSG are outlined in Article 51 of the Europol Regulation, which defines its role in politically monitoring Europol activities with particular focus on the impact of those activities on the fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons.

The Europol Regulation was subsequently amended³ and Europol's revised mandate, which entered into force on 28 June 2022, provides Member States with the tools they need in the fight against serious and organised crime, and terrorism. With this strengthened mandate came a need to strike the right balance in ensuring effective safeguards for fundamental rights, including data protection. A number of new governance provisions relate to the JPSG and will have an impact on its future work.

The JPSG is an innovative institutional set-up for parliamentary scrutiny and holds two meetings per year: in the first half of the year, at the Parliament of the country holding the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU, and in the second half of the year, at the European Parliament.

The 10th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG) took place on 28 February 2022 via remote participation. It was co-chaired by the French Parliament and the European Parliament and hosted by the French Assemblée nationale in Paris. It proved possible to secure the traditional structure of the meeting, the time available for debate and the participation of high-level speakers, in spite of the remote and more compact format.



Presentation of Catherine De Bolle, Europol Executive Director, remotely online at the 10th meeting of the JPSG on Europol, 28 February 2022.

© French Presidency

² Regulation (EU) 2016/794 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)

³ Regulation (EU) 2022/991 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/794, as regards Europol's cooperation with private parties, the processing of personal data by Europol in support of criminal investigations, and Europol's role in research and innovation

The agenda included contributions by the Executive Director of Europol, Catherine De Bolle, and a keynote speech by Gérald Darmanin, French Minister of the Interior. The JPSG also heard a presentation from the European Data Protection Supervisor, Wojciech Wiewiórowski. Two thematic debates with experts from the EU and national levels covered the topics 'Europol's contribution in the fight against migrant smugglers', and 'Risks and opportunities of artificial intelligence for Europol'.

As was the case for other interparliamentary meetings, the Russian invasion in Ukraine and its consequences were discussed by the JPSG. Delegates observed a minute's silence, expressed solidarity with and support for the Ukrainian people and inquired about the tangible actions Europol can take. The EU Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, who attends every meeting of the JPSG, had to cancel her participation as the result of an urgent visit to Ukraine's neighbouring countries and was replaced by a European Commission senior official. [The full video recording of the meeting is available online.](#)

The [11th Meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group \(JPSG\) on Europol](#) took place on 24-25 October 2022 at the European Parliament in Brussels. It was co-organised and co-chaired by the European Parliament and the Czech Parliament, and it was a full in-person meeting, the first since 2019.



Poster of the [11th Meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation on 24-25 October 2022 in the European Parliament in Brussels.](#)

© European Union 2022 EP

The meeting tackled a number of issues directly arising from the JPSG's prerogatives according to Article 51 of the Europol Regulation and featured presentations by Catherine De Bolle, Executive Director of Europol, Jérôme Bonet, Chair of the Europol Management Board, and Wojciech Wiewiórowski, the European Data Protection Supervisor.

There was also a thematic debate on the 'Impact of the war in Ukraine on the area of security' with Radek Kaňa, Deputy Minister of the Interior of Czechia, and experts from Europol and the European Commission. Owing to prior engagements, Vít Rakušan, Minister of Interior of Czechia and Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs, addressed the JPSG by video messages.



Opening remarks by Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Co-Chair of the JPSG and Head of the European Parliament Delegation to the JPSG at the [11th meeting of the JPSG on Europol](#), in Brussels on 24 October 2022

© European Union 2022 EP

The JPSG was consulted on the Europol's multiannual programming document 2023-2025 and during her speech, the Executive Director of Europol was asked to react to the written comments received. These questions and the answers are available at the [IPEX website dedicated to the JPSG](#).

A session of the 11th Meeting was specifically dedicated to the implementation of the revised Europol Regulation on matters related to the JPSG. Within Europol's revised mandate, in force since 28 June 2022, a number of changes have been made to Europol's general capabilities, such as its cooperation with private parties and non-EU countries, and also the data protection and fundamental rights provisions applicable to Europol.

There are also a number of new governance provisions related to the JPSG:

- two JPSG representatives will be invited as observers to at least two meetings of Europol's Management Board;
- the reporting obligations for Europol with regard to the JPSG have been strengthened, such as where the Europol Management Board does not take into account the JPSG's opinion on its Multiannual Programming Document;
- a Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights, attached to the JPSG, is to be established by the JPSG to assist it by providing independent advice on fundamental rights matters upon request. The JPSG and the Executive Director may consult the consultative forum on any matter related to fundamental rights. It will be up to the JPSG to decide on the composition of the Consultative Forum and on its working methods.

The implementation of the provisions on the Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights requires the amendment of the JPSG Rules of Procedure and, following the decision of the JPSG Presidential Troika, the Co-Chairs invited JPSG delegates to submit proposals with a view to launching a Working Group on the Establishment of the Consultative Forum.

Main developments in 2022:

- The revision of Europol's mandate and new governance provisions extending the scope of scrutiny.
- The decision to set up a Working Group on the Revision of the Rules of Procedure of the JPSG, to ensure the proper implementation of the abovementioned provisions.
- The resumption of meetings with in-person participation, unburdened by technical limitations, allowing for more thorough exchanges (question time with the Executive Director of Europol, 'catch the eye' during the Questions and Answers rounds) and networking

3.2. Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the Evaluation of Eurojust

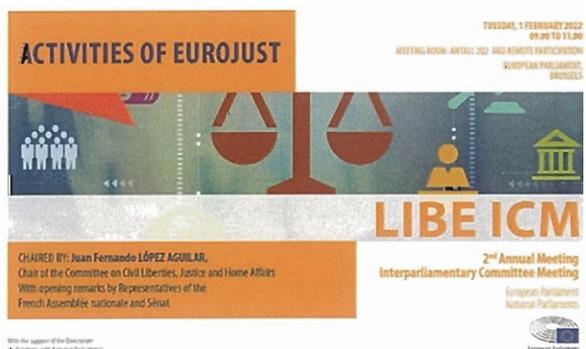
Since its creation in 2002, Eurojust has become a central player in judicial cooperation in criminal matters. In line with Article 85 of the TFEU, the EU regulations governing Eurojust must also 'determine arrangements for involving the European Parliament and national Parliaments in the evaluation of Eurojust's activities'. In 2018, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a new Regulation on Eurojust⁴ with a view to providing a single, renewed legal framework for a new fully-fledged Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust).

In order to increase the transparency and democratic oversight of Eurojust, the regulation provides for a mechanism for the joint evaluation of Eurojust's activities by the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments⁵. The evaluation should take place within the framework of an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM) organised by the European Parliament at its premises in Brussels, with the participation of members of the competent committees of the European Parliament and of EU national Parliaments.

The first ICM on the evaluation of Eurojust's activities was organised on 1 December 2020 at the European Parliament in Brussels by the European Parliament's LIBE Committee, in cooperation with the German Parliament.

3.2.1. The Second Annual ICM on the evaluation of Eurojust's activities was due to take place at the end of 2021, but for administrative and logistical reasons it had to be postponed for a few weeks to **1 February 2022**. As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting was held at the European Parliament in Brussels and via videoconference. The event was chaired by Juan Fernando López Aguilar (LIBE Chair) and approximately 48 MPs from 20 Member States and 26 Chambers, as well as some 20 MEPs, participated in the event.

Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Chair of the EP Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), Yaël Braun-Pivet, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs of the French National Assembly and François-Noël Buffet, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Law, Legislation, Universal Suffrage, Rules of Procedure and General Administration of the French Senate, opened the meeting.



Poster of the Second ICM on the Activities of Eurojust on 1 February 2022

© European Union 2022 EP

Regulation (EU) 2018/1727 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust), and replacing and repealing Council Decision 2002/187/JHA (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 138).

Regulation (EU) 2018/1727 deals with those arrangements in point 62 of its preamble and in Article 67.

Presentations and Questions and Answers rounds followed the two sessions. The first session on 'Eurojust current and future activities, especially in the current pandemic' was inaugurated with a presentation of the President of Eurojust, Ladislav Hamran. He reported that in the past 10 years, the casework of Eurojust had increased tremendously. He noted three key areas for Eurojust's future activities: modernising the case management system, establishing secure communication channels between national authorities and continuing to reinforce the global network beyond the borders of the EU. His presentation was followed by a lively exchange of views between national parliamentarians and MEPs.

The second session on 'the cooperation between Eurojust, the European Public Prosecutor's Office and national authorities' was opened by José de la Mata, National Member for Spain and Eurojust contact point for the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), who compared the different competences and roles of Eurojust and the EPPO. The next panellist, Frédéric Baab, the French European Prosecutor, gave an overview of the working arrangements signed with Eurojust. Finally, Nils Behrndt, acting Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers of the Commission, addressed two issues with regard to Eurojust: digitalisation and the cooperation between Eurojust and the EPPO. The second session was again followed by a lively debate by MEPs and national Parliament Members. [The full video recording of the meeting is available online.](#)

3.2.2. The [Third Annual ICM on Eurojust's Activities](#) took place on 30 November 2022, at the European Parliament's premises in Brussels, as an in-person meeting.

Further to the extraordinary circumstances linked to the war in Ukraine, the Eurojust Regulation had been swiftly amended with new provisions⁶. This extended mandate entered into force on 1 June 2022 and gave the agency the legal possibility to collect, preserve and share evidence on war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. This provided a further compelling reason to hold an exchange between Eurojust and the European and national Parliaments to discuss these developments.



[LIBE Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the Evaluation of Eurojust's Activities on 30 November 2022.](#)

© European Union 2022 EP/ Philippe Buissin

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the LIBE Committee and by a Member of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament. In his keynote address, Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice, commended Eurojust for its accomplishments and described the Commission's most recent measures in support of the agency.

In the first session dedicated to the review of Eurojust's activities and future outlook, Ladislav Hamran, President of Eurojust, gave a thorough presentation of the work of Eurojust, an agency at the heart of cross-border cooperation between the judicial authorities in Member States. He dwelt on its increasing caseload, the challenges for future cross-border judicial cooperation in

⁶ [Regulation \(EU\) 2022/838 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2022](#)

criminal matters and the need to make progress on the Judicial Counter-Terrorism Register and the collaboration platform for Joint Investigation Teams. The presentation was followed by a Question and Answer session, with questions ranging from trafficking in human beings or environmental crimes, to cybercrime and the budgetary and logistical constraints encountered by the agency.

The second session dealt with Eurojust's reinforced mandate in relation to core international crimes. In their contributions, the President and two Vice-Presidents of Eurojust, Margarita Šniutytė-Daugeliene and Boštjan Škrlec, gave detailed accounts of the strengthening of the Eurojust mandate enacted that year, including the unprecedented mobilisation and activities promptly carried out with regard to the war in Ukraine in supporting the collection and sharing of evidence relating to core international crimes. In the ensuing debate, parliamentarians raised the issue of increasing the efficiency of cooperation of judicial systems with regard to the war in Ukraine and the need for a more effective response to fight against impunity for serious violations of human rights.

The concluding session provided a retrospective of the agency's 20 years of experience and gave a broader outlook on the future of judicial cooperation in the EU. [The full video recording of the meeting is available online.](#)

Main developments in 2022:

- The year 2022 was a very exceptional year for Eurojust, as parliamentarians held two meetings to fulfil their mandate to evaluate its activities jointly, one of which was held fully in person for the first time since this kind of ICM had been organised.
- The reinforcement of the agency's mandate by a revision of the Eurojust Regulation was symbolic, against the backdrop of Russian aggression of Ukraine, as it strengthened the cross-border dimension of judicial cooperation, which now extends beyond the EU's borders;
- As the agency celebrated its 20th anniversary, the Third ICM on Eurojust provided the opportunity to reflect jointly on the course of the 20 years of experience Eurojust had grown through.

4. INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND OTHER INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

4.1. Interparliamentary Committee Meetings (ICMs)

Interparliamentary Committee Meetings (ICMs) are the standard type of meeting organised by the European Parliament for focused exchanges between sectoral committees on key legislative and political issues under Articles 9 and 10 of Protocol N° 1 to the Treaties. The calendar of ICMs is transmitted by the President of the European Parliament to the Speakers of all national Parliaments each semester.

The committees of the European Parliament organise up to 20 ICMs per year, inviting the corresponding committees of the EU national Parliaments to engage in focused debates. ICMs have proven to be a valuable way for Members of the European Parliament to share views with their national counterparts. ICMs are not only a forum for exchange on legislative issues, thereby contributing to better law making, but also a platform on which to discuss political issues of common interest and to meet with Commissioners and the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. ICMs are co-organised on the initiative of one or more committees of the European Parliament with the support of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments.

In 2022, 17 ICMs were co-organised by 12 different parliamentary committees⁷⁸ (11 standing committees and 1 special committee), providing for debates between 720 Members of national Parliaments and 463 Members of the European Parliament. The increased number of ICMs in 2022 is a result of the post-COVID period, as several committees had decided to postpone their meetings originally scheduled for 2020 or 2021 to 2022.

Most of the ICMs in 2022 took place in person; however the hybrid and remote formats were also in use. In the hybrid format, some of the MEPs and speakers joined from the European Parliament's premises in Brussels, while national Parliament Members and other guest speakers participated online.

The Special Committee on Foreign Interference in all Democratic Processes in the European Union, including Disinformation (INGE) invited MPs from the national Parliaments of the three Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, to participate in their committee meeting at the European Parliament in Brussels on **1 February 2022**. It involved an 'Exchange of views with the Baltic States on foreign interference'. Raising awareness of the Chinese and, in particular, Russian interference that the Baltic countries had been experiencing for many years could lead to concrete measures in the EU. It was highlighted that the EU would be able effectively counteract foreign interference and hostile disinformation on the basis of a common approach and cooperation at every level.

On **1 February 2022**, the first Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the 'Evaluation of Eurojust' was organised by the **LIBE** Committee, which was also the second annual meeting on the evaluation of Eurojust. A detailed account of the meeting and its outcome is available in Chapter 3.2.

⁷⁸ Calendar of interparliamentary activities with national Parliaments 2022: first semester (https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/249389/Revised%20calendar%201st%20semester%202022_06.2022.pdf).

⁷⁹ Calendar of interparliamentary activities with national Parliaments 2022: second semester (https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/254760/Final%20calendar%20second%20semester%202022_updated0102022%20.pdf).



FEMM ICM on the occasion of International Women's Day on 3 March 2022 – An ambitious future for Europe's women after COVID-19: mental load, gender equality in teleworking and unpaid care work after the pandemic – opening speech by Roberta Metsola, President of the EP.

© EU 2022 EP/ Jesús Gomez.

The FEMM ICM entitled 'An ambitious future for Europe's women after COVID-19', with the subtitle 'Mental load, gender equality in teleworking and unpaid care work after the pandemic' was held online in the European Parliament in Brussels on 3 March 2022. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss gender inequality, in particular the lack of pay transparency and the unequal share of care work in the light of the pandemic. The Ukrainian crisis, which had only recently begun, had an impact on the ICM, as many of the participants expressed their solidarity with the Ukrainian people. Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, opened the meeting. Élisabeth Moreno, Minister for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities of France and Věra Jourová, Vice-President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency, also took part. Following the keynote speech by Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland, the Chair of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee for Ukraine's integration into the European Union, Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, provided the latest news on the situation in Ukraine.



European Parliamentary Week – EU Economic Governance from a Parliamentary Perspective, Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union

© European Union 2022 EP/ Alain Rolland

Three ICMs were organised by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (**ECON**), the Committee on Budgets (**BUDG**), and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (**EMPL**) in the framework of European Parliamentary Week (EPW) on 15-16 March 2022. They constitute the European Semester Conference and provided an opportunity to exchange information on best practices in implementing the European Semester cycles and to strengthen cooperation in order to scrutinise the actions of the executives at national and European level. More information about the EPW is available in Chapter 2.1.

A DROI-JURI ICM on 'Corporate responsibility for serious human rights abuses in third countries' was held remotely on 21 April 2022. It discussed the Commission's proposal for a directive on corporate sustainability due diligence and its implications for corporate responsibility for serious human rights abuses in non-EU countries. Members of national Parliaments were invited to share their views and experiences on any legislation on due diligence that had been adopted or would be adopted in their jurisdiction.



ICM-JURI meeting -- The EU's Subsidiarity mechanism.

© European Union 2022 EP/ Emilie Gomez

The JURI ICM on 'The EU's Subsidiarity mechanism' was held on 25 April 2022 in the European Parliament in Brussels, and by videoconference (remote participation). The aim of the meeting was to discuss the efficiency of the subsidiarity mechanism in the EU with the main actors involved: parliamentarians, representatives of the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions, experts and law practitioners. The agenda contained presentations and exchanges of views focused on: making reasoned opinions more efficient and improving political dialogue; the role of the European Committee of the Regions in the subsidiarity check; assessing the proportionality of EU law; and good practices in avoiding 'gold plating' in the implementation of EU law.

An AFCO ICM on the 'First results of the Conference on the Future of the European Union' took place remotely via videoconference on 17 May 2022. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the follow-up and the implementation of the proposals of the Conference. Dubravka Šuica, European Commissioner for Democracy and Demography and Co-Chair of the Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe, stressed how the European Parliament is 'filling the gap' to reinforce the ecosystem of democracy and she demonstrated her commitment to continuing this practice with citizens, local and regional communities and national institutions.

On 14 June 2022, a DEVE ICM on 'The debt crisis in developing countries' took place in the European Parliament in Brussels via videoconference. The main objective of the meeting was to address the debt crisis in developing countries and create a space for discussing the topic with experts and the stakeholders involved. The Committee on Development (DEVE) invited Members of national Parliaments to share their views and experiences, while providing an essential contribution to the discussion. The agenda included presentations and exchanges of views on the problems and solutions in relation to developing countries' debts, as well as a case study on Zambia.



Interparliamentary Committee Meeting of the CONT committee on 'Common experiences and challenges in exercising budgetary control functions'.

© European Union 2022 EP/ Alain Rolland

A CONT ICM on 'Common Experiences and Challenges in Exercising Budgetary Control Functions' was organised on 16 June 2022. A selected number of national Parliaments were invited to this ICM. The meeting provided an excellent forum for a debate and an exchange of information and best practice on how different EU countries exercise budgetary control functions. The meeting was an opportunity to exchange ideas on how to ensure that public money is spent efficiently and effectively, and that potential fraud is prevented or detected.

On 27 June 2022, an AFET ICM on 'EU Enlargement Policy in the Aftermath of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine' took place. The aim of the meeting was to discuss and exchange information in order to evaluate the implications of the war in Ukraine for the European Union and the current and potential EU candidate countries. The exchange was particularly important, as it followed the European Council meeting of 23-24 June 2022, during which the EU membership applications of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia were discussed. Debating the perspective of national Parliaments on the future of the EU's enlargement policy was particularly relevant and timely.

Three committees, FEMM-LIBE-EMPL held a joint ICM on 'The rights of Ukrainian women fleeing the war' on 12 July 2022. This ICM proved to be an excellent forum for the Members of the European Parliament and of the national Parliaments to debate, exchange information about and evaluate the implications of the war in Ukraine for the women fleeing the war and for the EU's policy responses. The meeting consisted of two panels. The first panel was organised jointly by FEMM and the LIBE Committee and dealt with the situation of Ukrainian women refugees with regard to reception conditions, protection measures and safety risks. The second panel was organised jointly by the FEMM and EMPL Committees and discussed the women's access to social protection and the labour market, housing, childcare facilities and education.



AFCO ICM – First results of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

© European Union 2022 EP/ Philippe Buisson

An AFCO ICM on the 'Conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe and the role of national Parliaments' was held on 26 October 2022. During this second meeting, MEPs, MPs from the national Parliaments and the three Co-Chairs of the Executive Board of the CoFE discussed the follow-up and the implementation of the proposals of the Conference, including potential Treaty changes and the role of national Parliaments in the EU. They agreed on the importance of promoting citizens' participation and making the citizens a part of the EU policy-making process.



AFCO ICM – Conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe and the Role of National Parliaments in the EU.
© European Union 2022 EP/ Eric Vidal

The DROI-JURI ICM on 'Universal jurisdiction – improving accountability for serious international crimes' was held on 28 November 2022 in a hybrid format. The aim of the meeting was to discuss to what extent universal jurisdiction can play a role as part of a wider accountability strategy, complementary to international courts and prosecutions on other jurisdictional bases.

On 30 November 2022, a second ICM was organised by the AFET Committee on the premises of the European Parliament in Brussels, entitled 'Europe in the world – Supporting Ukraine'. The meeting consisted of two sessions: the first was dedicated to 'Europe in the world – reinvigorating our global alliances and partnerships'; the second to 'Supporting Ukraine – European resilience, commitment and unity for the challenges ahead'.

The Third LIBE ICM on 'Evaluating Eurojust's activities' was held on 30 November 2022, as a fully in person meeting. A detailed account of the meeting and its outcome is available in Chapter 3.2.



LIBE ICM – 'The situation of the rule of law in the EU'.
© European Union 2022 EP/ Philippe Buissin

The following day, on 1 December 2022, the LIBE Committee organised another ICM on 'The situation of the rule of law in the EU'. The meeting, a regular annual exchange between national Parliaments and the European Parliament since 2020, aims to promote and safeguard the EU's common values in order to further the debate about the role of the Union, the Member States and

of the national Parliaments in this respect. The ICM was split into two sessions: the first focused on the resilience of democratic institutions and the second on media freedom and transparency as key pillars of democracy. Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice presented the Commission's annual rule of law report and Mikuláš Bek, Czech Minister for European Affairs, presented the work of the Czech Presidency within the Council on the rule of law.

The ING2 special committee organised, on 1 December 2022, a hybrid ICM on 'Legislative Resilience, Electoral Laws and Information Manipulation Campaigns'. Attempts by state and non-state actors to interfere in democratic and political life in the EU and its Member States in the last decade was discussed. Another issue examined was how foreign actors aim to exploit the vulnerabilities of our open societies and to undermine confidence in our institutions and in democracy in relation to legislative and/or presidential elections. The way in which malicious foreign actors use information manipulation and other tactics to interfere in democratic processes and how they aim to weaken the democratic governance of the targeted countries formed part of the debate. This meeting provided a good forum for discussions and an exchange of information and best practices on foreign interference-related work at EU, national and international levels, and garnered further insights and expertise on how to address the challenges posed by these acts of interference and how to build resilient democracies, as well as looking into possible responses to acts of foreign interference.



FEMM ICM on 'Gender Mainstreaming':

© European Union 2022 EP

The last meeting of the year was a FEMM remote ICM on 'Gender Mainstreaming', which took place on 8 December 2022. This encounter provided a forum for the Members of the European Parliament and of the national Parliaments to debate, exchange information and to evaluate the implications of gender mainstreaming, particularly in the context of parliamentary life. The exchanges were held during two panels: on anti-harassment protocols, their implementation and sanctions, and on gender action plans.

In 2022, there was an increase (+ 36 %) in participation among Members of the European Parliament – from 340 in 2021 to 463. At the same time, the participation of Members of national Parliaments in the ICMs decreased (-12 %) from 816 parliamentarians in 2021 to 720 in 2022. A possible reason for this could be the concentration of ICMs within a short period of time, which could be challenging, in particular for smaller Chambers.

The years of the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the use of digital tools; however, returning to in-person participation meant that participants could benefit from the added value of personal contacts and exchanges of views. While remote meetings facilitate participation in ICMs without having to travel, the in-person format provides considerably more interaction between Members. Debates and exchanges are livelier and there are more informal discussions, bilateral meetings and networking possibilities at coffee breaks, dinners or lunches.

A list of the ICMs organised by European Parliament committees in 2022 and more detailed statistics can be found in Annex II.

Main developments in 2022:

- One possible explanation for the large number of ICMs in 2022 is the postponement of numerous meetings from 2021.
- The three meeting formats – in-person, hybrid and remote – have been in place in parallel, which created extra challenges for the organisation and in the administrative aspects of the ICMs.
- The return to in-person meetings increased the number of participating MEPs but decreased the number of participating national Parliament Members, in particular when there was a high number of ICMs within a short period of time.

4.2. National Parliament Speakers Meeting with the Speaker of the Parliament of Ukraine and Meeting of the Women Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union

National Parliament Speakers meeting with the Speaker of the Parliament of Ukraine on 4 March 2022

Just a few days after the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia and on the initiative of the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, the Speakers of the EU national Parliaments held a remote online meeting on 4 March 2022 with Ruslan Stefanchuk, the Speaker of the Parliament of Ukraine.



Online contribution of Ruslan Stefanchuk, Speaker of the Parliament of Ukraine, on 4 March 2022 during the remote online meeting with the Speakers of National Parliaments in the meeting room of the European Parliament.

© European Union 2022 EP/ Jesus Gomez

Several national Parliaments and Member States had expressed their first generous signs of solidarity with the Parliament of Ukraine following the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which began on 24 February 2022. (For more information, please see section 4.3. on the Democracy Support Network and IPEX). One week after the beginning of the armed conflict, the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, invited the Speakers of all EU national Parliaments to join her in an extraordinary remote meeting with the Speaker of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada, Ruslan Stefanchuk.

The extraordinary meeting took place on 4 March 2022. It was attended by over 30 Speakers (or Presidents of Parliament) and Deputy Speakers (or Vice-Presidents of Parliament). The event was organised and conducted at short notice. It was a tangible demonstration of the support by EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament for the Ukrainian fight for freedom in Europe and for Ukraine's EU membership. At the same time, it indicated that parliamentary democracy is a

fundamental tool in nurturing common democratic values. It showed how much can be achieved through promoting it, by consolidating the partnership between Parliaments.

Meeting of the Women Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union on 12 October 2022.

Launched by the Sejm of Poland at the initiative of its Speaker, Elzbieta Witek, the Women Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union met in April and May 2022 to discuss the plight of Ukrainian women refugees, as the Russian invasion of the country had triggered a huge wave of refugees, the vast majority of whom were women and children, who were fleeing Ukraine in fear for their lives.

At the initiative of the Polish and the Czech Speakers, the European Parliament hosted a follow-up meeting on 12 October 2022. The event was co-chaired by the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, and the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Czechia, Markéta Pekarová Adamová, representing the Czech Presidency. The event was attended by the Speakers of the Polish Sejm, of the House of Representatives of Cyprus, of the Lithuanian Seimas, of the Romanian Senate and the Deputy Speakers of the Latvian Saeima and of the Slovenian National Assembly (Državni Zbor). The Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Ukraine, Olena Kondratiuk, also participated in the event.



Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union: exchange of views with Roberta Metsola, EP President, family photo.

© European Parliament

This meeting allowed the Women Speakers to discuss issues related to the management of the arrival of women, children and older people from war-torn Ukraine and their integration, as well as the management of social issues, such as access to social protection, the labour market and the education and healthcare systems. Moreover, the meeting also gave the Women Speakers the opportunity to discuss the barbaric missile strikes by Russia targeting playgrounds, pedestrian bridges, energy facilities, museums and busy streets in Ukrainian cities that had taken place immediately before and during the meeting. Participants also had the opportunity during their visit to exchange views with Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, leader of the democratic forces of Belarus and Sakharov Prize laureate in 2020.

A joint statement was issued by the Co-Chairs condemning unequivocally the Russian attacks against civilian targets in Ukraine, supporting the establishment of a special international tribunal to hold the perpetrators to account for their war crimes and calling for continuous support to Ukrainians in Ukraine and in other countries. The joint statement was unanimously supported by all Speakers.

4.3. Interparliamentary cooperation in the field of EU external action and multilateral parliamentary assemblies

In the last few years, parliamentary democracy, support to capacity building and actions in the area of fundamental rights have acquired strategic importance and have become a focus of common interest for Parliaments in the EU. The satisfactory outcome of interparliamentary forms of exchange in these areas encouraged the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments to promote strategic cooperation between EU Parliaments and the European Parliament in the field of parliamentary democracy. In cooperation with the Directorate-General for External Policies, the goal of this three-year project is to create a network of colleagues from EU Parliaments dealing with programmes with non-EU country Parliaments aimed at strengthening democracy in its various aspects. By improving and consolidating informal contacts and channels, exchanges of documents and information, and preparing parliamentary meetings with national Parliament services, the ultimate goal is to contribute to strengthening the promotion of fundamental EU values through the external actions of the Union.

Exchanges between the European Parliament and the national Parliaments in the fields of EU external action have been growing over the years in terms of both frequency and the variety of events. In response to the growing shared interest and taking into account the promising outcome of the section of the IPEX platform dedicated to Democracy Support, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, together with the Directorate-General for External Policies (DG EXPO), decided to launch a strategic project for 2022-2024 aimed at promoting the creation of a permanent exchange among Parliaments in the areas of:

- Multilateral parliamentary assemblies and forums
- Democracy Support and pre-accession assistance
- Election Observation Delegations
- Human Rights Actions
- Mediation

The shared objective of this strategic exchange between the European and national Parliaments is to improve synergies and prevent overlap in the work of the national Parliaments and the European Parliament in this area, as well as to enable better parliamentary oversight and scrutiny of the EU when dealing with its external dimension.

During 2022, which started with the Russian aggression against Ukraine, the existing forms of exchange proved their usefulness. From the days immediately following the invasion, both the EP and national Parliaments activated several formats of exchange to monitor and track all institutional actions and the adoption of documents in relation to the war and to the support to Ukraine. A section dedicated to Ukraine was immediately activated on the IPEX platform. Since the invasion could also be considered as a declaration of war against the fundamental values of the EU and its candidate countries, it resulted in strengthening even further the already strong awareness of the need for structured parliamentary exchanges.

Democracy Support Network

EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament engaged in several democracy support activities with Parliaments of non-EU countries, with different levels of engagement, tools and priorities. The aim of this network between the staff of the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments is to improve mutual understanding through knowledge sharing and the exchange of best practices.

IPEX allows Parliaments' staff members involved in the Democracy Support Network to share their activities. The aim is to facilitate cooperation, at administrative and political level, by allowing all actors to have a comprehensive overview of activities in a given Partner Parliament, which are in preparation, ongoing or have concluded. Each EU national Parliament has selected a person responsible for the network in each Chamber.



A special webpage on the IPEX website is dedicated to the democracy support activities of the Democracy Support Network of EU National Parliaments and of the European Parliament.

Several meetings took place during 2022, including the first in-person meeting of the *Democracy Support Network*, held in Brussels on 1 December 2022.

The meeting was organised in cooperation with the Parliamentary Support and Capacity Building Unit of the Directorate for Democracy Support of DG EXPO. It was attended by representatives of 22 national Parliaments/Chambers at staff level.

It was divided into three panels and, following the opening remarks, an exchange of views on 'activities in the Western Balkans' took place, in which selected national Parliaments: Czechia, Sweden, Hungary, Austria, Croatia and Germany, which are particularly active in the field of democracy support in the Western Balkans, presented their work experience. A very detailed and fruitful discussion among the participants led to reiterated willingness to further cooperate in the Democracy Support Network, based on a common and pragmatic understanding, which should allow for concrete results in the future.

The new institutional reality, reflected by the creation of the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships in the European Parliament, will positively influence the development of multilateral parliamentary structural exchanges.

The objectives for 2023 are to assess and address the opportunities and challenges of the existing tools and networks for interparliamentary cooperation in the field of parliamentary democracy; to contribute to the drawing up of a joint calendar of interparliamentary events related to the selected specific areas and to promote continued regular exchanges within the Democracy Support Network, in particular by supporting the organisation of annual in-person meetings hosted by one of the participating Parliaments.

Main developments in 2022:

- The first in-person meeting of the Democracy Support Network took place in Brussels on 1 December 2022, confirming the willingness of all participants to continue developing and strengthening cooperation on the basis of a tangible, pragmatic approach.

4.4. Bilateral visits and other bilateral exchanges

Bilateral visits from EU national Parliaments to the European Parliament are a constantly evolving tool and format for interparliamentary dialogue. This format is highly focused, tailor-made, flexible and cost- and time-efficient. It allows for discussions on issues of concern to individual national Parliaments.

In addition, other bilateral exchanges of views can be a useful form of small-scale interparliamentary cooperation when parliamentarians need to initiate collaboration, concentrate on specific topics or deepen collaboration in concrete areas of mutual interest.

Bilateral visits are traditionally an important form of interparliamentary cooperation. Meetings take place at various levels and in various formats, from the highest-level political discussions to technical staff level study visits.

In 2022, after a long break, in-person bilateral visits and exchanges resumed, and 26 visits from national Parliaments took place. Even if their number was significantly lower than the pre-pandemic rate, this was nevertheless a highly positive development. By comparison, due to the COVID-19 situation and the conditions applying in the European Parliament, virtually no incoming delegations or in-person visits took place in 2021.

The visits were both political, including high-level visits (Parliament Speakers or Ministers) and visits of Members, and administrative in nature. National parliamentarians exchanged views with their counterparts from the corresponding select committees of the European Parliament, particularly in the field of internal policies. Staff visits brought together officials from various services, including but not limited to, committee secretariats. The Swedish and Spanish Parliaments participated in study visits aimed at the optimal preparation of the parliamentary dimension of the incoming presidencies.

In contrast to 2021, no remotely organised bilateral exchanges were set up between Members of the European Parliament and of the national Parliaments in 2022; however, for COSAC events and for interparliamentary committee meetings, videoconferencing was frequently used.

A comprehensive list of the bilateral visits and exchanges can be found in Annex III.

Main developments in 2022:

- Due to the improvement of the epidemiological situation and the easing of access restrictions to the European Parliament, bilateral visits from EU national Parliaments to the European Parliament's premises could finally resume, even if their number was lower than in pre-pandemic years.
- Videoconferencing, which had been the principal format of bilateral exchanges in 2021, was no longer resorted to, even if it remains an important means of communication for direct and targeted bilateral exchanges.

5. LEGISLATIVE COOPERATION WITH EU NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

5.1. Early Warning System and Protocol N° 2 to the Treaties

Under the principle of subsidiarity (enshrined in Article 5 of the TEU), in areas which do not fall within its exclusive competence the Union must act only if and in so far as the objectives of the proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can be better achieved at Union level. Under the principle of proportionality, the content and form of Union action must not exceed what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Treaties.

National Parliaments ensure compliance with the principle of subsidiarity in accordance with the procedure set out in Protocol N° 2 to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. This Protocol sets out a review mechanism, the Early Warning System (EWS). Under this mechanism national Parliaments may, within eight weeks from the date of transmission of a draft legislative act, send to the Presidents of the institutions a reasoned opinion stating why they consider that the draft in question does not comply with the principle of subsidiarity.

5.1.1 Early Warning System

With regard to the EWS, submissions from EU national Parliaments are considered under the following categories⁹:

1. Reasoned opinion: if submitted under that heading and received within the eight-week deadline referred to in Article 6 of Protocol N° 2 to the Treaties¹⁰, and raising the issue of non-compliance with the principle of subsidiarity.
2. Contribution: where the submission does not fulfil the above criteria.

When reasoned opinions represent at least one third of the votes allocated to the national Parliaments, the draft legislative act must be reviewed (yellow card). The institution that produced the draft act may decide to maintain, amend or withdraw it, giving reasons for that decision. For draft acts relating to police cooperation or judicial cooperation in criminal matters, the threshold is lower (one quarter of the votes).

If, in the context of the ordinary legislative procedure, national Parliaments with at least a simple majority of the votes challenge the compliance of a legislative proposal with the principle of subsidiarity, the Commission must review its proposal and decide whether to maintain, change or withdraw it. If it decides to maintain its proposal, the matter is referred to the legislator (the European Parliament and the Council) and the Commission must justify its decision (orange card procedure). If the legislator considers that the legislative proposal is not compatible with the principle of subsidiarity, it may reject it subject to a majority of 55 % of the Members of the Council or a simple majority of the votes cast in the European Parliament. To date, the yellow card procedure has been triggered three times¹¹, while the orange card procedure has never been triggered.

See Conference of Committee Chairs document of 15 December 2010: 'Common approach for the treatment at committee level of national Parliaments' reasoned opinions and all other contributions of national Parliaments'.

Article 6 of Protocol N° 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality: 'Any national Parliament or any chamber of a national Parliament may, within eight weeks from the date of transmission of a draft legislative act, in the official languages of the Union, send to the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission a reasoned opinion stating why it considers that the draft in question does not comply with the principle of subsidiarity. It will be for each national Parliament or each chamber of a national Parliament to consult, where appropriate, regional parliaments with legislative powers'.

The yellow card procedure was used in 2012 with regard to a Commission proposal for a regulation concerning the

Within the European Parliament, the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) is the committee responsible for monitoring compliance with the principle of subsidiarity of reasoned opinions¹². Every six months a member of the committee is appointed as standing rapporteur for subsidiarity on the basis of rotation among the political groups.

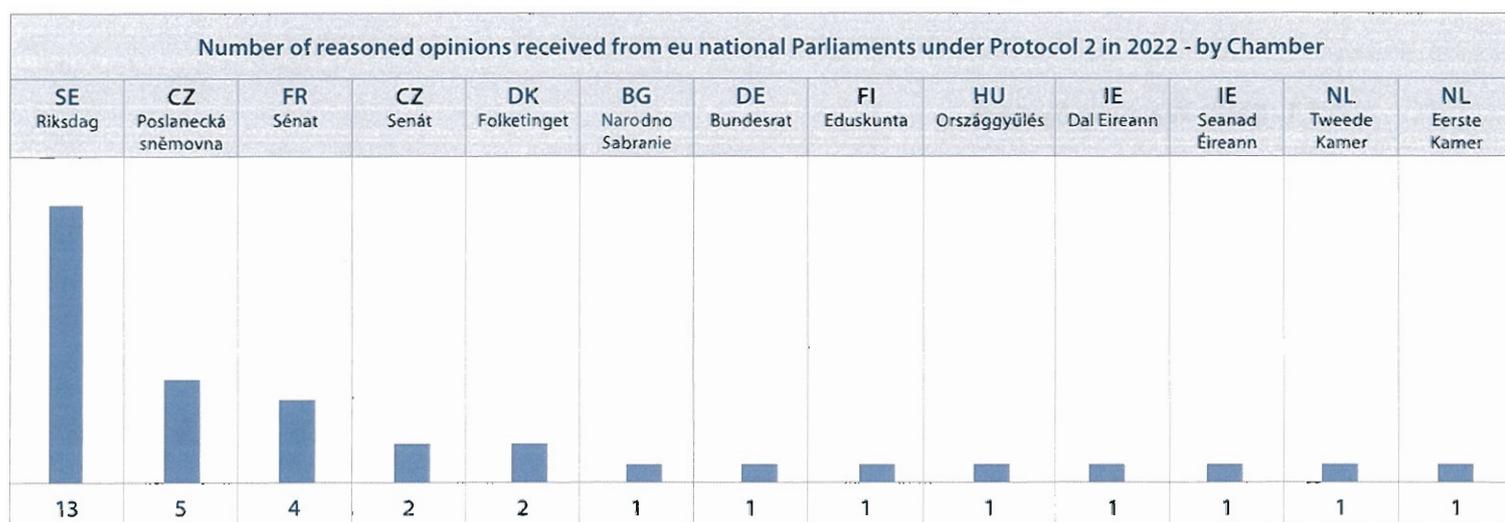
Nacho Sánchez Amor (S&D) MEP and Karen Melchior (Renew)¹³ MEP fulfilled the role of standing rapporteurs for subsidiarity for the year 2022. The JURI Committee also regularly draws up a report on the Commission’s annual report on subsidiarity and proportionality.

5.1.2 EU national Parliaments’ submissions

In 2022, the European Parliament formally received **265 submissions** from national Parliaments under Protocol No 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. Of these 249 submissions, **34 (13%) were reasoned opinions and 231 (87%) contributions** (submissions not raising concerns about subsidiarity).

By comparison, in 2021 there had been 227 submissions, of which 24 were reasoned opinions and 203 contributions.

In 2022, 13 out of 39 Parliaments/Chambers submitted reasoned opinions and 19 submitted contributions.

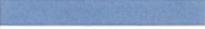


The most active Parliaments in sending reasoned opinions were the Swedish Riksdag with 13 reasoned opinions, the Czech Chamber of Deputies with 5 and French Senate with 4.

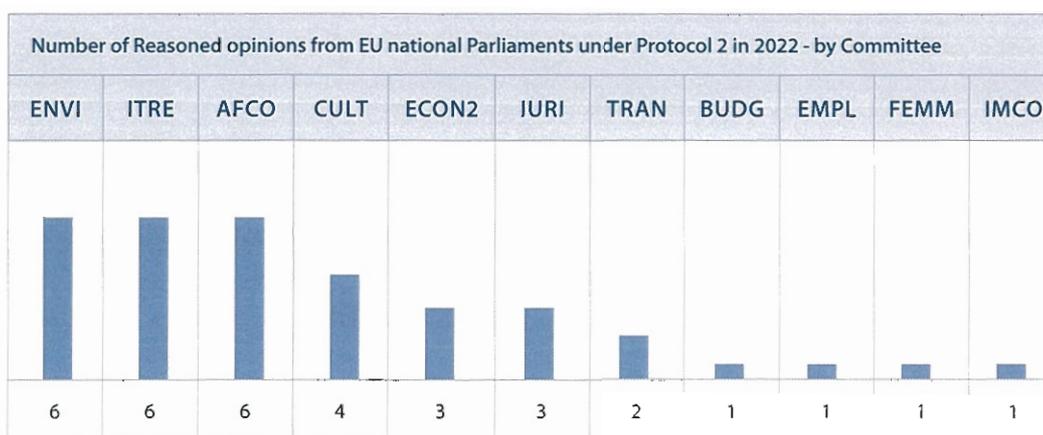
exercise of the right to take collective action within the context of the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services ('Monti II'). The Commission ultimately withdrew its proposal, though it took the view that the subsidiarity principle had not been infringed. It was used again in 2013 following the submission of the proposal for a regulation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office. The Commission decided to maintain the proposal, arguing that it was in line with the subsidiarity principle. It was further used in 2016 against the proposal for a revision of the Directive on the Posting of Workers. The Commission gave extensive reasons for maintaining its proposal, given that it did not infringe on the principle of subsidiarity, the posting of workers being, by definition, a transnational issue.

¹² Section XVI of Annex VI to the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament stipulates that the Committee on Legal Affairs is responsible for 'the interpretation, application and monitoring of Union law and compliance of Union acts with primary law, notably the choice of legal bases and respect for the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality'.

¹³ 'Socialists and Democrats' (S&D) and 'Renew Europe Group' (Renew) are political groups in the European Parliament.

Number of contributions received from EU national Parliaments under Protocol 2 in 2022 - by Chamber			
Country	Parliaments/Chambers	Contributions	
ES	Cortes	58	
CZ	Senát	55	
CZ	Poslanecká snemovna	21	
DE	Bundesrat	17	
PT	Assembleia da Republica	16	
NL	Eerste Kamer	13	
RO	Senat	11	
IT	Camera dei deputati	9	
IT	Senato	6	
FR	Sénat	6	
IE	Houses of Oireachtas	5	
AT	Bundesrat	3	
RO	Camera deputatilor	2	
FR	Assemblée nationale	2	
DK	Folketinget	2	
HU	Országgyűlés	1	
FI	Eduskunta	1	
BG	Narodno Sabranie	1	
BE	Sénat	1	
SE	Riksdag	1	

As for contributions, the most active Parliaments/Chambers were respectively: the Spanish Parliament with 58 submitted contributions, the Czech Senate with 55 and the Czech Chamber with 21. See the statistics for 2022 in Annex IV.



The committees that received the **most reasoned opinions** (6 reasoned opinions each) were the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy.



The committees that received the **most contributions** were the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (57 contributions), the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (35 contributions) and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (29 contributions).

Since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, a total of 1176 draft legislative acts have been sent to national Parliaments for examination under the terms of Protocol No 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon. In response, the European Parliament has received 3946 submissions from national Parliaments. Of these, 545 (14%) are reasoned opinions while the remaining 3401 (86%) are contributions.

These statistics confirm that EU national Parliaments use Protocol No 2 as a means to express their views on the substance of proposals more often than on subsidiarity. This could reflect their wish to be involved more closely in the substantive legislative process.

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments ensures that all submissions transmitted by national Parliaments are made available to Members, political bodies and European Parliament services. The Directorate provides them, in particular rapporteurs, with specific expertise and briefings on EU national Parliaments' submissions throughout the legislative cycle, which have been used as input for drafting committee reports and for trilogue negotiations with the Council. The Directorate provides facts, figures and statistics on the number and nature of these documents on a monthly basis via its State of Play Note on Protocol 2 of the Lisbon Treaty, and also manages the CONNECT database¹⁴, which contains all reasoned opinions and contributions received from national Parliaments.

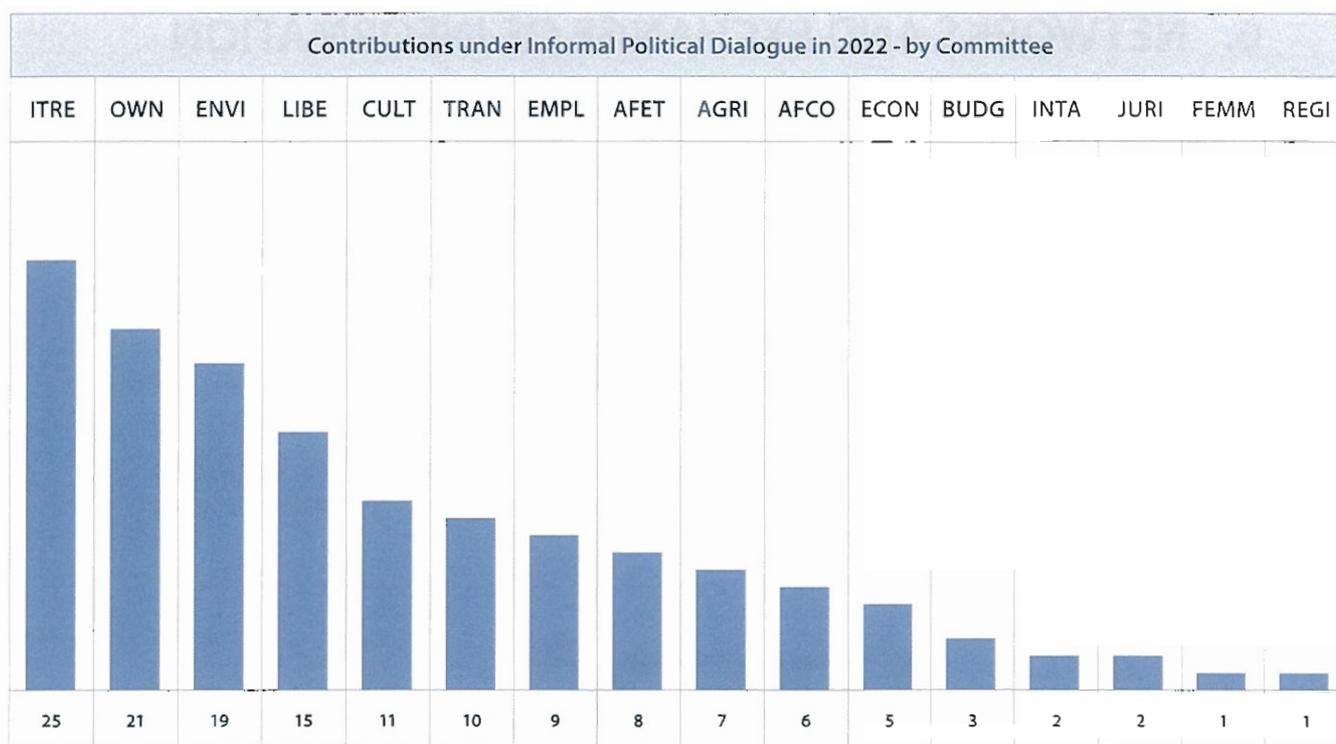
¹⁴See more under Chapter 7.2.

5.2. Informal Political Dialogue and Protocol N° 1 to the Treaties

Protocol N° 1 to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that EU national Parliaments may comment on legislative files falling under the exclusive competence of the EU as well as on non-legislative documents, for example relating to ongoing debates at European level, Commission Green/White Papers or communications from the Commission. These contributions are handled under the Informal Political Dialogue (IPD).

Contributions under Informal Political Dialogue in 2022 - by Chamber			
Country	Parliaments/Chambers	Contributions	
CZ	Sénat	35	
RO	Camera Deputatilor	34	
CZ	Poslanecká snemovna	17	
DE	Bundesrat	12	
FR	Sénat	8	
FR	Assemblée Nationale	6	
RO	Senat	6	
BE	Sénat	5	
PT	Assembleia de República	4	
IT	Camera dei deputati	3	
NL	Tweede Kamer	3	
AT	Nationalrat	2	
HU	Országgyűlés	2	
NL	Erste Kamer	2	
PL	Senat	2	
DE	Bundestag	1	
LT	Seimas	1	
LU	Chambre des Députés	1	
PL	Sejm	1	
SK	Národná rada	1	

In 2022, EU national Parliaments continued to make active use of this tool, sending in 144 contributions under the Informal Political Dialogue. In this context, the three most active Parliaments/Chambers in 2022 were the Czech Senate (35), the Romanian Chamber of Deputies (34) and the Czech Chamber of Deputies (17).



The four committees that received the most IPD contributions were the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) with 23, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) with 19, and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) with 15. 'OWN' means that this type of submission sent by a national Parliament was not attributed to any specific committee in the EP.

Since 2009, the European Parliament has received around 2 810 contributions from EU national Parliaments under Protocol N° 1, which have also been published in the CONNECT database. Detailed statistics on the contributions received under the IPD in 2022 are available in Annex V.

Main developments in 2022:

- The number of contributions submitted under the Informal Political Dialogue decreased by 36 %, from 222 in 2021 to 146 in 2022. The most likely reason for this is that in 2021, the Commission was very active in proposing new legislation in response to the COVID 19 pandemic, but the need for new legislation became less acute in parallel with the decrease in the severity of the pandemic..
- National Parliaments provided more summaries in English with their submissions under both Protocol N° 2 and Protocol N° 1, facilitating the work of the legislators.

6. NETWORKS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

6.1. Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange (IPEX)

The EU Information Exchange (IPEX) supports interparliamentary cooperation by providing a platform and a network for the electronic exchange of EU-related information between Parliaments in the EU. IPEX was launched as an initiative of EU national Parliaments and was developed with the technical assistance of the European Parliament. Today, 39 Chambers of 27 national Parliaments and the European Parliament are using IPEX in their daily activities. IPEX is subject to continual improvement to meet the changing needs of its users. The ultimate goal is to make IPEX 'the one stop shop' for interparliamentary activities.

IPEX has been characterised variously as a 'tool', a 'platform' and a 'network'. These three definitions show that the instrument has evolved. Its development from a tool to a network has been slow but is now achieving its aim.



2022 marked the first full year of activity for the new IPEX platform (IPEX v3). Five main releases occurred during the year with the objective of increasing the reliability and accessibility of the platform. These releases were monitored by the Steering Group chaired by the Slovenian Parliament. The core business of the Steering Group was to address adaptations and review any technical errors that might occur during the phase of development and testing.

Apart from addressing the technical aspects of the platform, the IPEX network, comprising its correspondents, the Working Groups and the Board, dedicated their energies to the implementation of the tasks set out in the IPEX Rolling Work Programme 2021-2023. As a result of these efforts, by the end of the year the *Working Group on Content* finalised the follow-up to the baseline study, focusing on new insights into the use of IPEX and the strengthening of interparliamentary networks.

In parallel, the *Working Group on Promotion and Social Media* worked on a users' analysis aimed at gaining a better understanding of users' needs and at identifying new IPEX functions to be developed. Combining the approach of these two Working Groups, the various chapters of the draft questionnaire and the timeline for the follow-up study were discussed with the Board, which approved the way forward. Following the aspiration expressed by the Secretaries-General at their meeting in Ljubljana, a specific part of the baseline study questionnaire was dedicated to the scientific community, in order to benefit from studies on the activities of national Parliaments at EU level in research work.

The *Working Group on Training* mainly focused on providing support to the National Correspondents, updating the existing training materials in order to make them more user-friendly and discussing the best way to assess Correspondents' training needs. The Working Group worked on training material on own new content and started addressing an issue affecting the Democracy Support Network section on IPEX, where the lack of complete and timely uploads by some correspondents appeared to reveal specific training needs.

It is also worth mentioning, among the results achieved during 2022, the adoption of *Visual Identity Packs* to be used by IPEX Correspondents, IPEX Chairs, the IPEX Information Officer, the organisers

of the IPEX Correspondents Meeting and Users Conference, and the Presidency of the Council of the EU. Meanwhile, campaigns were launched on Twitter on various interparliamentary meetings, (COSAC, CFSP/CSDP) and on Europe Day.

One of the year's most significant achievements was the adoption of a final compromise on the *revision of the IPEX Guidelines*. The launch of the new IPEX v3 platform made it necessary to adopt new guidelines in line with the new functionalities offered by the platform. The positive results of this delicate and difficult process were in themselves an achievement in terms of interparliamentary cooperation.

Main developments in 2022:

- Reaching a final compromise on the revision of the IPEX Guidelines.
- Finalisation of the baseline follow-up study and questionnaire to the users.
- Adoption of the Visual Identity Packs.

6.2. European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD)

Managed jointly by the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the ECPRD counts 64 parliamentary Chambers (including 39 in the European Union) from 53 countries and EU institutions among its members.

The Council of Europe's decision to exclude the Russian Federation on 16 March 2022 meant that the Duma and Council of the Russian Federation are no longer part of the ECPRD and cannot participate in its activities. As a result, the Russian correspondents' access to the ECPRD network has been disabled. Almost 119 correspondents and deputy correspondents represent their respective Parliaments in the network and contribute to the main objectives of the ECPRD: promoting the exchange of information and good practice on subjects of common interest. The ECPRD promotes cooperation between member Chambers by initiating ECPRD comparative requests and holding seminars.



In times when the need to exchange, cooperate and learn from each other is growing, the ECPRD is a success story that owes much to the dedication and professionalism of the correspondents in each national Parliament.

The two pillars of ECPRD's activities remained *comparative requests* on the one hand and *seminars* on the other.

In 2022, the ECPRD network gradually returned to normality after two years of the pandemic, which had profoundly affected its functioning. However, the year appears to have confirmed that the new working methods put in place to maintain activities during the COVID-19 crisis will have a long lifespan. While in-person meetings slowly resumed, notably at the Annual Conference of Correspondents held in November in Yerevan, Armenia, the majority of meetings were still held virtually.

Current practice appears to be moving towards a balance of virtual and in-person meetings, in order to benefit from the advantages of both options: organising a larger number of webinars on topics of common interest, allowing for the participation of a greater number of colleagues from national Parliaments, and maintaining regular face-to-face seminars, permitting personal interactions, which are crucial for a network aimed at promoting the exchange of information and good practice.

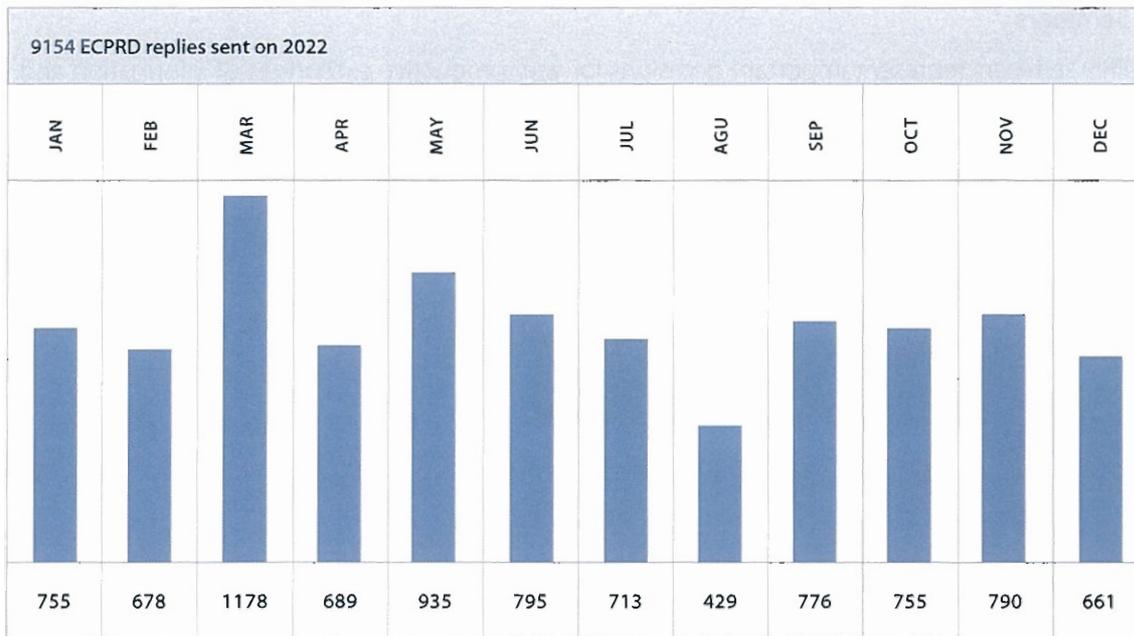
1. Comparative requests

In 2022, ECPRD member Parliaments submitted 342 comparative requests to the network, which resulted in 9 154 replies. Compared with the 2021 figure, there was a slight decrease in the number of requests (356 comparative requests in 2021), but an increase in the number of replies (8 928 replies in 2021).



The requests for information covered many sectors, with a particular focus on topics concerning *social, health and migration issues*, as well as on the organisation of work in a *parliamentary administration*. A substantial number of requests were sent on legal and financial issues, and on parliamentary issues in general. The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments also provided support to several European Parliament services by facilitating and transmitting their requests to the ECPRD network. In total, the European Parliament submitted 16 requests to the ECPRD network in 2022. This represents a slight increase from 2021, which saw 14 European Parliament requests, and from 2020, which saw 12.

In 2022, the *European Parliament provided 88 replies* to requests from other ECPRD Parliaments, with a 94.2 % response rate, a slight decrease compared to the 89 replies it provided in 2021, with a response rate of 97.8 %, but more than the 79 replies in 2020, with a response rate of 88.7 % and even more compared to the 27 replies it provided in 2019, and the 30 provided in 2018.



2. Final summaries

Final summaries are the best way to highlight the immense number and usefulness of ECPRD requests and answers. Solutions to encourage the drafting of final summaries have been under consideration for some time. In this regard, the new version of the ECPRD website, put online in October 2020 with the support of the European Parliament's IT services, aimed to *modify the correspondents' dashboard in order to invite them to submit their final summaries* and to give visibility to those uploaded to the ECPRD website. Following this reflection, in 2020, the *ECPRD final summary rate* increased considerably, with 41 % of requests leading to the publication of a reply analysis (compared to 16 % in 2019 and 11.3 % in 2018). Unfortunately, this figure fell back down to 21 % in 2021; however, in 2022, there was a slight increase to 27.5 %.



Word cloud of the main ECPRD-related keywords.

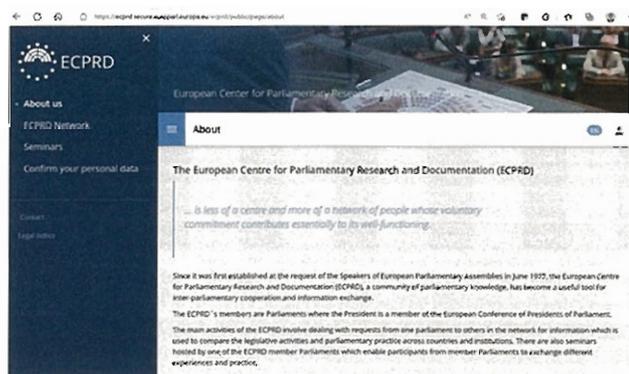
3. Statutory meetings

The three Executive Committee meetings in 2022 were organised remotely on 31 March, 9 June and 8 September from the European Parliament. The main objective of these meetings was the preparation of the forthcoming Annual Conference. Taking into account the progressive lifting of restrictions on meetings and travel, the *2022 ECPRD Annual Conference of Correspondents* was held in person after two years of virtual meetings due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Annual Conference was held in *Yerevan on 10-11 November 2022* at the invitation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.

The pre-conference session focused on the topic of 'Legislative monitoring and research as parliamentary oversight tools'. The Conference itself offered an opportunity to welcome and guide the new ECPRD correspondents and focused on the *follow-up on the ECPRD guidelines for requests and the replies adopted by the London Annual Conference the previous year*. It was followed by a presentation of the new online survey and the requests and replies functionality of the ECPRD website.

4. Seminars

ECPRD seminars represent important occasions for very productive exchanges of information and good practices between the participants. Before 2020, all seminars were held in person and hosted by the national Parliaments interested in the specific topics under discussion. In 2022, the COVID-19 outbreak still affected the organisation of ECPRD seminars. While in-person meetings slowly resumed, notably the Berlin seminar held in July and the ECPRD/European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) seminar organised in Brussels in a hybrid format in June, the majority of meetings were still held virtually.



The front page of the ECPRD network's website is public, while access to the requests and to the replies is restricted to correspondents from the participating Parliaments.

In 2022, the ECPRD Secretariat was involved in the organisation of eight ECPRD webinars and seminars. Detailed statistics on ECPRD events can be found in Annex VI. C.

1. In the 'ICT in Parliaments' Area of Interest, a webinar was hosted remotely by the Knesset in Jerusalem on 28 March 2022 on 'ICT2022 Fit for a rapidly changing IT environment – How to involve staff'. As the digital transformation needs to be supported by members and staff who have the knowledge of existing processes and the skills to use the new digital tools, this seminar offered the opportunity to share thoughts and showcase projects on digital transformation, relevant professions, knowledge communities and digital learning.
2. In the 'Economic and budgetary affairs' Area of Interest, a webinar on 'Parliamentary involvement in the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plans' was hosted remotely in Rome on 18 May 2022 by the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Republic of Italy. It was organised with the cooperation of the Economic Governance Support Unit (EGOV) of the European Parliament. It was organised as a follow-up to the ECPRD meeting held on 23 April 2021, which focused on the role played by the national Parliaments in shaping the abovementioned plans. Building upon the previous discussion, the webinar aimed to promote an exchange of information on how Parliaments were organising their activities and exercising their functions, while monitoring the current implementation of the plans.
3. Also in the 'Economic and budgetary affairs' Area of Interest, a seminar on 'Budgetary autonomy and sovereignty of Parliaments', was hosted by the Bundesrat in cooperation with the Bundestag in Berlin on 30 June and 1 July 2022. After more than two years of virtual meetings, this seminar was the first face-to-face event since November 2019. The aim of the seminar was to analyse to what extent Parliaments can influence the preparation and adoption of their own budgets and to what degree they enjoy budgetary autonomy. Other subjects discussed included the financing of parliamentary groups and political parties through parliamentary budgets and the scrutiny of parliamentary budgets by courts, auditing committees and audit offices.
4. In the 'Libraries, research services and archives' Area of Interest, a seminar was hosted by the European Parliament in Brussels in hybrid format on 23-24 June 2022 on 'Parliamentary research enters a new age: Foresight, Strategy and Innovation'. This seminar was the first seminar organised

by ECPRD in a hybrid format. Jointly organised by the EPRS and the EP Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, it provided a forum for exchange between parliamentary research services and libraries on the strategies they had developed during the COVID-19 crisis to ensure business continuity and on the innovations they had made in order to deliver such strategies effectively. In addition, the seminar focused on the challenges and opportunities this new era had opened up and on the growing importance of strategic foresight in the area of research. Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the European Parliament, gave a welcome message.

Four webinars were held in the 'Parliamentary practice and procedure' Area of Interest:

5. A webinar on *'Mainstreaming EU Affairs in Parliamentary Administrations'* was hosted remotely by the Austrian Parliament in Vienna on 21 February 2022. This meeting was the second in a new series of webinars with the participation of leading academics in the area of democratic and parliamentary studies. Political scientist Anna-Lena Högenauer (University of Luxembourg) took the floor on the subject in the webinar's title and presented her study on how EU affairs are handled by a multitude of experts and departments in parliamentary administrations.
6. Another webinar on *'Parliaments and the whistleblowing directive'* was hosted remotely by the Belgian Chamber of Deputies in Brussels on 6 October 2022. Directive (EU) 2019/1937 of 23 October 2019 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law had to be transposed into national law by 17 December 2021. Nevertheless, many EU Member States in general, and parliaments in particular, are concerned about its implementation and are seeking a model that respects the autonomy of parliaments and the various concepts of the separation of powers. The webinar provided a chance to exchange views and approaches from various perspectives and to learn how different parliaments have dealt with the implementation process so far.
7. A webinar on *'Parliaments and the General Data Protection Regulation'* was hosted remotely by the Austrian Parliament in Vienna on 7 November 2022. This webinar discussed the application of Article 15 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in the context of committee proceedings, the practice of the 'right to be forgotten' in parliaments and the use of restrictions in accordance with Article 23 of the GDPR.
8. The final webinar in 2022 was hosted remotely by the Austrian Parliament in Vienna on 12 December 2022 on *'Parliaments and Coordination Committees in Parliaments'*. Professor Sieberer gave a short overview of the most recent developments on coordination committees in parliaments and discussed the matters and questions which participants felt were the most important for their practices. This was followed by an exchange of views with practitioners and parliamentary experts.

Main developments in 2022:

- Enhanced cooperation between the EP EGOV Unit and the ECPRD Economic and Budgetary Area of Interest, as well as between the EPRS and the ECPRD Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives in fields of common interest and investigation.
- Increased organisation of in-person face-to-face meetings.
- Increased participation in webinars.

6.3. Presidency Parliament Support Programme

The European Parliament has constantly promoted close cooperation between its own administration and those of national Parliaments, in particular in the preparatory phase of the parliamentary dimension of each EU Council Presidency. The European Parliament offers each incoming Presidency Parliament the opportunity to participate in a programme organised for staff in Brussels with a view to preparing activities in the context of the parliamentary dimension of the Presidency. The European Parliament can provide the Presidency Parliament with a tailor-made support programme, on the basis of specific requests, needs and priorities. This initiative offers an opportunity to network and build personal contacts with all those involved and allows for the effective sharing of information and expertise, thus facilitating further work and ensuring consistency. The European Parliament may contribute to the cost of the programme on a shared basis with the corresponding national Parliament.

The European Parliament's 'Presidency Parliament Support Programme' was originally created as a tool to assist Parliaments from EU Member States that were due to hold the EU Council Presidency for the first time. However, since it proved a helpful tool during the Presidencies' preparatory phase, and in view of the continuous developments in interparliamentary cooperation, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments decided to extend the Presidency Parliament Support Programme to all future Presidencies. In recent years, EU Council Presidencies have laid extra emphasis on and invested more in the parliamentary dimension, to increase the number of events, meetings and initiatives they hold during their Presidency semester, as compared to a decade ago.

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments once again welcomed future Presidency Parliaments on the European Parliament's premises in Brussels in 2022, after a hiatus of more than two years. In 2020 and in 2021, this had not been possible in the particular circumstances under which travel and in-person meetings were restricted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Directorate organised two meetings in 2022: one for the Czech national Parliament and one for the Swedish Parliament.



The programme for the officials from the Czech Senate and the Czech Chamber of Deputies took place on 12 May 2022. The colleagues who came from Prague held exchanges with a number of colleagues from the Secretariat of the European Parliament, who shared their experiences in the organisation of the full range of interparliamentary events and activities: the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments. The events covered were the visit of the Conference of Presidents to the Presidency capital, the IPC on Stability, Economic Cooperation and Governance, COSAC meetings, the CFSP/CSDP IPC, the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol and the ICM on Eurojust.

Likewise, the programme for the officials from the Swedish Riksdag offered the opportunity to colleagues from the Swedish Parliament involved in the preparations for the parliamentary dimension of the Swedish EU Council Presidency to meet several colleagues from the Secretariat of the European Parliament, mainly those working in the committee secretariats.

In addition to the discussions on the standard, traditional interparliamentary meetings (Conference on Stability, Economic Cooperation and Governance; Conference on CFSP/CSDP; the Joint

Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol; visit of the Conference of Presidents to the Presidency capital), a series of exchanges were also organised on topics which would be addressed by the Swedish Parliament in thematic conferences to be organised in 2023. These conferences will be held on 'challenges and opportunities for the EU's future energy supply', on 'democracy in Europe



(the rule of law, transparency, etc.)' and on 'the European Green Deal with a focus on the circular bio-economy'.

The aim of these meetings was to establish the necessary contacts between officials from the Presidency country and European Parliament staff and to provide the opportunity for initial exchanges of information on procedures, topics and agendas for future events and activities.

In addition to the main programme, as described above, the Directorate also facilitated the organisation of bilateral meetings, which had been requested for a limited number of visitors from the Presidency Parliaments. Subjects covered by the bilateral meetings included:

- the organisation of remote and hybrid meetings, in particular those that involve a high number of connections and participants, and the use of a large number of languages;
- protocol procedures and high-level visits;
- communication and security.

Main developments in 2022:

- The Presidency Support Programme was offered, for the first time after two years, as an in-person meeting in Brussels. Limited remote connections in some cases allowed for the participation of colleagues who could not travel to Brussels.
- In the first semester of 2022, a Presidency Parliament Support Programme was devised and offered to the Czech Parliament, in order to prepare it for the Presidency in the second semester of 2022.
- In the second semester of 2022, a Presidency Parliament Support Programme was devised and offered to the Swedish Parliament, in order to prepare it for the Presidency in the first semester of 2023.

6.4. Network of EU national Parliaments' representatives in Brussels

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments welcomes and hosts the administrative representatives designated by the EU national Parliaments/Chambers to the European Parliament. Since 1991, with a view to strengthening interparliamentary cooperation within the EU, the European Parliament has offered representatives complimentary office space and other in-house facilities upon request, in its Brussels and Strasbourg premises.

EU national Parliaments send national officials to Brussels to facilitate relations with the EU. Currently, 55 staff from the 27 national Parliaments in the EU are occupying 43 offices in the European Parliament's premises⁵. These representatives are national officials who, in addition to administrative assignments, are tasked with mutual information sharing (in a two-way flow between the European Parliament and the EU national Parliaments), as a key factor in EU affairs.

The representatives work in the same building housing the Directorate. This creates numerous synergies and promotes easy exchanges. In 2022 contact became easier, as the restrictions put in place owing to the coronavirus pandemic were gradually lifted and it became possible to hold social events and in-person meetings again.

A list of the national Parliaments' representatives is available at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl/en/networks/representatives-of-national-parliaments.html>

Main developments in 2022:

- Meeting on 10 February 2022 between the national Parliaments' representatives and Othmar Karas, the newly elected First Vice-President for relations with national Parliaments and with COSAC.
- Meeting on 16 November 2022 between the national Parliaments' representatives and Klaus Welle, the Secretary-General of the European Parliament, before the end of his term of office

6.5. Staff seminars

As the European Parliament affirmed in its 2018 resolution on the implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national Parliaments⁶, 'better interaction and improved exchange of information between MEPs and MPs and also between national Parliaments' civil servants could help to improve scrutiny of the European debate at national level and thus foster a genuinely European parliamentary and political culture'. In 2019, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments organised a series of seminars for staff from EU national Parliaments/Chambers. Their aim was to bring together staff from national Parliaments and the EP in order to present and discuss relevant European topics, learn from each other and exchange best practices.

In addition to interparliamentary cooperation at political level, an important development in recent years was the organisation of staff seminars in order to facilitate technical exchanges at staff level. Staff seminars provide an important platform for Parliaments' administrations to hold more specific and focused exchanges on areas of common interest. They are a dynamic element of the work of both the EP and the EU national Parliaments.

6.5.1 Staff seminar on Gender Equality and Diversity on 16 June 2022:

A good example of the success of staff seminars with EU national Parliaments was the event organised jointly by the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments and the colleagues of the Unit for Equality, Inclusion and Diversity in DG Personnel. Following a request from the EP High-Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity, an interparliamentary staff seminar took place on 16 June 2022 in Brussels. The event allowed the related services of the EP and of several national Parliaments to examine inclusion and diversity best practices in their internal human resources policies.

6.5.2 Staff seminar with Medical Services on 29-30 September 2022:

In 2022, there was a significant new development when a staff seminar was organised remotely to bring together colleagues from the European Parliament and national Parliament administrations, who are responsible for providing medical attention and emergency response to Members and

⁶European Parliament resolution of 19 April 2018 on the implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national Parliaments (OJ C 390, 18.11.2019, p. 121).

staff. The Medical Service of the EP hosted the seminar. The planning of the event had originally started in early 2020, but it had been delayed when restrictions on travel and in-person meetings were imposed to control the COVID-19 pandemic. The seminar was finally held as an in-person event on 29-30 September 2022. Workshops were included in the programme to ensure all participants were able to make an active contribution and the seminar resulted in a valuable exchange of best practices.

6.5.3 European Semester staff seminars:

The Economic Governance Support Unit, in cooperation with the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, continued to organise staff seminars to share the latest information on the European Semester. This included topics such as economic priorities and strengthening cooperation on and improving understanding of the European Semester cycle through knowledge sharing, and the exchange of best practices. In 2022, six seminars of this kind were organised, two of which took place in person, in Berlin and Prague, and four virtually, including a webinar on the war in Ukraine.

It is also worth mentioning that interparliamentary staff exchanges covering specific areas of administrative life, which had begun with staff seminars in the past, continued their activity. An example of such a network, which held an event in 2022, was for parliamentary staff working on dealing with the environmental footprint of the operations of Parliaments, in which the EP was represented by the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) Unit.

Main developments in 2022:

- The organisation of the staff seminar on Gender Equality and Diversity on 16 June 2022 and the staff seminar with Medical Services on 29-30 September 2022.
- Continuation of activity by the networks established at past staff seminars, such as the network for staff dealing with the environmental footprint of the operations of Parliaments.
- Virtual meetings have proved to be a useful tool to strengthen the exchange of best practices between the European Parliament and national Parliaments in the field of economic governance.

7. TOOLS AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

7.1. Organisation of remote meetings and videoconferencing

The European Parliament had already begun using videoconferencing as a tool to facilitate interparliamentary cooperation a few years ago. For a long time, the European Parliament has possessed technical solutions to enable videoconferencing with very high image and sound quality, as well as interpretation into several languages. However, before 2020 the use of videoconferencing was limited. At the start of the health crisis in 2020, the need to adapt and improve the new ways of working and cooperating from a distance led to a huge digital and technical leap in the organisation of remote parliamentary meetings. In 2022, videoconferencing continued to be used, although the major health crisis had passed and the working methods had begun to return to the pre-COVID reality. Videoconferencing has become an integral part of the work in the European Parliament.

The European Parliament, because of its specific composition of Members from 27 different countries, has long been aware of the benefits of videoconferencing, such as enabling more regular contacts between parliamentarians while reducing travel time, costs and carbon footprint. Above all, videoconferencing is a cost-effective and environmentally friendly tool for organising meetings, therefore adequate resources were invested in supporting it. In recent years and, in particular, owing to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, considerable progress was made in digital technologies and their use in the workplace.

The epidemiological situation in 2022 improved sufficiently to allow for a general resumption of travel and the organisation of large meetings in person. However, for interparliamentary cooperation, remote meetings were still the most commonly used format, in particular in the first half of the year. In 2022, the European Parliament continued to use a platform – Interactio – for multilingual meetings with interpretation provided for committee meetings and interparliamentary conferences. This new way of organising exchanges continued for many of the meetings and activities organised.

During the years of the public health-related restrictions, when remote debates and hybrid meetings were widely used, Members of both the national Parliaments and of the European Parliament missed the more interactive face-to-face exchanges and personal contacts. Resuming in-person meetings in the second half of the year was welcomed with enthusiasm and satisfaction.

Main developments in 2022:

- As in previous years, remote meetings held via videoconferencing were still the preferred channel for interparliamentary exchanges in the first half of the year in 2022, ranging from informal bilateral video meetings to complex high-level conferences involving numerous participants. Remote or hybrid meetings became the alternative to the in-person meetings in the European Parliament.
- Participation by MPs, MEPs and high-level speakers in remote meetings remained high, with the latter seemingly more readily available to take part in meetings held remotely rather than in in-person exchanges.

7.2. CONNECT – the European Parliament’s database of national Parliaments’ submissions

CONNECT

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments provides MEPs (in particular rapporteurs) and political bodies and services of the European Parliament with specific expertise on national Parliaments’ submissions under Protocol Nos 1 and 2 throughout the legislative cycle. In this context, the Directorate manages the CONNECT database, which includes all documents received from national Parliaments since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty under Protocols N° 1 and N° 2. Reasoned opinions related to the Early Warning System are available in all EU official languages.

The subsidiarity check page of the CONNECT website, where it is possible to search for submissions sent to the European Parliament under Protocol N° 2 TFEU.

As of 2017, the CONNECT database can be consulted on the Directorate’s website. All information in CONNECT, including reasoned opinions and contributions received from national Parliaments, is directly available in e-Committee, the common working space of DGs IPOL and EXPO, under the procedure to which they relate. This applies not only to reasoned opinions but also to all contributions received from EU national Parliaments under Protocols 1 and 2.

CONNECT enables rapporteurs, Members, assistants and staff of the committee secretariats, as well as all external stakeholders, to have an up-to-date and complete overview of all submissions received from national Parliaments at any moment of a given legislative procedure. In 2022¹⁷, a total of 394 submissions were received: 250 (63 %) were submitted within the framework of the Protocol N° 2 subsidiarity checks and 144 (37 %) under the Informal Political Dialogue (Protocol N° 1).

On 1 January 2022, a total of 6 740 submissions (reasoned opinions and contributions) from EU national Parliaments could be found in the CONNECT database. 3 930 (58 %) were submitted within the framework of the Protocol N° 2 subsidiarity checks and 2 810 (42 %) were submitted under the Informal Political Dialogue.

The total number of submissions might differ (within the statistical margin of error) from the number reflected in CONNECT. This is due to the technical maintenance of the database and bugs in the system.

Main development in 2022:

- The CONNECT database is in the process of being updated to make it compatible with automatically receiving submissions via the new National Parliaments Submissions (NPS) tool platform.

7.3. Directory of Corresponding Committees (CorCom)

CORCOM

The Directory of Corresponding Committees (CorCom) is an information resource on national Parliaments' committees corresponding to the committees of the European Parliament. It also provides information about the different committee secretariats of EU national Parliaments and the EP. The information included in the Directory is provided by the Brussels-based permanent representatives of EU national Parliaments.

CorCom is a useful tool for establishing links between European Parliament committees and the corresponding committees of the national Parliaments. It also serves to identify the chairperson and secretariat of the committees, which is always particularly useful for enhancing cooperation between the European Parliament and the national Parliaments.

Following the adoption of a resolution in May 2009¹⁸ on the development of the relations between the EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament under the Treaty of Lisbon (rapporteur: Elmar Brok), the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament were revised accordingly. They now state that 'a committee may directly engage in dialogue with national Parliaments at committee level within the limits of the budgetary appropriations set aside for that purpose. This may include appropriate forms of pre-legislative and post-legislative cooperation' (Rule 150(3)).

The CorCom application is continuously being improved and updated to meet the changing needs of its users. Within the past couple of years, it has been converted into a web-based application, which is for internal use only, with restricted access for users. It is available on the intranet of the European Parliament. It has become much more user-friendly and comes with a whole range of new features. In 2022, there were 436 visits to the application, with 420 643 application hits and 118 276 individual hits on its web pages.

7.4. National Parliaments' Submission Tool (NPS Tool)

The National Parliaments' Submission Tool (NPS Tool) is a user-friendly EP online platform specifically created for the transmission of EU national Parliaments' contributions on Protocol N° 1 and Protocol N° 2.

Its aim is to secure, simplify and officialise the procedure of sending a submission to the European Parliament by any national Parliament.

The development of the NPS Tool project started in 2019 in the framework of the Parliamentary

¹⁸ European Parliament resolution of 7 May 2009 on the development of the relations between the European Parliament and national Parliaments under the Treaty of Lisbon (OJ C 212 E, 5.8.2010, p. 94).

Project Portfolio of the European Parliament. Following the pilot and test phases, as well as a series of training sessions organised in 2022 with the participation of colleagues from national Parliaments, the tool was expected to be launched in the first half of 2023.

The aim of the project was to create an automated online user-friendly registration tool for the submission of reasoned opinions and contributions from EU national Parliaments. By filling in an online form, national Parliaments would be able to provide information about the submission (filling in the data needed) and upload it. It would then automatically be sent to the EP responsible services and be attributed and forwarded to an internal pre-defined distribution list.

The benefit of the NPS Tool is that it is a user-friendly, rapid and a more secure system for sending the submissions of national Parliaments on Protocol N° 1 and Protocol N° 2. It is safer in terms of hacking and data phishing.

This development helps to obtain proper and accurate data on the submissions. It will provide immediate confirmation of the official receipt of the submission by the European Parliament. Speeding up the process will result in the submission reaching the responsible EP committee and the rapporteur in due time, when the file is still on the agenda of the committee. It will increase the efficiency of the legislative dialogue between the EP and EU national Parliaments, as well as intensify interparliamentary cooperation.

7.5. Publications of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments produces a number of publications.

The Annual Report on relations between the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments contains all activities and developments in interparliamentary cooperation in the EU in a given year, with detailed statistics. The Spotlight on Parliaments in Europe summarises information on certain topical issues and is circulated among Parliaments in the ECPRD network. The Weekly Agenda provides information about activities involving national Parliaments with a view to increasing the transparency and visibility of the numerous interparliamentary activities undertaken. The State of Play Note provides information on the submissions received from national Parliaments. The Calendar of Interparliamentary Activities is published each semester. The Factsheet on each EU national Parliament is a concise document containing a description of each Parliament. The Directorate's website is the online space where all updated information can be found.

7.5.1 Annual Report on relations between the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments

Reports on EU interparliamentary relations are available as of 2010. Moreover, Annual Reports as of 2017 are available at the following [website of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl/en/home/annual-reports): <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl/en/home/annual-reports>

7.5.2 Spotlight on Parliaments in Europe

The Spotlight publication summarises information on certain topical matters. It is disseminated among Parliaments in the ECPRD network.

In 2022, the Directorate prepared one issue:

- [Spotlight No 37 – February 2022 – Governmental obligation to provide adequate information on draft bills.](#)

This publication, as well as previous ones, are available on the [Directorate's website](#).

7.5.3 Weekly Agenda

The Weekly Agenda is sent on Fridays by email to all Members and services of the European Parliament. In 2022, 39 Weekly Agendas were sent out. The publication covers interparliamentary events for the upcoming two weeks, such as bilateral visits, interparliamentary conferences and ICMs. Information is given on the date, location and EP services involved.

7.5.4 State of Play Note

The Directorate produces a monthly State of Play Note on reasoned opinions and contributions submitted by national Parliaments. Further information on the State of Play Note can be found in Chapter 5.1.3.

7.5.5 Calendar of Interparliamentary Activities

The Calendar of Interparliamentary Activities is published each semester. It covers interparliamentary events organised by the Presidency Parliament and by the European Parliament, such as Interparliamentary Conferences, High-Level Conferences and ICMs.

7.5.6 Factsheets on EU national Parliaments

Each of the 39 EU national Parliament/Chamber's individual Factsheet publications is available on the Directorate's website. Each factsheet is a concise document containing a description of each Parliament/Chamber.

7.5.7 Website

The Directorate also operates its own website (<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl>) providing information on its upcoming activities and publications.

8. DIRECTORATE FOR RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS



The year 2022 was the first post-COVID year when life and activities started to return to normal, step by step. The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments sought to return to the normal continuity of its activities in order to provide high-quality support to the Members of the European Parliament and its various partners, to continue to pursue institutional cooperation and legislative dialogue with the EU's national Parliaments, and to assist with numerous interparliamentary events.

The Directorate organises and provides support for interparliamentary activities, contributes to the implementation of the Treaty provisions on interparliamentary cooperation and acts as a knowledge centre for information on EU national Parliaments. It represents the European Parliament in the administrative networks of interparliamentary cooperation. It manages relations with the officials who represent EU national Parliaments in Brussels and maintains close links with their administrations.

The Directorate is grateful for the continuous support of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General and all services in the European Parliament Directorates-General with which it cooperates.

On 1 November 2022, following an internal reorganisation of the European Parliament administrative establishment plan structure, a new Directorate-General was created: the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships, with Saanaleena Lepola-Honig as Director-General. The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments has become one of the Directorates of this new DG. This has created new opportunities to build synergies and increase cooperation in a variety of areas.

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments

Director: Katrin Ruhmann

The Directorate consists of two units:

1. Legislative Dialogue Unit

The Legislative Dialogue Unit is mainly responsible for political and legislative dialogue with national Parliaments. It plans, coordinates and organises interparliamentary meetings at committee level, including ICMs, European Parliamentary Week and the JPSG on Europol. It also ensures monitoring of the subsidiarity check and follow-up with rapporteurs and committees of the implementation of Protocol N° 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. The Unit also organises thematic seminars bringing together European Parliament and national Parliament administrations, and is responsible for the CONNECT and CorCom databases.

Head of Unit: Jesús Gómez

2. Institutional Cooperation Unit

The areas of responsibility of the Institutional Cooperation Unit include multilateral regulated cooperation, i.e. the EU Speakers Conference, meetings of Secretaries-General of EU Parliaments and COSAC. The Unit also deals with established networks, in particular IPEX and the ECPRD, as well as handling cooperation with DG EXPO and coordinating the Presidency Parliament Support Programme and capacity-building visits.

Head of Unit: Anne Louise McLaughlan

This report, as well as further information related to the European Parliament's relations with EU national Parliaments, can be found on the [European Parliament's website](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatpar/en/home/annual-reports.html): <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatpar/en/home/annual-reports.html>

ANNEXES

ANNEX I – COSAC meetings – Topics and keynote speakers 2022

For more detailed information on the agendas of COSAC meetings as published by the Presidencies, please consult the IPEX website: www.ipex.eu

COSAC event	Place, date	Topics	European Parliament keynote speakers/panellists
Extraordinary meeting of the COSAC Presidential Troika	Videoconference, 10 January 2022	I. Presentation of the two working groups intended by the Presidency II. Discussion on the COSAC Chairpersons' meeting voting arrangements	
COSAC Chairpersons' Meeting	Paris, 13-14 January 2022	I. Presentation of the priorities of the French Presidency II. New working methods within COSAC III. 20th anniversary of the euro: achievements and future of the euro	
Plenary Meeting of the LXVII COSAC	Paris, 3-5 March 2022	I. Initial assessment of France's Presidency of the Council of the European Union II. Recovery plan for Europe and the end of the crisis III. Climate change and energy transition IV. Conference on the Future of Europe V. Progress reports from the working groups VI. Debate on Ukraine	Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the European Parliament Guy Verhofstadt, Member of the European Parliament, Co-chair of the CoFE Executive Council
COSAC Chairpersons' Meeting	Prague, 10-11 July 2022	I. Presentation of the priorities of the Czech Presidency II. Media and Democracy: Current Challenges	Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the European Parliament
Visit of a group of Chairpersons of the Committees on European Affairs of EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine	Kyiv, 30 September 2022	The situation in Ukraine in the context of the ongoing Russian aggression	The European Parliament was represented by its First Vice-President, Othmar Karas
Exchange of views between Margrethe Vestager, Commission Executive Vice-President for a Europe Fit For The Digital Age, and the Chairpersons of the Committees on European Affairs of EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament	Videoconference, 6 October 2022	Europe Fit for the Digital Age	
Exchange of views between Věra Jourová, European Commission Vice-President for Values and Transparency, and the Chairpersons of the Committees on European Affairs of EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament	Videoconference, 27 October 2022	Rule of Law Report and Media Freedom Act	
Exchange of views between Maroš Šefčovič, European Commission Vice-President for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight, and the Chairpersons of the Committees on European Affairs of EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament	Videoconference, 24 November 2022	State of Play of EU-UK Relations and the Role of National Parliaments	

COSAC event	Place, date	Topics	European Parliament keynote speakers/panellists
LXVI COSAC Plenary Meeting	Prague, 13-15 November 2022	<p>I. The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU</p> <p>II. Future of the EU</p> <p>III. Strategic autonomy of the EU</p> <p>IV. Ukraine – state of play, reconstruction, migration</p> <p>V. European perspective of the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries</p>	<p>Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the European Parliament</p> <p>Salvatore De Meo, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament</p>

Meetings of the COSAC Working Group on 'the role of national Parliaments in the EU'		Meetings of the COSAC Working Group on 'the place of values at the heart of the feeling of belonging to the EU'	
8 February 2022	Videoconference	8 February 2022	Videoconference
24 February 2022	Videoconference	25 February 2022	Videoconference
9 March 2022	Videoconference	8 March 2022	Videoconference
20 March 2022	Videoconference	22 March 2022	Videoconference
27 April 2022	Videoconference	12 April 2022	Videoconference
16 May 2022	Videoconference	26 April 2022	Videoconference
31 May 2022	Videoconference	24 May 2022	Videoconference
14 June 2022	Hybrid – Paris and videoconference	31 May 2022	Videoconference
		1 June 2022	Hybrid – In-person visit to the Court of Justice of the European Union and exchange of views with its President, Koen Lenaerts, in Luxembourg, and videoconference
		9 June 2022	Videoconference
		14 June 2022	Hybrid – Paris and videoconference

ANNEX II – Interparliamentary Committee Meetings and Interparliamentary Conferences organised by the European Parliament in Brussels in 2022 - number of participants

Date	European Parliament committee	Event		National Parliaments			EP
		Type of meeting	Title of meeting	Members	Parliaments	Chambers	Members
1 February 2022	LIEBE	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Evaluation on the activities of Eurojust	48	21	26	19
3 March 2022	FEMM	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	International Women's Day 2022: an ambitious future for Europe's women after COVID-19	51	17	24	50
4 March 2022	PRES CABINET	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Meeting of the EU NPs' Speakers with the Speaker of the Parliament of Ukraine, organised with President Metsola	24	20	23	1
15 March 2022	ECON-BUDG-EMPL	European Parliamentary Week: Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union	92	24	30	68
16 March 2022	ECON-BUDG-EMPL	European Parliamentary Week: Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	High-Level Conference on the Recovery and Resilience Facility: Lessons for the future				
21 April 2022	DROI-JURI	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Corporate responsibility for serious human rights abuses in third countries	28	16	20	96
25 April 2022	JURI	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	The EU's Subsidiarity mechanism	30	15	18	48
17 May 2022	AFCO	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	First results of the Conference on the Future of the European Union	63	21	30	28
14 June 2022	DEVE	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	The debt crisis in developing countries	25	12	14	11
16 June 2022	CONT	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Common Experiences and Challenges in Exercising Budgetary Control Functions	7	4	5	2
27 June 2022	AFET	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	EU Enlargement Policy in the Aftermath of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine	49	20	26	28
12 July 2022	FEMM-LIBE-EMPL	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	The rights of Ukrainian women fleeing the war	29	13	15	19
24-25 October 2022	LIBE	Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group	Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)	48	21	25	20
26 October 2022	AFCO	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe and the role of national Parliaments	34	18	23	15
28 November 2022	DROI	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Universal jurisdiction – improving accountability for serious international crimes	33	18	21	16
30 November 2022	AFET	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Europe in the world – supporting Ukraine	47	20	24	15
30 November 2022	LIBE	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Evaluation of Eurojust's activities	24	13	14	6
1 December 2022	LIBE	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	The situation of the rule of law in the EU	36	16	17	13
1 December 2022	INGE	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Legislative Resilience, Electoral Laws And Information Manipulation Campaigns	24	8	8	7
1 December 2022	FEMM	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Gender mainstreaming	28	15	17	1
Total number of participants				720			352

ANNEX III – Visits of EU national Parliaments to the European Parliament in 2022 (including videoconferences facilitated by the Directorate)

Dates	Country and Chamber	Visitor	Whom the visitor met with at the EP	Type of visit	Number of participating MPs	Number of participating staff members
6-8.4.2022	HUNGARY Országgyűlés	Staff	Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments (DG PRES)	Staff	0	6
19.5.2022	NORWAY Stortinget	Foreign Affairs Committee	Urmas Paet, MEP, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs	MPs	13	2
19.5.2022	FRANCE Assemblée Nationale	Seminar for officials	Staff of EP Administration	Staff	0	11
13-14.6.2022	GERMANY Bundestag	Education Committee	MEP Cristian-Silviu Buşoi MEP Christian Ehler MEP Dan Nica MEP Sabine Verheyen ME Petra Kammerevert MEP Monica Semedo MEP Niyazi Kizilyürek MEP Christine Anderson	MPs	8	1
17.6.2022	FRANCE Sénat	Commission des Affaires européennes	Staff of EP Administration	Staff	0	14
22.6.2022	NORWAY Stortinget	Energy and Environment Committee	MEP Cristian-Silviu BUŞOI, ITRE Chair MEP Jerzy Buzek MEP Łukasz Kohut MEP Christophe Grudler MEP Ladislav Ilčić MEP Henna Virkkunen	MPs	16	1
23.6.2022	THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	Committee on Trade and Development	Members of the Committee on International Trade (INTA)	MPs	5	2
27-28.6.2022	GERMANY – Bundestag	Committee for Employment and Social Affairs	MEP Axel Voss MEP Barry Andrews MEP Heidi Hautala MEP Manon Aubry MEP René Repasi MEP Samira Rafaela MEP Kira Marie Peter-Hansen MEP Marc Angel MEP Helmut Geuking MEP Dennis Radtke MEP Katrin Langensiepen MEP Özlem Demirel MEP Klára Dobrev	MPs	8	11
27.6.2022	THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	Committee on Economic Affairs and Climate	Members of the ENVI and ITRE Committees	MPs	5	2
27-28.6.2022	ITALY – Senato	Comitato COPASIR	MEP Raphael Glucksmann MEP Javier Zarzalejos MEP Morten Løkkegaard MEP Dace Melbārde MEP Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz MEP Pina Picierno	MPs	7	2

Dates	Country and Chamber	Visitor	Whom the visitor met with at the EP	Type of visit	Number of participating MPs	Number of participating staff members
6.9.2022	NORWAY – Stortinget	Secretaries to the Standing Committees	Asger Christensen, MEP, member of the Committee on Agriculture (AGRI)	Staff	0	14
14.9.2022	FRANCE – Assemblée Nationale	Commission des Affaires européennes	MEP Fabienne Keller MEP Anne Sander MEP Pierre Karleskind MEP Nathalie Loiseau MEP Raphaël Glucksmann MEP François-Xavier Bellamy MEP Sylvie Guillaume MEP David Cormand MEP Antonio Tajani MEP Guy Verhofstadt	MPs	31	2
22-23.9.2022	SWEDEN – Riksdagen	Swedish Parliament staff preparing for the Presidency	National Parliament Representative	Staff	0	4
26-27.9.2022	FINLAND – Eduskunta	Grand Committee	MEP Daniel Freund MEP Damien Boeselager MEP Miapetra Kumpula-Natri MEP Eero Heinäluoma, MEP Heidi Hautala, MEP Silvia Modig	MPs	15	3
27-28.9.2022	DENMARK – Folketinget	Staff members	MEP Kira Marie Peter-Hansen	Staff	0	19
28.9.2022	ESTONIA – Riigikogu	Members of Parliament	Jüri Laas, spokesperson of the President of the European Parliament Robert Metsola	MPs	16	6
28-29.9.2022	NORWAY Norwegian Parliament Stortinget	Visit of political groups	MEP Niklas Herbst MEP Lukasz Kohut MEP Marc Angel MEP Christel Schaldemose MEP Eero Heinäluoma MEP Erik Bergkvist MEP Mauro Pekkarinen MEP Peter Lundgren MEP Robert Roos MEP Kira Marie Peter-Hansen	Staff	11	3
29.9.2022	THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	European Affairs Committee (EAC)	DG Presidency (PRES)	Staff	0	5
11.10.2022	IRELAND – House of the Oireachtas	Oireachtas Staff Visit	Staff of EP Administration	Staff	0	12
21.10.2022	NORWAY Norwegian Parliament Stortinget	Staff members of the Mission of Norway to the EU	National Parliament Representative	Staff	0	3
7-8.11.2022	SPAIN Cortes Generales	Joint Committee on European Affairs	Directorate-General for Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships (DG PART), DG IPOL	MPs	6	2
8.11.2022	NORWAY Norwegian Parliament Stortinget	State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, three ministry staff members, two Councillors from the Mission of Norway to the EU	National Parliament Representative	Staff	0	!
8-10.11.2022	THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	EU adviser on migration	MEP Malik Azmani, LIBE Committee, MEPs	Staff	0	1

Dates	Country and Chamber	Visitor	Whom the visitor met with at the EP	Type of visit	Number of participating MPs	Number of participating staff members
14.11.2022	CZECHIA Chamber of Deputies	Budget Committee	Members of the Subcommittee on Tax Matters (FISC)	MPs	3	2
28.11.2022	THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer	Speaker	DG Presidency (PRES)	MPs	1	1
5-6.12.2022	IRELAND – House of the Oireachtas	Office of the Superintendent House of the Oireachtas	Staff of EP Administration	Staff	0	3

ANNEX IV – Early Warning System Data

The Committee on Legal Affairs, which is responsible for issues in relation to compliance with the principle of subsidiarity within the European Parliament, has provided the following definitions for submissions from national Parliaments:

- **‘Reasoned opinions’** are submissions which indicate the non-compliance of a draft legislative act with the principle of subsidiarity and have been communicated to the European Parliament within the eight-week deadline referred to in Article 6 of Protocol N° 2 to the Treaties.
- **‘Contributions’** indicate any other submissions which do not fulfil the criteria listed above for a reasoned opinion.

Submissions received from national Parliaments in 2022

Member State	Parliament/Chamber	Reasoned opinions	Contributions
Austria	Nationalrat	0	0
Austria	Bundesrat	0	3
Belgium	Chambre des Représentants	0	0
Belgium	Sénat	0	1
Bulgaria	Narodno Sabranie	1	1
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor	0	0
Cyprus	Vouli ton Antiprosópon	0	0
Czechia	Poslanecká sněmovna	5	21
Czechia	Senát	2	56
Denmark	Folketinget	2	2
Estonia	Riigikogu	0	0
Finland	Eduskunta	1	1
France	Assemblée Nationale	0	2
France	Sénat	4	6
Germany	Bundestag	0	0
Germany	Bundesrat	1	17
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon	0	0
Hungary	Országgyűlés	1	1
Ireland	Seanad Éireann	1	0
Ireland	Dáil Éireann	1	0
Ireland	Houses of the Oireachtas	0	5
Italy	Camera dei deputati	0	9
Italy	Senato	0	6
Lithuania	Seimas	0	0
Luxembourg	Chambre des Députés	0	0
Latvia	Saeima	0	0
Malta	Kamra tad-Deputati	0	0
The Netherlands	Tweede Kamer	1	0
The Netherlands	Eerste Kamer	1	13
Poland	Sejm	0	0
Poland	Senat	0	0
Portugal	Assembleia da República	0	16
Romania	Camera Deputaţilor	0	2

Member State	Parliament/Chamber	Reasoned opinions	Contributions
Romania	Senat	0	11
Spain	Congreso / Senado	0	58
Sweden	Riksdag	13	1
Slovenia	Državni Zbor	0	0
Slovenia	Državni Svet	0	0
Slovakia	Národná rada	0	0
Total		34	231

ANNEX V – Contributions under Protocol N° 1 – Informal Political Dialogue

This table lists EU national Parliaments' documents sent in response to draft legislative acts falling under the exclusive competence of the EU, as well as to a large variety of non-legislative documents, such as Green/ White Papers or communications from the European Commission falling under Protocol N° 1 to the TFEU.

Contributions received from national Parliaments in 2022

Member State	Parliament/Chamber	Contributions
Austria	Nationalrat	2
Austria	Bundesrat	0
Belgium	Chambre des Représentants	0
Belgium	Sénat	5
Bulgaria	Narodno Sabranie	0
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor	0
Cyprus	Vouli ton Antiprosópon	0
Czechia	Poslanecká sněmovna	17
Czechia	Senát	35
Denmark	Folketinget	0
Estonia	Riigikogu	0
Finland	Eduskunta	0
France	Assemblée Nationale	6
France	Sénat	8
Germany	Bundestag	1
Germany	Bundesrat	12
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon	0
Hungary	Országgyűlés	2
Ireland	Houses of Oireachtas	0
Italy	Camera dei deputati	3
Italy	Senato	0
Lithuania	Seimas	1
Luxembourg	Chambre des Députés	1
Latvia	Saeima	0
Malta	Kamra tar-Rappreżentanti	0
The Netherlands	Tweede Kamer	3
The Netherlands	Eerste Kamer	2
Poland	Sejm	1
Poland	Senat	2
Portugal	Assembleia da República	4
Romania	Camera Deputaţilor	34
Romania	Senat	6
Spain	Congreso de los Diputados / Senado	0
Sweden	Riksdag	0
Slovenia	Državni Zbor	0
Slovenia	Državni Svet	0
Slovakia	Národná rada	1
TOTAL		146

ANNEX VI – European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD)

A. Issues on which political bodies and administrative services of the European Parliament consulted the ECPRD network in 2022 through comparative requests:

Date	Title of request	Request number
18.1.2022	Question time in the French Assemblée Nationale	4965
28.1.2022	Biometric identification in Parliament	4979
9.2.2022	Questionnaire on the implementation of the NextGenerationEU (NGEU) programmes and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)	4986
14.3.2022	Allocation of leadership positions in parliaments	5029
7.4.2022	Urgent: remote voting	5048
24.5.2022	Measures against financial irregularities, fraud, corruption, conflicts of interest regarding budget allocated to Members of Parliament	5100
15.6.2022	Role of ushers in national Parliaments	5124
21.6.2022	Impact of the legislative initiative on European elections on Member States' legal orders	5129
22.6.2022	Reducing plastic waste in Parliaments	5130
29.6.2022	Parliamentary control of governments' response to the COVID-19 pandemic: core documents drawn up by national Parliaments	5134
14.7.2022	Survey on the powers and competences of national Parliaments' committees – current modus operandi and recent changes	5144
18.7.2022	Induction sessions for new Members of Parliament – ECPRD update of request 3916	5148
19.9.2022	Parliamentary oversight of governments' response to the COVID-19 pandemic – extending ECPRD request 5134 to the Parliaments of Canada, Switzerland, the UK and the US	5195
13.10.2022	Use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware	5218
21.12.2022	Termination/withdrawal and suspension of the mandate of Members of the European Parliament and Members of the national Parliaments	5289
21.12.2022	Termination/withdrawal and suspension of the mandate of Members of non-EU national Parliaments	5290

B. The European Parliament provided replies to requests from other ECPRD Parliaments on the following topics:

Title of request	Request number	Comments
Municipalities' sports policy documents	5287	
Financing of political groups in Parliament	5280	Update of request 5203
Dual practice among health workers	5279	
Regulations on the use of the Parliament building's façade	5267	
Reporting on plenary and committee meetings	5263	

Title of request	Request number	Comments
The election of political party leaders or ballot heads as Members of Parliament	5255	
PACE questionnaire on good practices in public policy evaluation	5248	
Parliamentary associations	5247	
Material scope of the GDPR and additional questions	5241	Update of request 4673
Procedure for voting on the legislative initiatives of MPs	5227	
Questionnaire for ECPRD members on data analysis and data visualisation	5223	
Support for the return to work of former MPs	5217	
Dress code for MPs in the Chamber	5216	
Questionnaire of the President of the National Assembly: The relationship between the citizen and their Parliament	5204	
Financing of political groups in Parliament	5203	
Regulation of breeding and seeding activity	5202	
Organisation of the reception of visitors to the Parliament	5201	
How are educational institutions coping with the energy crisis?	5200	
Status of Members of Parliament	5199	Urgent – Update of request 4508
Advance information to journalists about court decisions	5198	
Operation/use of the press conference rooms	5196	
Measures to promote the return to work of former parliamentarians	5194	
Professional development of parliamentary and judicial mandate holders	5191	
Committees and social cohesion issues	5190	
MPs being investigated for, charged with or convicted of sexual misconduct	5186	
Increase in compensation for parliamentary staff owing to inflation	5182	Urgent
MPs' salaries, expenses and other benefits	5179	
Parliamentary oversight	5176	
Remote electronic voting	5163	
Bilingual education	5161	
Funding and management of parliamentary staff	5153	
Media asset management systems used in Parliament	5152	
Oath-taking and its legal consequences	5149	
Induction sessions for new Members of Parliament	5148	Update of request 3916
Voting in plenary sittings	5147	
Use of neutral language in the rules of procedure of the regional parliaments	5140	
Attributing authorship of research publications	5138	
Constitutional protection of the right to voluntary interruption of pregnancy	5136	
Support for an association of former MPs	5133	
Reducing plastic waste in Parliaments	5130	
High-ranking public officials' drug tests	5125	Update of request 2968
Role of ushers in national Parliaments	5124	

Title of request	Request number	Comments
The need to re-sign electronic files in parliamentary administrations	5112	
Interaction between Parliament and civil society organisations	5104	
State policy on multilingual education	5099	
Broadband price regulation	5098	
Supreme Judicial Council – structure, composition, function, powers	5094	
Use of speech-to-text solutions	5092	Update of request 5016
Parliamentary decorations, awards, honours	5089	
Letter from the Finance Committee of the Parliament of Ukraine	5086	
Legal act on the organisation of Parliament	5081	
Prohibiting Russian fishing vessels from entering EU ports	5079	
Powers of MPs to question any state agencies	5074	
Conference and voting systems in Parliament – plenary and committee rooms	5072	
Seizure of benefits obtained from the sale of food which is unsafe / injurious to health (foodstuffs)	5070	
Budgetary sovereignty of Parliaments	5066	
Parliament building insurance questionnaire	5065	
Monitoring of the professional activity of parliamentarians after the end of their mandate	5064	
Test – Next elections	5055	
Children's property rights and parents' responsibility	5043	
Online survey: Solidarity of the Parliaments with Ukraine	5038	
Language used on police and military uniforms	5032	
Electronic voting in parliamentary committees	5025	Update of request 4123
EDI initiatives in Parliament	5024	
Bilingual Parliaments	5017	
Distinctions/decorations/honours granted by Parliaments	5013	
Indexation of documents	5012	
Public engagement in Parliament and effective communication with citizens	5011	
Display of flags on the site of Parliament and in the Chamber	5010	
How do citizens of countries without diplomatic relations visit each other's countries?	5008	
Regulation of the pharmaceuticals market	5007	
Construction companies' solvency and methods of submitting notices	5006	
MPs' access to national banks' confidential information	5001	
Extreme sports licence/permit	5000	
Parliament's security service	4994	Urgent
Status of the spouses of the Speaker of Parliament and the President of the State	4985	
Recreational plan	4972	
Daily allowance (per diem rate) for MPs, officials, employees and third parties participating in parliamentary missions, domestic and abroad	4969	

Title of request	Request number	Comments
Employment and termination of employment of civil servants	4966	
Relief procedures for withholding tax	4963	
Status of Members of Parliament who have completed their term of office	4961	
Combating false information (disinformation)	4953	
Secretary-General of Parliament – roles and appointment	4952	
Submission of lists of candidates for political elections and measures to encourage participation of voters	4951	
Present for outgoing Members; materials and training for newly elected MPs	4950	
Transcription of the minutes of the plenary session and parliamentary committees	4338	

C. ECPRD seminars and statutory meetings in 2022

Date	Meeting type	Event	Area of interest	Place	Mode
31 March 2022	Statutory Meeting	Executive Committee		Brussels European Parliament	Remote
21 February 2022	Webinar	Mainstreaming EU Affairs in Parliamentary Administrations	Parliamentary Practice and Procedure	Vienna Austrian Parliament	Remote
28 March 2022	Webinar	Fit for a rapidly changing IT environment – How to involve staff	ICT in Parliaments	Jerusalem Knesset	Remote
18 May 2022	Webinar	Parliamentary involvement in the implementation of the National Resilience and Recovery Plans	Economic and Budgetary Affairs	Rome Camera dei deputati	Remote
23-24 June 2022	Seminar	Parliamentary research enters a new age: Foresight, strategy and innovation	Libraries, Research Services and Archives	Brussels European Parliament	Hybrid
30 June - 1 July 2022	Seminar	Budgetary autonomy and sovereignty of Parliaments	Economic and Budgetary Affairs	Berlin Bundesrat in cooperation with Bundestag	In person
10 June 2022	Statutory Meeting	Executive Committee		Brussels European Parliament	Remote
8 September 2022	Statutory Meeting	Executive Committee		Brussels European Parliament	Remote
6 October 2022	Webinar	Implementation of the Whistleblowing Directive in Parliaments	Parliamentary Practice and Procedure	Brussels/Vienna Belgian Chamber of Representatives, Austrian Parliament	Remote
7 November 2022	Webinar	On Data Protection and Parliaments	Parliamentary Practice and Procedure	Vienna Austrian Parliament	Remote
10-11 November 2022	Statutory Meeting	Annual Conference of Correspondents		Yerevan National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia	In person
12 December 2022	Webinar	On parliamentary coordination committees	Parliamentary Practice and Procedure	Vienna Austrian Parliament	Remote

Glossary of terms and acronyms

AFCO: Committee on Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament.

AFET: Committee on Foreign Affairs, European Parliament.

BUDG: Committee on Budgets, European Parliament.

CoFE: Conference on the Future of Europe. This was a citizen-led series of debates and discussions that ran from April 2021 to May 2022 and enabled people from across Europe to share their ideas and help shape their common future.

CONT: Committee on Budgetary Control, European Parliament.

CORCOM: The Directory of Corresponding Committees. An information source on national Parliaments' committees corresponding to the committees of the European Parliament. Provides information about the different committee secretariats of EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament.

COSAC: Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs. Treaty-based conference of Members of the European Parliament and Members of national Parliaments from parliamentary committees responsible for European Union affairs.

DEVE: Committee on Development, European Parliament.

DG EXPO: Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union, European Parliament Secretariat.

DG IPOL: Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union, European Parliament Secretariat.

DG ITEC: Directorate-General for Innovation and Technological Support, European Parliament Secretariat.

DROI: Subcommittee on Human Rights, European Parliament.

ECPRD: European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation. Information exchange network for the administrations of Parliaments in Europe, functioning on the basis of comparative requests.

ECON: Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, European Parliament.

EIB: European Investment Bank.

EMPL: Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, European Parliament.

EP: European Parliament.

EPW: European Parliamentary Week. The Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (IPC SECG) and the European Semester Conference bring together parliamentarians from all over the European Union to discuss economic, budgetary and social matters.

Eurojust: European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation.

Europol: The European Union's law enforcement agency.

EUSC: European Union Speakers' Conference. Annual meeting of the Speakers of the Parliaments of EU Member States, organised by the Parliament of the previous autumn's EU Council Presidency.

EWS: Early Warning System. A review mechanism set out in Protocol N° 2 to the Treaties on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. It provides for national Parliaments to send a reasoned opinion to the Presidents of the institutions.

FEMM: Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, European Parliament.

ICM: Interparliamentary Committee Meeting. Meetings co-organised by committee secretariat(s) and the Legislative Dialogue Unit of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments of the European Parliament. ICMs function as a forum for dialogue between Members of national Parliaments and MEPs.

INGE: Special Committee on Foreign Interference in all Democratic Processes in the European Union, including Disinformation, European Parliament. Its mandate ended on 23 March 2022.

INGE2 / ING2: Special Committee on Foreign Interference in all Democratic Processes in the European Union, including Disinformation, European Parliament. It was created on 24 March 2022 with the mandate to follow-up on the INGE report.

IPC CFSP/CSDP: Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the

Common Security and Defence Policy. Interparliamentary platform for debate on the EU's foreign, security and defence policy. Organised twice a year by the Parliament of the EU Member State holding the EU Council Presidency, in close cooperation with the European Parliament.

IPD: Informal Political Dialogue. The contributions of the EU national Parliaments under Protocol No 1 to the Treaties that comment on legislative files falling under the exclusive competence of the EU as well as on non-legislative documents such as white papers or communications of the European Commission.

IPEX: Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange. Platform for the mutual exchange of EU-related documents and information between national Parliaments and the European Parliament.

JPSG: Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol. Interparliamentary scrutiny group that ensures that Europol is fully accountable and transparent. The JPSG holds two meetings per year: one at the Parliament of the country holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU, and one at the European Parliament.

JURI: Committee on Legal Affairs, European Parliament.

LIBE: Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, European Parliament.

MPs: Members of (national) Parliament.

MEPs: Members of the European Parliament.

NextGenerationEU (NGEU): The EU's economic recovery package of EUR 800 billion to support the EU Member States' recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular those that were particularly hard hit.

NPS: National Parliaments' Submissions Tool. An online platform for EU national Parliaments to submit reasoned opinions and contributions to the European Parliament.

PESCO: Permanent Structured Cooperation in the area of security and defence policy, established by a Council decision on 11 December 2017 with 25 Member States. It offers a legal framework to jointly plan, develop and invest in shared capability projects, and enhance the operational readiness and contribution of armed forces.

REPowerEU: EU plan to rapidly reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels by 2027 and fast-forward the green transition.

RRF: Recovery and Resilience Facility, an EU flagship initiative aimed at mitigating the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 crisis and make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions.

SEDE: Subcommittee on Security and Defence, European Parliament.

Spotlight: Publications related to summaries on parliamentary procedures or practices and based on replies to requests sent to the ECPRD network.

TEU: Treaty on European Union.

TFEU: Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

