

The President

De heer prof. dr. Jan Anthonie Bruijn
Voorzitter
Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal
Postbus 20017
2500 EA DEN HAAG

D 305630 16.07.2025

Geachte voorzitter, beste collega,

In het kader van onze voortdurende inspanningen om de politieke en wetgevingsdialoog tussen onze instellingen te versterken, heb ik het genoegen u het programma van interparlementaire activiteiten voor het tweede halfjaar van 2025 te doen toekomen.

Dit programma omvat de interparlementaire evenementen die het Europees Parlement in Brussel heeft gepland, alsook de evenementen die worden georganiseerd door het Deense parlement, in het kader van de parlementaire dimensie van het Deense voorzitterschap van de Raad van de Europese Unie, en door het parlement van het voorgaande voorzitterschap, het Poolse parlement.

Het omvat de volgende geïnstitutionaliseerde interparlementaire bijeenkomsten: COSAC en de voorbereidende bijeenkomst van COSAC-voorzitters; de 27e Interparlementaire Conferentie over het gemeenschappelijk buitenlands en veiligheidsbeleid en het gemeenschappelijk veiligheids- en defensiebeleid; de 17e vergadering van de Gezamenlijke Parlementaire Controlegroep Europol; de Interparlementaire Conferentie over stabiliteit, economische coördinatie en bestuur in de Europese Unie (artikel 13 van het begrotingspact) en zeven interparlementaire commissievergaderingen die door het Europees Parlement worden georganiseerd.

Vanwege de opt-out van Denemarken op het gebied van justitie en binnenlandse zaken is de participatie van het Deense parlement in de Gezamenlijke Parlementaire Controlegroep Europol beperkt. Overeenkomstig artikel 3, punt 3.1, van het reglement van orde van de Gezamenlijke Parlementaire Controlegroep Europol wordt de 17e vergadering van de Gezamenlijke Parlementaire Controlegroep Europol, die plaatsvindt tijdens het Deense voorzitterschap van de Raad van de Europese Unie, gezamenlijk georganiseerd en voorgezeten door het Europees Parlement en het Poolse parlement.

Tot slot wil ik van de gelegenheid gebruikmaken om u de originele (Engelse) versie te doen toekomen van ons jaarverslag 2024 over de betrekkingen tussen het Europees Parlement en de nationale parlementen in de EU. In het verslag wordt toegelicht welke activiteiten er tijdens het voorgaande jaar hebben plaatsgevonden op het gebied van interparlementaire samenwerking en wordt ingegaan op de belangrijkste ontwikkelingen en onderwerpen op de interparlementaire agenda. In een later stadium zult u via uw diensten die verantwoordelijk zijn voor de betrekkingen met het Europees Parlement een versie van het verslag ontvangen in uw officiële taal.

Ik ben ervan overtuigd dat onze interparlementaire activiteiten, die de parlementaire dimensie van de Europese Unie versterken, een belangrijke bijdrage leveren aan het besluitvormingsproces van de EU. Ik kijk uit naar onze verdere samenwerking op dit gebied.

Hoogachtend,

5.1.2.e



Bijlagen:

- Programma van interparlementaire activiteiten met nationale parlementen – tweede halfjaar 2025;
- Jaarverslag 2024.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND EU NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

EN



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



European
Parliament

PARLIAMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



The functioning of the European Union is founded on representative democracy.



720 seats



Citizens are directly represented at Union level in the European Parliament.

Member States are represented in the European Council by their Heads of State or Government and in the Council by their governments, themselves democratically accountable either to their national Parliaments, or to their citizens.



Council of the European Union

National Parliaments contribute actively to the good functioning of the Union by...



...being informed by the EU institutions and having draft EU laws forwarded to them.



...ensuring that the principle of subsidiarity is respected.



...taking part in the evaluation mechanisms for the area of freedom, security and justice and being involved in the political monitoring of Europol and the evaluation of Eurojust.



...taking part in the revision procedures of the EU Treaties.



...being notified of applications for accession to the EU.



...taking part in interparliamentary cooperation between national Parliaments and with the European Parliament.



The European Parliament and national Parliaments shall together determine the organisation and promotion of effective and regular interparliamentary cooperation within the EU.



A conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC) may submit any contribution it deems appropriate for the attention of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. That conference shall in addition promote the exchange of information and best practice between national Parliaments and the European Parliament.

**DIRECTORATE FOR RELATIONS
WITH NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS**

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

**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 2024 in the areas of institutional cooperation, legislative dialogue and joint parliamentary scrutiny. This cooperation involved 39 national 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.

Jesús GÓMEZ

Director

jesus.gomez@europarl.europa.eu

Jesús GÓMEZ

Head of Unit, Legislative Dialogue Unit

jesus.gomez@europarl.europa.eu

Andrea LASKAVÁ

Head of Unit, Institutional Cooperation Unit

andrea.laskava@europarl.europa.eu

Manuscript completed by:

Manuel MANRIQUE GIL

Administrator, Institutional Cooperation Unit

manuel.manrique@europarl.europa.eu

Manuscript closed on 8 July 2025.

relnatparl@europarl.europa.eu

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

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



Esteban González Pons and Katarina Barley, Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament © European Parliament

The year 2024 was one of elections, with over half of the world's population having the opportunity to go to the polls. In June, the European Parliament elections saw 720 MEPs elected to the new European Parliament with over half of eligible European voters casting their ballots – the highest turnout in 25 years.

The last parliamentary term was marked by crises, most notably the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's illegal, unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine, both of which have had deep social, economic and political consequences for the EU. The main topics on the agenda of interparliamentary meetings between the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments addressed these consequences, both before and after the June elections.

The uncertain geopolitical context and the EU response to the profound challenges arising from it occupied a central place in many of the interparliamentary discussions. These meetings also provided an opportunity to express the EU's commitment to multilateralism and to call for the re-establishment of the territorial integrity of Ukraine and for economic and military support for Ukraine to continue, for as long as it takes, in order to achieve a

comprehensive, just and lasting peace for the country. The backing of Ukraine's accession to the EU exemplifies the new political momentum for EU enlargement, which is a matter of geostrategic importance.

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and of EU national Parliaments also discussed in depth the economic challenges faced by the EU, the necessary measures to promote the EU's economic recovery and its global competitiveness, and the social dimension of the economic recovery.

The year of institutional transition in the EU also provided an opportunity to reflect on the past parliamentary term and the strategic priorities for the next one. In these institutional reflections, MEPs and national parliamentarians underlined the key role which parliaments need to play in defending democracy and the rule of law within the EU.

Although the calendar was marked by the European Parliament's elections, personal contacts during interparliamentary meetings remained as essential as ever throughout the year. These meetings provide Members of national Parliaments and MEPs with the opportunity to exchange views, ideas and best practice on areas of common concern.

As new Vice-Presidents for Relations with National Parliaments, we would like to reiterate our commitment to interparliamentary dialogue and cooperation within the EU.

Interparliamentary cooperation is an essential vehicle to foster common understanding and promote unity within the EU. A sense of unity is more crucial than ever, as the EU and the global multilateral system confront unprecedented challenges, threatening our shared values, democracy and the rule of law.

We look forward to continuing to work on a fruitful cooperation, contributing to the stability and progress of the European Union.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'E' followed by a series of loops and a long vertical stroke.

Esteban González Pons
Vice-President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, written in a cursive style that reads 'Katarina Barley'.

Katarina Barley
Vice-President

Key developments and main topics on the interparliamentary agenda in 2024

In 2024, the work of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments was marked by the elections to the European Parliament that took place in June. The change from the ninth to the tenth parliamentary term was the main factor shaping relations between the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments, as legislative activity and interparliamentary meetings were affected by the electoral break and the reconstitution of the new European Parliament and the Commission.

The work of the Directorate during 2024 was conducted under the political leadership and guidance of Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament (re-elected in July) and the competent Vice-Presidents. Until July, these posts were held by Othmar Karas, First Vice-President, together with Vice-President Dita Charanzová, both responsible for relations with national Parliaments, as well as Salvatore de Meo, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO). In the new term, the role was taken up by Esteban González Pons and Katarina Barley, both of whom are Vice-Presidents responsible for relations with national Parliaments, as well as Sven Simon, who was elected Chair of the AFCO Committee.

In view of the European Parliament's elections, interparliamentary meetings in 2024 consisted mainly of the standing interparliamentary conferences and forums. Despite the electoral break, seven interparliamentary committee meetings (ICMs) were organised in 2024 (compared to 17 in 2023). The year also saw 33 bilateral visits, compared to 50 the preceding year.

The major recurrent topics discussed at various interparliamentary events included: (1) continued support for Ukraine and EU enlargement in an increasingly uncertain geopolitical context; (2) promoting the EU's economic recovery and competitiveness; and (3) the institutional framework of the EU, gender equality, democracy and the rule of law.

These topics were included in the agendas of the main interparliamentary meetings, such as the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments (EUSC), the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC), the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC CFSP/CSDP), the European Parliamentary Week (EPW) and the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU (IPC SECG).

In 2024, the European Parliament received a total of 269 submissions from EU national Parliaments: 155 (57 %) were submitted under subsidiarity checks (Protocol No 2) and 114 (43 %) under the Informal Political Dialogue (Protocol No 1).

Legislative cooperation with EU national Parliaments under the Early Warning System (EWS) and Protocol No 2 to the Treaties remained an important tool in ensuring the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality as defined in the Treaties. In

2024, the European Parliament formally received 155 submissions from national Parliaments under Protocol No 2, compared with the 294 received the previous year, due to the change of legislature, which resulted in fewer proposals for new legislation. Only 14 of these submissions were reasoned opinions raising the issue of non-compliance with the principle of subsidiarity. The overwhelming majority were contributions expressing the views of EU national Parliaments on issues related to the substance of legislative proposals, other than the formal topic of the principle of subsidiarity. The use of Protocol No 2 by EU national Parliaments as a means to express their views on the substance of proposals more often than on subsidiarity could reflect their desire to be more closely involved in the substance of the legislative process from an early stage.



Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the European Parliament, speaking at the LXXI COSAC Plenary meeting in the European Parliament. © Belgian Federal Parliament

The Informal Political Dialogue and Protocol No 1 to the Treaties, allowing EU national Parliaments to comment on legislative files falling under the exclusive competence of the EU and on non-legislative documents, remained an important vehicle for legislative dialogue.

In response to the growing demand for closer involvement in the legislative process, the Directorate, in cooperation with the relevant European Parliament committees, organised the second rapporteurs' dialogue, focused on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Soil Monitoring and Resilience (Soil Monitoring Law)(COM/2023/0416). Around 40 Members of national Parliaments from 12 EU Member States and Norway participated in discussions held on 30 January 2024. This new type of

interparliamentary activity has enabled a more structured dialogue between the European Parliament and national Parliaments' rapporteurs, on a voluntary basis and at an early stage in the legislative process.

Interparliamentary cooperation networks remained active in 2024. For IPEX, the interparliamentary EU information exchange, 2024 began with the adoption by the IPEX Board on 19 January 2024 of the new Rolling Work Programme (2024-2026). The new work programme will support the smooth development of IPEX v3 into a one-stop shop for EU-related matters in the context of interparliamentary cooperation. IPEX also continued its cooperation with the Democracy Support Network through online meetings focused on support for the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the parliaments of the Western Balkans. The Annual IPEX Correspondents' Meeting took place on 7 and 8 November 2024 in Madrid.

After years of rapid growth, the number of comparative requests to the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) network decreased in 2024, easing some of the pressure on parliamentary correspondents. The Annual Conference was hosted by the Houses of the Oireachtas in Dublin on 14 and 15 November 2024. Seven seminars (two webinars and five in-person seminars) were also organised by the ECPRD network.

Administrative cooperation between the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments was also active throughout 2024. A notable example was the first Informal Meeting of the Secretaries-General of the European Union Parliaments, held in Brussels on 18 November 2024 at the invitation of the European Parliament's Secretary-General, Alessandro Chiocchetti. The meeting focused on cybersecurity and artificial intelligence and provided a valuable platform for dialogue, enabling an exchange of insights and best practice among representatives from 33 EU national Parliaments and Chambers and the European Parliament.

Other examples of staff-level cooperation in 2024 included the joint procurement of a multilingual videoconferencing system and remote interpretation services, the organisation of the Presidency Parliament Support Programme with officials from the Chancellery of the Polish Sejm and the Polish Senate, and staff seminars on foresight-based lawmaking and communication at the service of democratic engagement organised during the European Parliament's election break.

The main subjects raised in interparliamentary forums and bilateral discussions are outlined in some more detail below.

Continued support for Ukraine and for EU enlargement in an increasingly uncertain geopolitical context

As was the case in the previous years – and notably since the beginning of Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, launched in 2022 – many of the interparliamentary

debates in 2024 were marked by the uncertain geopolitical context and the necessary EU response to these challenges. At the 24th session of the IPC CFSP/CSDP, organised by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU in Bruges from 3 to 5 March 2024, the need was discussed to continue supporting Ukraine against the Russian aggression, as well as the volatile situation in the Middle East. Multilateralism was highlighted as the only viable way to deal with monumental geopolitical challenges. The need to continue supporting Ukraine and the re-establishment of its territorial integrity was also the main focus of the Third Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform hosted by the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, which took place on 23 and 24 October 2024 in Riga.

COSAC also dealt with the topic of European security and defence during the LXXII COSAC Plenary meeting organised and hosted by the Hungarian National Assembly in Budapest from 27 to 29 October 2024. Participants called for a common European defence strategy that complements NATO to counter both traditional military and hybrid threats. They stressed that European security required increased defence spending, strengthened EU joint defence procurement and common projects to strengthen the industrial base.



Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chair of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, speaking at the third Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform in Riga. © Saeima / Reinis Inkēns

The volatile international context has also given new political momentum and salience to the topic of EU enlargement. This was addressed during COSAC meetings under both the Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies. From a geopolitical perspective, EU enlargement is a geostrategic imperative for preventing other actors from gaining influence in the region. Nevertheless, the importance of maintaining a merit-based enlargement process was also highlighted. The necessary reforms to build a more effective and legitimate EU in the context of enlargement were also discussed. Discussions on the relationship between reforms and enlargement and on which should come first, or whether they should be done in parallel, were also on the agenda, with an acknowledgement that the enlargement process – and the future EU – could benefit from a reform of the EU Treaties, but also a note of caution against making the accession of new EU Member States conditional on internal EU reform.

EU enlargement is perhaps the most obvious area connecting internal and external EU policies, but the interplay between external factors and the internal challenges for the EU was also at the centre of various other debates. At the EUSC, hosted by the Spanish Congress of Deputies and the Spanish Senate in Palma de Mallorca from 21 to 23 April 2024, the strategic autonomy of the European Union as liberal democracy in the EU faces internal and external threats was discussed. Faced with these threats, it was deemed essential to defend the EU and its interests, values and social model. The EU speakers stated that this, in turn, required external action in order to continue supporting Ukraine and its accession to the EU, and internal action, for example in combating disinformation. The subject of open strategic autonomy, in this case linked to economic competitiveness and resilience, was also on the agenda of the LXXI COSAC Plenary meeting organised by the Belgian Federal Parliament and hosted at the hemicycle of the European Parliament from 24 to 26 March 2024.

Promoting the EU's economic recovery and competitiveness

A second cross-cutting topic for interparliamentary debates throughout 2024 was the economic challenges and measures adopted to promote the EU's economic recovery and its competitiveness. The EUSC discussed strengthening the EU from an economic and social perspective, including the EU's new fiscal rules and enhancement of the Economic and Monetary Union. During this meeting, speakers stressed the need for greater cooperation, transparency and accountability among the European institutions and the Member States to enhance Europe's competitiveness on the global stage. The social dimension of the economic recovery was part of the discussion, which was also highlighted during the COSAC Chairpersons meeting in Namur. This meeting included a debate on the European Pillar of Social Rights and how to promote a sustainable market economy aligned with social cohesion. During the EPW co-organised by the European Parliament, together with the Belgian Senate and the Belgian House of Representatives, on 12 and 13 February 2024 in Brussels, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) organised an ICM to discuss how to promote social investment in the context of the EU's reviewed governance framework and fiscal rules.



Group photograph at the EPW co-organised by the European Parliament, together with the Belgian Senate and the Belgian House of Representatives. © European Parliament

The EPW and the IPC SECG represent the central forum for in-depth economic governance discussion. In 2024, discussions centred on various aspects related to the overall purpose of boosting EU competitiveness. A first plenary discussion during the EPW focused on the promotion of strategic investments and reforms to enhance the EU's growth, while a second one was dedicated to the future of the EU single market and taxation. In addition to the ICM organised by the EMPL Committee mentioned above, the Committee on Budgets (BUDG) and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) also organised ICMs in the framework of the EPW. These dealt, respectively, with the use of the EU budget in times of crisis and in the context of EU enlargement, and with the 25th anniversary of the euro. In the second semester, the IPC SECG organised and hosted by the Hungarian National Assembly in Budapest on 3 and 4 October 2024 continued these important discussions. In addition to the reform of the Stability and Growth Pact, the latest meetings also focused on the competitive advantages of the emergence of electric cars in the EU and on the impact of the EU budget for cohesion policy on the multiannual financial framework (MFF).

The institutional framework of the EU, gender equality, democracy and the rule of law

A third group of discussions in interparliamentary meetings in 2024 dealt with the institutional framework of the EU and developments related to democracy and the rule of law. Some of these discussions took place during the LXXI COSAC Plenary, organised by the Belgian Presidency, in which a session was dedicated to a review of the 2019-2024 European Parliament term and prospects for the Council's strategic agenda for 2024-2029. The Hungarian Presidency also included on the agenda of the LXXII COSAC Plenary a debate on the state of the EU in a year of institutional transition and the 15-year application of the Treaty of Lisbon. The meeting served as an opportunity for participants to call for European unity and for strengthening the role of national Parliaments in the European institutional architecture.

Gender equality is, of course, an essential element to the promotion of democracy and respect for the rule of law within the EU. This was another important subject in interparliamentary meetings in 2024. During the LXXI COSAC Plenary, an interactive debate on gender policy and representation of women and men in parliament was organised to discuss concrete policies and tools to address inequalities between men and women. Following this meeting, the Belgian House of Representatives launched the 'Joint declaration for more gender-sensitive parliaments'. This initiative was also noted a few weeks later during the EUSC in Palma. The EUSC was preceded by a Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament, where, among other important topics, there were discussions on the usefulness of quotas for advancing the role of women, the attacks faced by prominent women on social media, in particular journalists and politicians, and the essential need for female role models. One of the ICMs organised by the European Parliament in the election year was the ICM on Women in Sport, organised by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM), on the occasion of International Women's Day.

The Belgian Presidency's LXXI COSAC Plenary included an interactive debate entitled 'Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe: the way ahead', which involved a number of high-level speakers. Some of the important topics addressed in this debate included the need for Member States to implement the decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), the threats posed by attacks on the separation of powers, and the need to maintain respect for the rule of law as an essential criterion for candidate countries' accession to the EU. The European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) also organised its annual ICM, entitled 'The situation of the Rule of Law in the EU', in December 2024. The meeting served to discuss and assess the findings of the fifth annual Commission rule of law report. The LIBE Committee was particularly active, as it also organised or participated in various oversight interparliamentary meetings in the area of freedom, security and justice, such as the meetings of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol and the annual ICM on the evaluation of Eurojust's activities.

1. INSTITUTIONAL INTERPARLIAMENTARY BODIES

1.1 Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments (EUSC)



The Stockholm Guidelines for the Conference of Speakers of the 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 of the Council of the EU 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.

The EUSC hosted by the Spanish Congress of Deputies and the Spanish Senate took place in Palma de Mallorca from 21 to 23 April 2024. The event concluded the parliamentary dimension of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU. The European Parliament was represented by First Vice-President Othmar Karas, and by Vice-President Dita Charanzová at the Summit of Women Speakers, which preceded the meeting.

The Summit of Women Speakers began with a public round table on women's leadership, with the participation of young female leaders in different fields: Mireia Badía, CEO and founder of StockCrowd IN (a business finance non-governmental organisation), Victoria Luengo, actress and winner of the Award *Fundación Princesa de Girona* 2024, and Sara García Alonso, a scientist and astronaut. Subjects covered in the debate included the difficulty of making progress as women when most decision-makers are male, the usefulness of quotas for women, the attacks prominent women face on social media and the essential need for female role models. The second session of the discussion continued with only women speakers. Vice-President Charanzová gave a keynote speech in which she called for women to be judged by the same standards as men, and said that combating violence against women and attacks on social media should be a priority for all, given how driving women out of public life would harm the interests of Europe's societies. At the end of the meeting, the conclusions of the Summit of Women Speakers were adopted.

The following day, the Conference of Speakers began with an inauguration session in which Pedro Rollán, Speaker of the Senate, and Francina Armengol, Speaker of the Congress of Deputies, outlined the challenges facing the EU at present, including conflicts and the migration crisis. They called for cooperation between EU parliaments to address these challenges. His Majesty King Felipe VI referred to the Cortes de León as the cradle of parliamentary democracy. He emphasised the importance of democracy and EU values in the face of current challenges, urging that parliaments remain guardians of the democratic spirit.



Group photograph with his Majesty King Felipe VI during the EUSC hosted by the Spanish Congress of Deputies and the Spanish Senate in Palma de Mallorca. © Spanish Parliament /Povedano

The first session was entitled 'The Strategic Autonomy of the European Union faced with new challenges for liberal democracies in times of social media and artificial intelligence as regards foreign and defence policy: the illegal invasion of Russia against Ukraine and the conflict in the Middle East'. It opened with a video message from Ruslan Stefanchuk, Speaker of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada. Keynote speeches were given by Markéta Pekarová Adamová, Speaker of the Czech Chamber of Deputies, Lorenzo Fontana, Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Wolfgang Sobotka, Speaker of the Austrian National Council, Bärbel Bas, Speaker of the German Bundestag, and Szymon Hołownia, Marshal of the Polish Sejm. The speeches and debate covered wide-ranging subjects including the need to defend the EU and its interests, values and social model. This involved support for Ukraine and its integration into the EU and also required action to combat disinformation. It was suggested that fact-checking programmes be developed and children be taught how to combat the spread of false information.

The second session was devoted to the topic 'Strengthening the European Union from an economic and social perspective: the new fiscal rules of the European Union and enhancement of the Economic and Monetary Union in the context of prospective enlargement, social rights and environmental and climate change challenges'. The First Vice-President of the European Parliament, Othmar Karas delivered a keynote speech on behalf of the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola calling for clearer and more binding rules for budget deficits and sovereign debt as part of economic governance reform, and stressing the importance of strategic investments and reforms to drive the green, digital and social transformation of the EU. He emphasised the need for greater cooperation, transparency and accountability among European institutions and Member States to enhance Europe's competitiveness on the global stage. Constantine Tassoulas, Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament, delivered a second keynote speech in which he stressed the importance of prompt adherence to the new fiscal rules to ensure the EU's fiscal viability and sustainability while also calling for heightened investments in defence capabilities to navigate geopolitical uncertainties effectively.

The closing session saw the adoption of the [Presidency Conclusions](#), which took note of the Charter on the Role of Parliaments in a Functioning Liberal Democracy put forward by Mr Karas, of the conclusions of the Summit of Women Speakers and the 'Joint declaration for more gender-sensitive parliaments', an initiative of the Speaker of the Belgian House of Representatives, Eliane Tillieux.

Main developments in 2024:

- Successful EUSC meeting and the adoption of Conclusions addressing, among other things, the strategic autonomy of the EU, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the conflict in the Middle East, the EU's new fiscal rules, the Economic and Monetary Union, economic, social and environmental challenge, parliamentary cooperation and the role of parliaments in democracy. The Conference was preceded by the Summit of Women Speakers, which adopted conclusions.

1.2 Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC)



COSAC was established in November 1989 in Paris. It is unique in that it is the only interparliamentary forum enshrined in the Treaties (Protocol No 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 establishing 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 (referred to as the 'permanent member').

The [Meeting of COSAC Chairpersons during the Belgian Presidency](#), hosted by the Belgian Federal Parliament, took place on 14 and 15 January 2024 in Namur. The first session focused on the priorities of the Belgian Presidency. Hadja Lahbib, Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade and Federal Cultural Institutions, outlined that the presidency's focus was to 'protect, strengthen and prepare'. In his keynote speech, MEP Guy Verhofstadt reiterated the call by the European Parliament to reform the EU Treaties in a convention, in line with the European Parliament resolution of 22 November 2023. The second session was dedicated to the European Pillar of Social Rights. The keynote speeches – delivered by Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the European Parliament, and Bea Cantillon, Professor Emeritus of sociology at the University of Antwerp – emphasised the importance of the European Pillar of Social Rights as a guide for a socially inclusive Europe, stressing the need for a sustainable market economy aligned with social cohesion. The third session looked at the future of the EU in the context of enlargement. Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Chair of the Committee on Ukraine's Integration into the European Union of the Verkhovna Rada, welcomed the December 2023 decision to open EU accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova. She recognised the potential for enlargement to benefit from amendments to the EU Treaties, but advised against making the accession of new Member States conditional on them adopting internal EU reforms. Ramona Coman, Professor of Political Science at the Université Libre de

Bruxelles (ULB), followed with a keynote address in which she emphasised that EU citizens supported EU enlargement and underscored the imperative for institutional reforms.



The heads of the European Parliament delegation, Salvatore de Meo, Chair of the AFCO Committee, and Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the European Parliament, during the Troika meeting preceding the LXXI COSAC Plenary meeting in Brussels. © Belgian Federal Parliament

The [LXXI COSAC Plenary meeting](#) organised by the Belgian Federal Parliament and hosted at the hemicycle of the European Parliament took place from 24 to 26 March 2024. Eliane Tillieux, Speaker of the Belgian House of Representatives and Gaëtan Van Goidsenhoven, Belgian Senator, Co-Chairs of the Belgian Federal Advisory Committee and of the COSAC meeting, welcomed the delegates. Othmar Karas delivered an opening address in which he called for unity in tackling current key challenges and underscored the importance of the June 2024 European elections. The first session was dedicated to a review of the 2019-2024 European Parliament term and prospects for the Council's strategic agenda for 2024-2029. Georges Gilkinet, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Mobility and Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Ukraine's Integration into the EU of the Verkhovna Rada, delivered keynote speeches. The debate touched on the key legislative initiatives undertaken in the past five years, as well as the consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the need to continue supporting Ukraine, including as regards its accession to the EU. The second session was an interactive debate on gender policy and the representation of women and men in parliament. Panellists – including Marie Colline Leroy, Belgian State Secretary for

Gender Equality, Equality Opportunities and Diversity, Latifa Gahouchi, Belgian Senator and Chair of the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for women and men, Agnes Hubert, Founding Member of Gender5+ and Professor at the College of Europe, and Maruša Gortnar, Head of Research and Policy Support Unit at the European Institute for Gender Equality – and parliamentarians discussed concrete policies and tools to address inequalities between men and women, as well as the need to fight the growing populist movements and narratives against gender equality and LGBTQIA+ rights.

The second day of the meeting began with a session entitled ‘Open Strategic Autonomy: competitiveness and resilience’, with keynote speeches from Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Thierry Breton, European Commissioner for the Internal Market, and Marek Hudon, Professor at Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management, ULB. The final session was devoted to the topic ‘Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe: the way ahead’, and began with a keynote address by Didier Reynders, European Commissioner for Justice. This was followed by an interactive session with experts – including Koen Lenaerts, President of the CJEU, Françoise Tulkens, Professor Emeritus at University College London and former judge and Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights, and Arnaud Van Waeyenberge, professor at HEC Paris and researcher at the Perelman Centre on the philosophy of law. The debate touched on topics such as the importance of the values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, the need for Member States to implement the decisions of the CJEU, the threats posed by attacks on the separation of powers and on the media, corruption, the integrity of electoral processes in the face of disinformation campaigns, and the rule of law as an essential criteria for EU accession. The plenary adopted the [contribution and conclusions of the LXXI COSAC](#).

The [meeting of COSAC Chairpersons during the Hungarian Presidency](#) took place in the Hungarian National Assembly in Budapest on 28 and 29 July 2024. The newly elected European Parliament was represented at the meeting by Vice-President Younous Omarjee. István Jakab, Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly, welcomed delegates and stressed the importance of interparliamentary cooperation given the role of national Parliaments as custodians of democracy and in ensuring compliance with the subsidiarity principle. The first session focused on the priorities of the Hungarian Presidency. In his keynote speech, János Bóka, Hungarian Minister for European Union Affairs, outlined the presidency’s priorities, including competitiveness, defence, EU enlargement, migration, cohesion, agricultural policies and demographic challenges. The second session was devoted to the state of play in the Western Balkan and eastern enlargements of the European Union. Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, delivered a keynote speech in which he presented the state of play regarding the 10 EU candidate countries and outlined the potential of the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans. Péter Sztáray, Hungary’s State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, noted that EU enlargement was a geostrategic imperative in the Western Balkans to

prevent other actors from gaining influence in the region, and stressed the importance of a merit-based enlargement process.



Younous Omarjee, Vice-President of the European Parliament, speaking during the meeting of COSAC Chairpersons in Budapest. © Hungarian National Assembly / Dávid Pólya-Pető

The [LXXII COSAC Plenary meeting](#), organised and hosted by the Hungarian National Assembly in Budapest, took place from 27 to 29 October 2024. László Kövér, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly, delivered a welcome address emphasising key topics for the Hungarian Presidency, including demographic challenges, migration and EU enlargement. This was followed by a first session dedicated to the programme and results of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, introduced by János Bóka, Hungarian Minister for European Union Affairs. The debate touched on various topics, including EU support for Ukraine and the need for EU unity in relation to Ukraine and Georgia, which was one of the most hotly debated. The second session was dedicated to the state of the EU in a year of institutional transition and the 15-year application of the Treaty of Lisbon. Maroš Šefčovič, Commission Vice-President for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight, delivered a video message. The various keynote speakers,

including Barna Pál Zsigmond, Hungarian State Secretary, Sven Simon, Chair of the AFCCO Committee of the European Parliament, and Alessandro Giglio Vigna, Chair of the EU Policies Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, presented contrasting views on the legitimacy of national and EU-level decisions and institutions. In the debate, the majority of the speakers called for European unity and for strengthening the role of national Parliaments in the European institutional architecture.



Esteban González Pons, Vice-President of the European Parliament, speaking at Troika meeting preceding the LXXII COSAC Plenary in Budapest. © Hungarian National Assembly / Dávid Pólya-Pető

The second day began with a debate on European demographic trends and responses at national and European levels. Zsófia Koncz, Hungarian State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Innovation, highlighted the various Hungarian Government policies in support of increasing rates of childbirth and promoting family values since 2010. The final session was devoted to European security and defence and began with an address by Esteban González Pons, Vice-President of the European Parliament, in which he called for a common European defence strategy that complements NATO and for cooperation and preparedness to counter both traditional military and hybrid threats. Péter András Sztáray, Hungarian State Secretary, highlighted NATO's crucial role in ensuring European defence and security, and called for increasing defence spending and strengthening Europe's defence. During the debate, interventions focused on increasing defence spending and promoting joint procurement and common projects to strengthen the industrial base. The Plenary adopted the [Contribution and Conclusions of the LXXII COSAC](#).

Main developments in 2024:

- The COSAC calendar was drawn up taking account of the Belgian and European elections in June. The meetings included engaging presentations and debates dealing with significant subjects such as EU enlargement, democracy and the rule of law, the EU's social pillar, gender policies, demographic trends and European security and defence, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

2. INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCES (IPCs)

2.1 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 the EU Parliaments in 2012, the [Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy](#) (CFSP/CSDP IPC) 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 Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) frequently invites national Parliaments to its meetings in Brussels, complementing interparliamentary dialogue in this vital policy area.

The [24th session of the CFSP/CSDP IPC](#) took place in Bruges from 3 to 5 March 2024. A total of 108 parliamentarians from EU national Parliaments attended the conference, together with 19 observers from EU candidate and potential candidate countries and non-EU NATO countries. The European Parliament delegation was composed of eight MEPs from the AFET Committee and its Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE), and was led by David McAllister, Chair of the AFET Committee.

Discussions centred on four main items:

- supporting Ukraine against Russian aggression;
- the ongoing enlargement process;
- the Strategic Compass and EU resilience;
- priorities of the CFSP/CSDP,

as well as an urgent debate on the situation in the Middle East.

The [24th CFSP/CSDP IPC adopted a Joint Statement by the Co-Chairs](#), stressed, among other messages, that the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as the volatile situation in the Middle East, continue to cause major geopolitical shifts. It also underlined that multilateralism was the only viable means to deal with monumental global challenges.

The [25th session of the CFSP/CSDP IPC](#) took place in Budapest on 9 and 10 September 2024 in the Hungarian National Assembly. A total of 110 parliamentarians from 36 national Parliaments (45 Chambers) of EU Member States, EU candidate and potential candidate countries and non-EU NATO countries attended the conference. The European Parliament delegation was composed of seven MEPs from the AFET Committee

and its SEDE Subcommittee and was led by David McAllister, Chair of the AFET Committee.



David McAllister, Chair of the AFET Committee of the European Parliament, delivering a speech during the 25th CFSP/CSDP conference in Budapest. © Hungarian National Assembly / Dávid Pólya-Pető

Discussions centred on four main items:

- the future of Europe and the countries wishing to join the EU;
- priorities and current issues of the CFSP/CSDP;
- protection of the external borders and illegal migration;
- geopolitical strategic shifts in the world.

An urgent debate was held on 'The implications of indiscriminate Russian attacks on the Ukrainian economy and infrastructure'.

The [25th IPC adopted a Joint Statement by the Co-Chairs](#) focused on three subjects reflecting the main topics discussed during the conference, namely: (i) the enlargement of the EU and the future of Europe, (ii) the current foreign, security and defence policy challenges in the world and (iii) protection of external borders and the political exploitation of migration.

Main developments in 2024:

- The IPC CFSP/CSDP in Budapest presented an opportunity for newly elected MEPs to get involved in the work of the IPC.
- Following the first in-person meeting of the informal CSDP Hub in Madrid in October 2023, two more meetings involving parliamentary staff specialised in security and defence matters took place in Bruges and in Budapest (see Section 6.7 for details).

2.2 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 (IPC SECG), 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 best practice in implementing the relevant provisions of Article 13 and for cooperation between EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament.

The European Semester Conference offers an opportunity to exchange information on best practice in implementing the European Semester cycles and to strengthen cooperation on scrutiny of the actions of executives at national and European levels.

Together they make up the 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.

The European Parliament, together with the Belgian Senate and Belgian House of Representatives, organised the 2024 EPW on 12 and 13 February 2024 in the European Parliament in Brussels.

The 13th EPW was attended by approximately 130 parliamentarians from 26 EU Member States, candidate and observer countries and the European Parliament. The opening session was co-chaired by Dita Charanzová, Vice-President of the European Parliament, and Eliane Tillieux, President of the Belgian House of Representatives. In their interventions, they both underlined the importance of interparliamentary cooperation, emphasising the 25th anniversary of the euro and advocating collaboration and solidarity in the functioning of the EU.

The key opening remarks were given by Charles Michel, President of the European Council. He advocated a European sovereignty that is open to the world, contributing to increased influence, resilience and reduced dependence. Mr Michel called for addressing challenges in the internal market, energy union, resource strategy, innovation and financing to enhance the EU's economic potential. Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis stressed the need to focus on enhancing European resilience, industrial policy, trade and security. A targeted strategy should involve financing, skills and smart regulation to strengthen the single market, promote innovation and address climate goals. Mr Dombrovskis also stressed the importance of deepening the economic and monetary union, the European banking union and the capital markets union for sustained growth and financial stability.



Dita Charanzová, Vice-President of the European Parliament, speaking at the EPW. © European Parliament

Three parallel ICMs took place after the opening plenary session:

- an ICM organised by the BUDG Committee: Session I: 'Lessons learned from NextGenerationEU: national and EU perspectives on how the EU budget can react in times of crisis' and Session II: 'The budget and the prospect of enlargement – options to reform the EU's financial, budgetary and regulatory resources';
- an ICM organised by the ECON Committee on the topic 'Euro@25: What's next for the EMU?';
- an ICM organised by the EMPL Committee: Session I: 'How to best promote social investment in the context of the EU's reviewed governance framework and fiscal rules?' and Session II: 'The role of upward social convergence in the context of diverging inflation, debt challenges and increased cost of living'.

The second day of the EPW featured the first plenary discussion, entitled 'Strategic Investments and Reforms in View of Enhancing the EU's Growth Potential', co-chaired by Othmar Karas First Vice-President of the European Parliament, and Mark Demesmaeker, President of the Transversal Affairs Committee of the Belgian Senate. During his keynote speech, Pierre Wunsch, Governor of the Belgian National Bank, expressed concern over the EU's perceived lag in investment, innovation and growth compared to the United States. He called for reallocating resources, fostering innovation and prioritising spending, particularly for climate transition, while avoiding over-reliance on financial aid alone.



Opening session of the EPW. © European Parliament

Speakers in the first panel included Jean-René Cazeneuve, General Rapporteur of the Finance Committee in the French National Assembly, Ingeborg Gräßle, Member of the Budget Committee of the German Bundestag, Céline Gauer, Director-General and Head of the Recovery and Resilience Task Force at the Commission, and Jeromin Zettelmeyer, Director of Bruegel. The debate looked at shifting from protectionism to an open market, addressing labour shortages through enhanced qualifications and using debt for strategic investments. Participants also highlighted the need for solidarity and effective implementation to maximise EU-level investment benefits.

The second plenary session was dedicated to the future of the EU single market and taxation and was co-chaired by Dita Charanzová and Marie Lecocq, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Finance and General Affairs of the Brussels Regional Parliament. In his keynote speech, Vincent van Peteghem, Belgian Minister of Finance and President of the ECOFIN Council, highlighted the EU's declining competitiveness in energy-intensive industries and modest innovation, stressing the need for public and private investment. He urged the new Commission and Parliament to advance fairer taxation legislation and create a European market that benefits its citizens. Speakers in the second panel included Christian Leysen, Chair of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Climate and deputy Member of the Committee of Finance and Budget of the Belgian House of Representatives, Mathias Tegnér, Member of the Committee on Taxation of the Swedish Riksdag, Zoltán Vajda, Chair of the Committee on the Budget of the Hungarian National Assembly, and Paul Tang, Chair of the Subcommittee on Tax Matters of the European Parliament.

Members of national Parliaments and the European Parliament, along with representatives from the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee, discussed deepening the single market, the negative effects of tax competition and the need to achieve a level playing field in EU taxation. They also addressed the challenges of

harmonising tax systems, considering each Member State's unique historical and social context, as well as the need for transparency in differentiated tax systems.

In the second half of the year, the [21st session of the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU](#) took place on 3 and 4 October 2024 in Budapest. The conference was attended by Members of Parliament from 22 EU countries, four MEPs and Members from eight candidate and potential candidate countries.



Group photo during the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (SECG) in Budapest. © Hungarian National Assembly / Dávid Pólya-Pető

The first session of the meeting focused on the competitive advantages of the emergence of electric cars in the EU and the required preparations for decision-making. The European Green Deal aims for climate neutrality by 2050, requiring significant reductions in CO₂ emissions, with the automotive sector playing a crucial role. Barriers such as limited charging infrastructure, high costs and competition from the US and China were highlighted. Hungary proposed solutions such as improving charging infrastructure, subsidising electric vehicle purchases and promoting battery recycling. Discussions emphasised the need for a strong EU industrial strategy, careful investment in mature technologies, consumer incentives, and leveraging nuclear energy to achieve carbon neutrality while avoiding undue burdens on citizens.

The second day opened with a session dedicated to the reform of the economic governance framework. Keynote interventions focused on the reformed Stability and Growth Pact, including sustainable public finances, gradual debt reduction and growth-

friendly policies, while addressing macroeconomic imbalances and emphasising national ownership of fiscal plans. Debates highlighted the challenges of fiscal discipline, the need for simplified rules, and maintaining a balance between budgetary discipline and economic sustainability. Members emphasised the importance of transparency, competitive industrial policies and addressing demographic challenges.

The third session dealt with the impact of the EU budget for cohesion policy on the MFF. Despite progress made by the EU's cohesion policy, socio-economic and demographic disparities persist, particularly between metropolitan and less developed regions. Key interventions emphasised the policy's role in promoting sustainable regional development and the need to address emerging challenges in areas such as health, migration and digital transformation. Calls were made for simplification, flexibility and transparency in implementation, with a focus on supporting young people and readiness for future enlargements in the next financial framework.

These discussions were to be continued at the next EPW that was held in Brussels on 17 and 18 February 2025 during the Polish Council Presidency.

Main developments in 2024:

- Across multiple sessions, participants emphasised the need to strengthen EU competitiveness through strategic investment in innovation, sustainability and key sectors such as electric vehicles and green technologies. Discussions underscored addressing regulatory burdens, fostering industrial strategies, and ensuring transparency in fiscal and cohesion policies to enhance the EU's global standing and economic resilience.
- The EU's cohesion policy and economic governance reforms were highlighted as essential tools to reduce regional disparities, promote sustainable growth and tackle demographic challenges. Simplification, flexibility and targeted investment in areas such as young people, digital transformation and green transitions were recommended to ensure inclusivity and prepare for future enlargements.

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

3.1 Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol



Article 88 TFEU allows national Parliaments, jointly with the European Parliament, to scrutinise Europol's activities. On the basis of the [Europol Regulation \(2016/794\)](#), 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 amended, 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 terrorism and serious and organised crime. 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 [14th meeting of the JPSG on Europol](#) took place on 18 and 19 February 2024. It was co-chaired by the Belgian Parliament and the European Parliament and hosted by the Belgian Parliament in Ghent.

The agenda included contributions by the Executive Director of Europol, Catherine De Bolle, and a keynote speech by Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs, on the fight against organised crime and terrorism, and the new mandate for Europol aimed at making the agency ready for its new challenges and tasks.

The JPSG also heard a presentation from the European Data Protection Supervisor, Wojciech Wiewiórowski. Two thematic debates with EU and national experts took place on illegal weapons trafficking and the fight against human trafficking.



Speakers from the JPSG on Europol in Ghent. © Belgian Federal Parliament

The [15th meeting of the JPSG on Europol](#) took place on 12 November 2024 at the European Parliament in Brussels. It was co-organised and co-chaired by the European Parliament and the Hungarian National Assembly.

The meeting tackled a number of issues directly connected with the JPSG's mandate, with presentations by Catherine De Bolle, Europol Executive Director, Peter De Buysscher, Chair of the Europol Management Board, and Wojciech Wiewiórowski, the European Data Protection Supervisor. During the meeting, views were exchanged between Europol's Data Protection Officer and Fundamental Rights Officer.

The agenda included two sessions on scrutiny. The first was entitled 'The need to prevent security threats like the Solingen attack through addressing illegal migration' and the second 'The fight against cybercrime, in particular crimes using Artificial Intelligence; possibilities of knowledge sharing involving CEPOL'. A specific agenda point was also dedicated to an update on Europol activities linked to the war in Ukraine.

The JPSG was consulted on Europol's Multiannual Programming Document 2025-2027; during her intervention the Executive Director of Europol reacted to written comments received.

Main developments in 2024:

- Revision of the JPSG Rules of Procedure, with the addition of provisions on the establishment of a consultative forum on fundamental rights, in order to comply with the revised Europol Regulation;
- Launch of two calls for expression of interest for potential members of the JPSG consultative forum on fundamental rights;
- Consolidation of the practice of holding sessions on scrutiny and of 'Question Time' with the Executive Director, who replied individually to each question.

3.2 Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the evaluation of Eurojust

Since its creation in 2002, Eurojust has become a central player in judicial cooperation on criminal matters.

In line with Article 85 TFEU, the EU regulations governing Eurojust 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 Eurojust (2018/1727) 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 (point 62 of its preamble and Article 67) provides for a mechanism for the joint evaluation of Eurojust's activities by the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments. 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 [fifth annual ICM on the evaluation of Eurojust's activities](#) took place on 2 December 2024 on the European Parliament's premises in Brussels. It was co-chaired by Javier Zarzalejos, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the European Parliament and László Vigh, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Justice of the Hungarian National Assembly.

A presentation by Michael Schmid, newly elected President of Eurojust, on Eurojust's annual report and future perspectives, was followed by an in-depth exchange of views between delegates.



Participants during the ICM on the evaluation of Eurojust's activities.

© European Parliament

Moreover, organised crime was also discussed during the meeting, in particular drug trafficking. This is one of the most serious security threats facing Europe today, with an unprecedented increase in illicit drugs available in Europe, and it was therefore one of the main crimes the Eurojust agency dealt with last year.

Finally, as a consequence of the ongoing war in Ukraine, the agency's responses to the war was the third main focus of the ICM.

Main developments in 2024:

- Broad and continuous scrutiny effort by MEPs and Members of national Parliaments with a particular emphasis on Eurojust's performance, its challenging fight against cross-border crime and its support for Ukraine.
- Renewed commitment also by new MEPs to oversee and scrutinise the agency's activities during an annual ICM.

3.3 Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on e-justice



Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Chair of the JURI Committee, speaking at the ICM on e-justice: lessons learned from national perspectives, held in Brussels. © European parliament

The JURI Committee organised an [ICM entitled 'E-justice: lessons learned from national perspectives'](#), held in Brussels on 4 December 2024. The meeting was opened by Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Chair of the JURI Committee, who stressed the crucial role of digitalisation in enhancing justice systems across the EU. Furthermore, the keynote speaker Nils Behrmdt, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers at the Commission, stressed the need for sustained EU funding to advance digital tools, AI integration and cross-border court digitalisation, while addressing disparities among Member States and promoting efficient, transparent and impartial justice systems. All of these topics were subsequently raised during the debate. The first session focused on Estonia's leading role in digitalising justice through its advanced Court Information System, which includes AI-powered initiatives for anonymising court publications, transcribing hearings and analysing legal data. The discussions with MEPs centred on security concerns, citizens' rights and the need for stakeholder-driven reforms to achieve a fully digital EU in justice systems. The second session explored the challenges and opportunities of digital transformation in justice. The main conclusions were that harmonised and cooperative efforts among the EU Member States are essential for the efficient digitalisation of justice, addressing disparities in progress and digital literacy. While digital tools and AI can enhance transparency, efficiency and cross-border cooperation, the human-centred nature of adjudication needs to be preserved. Finally, robust safeguards are

crucial to protect personal data and fundamental rights, ensuring trust and balance in the digital transformation of justice systems.

4. INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND BILATERAL VISITS

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 No 1 to the Treaties. The calendar of ICMs is sent by the President of the European Parliament to the Speakers of all national Parliaments each semester.

The committees of the European Parliament regularly organise ICMs inviting the corresponding committees of the EU national Parliaments to engage in focused debates. ICMs have proven to be a valuable way for MEPs to share views with their national counterparts. ICMs are not only a forum for exchange on legislative issues, thereby contributing to better lawmaking, 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 at the initiative of one or more European Parliament committees with the support of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments.

In 2024, seven ICMs were organised by six different European Parliament committees with the support of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments. A total of 272 Members of national Parliaments and 108 Members of the European Parliament participated in these debates. Despite the electoral break around the European elections, seven ICMs were organised in 2024 (compared to 17 ICMs in 2023), involving six European Parliament Committees (14 committees were involved in 2023). All the ICMs organised in 2024 were held in person.

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 the 2024 European Parliamentary Week (EPW). They together constituted the European Semester Conference and provided an opportunity to exchange information on best practice in implementing the European Semester cycles and to strengthen cooperation on the scrutiny of the actions of the national and European executives. More information about the EPW is available in Chapter 2.2.

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) organised an [ICM on 'Women in Sport'](#), held in the European Parliament in Brussels on 7 March 2024, on the occasion of International Women's Day. The purpose of the meeting, against the backdrop of the Paris Olympic Games, was to highlight the role of women in sport in Europe making progress toward gender equality, both in terms of fighting inequalities and by providing inspiration and role models. Robert Biedroń, Chair of the European Parliament's FEMM

Committee, and Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament (via video-message) opened the meeting. Experts and representatives from national Parliaments shared their views and underscored the urgent need for gender equality and robust measures against abuse in sports. Key speakers called for legislative reform, equal opportunities and greater female representation in leadership roles. They emphasised collective efforts, media responsibility and international cooperation. The discussions highlighted persistent challenges such as pay gaps, funding disparities and gender-based violence, stressing the need for strong policies to create an inclusive and safe sporting environment.



Roberta Metsola delivers a video-message at the opening of the FEMM Committee ICM on Women in Sport. © European Parliament

The JURI Committee organised an [ICM entitled 'E-justice: lessons learned from national perspectives'](#), held in Brussels on 4 December 2024 (see meeting details in Section 3.3).

On 12 December 2024, the LIBE Committee held its [annual ICM entitled 'The situation of the rule of law in the EU'](#). The ICM focused on the assessment of the fifth Commission rule of law report with a specific emphasis on the 'Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights' mechanism and the role that civil society organisations can play in protecting the rule of law. The first session emphasised that strengthening the rule of law in the EU required the systematic enforcement of current tools, rather than the creation of new ones, with a particular focus on political will and timely action. Ensuring judicial independence, protecting democratic resilience and safeguarding fundamental rights are central, alongside addressing emerging challenges such as digital media regulation, foreign interference and disinformation, all supported by objective indicators, constant monitoring and smart

conditionality linked to EU funding. The second session mainly emphasised that protecting civil society and fundamental rights was essential for maintaining democratic resilience in the EU. Key priorities include establishing a European monitoring mechanism for civic space, safeguarding the right to peaceful protest and ensuring cooperation between civil society, Parliaments and justice systems to uphold the rule of law, especially in the face of increasing restrictions, stigmatisation and political interference.



Javier Zarzalejos, Chair of the LIBE Committee, speaking at the ICM on the situation of the rule of law in the EU, held in Brussels. © European Parliament

A list of the ICMs organised by European Parliament committees in 2024 and more detailed statistics can be found in Annex II.

Main developments in 2024:

- Seven ICMs were organised in 2024 with lively debates, numerous interventions and many more discussions than previous years.
- Participation by MEPs appeared to increase with the new legislative term, while the participation of Members of national Parliaments largely remained stable.

4.2 Third Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform

The International Crimea Platform was established in the summer of 2021 at the initiative of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and aims to bring together and coordinate all national and international efforts to de-occupy the Crimean Peninsula. The platform serves as a coordinating and consultative forum for government representatives, Members of Parliaments and leading experts and focuses on five priority areas: the politics of non-recognition; sanctions; human rights; security and freedom of navigation; and the economic and environmental consequences of Russia's temporary occupation of the Crimean Peninsula. It also aims to raise international awareness of Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its consequences, including human rights violations and oppression in Crimea.

The objective of the parliamentary summit is to raise awareness among world leaders and the general public about the illegitimate Russian occupation of Crimea and its negative impact on the human rights of the local population, on security in the Black Sea region, on global food security and on the rules-based international order. The European Parliament's participation in the conference is supported by the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments (DG PART) together with the Directorate-General for External Policies (DG EXPO).

The [third Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform](#) was held on 23 and 24 October 2024 in Riga, Latvia. Daiga Mierna, Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, chaired the meeting, which was organised by the Latvian Parliament in close cooperation with the Parliament of Ukraine. The summit was attended by delegations from more than 60 parliaments.

At this third summit, European Parliament Vice-President Roberts Zīle represented the European Parliament on behalf of President Metsola. He forcefully underlined Parliament's support for Ukraine and underscored that Russian aggression must not prevail. He also warned of the possible negative impact of war fatigue as a threat to the support that Ukraine needs in the war.

During the discussions, a recurring theme among speakers and Members of Parliaments was the need to reaffirm and continue the unwavering support for Ukraine in the war of aggression waged against it by Russia. Various participants applauded Ukrainians for their courage and determination, while committing, to varying degrees, to provide Ukraine with the resources needed for the war. Participants also highlighted the global impact of Russia's aggression and their commitment to continuing to tell the truth about Russian crimes at international level. Finally, the summit included a series of events in support of Ukraine, including human rights discussions and a screening of the documentary *The True History of Crimea*, among other events.



European Parliament Vice-President Roberts Zīle, speaking at the Third Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform in Riga. © Saeima / Reinis Inkēns

The summit ended with the adoption of a joint declaration by the participants.

Main developments in 2024:

- The Third Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform reiterated its condemnation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine and advocated enhanced international support for Ukraine and the re-establishment of the 1991 international borders.

4.3 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 specific 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 2024, 33 visits from national Parliaments took place, compared to 50 the year before – the first year in which in-person bilateral visits and exchanges returned to normal following the COVID-19 pandemic. This smaller number is explained by the electoral break around the European elections.

The visits were both political – by Members of Parliaments – and administrative – including at the level of Secretaries-General. National parliamentarians exchanged views with their counterparts from the corresponding European Parliament committees, particularly in the field of internal policies. Staff visits brought together officials from various services, including but not limited to committee secretariats and research services.

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

Main developments in 2024:

- Despite the electoral break, 33 visits from national Parliaments took place in 2024.

5. LEGISLATIVE COOPERATION WITH EU NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

In 2024, a total of 269 submissions from EU national Parliaments were received by the European Parliament: 155 (57 %) were submitted within the framework of the Protocol No 2 subsidiarity checks (Section 5.1), and 114 (43 %) under the Informal Political Dialogue (Protocol No 1) (Section 5.2).

5.1 Early Warning System and Protocol No 2 to the Treaties

Under the principle of subsidiarity (enshrined in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union), in areas that do not fall within its exclusive competence, the Union must act only if, and insofar 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 No 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 establishes 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 a reasoned opinion to the Presidents of the Institutions outlining 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 categories:

1. Reasoned opinion: if submitted under this heading, raising the issue of non-compliance with the principle of subsidiarity, and received within the eight-week deadline referred to in Article 6 of Protocol No 2 to the Treaties.
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 procedure). 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

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maintain, change or withdraw it (orange card procedure). If it decides to maintain its proposal, the matter is referred to the co-legislators (the European Parliament and the Council) and the Commission must justify its decision. If the co-legislators consider 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 times since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, while the orange card procedure has never been triggered.

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

Gilles Lebreton (ID) was the European Parliament standing rapporteur for subsidiarity during the first half of 2024, followed by Ton Diepeveen (PvE) for the second half of the year. Additionally, the JURI Committee regularly prepares a report on the Commission's annual report on subsidiarity and proportionality. The most recent one was adopted as a European Parliament [resolution on 23 November 2023](#).

5.1.2 EU national Parliaments' submissions under Protocol No 2

In 2024, the European Parliament formally received 155 submissions from national Parliaments under Protocol No 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. Of these submissions, 14 (10 %) were reasoned opinions and 141 (90 %) contributions (i.e. submissions not raising concerns about subsidiarity).

By comparison, in 2023 there were 294 submissions, of which 19 were reasoned opinions and 275 contributions.

In 2024, eight chambers out of 39 submitted reasoned opinions and 17 submitted contributions. See detailed statistics for 2024 in Annex IV.

Number of reasoned opinions received from EU national Parliaments under Protocol No 2 in 2024 – by Parliament/Chamber

Member State	Parliament/Chamber	Number of reasoned opinions	
Sweden	Riksdag	6	
France	Sénat	2	
Ireland	Houses of the Oireachtas	2	
Italy	Camera dei Deputati	1	
Czechia	Poslanecká sněmovna	1	
Hungary	Országgyűlés	1	
Malta	Kamra tar-Rappreżentanti	1	

The most active Parliament/Chamber was the Swedish Parliament, sending six reasoned opinions. The French Senate and the Irish Houses of the Oireachtas each sent two reasoned opinions. All other Parliaments/Chambers in the table submitted one reasoned opinion each.

**Number of contributions received from EU national Parliaments under Protocol No 2
in 2024 – by Parliament/Chamber**

Member State	Parliament/Chamber	Number of contributions
Italy	Camera dei Deputati	25
Spain	Congreso de los Diputados / Senado (Cortes)	21
Czechia	Senát	14
France	Sénat	14
Italy	Senato della Repubblica	14
Czechia	Poslanecká sněmovna	12
Romania	Senat	10
Germany	Bundesrat	8
Portugal	Assembleia da República	6
The Netherlands	Eerste Kamer	5
Ireland	Houses of the Oireachtas	3
Romania	Camera deputatilor	3
Malta	Kamra tar-Rappreżentanti	2
Belgium	Senaat /Sénat	1
France	Assemblée Nationale	1
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon	1
Poland	Senat	1

As for contributions, the most active Parliaments/Chambers were the Italian Chamber of Deputies (25), the Spanish Parliament (21) and the Czech Senate, French Senate and Italian Senate (14 each).

Number of reasoned opinions from EU national Parliaments under Protocol 2 in 2024 – by committee

Committee	Reasoned opinions
ECON	4
LIBE	2
IMCO	2
AGRI	1
EMPL	1
ENVI	1
ITRE	1
REGI	1
TRAN	1

The committee that received the most reasoned opinions in 2024 was the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), with four reasoned opinions. The Committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) received two reasoned opinions each.

Number of contributions from EU national Parliaments under Protocol No 2 in 2024 – by committee

Committee	Contributions
LIBE	37
ENVI	21
IMCO	15
AGRI	14
ECON	13
EMPL	13
ITRE	9
TRAN	7
INTA	5
REGI	5
BUDG	2

The largest number of contributions was received by the LIBE Committee (37), followed by the Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety (ENVI) (21), and the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) (15).

Since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009, 1 343 draft legislative acts have been transmitted to national Parliaments for examination under the terms of Protocol No 2 to the Treaty of Lisbon.

In response, the European Parliament has received 4 399 submissions from national Parliaments. Of these, 578 (13 %) were reasoned opinions while the remaining 3 821 (87 %) were contributions.

As in previous years, the statistics show that a large majority of the submissions were contributions that did not raise concerns about subsidiarity. This demonstrates that EU national Parliaments use Protocol No 2 to express their concerns and opinions on the substance of proposals, rather than to raise the issue of non-compliance with the subsidiarity principle. Thus, the early warning mechanism is used primarily as a tool for legislative dialogue with the EU co-legislators and could reflect the wish of EU national Parliaments to be more closely involved in the substantive legislative process.

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments ensures that all submissions transmitted by national Parliaments are available to Members, political bodies and European Parliament services. The Directorate provides them, in particular rapporteurs, with specific expertise and summary briefings on EU national Parliaments' submissions throughout the legislative cycle, which are 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 and manages the [CONNECT database](#), which contains all the reasoned opinions and contributions received by the European Parliament from national Parliaments.

Main developments in 2024:

- The number of submissions from national Parliaments decreased from 294 in 2023 to 155 in 2024 due to the European elections and change of legislature, which resulted in fewer proposals for new legislation.

5.1.3 Monthly State of Play Note

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments produces a monthly [State of Play Note](#) on reasoned opinions and contributions submitted under Protocol No 2. This note, transmitted to Members and the relevant services of the European Parliament, EU institutions and national Parliaments, gives an overview of all submissions received since the previous note and refers to all legislative files that are on the agenda of the upcoming European Parliament plenary session.

The note is included in the meeting file for the European Parliament's Conference of Committee Chairs. It is also published on the Directorate's website ahead of each European Parliament plenary session.

5.2 Informal political dialogue and Protocol No 1 to the Treaties

Protocol No 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 those relating to ongoing debates at EU level and Commission green/white papers or communications. These contributions are handled under the informal political dialogue (IPD).

In 2024, EU national Parliaments continued to make active use of this tool, sending in 114 contributions under the IPD, compared to 132 in 2023. Detailed statistics on the contributions received under the IPD in 2024 are available in Annex V.

Contributions under the IPD in 2024 – by Parliament/Chamber

Member State	Parliament/Chamber	Number of contributions
Romania	Camera deputatilor	39
Germany	Bundesrat	12
Czechia	Poslanecká sněmovna	10
France	Sénat	8
Romania	Senat	8
Belgium	Senaat / Sénat	7
Czechia	Senát	7
Italy	Camera dei Deputati	6
Netherlands	Eerste Kamer	6
France	Assemblée nationale	5
Ireland	House-of-Oireachtas	2
Croatia	Hrvatski sabor	1
Italy	Senato della Repubblica	1
Luxembourg	Chambre des Députés	1
Netherlands	Tweede Kamer	1

In 2024, 15 Chambers from 10 Member States sent contributions; the three most active Chambers were the Romanian Chamber of Deputies (39), the German Bundesrat (12) and the Czech Chamber of Deputies (10)¹.

¹ These statistics reflect the contributions formally received by the European Parliament; they may differ from the numbers presented by other EU institutions.

Contributions under the IPD in 2024 – by committee

Committee	Contributions
ITRE	21
LIBE	19
ENVI	12
AFET	9
CULT	8
AFCO	7
ECON	5
EMPL	4
INTA	4
JURI	4
PECH	2
AGRI	1
BUDG	1
DEVE	1
IMCO/ITRE	1
REGI	1
TRAN	1
OWN	13

The three committees that received the most IPD contributions were the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) (21), the LIBE Committee (19), and the ENVI Committee (12). 'OWN' refers to a submission by a national Parliament that was not addressed to any specific European Parliament committee.

Since 2009, the European Parliament has received around 3 056 contributions from national Parliaments under Protocol No 1. These contributions have also been published in the CONNECT database.

Main developments in 2024:

- The number of contributions submitted under the IPD decreased by around 15 % – from 132 in 2023 to 114 – due to the European elections and change of legislature, which resulted in fewer proposals for new legislation.

5.3 Rapporteurs' dialogue

In recent years, national Parliaments have expressed their interest in engaging in the EU legislative process from an early stage, and notably in intensifying contacts with European Parliament rapporteurs. In response to this request, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments has begun organising rapporteurs' dialogues.

This new type of interparliamentary activity enables a shift from occasional contacts to a more structured dialogue on a voluntary basis among European Parliament and national Parliament rapporteurs early on in the legislative process. It serves as a two-way information channel to receive the opinions and views of the national rapporteurs and to inform national Parliaments about the position of the European Parliament's rapporteur. This could further allow for national Parliaments' positions to be integrated in a more timely and frequent manner, if taken on board by the European Parliament rapporteur.

Following the success of the first rapporteurs' dialogue in 2023, the second rapporteur's dialogue was organised on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Soil Monitoring and Resilience (Soil Monitoring Law) on 30 January 2024. Around 40 Members of national Parliaments from 12 EU Member States and Norway participated in the discussions. The meeting was very well received and stimulated dialogue between Members of national Parliaments and the European Parliament rapporteur Martin Hojsík who offered an overview of the draft report, highlighting the critical need for a European framework for soil, pointing out the absence of a cohesive approach. He underscored the urgency by outlining the annual costs associated with the loss of healthy soil. He stated that the report advocated bottom-up, rather than top-down EU legislation and a nuanced assessment of soil health, adapting it to different soils and encouraging cross-border collaboration. Members of national Parliaments expressed their hopes and expectations and explained their current national practices.

The second rapporteur's dialogue once again provided a forum for exchanges on the substantive matter of the legislative proposal and was a source of information for the expected development of the upcoming legislative procedure.

Main developments in 2024:

- The second rapporteurs' dialogue confirmed the potential of this type of interparliamentary exchange. This type of activity could be increased in the coming years, allowing for more dialogues on priority legislative files.
- Further developments could promote wider participation from a linguistic point of view, using remote participation with simultaneous interpretation (the first two rapporteurs' dialogues were conducted only in English).

6. NETWORKS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

6.1 Meetings of the Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments (EUSG)

The meeting of the Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments (EUSG) is an annual forum attended by the Secretaries-General of the EU national Parliaments, the Secretary-General of the European Parliament and the Secretaries-General of the candidate country parliaments.

The aim of this meeting is to prepare the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments (EUSC). It usually takes place between January and February.

During the EUSG meeting, participants discuss the draft agenda for the EUSC and current topics related to the work of national Parliaments, including IPEX. Secretaries-General are the highest governing body of IPEX and they adopt the IPEX Annual Report and Conclusions. The EUSG holds a debate on one or two topical issues formally linked to parliamentary administration.

EUSG meetings are prepared and chaired by the Secretary-General of the Parliament that holds the presidency of the Conference of Speakers.

The EUSG meeting hosted by the Spanish Congress of Deputies and the Spanish Senate took place in Madrid on 29 January 2024. The European Parliament was represented by Secretary-General Alessandro Chiocchetti, who gave a keynote speech during the second session.

The first session of the meeting was dedicated to the presentation of the Conference of Speakers of the EU programme (held in Mallorca in April 2024). At the initiative of European Parliament Vice-President Karas, who would replace President Metsola as the European Parliament representative at the EUSC, a 'Charter on the Role of Parliaments in a Functioning Liberal Democracy' was to be adopted with the conclusions of the Speakers' Conference.

The second session revolved around the topic of the European elections (6 to 9 June 2024). It featured a keynote speech by Alessandro Chiocchetti, Secretary-General of the European Parliament, who highlighted the challenges of the current legislative term, while mentioning the increasing visibility of the European Parliament among voters, as indicated by the opinion polls. During the debate, several Secretaries-General explained how the European elections would be run in their countries and described the factors that would influence voting behaviour in their national contexts.



Group photo during the Meeting of the Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments, hosted by the Spanish Presidency in Madrid on 29 January 2024. © Spanish Parliament / Povedano

The third session was devoted to the IPEX platform for exchange of information and documentation on EU interparliamentary cooperation. The IPEX annual report and the IPEX conclusions were presented by the IPEX chairs. The main development was the achievement of the Rolling Work Programme for 2021-2023 and the establishment of a new programme for 2024-2026.

The fourth and final session covered topics related to the status of the European video conferencing system project. The Bundestag Secretary-General, Michael Schäfer, introduced the project, and European Parliament Secretary-General Alessandro Chiocchetti outlined the current state of preparations for the first ever tendering process to cover services for all EU Parliaments, led by the European Parliament and the German Bundestag (for further information on the project, see section 7.1).

Informal meeting of the Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments

The first informal meeting of the Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments was held at the invitation of European Parliament Secretary-General, Alessandro Chiocchetti, and took place in Brussels on 18 November 2024.

The meeting aimed to address the numerous daily challenges parliaments face in the areas of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence (AI). It provided a valuable platform for dialogue, enabling an exchange of insights and best practice among representatives of 33 EU parliamentary chambers and the European Parliament.

The first session focused on the critical importance of cooperation, awareness and adaptability in addressing cybersecurity threats. Keynote speeches were delivered by György Such, Secretary-General of the Hungarian National Assembly, followed by Daniel Guspan, Secretary-General of the Slovak National Council, and Alexis Wintoniak, Deputy Secretary-General of the Austrian Parliament. A debate on the topics presented followed the session.

The second session was dedicated to AI in Parliaments, with four keynote speeches from Laurent Scheeck, Secretary-General of Luxembourg's Chamber of Deputies, Michael Schäfer, Secretary-General of the German Bundestag, Uršula Zore Tavčar, Secretary-General of the Slovenian Parliament and Fabrizio Castaldi, Secretary-General of the Italian Chamber of Deputies. The debate focused on enhancing security and leveraging AI tools for scrutiny, with participants emphasising the importance of balancing efficiency with confidentiality.



Group photo during the informal Meeting of the Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments hosted by the Secretary-General of the European Parliament in Brussels on 18 November 2024. © European Parliament

Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, delivered the closing remarks and highlighted the vital role of interparliamentary dialogue in strengthening democracy. She underscored the ongoing fight against misinformation as a critical challenge for modern EU Member States and emphasised the transformative potential of AI in addressing governance issues.

Main developments in 2024:

- Successful meeting of the EU Secretaries-General with the main development being the achievement of the IPEX Rolling Work Programme for 2021-2023 and the establishment of a new programme for 2024-2026.
- Productive first informal meeting of the Secretaries-General took place in Brussels at the initiative of European Parliament Secretary-General, Alessandro Chiocchetti, on the topical issue of addressing challenges in parliamentary work with the use of AI tools.
- Due to the success of the first informal meeting of the Secretaries-General, the Polish Presidency offered to host the next meeting in 2025.

6.2 Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange (IPEX)



The InterParliamentary EU information eXchange (IPEX) supports interparliamentary cooperation by providing a platform and 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 developed with the technical assistance of the European Parliament. Today, 39 chambers of 27 national Parliaments and the European Parliament use IPEX in their daily activities. IPEX is subject to continual improvement to meet the evolving needs of its users. It is turning into an effective platform for information exchange and evolving into a unique 'one-stop shop' for information on EU interparliamentary cooperation.

Various terms have been used to characterise IPEX such as a 'tool', a 'platform' and a 'network'. These three definitions show how the instrument has evolved. Its transformation from a tool to a network has been slow, but it is now achieving its aim.

The current IPEX Rolling Work Programme 2024-2026 was adopted by the IPEX Board on 19 January 2024. After its approval, the Spanish Chairship focused on the first phase in the work programme's implementation. To this end, the IPEX Board established four working groups, each with its own action plan. The following four working groups established in relation to the work programme have been active during the Spanish Chairship:

1. Working Group on the Update of IPEX v3 system;
2. Working Group on Content and IPEX Network;
3. Working Group on Training;
4. Working Group on Promotion and Social Media.

Working Group on the Update of IPEX v3 system

The successful launch of IPEX v3 included a new website and a new document-based digital archiving system. However, further improvement or fine-tuning of IPEX v3 is an ongoing process. This working group strived to ensure not only that the website runs properly and smoothly, including the resolution of any technical issues, but also that IPEX v3 is further improved, reflecting the latest technological developments. More emphasis could also be placed on promoting the automatic upload of information to IPEX by national Parliaments, which could help national Parliaments to reduce the workload associated with uploading information to IPEX.

Working Group on Content and IPEX Network

The Working Group on Content and IPEX Networks' main purpose has been to review existing content and support the development of new content. This includes exploring the use of IPEX by EU interparliamentary networks. The working group has focused on three main actions: refining existing content on the IPEX website; evaluating new content proposals and working with the Working Group on Update of the IPEX V3 System to implement them; and the further development of the IPEX network, including evaluating how the current interparliamentary network uses the IPEX website, such as the Democracy Support Network, and exploring what other EU interparliamentary networks could make use of the IPEX website.

Working Group on Training

Dedicated and trained correspondents are a prerequisite for ensuring IPEX fulfils its core mission as a platform for the exchange of information between Parliaments. The launch of IPEX v3 led to the creation of completely new training materials that reflect the platform's new functions. As the further development and fine-tuning of IPEX v3 is an ongoing process, the implementation of the work programme 2024-2026 for this working group focused on updating existing training materials and preparing completely new material that reflects the needs of users/correspondents, as well as new methods for the delivery of training.

Working Group on Promotion and Social Media

The launch of IPEX v3 resulted in technical and visual improvements that had a positive impact on the activities of users who regularly consult IPEX for their work. The work programme 2024-2026 focused, in the framework of this working group, on the further promotion and strengthening of IPEX's search engine visibility and social media presence to broaden its audience. In parallel, the potential of engagement with the identified influencers (e.g. EU institutions, academics, research organisations, news agencies) who can spread the word about IPEX was also explored. The production of promotional material should continue and, where possible, new types of promotional material should be considered.

Main developments in 2024:

The Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments adopted **conclusions on IPEX** at their meeting on 29 January 2024 in Madrid. The IPEX conclusions:

- recognise IPEX as a unique platform that fosters interparliamentary cooperation and provides a wide range of EU-related information, and appreciate the efforts put into the development of IPEX v3;
- acknowledge the new Rolling Work Programme for 2024-2026 adopted by the Board on 19 January 2024 and believe that the new work programme will support the smooth transformation of IPEX v3 into a reliable one-stop shop for EU-related matters in the context of interparliamentary cooperation;

- thank the European Parliament for providing financial and human resources for the development and operation of the IPEX v3 website;
- welcome the ongoing cooperation between IPEX and the Democracy Support Network (DSN) and call on national Parliaments to actively share information on democracy support activities through the IPEX platform and the DSN.

The Secretaries-General IPEX conclusions were welcomed in the Presidency conclusions adopted at the EUCS meeting in Palma (see section 1.1).

The following meetings were held during the **Spanish Chairship of the IPEX Board**:

- Three IPEX Board meetings on 20 June 2024, 17 and 18 October 2024, and 23 January 2025, two as videoconference and one as an in-person meeting in Brussels;
- The annual IPEX Correspondents' meeting on 7 and 8 November 2024 in Madrid;
- Working group meetings, held as videoconferences and in-person meetings.

Following the order of the presidencies, the Hungarian Parliament took over the Chairship of IPEX from the Spanish Parliament at the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments in May 2025.

6.3 European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD)

Managed jointly by the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the [European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation \(ECPRD\)](#) includes 64 parliamentary chambers (including 39 in the EU) from 53 countries.

Just under 120 correspondents and deputy correspondents represent their respective Parliaments in the network and contribute to the main objectives of the ECPRD, which are to promote the exchange of information and good practice on subjects of common interest. The ECPRD promotes cooperation between member chambers through the launch of ECPRD comparative requests and the organisation of seminars.

On 1 September 2024, the European Parliament appointed Leticia Zuleta de Reales Ansaldo as the new ECPRD Co-Director for the European Parliament.

The two pillars of the ECPRD's activities are comparative requests and seminars.

6.3.1. Comparative requests

After years of rapid growth, the number of ECPRD comparative requests decreased in 2024, easing some of the pressure on parliamentary correspondents. ECPRD member Parliaments submitted 288 comparative requests to the network (compared to 326 requests in 2020, 356 in 2021, 342 in 2022 and 388 in 2023). This generated 8 214 responses.

2024 showcased emerging topics such as the application of AI in parliamentary work – real-time translation, generative AI for reports and regulatory frameworks for chatbots. Other significant themes included transparency, security of parliamentary infrastructure and officials, environmental protection, health policies, social rights, and technological innovations in data visualisation. These trends reflect the growing attention paid to technology integration, transparency and rights protection in European parliaments.

288 ECPRD comparative requests submitted in 2024

Committee	Comparative requests
January	33
February	41
March	26
April	22
May	12
June	21
July	21
August	17
September	21
October	28
November	32
December	14

8 214 ECPRD replies sent in 2024

Committee	Replies
January	878
February	958
March	1136
April	605
May	358
June	345
July	566
August	510
September	747
October	731
November	772
December	608

European Parliament participation

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments further aided European Parliament services by facilitating and transmitting their requests to the ECPRD network. In 2024, the European Parliament submitted seven requests, maintaining the same number as in 2023, but down from 16 in 2022.

The European Parliament responded to 67 incoming requests, showing a slight improvement in the response rate, which increased from 94.6 % in 2023 to 95.6 % in 2024. It is nevertheless important to keep in mind that the European Parliament does not respond to all requests, as some of them fall outside the EU's competence.

6.3.2. Final summaries

In 2023, a total of 119 final summaries were uploaded to the ECPRD website.

Final summaries that analyse responses to ECPRD requests are the most effective way to showcase and share the vast amount of information circulating within the network. Despite earlier improvements, the publication rate of final summaries fell to 38.2 % in 2024, reversing a positive trend in the rate, which had reached 44.5 % in 2023. Efforts to encourage the drafting of final summaries remain crucial to enhancing the network's information-sharing capacity.

6.3.3. Statutory meetings

Three Executive Committee meetings were held in 2024. Two were held remotely, while the in-person session was hosted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 17 June 2024. Key outcomes of the meeting included finalising the updated guidelines to enhance request quality and response management, as well as new guidelines for organising seminars. Data openness and transparency also featured prominently.

The Annual Conference on 14 and 15 November 2024, hosted by the Houses of the Oireachtas in Dublin, focused on AI in parliaments and adopted revised ECPRD guidelines for comparative requests. Discussions covered data transparency and AI's impact on areas of interest. The event previewed the forthcoming ECPRD website revamp (see 6.3.5. below).

6.3.4. Seminars

ECPRD seminars are hosted by member parliaments under the guidance of the responsible ECPRD Coordinators. Seminars have been organised since the early days of the ECPRD and began even before the launch of comparative requests in their present form. They offer a unique opportunity for staff in parliaments to meet and exchange information with their counterparts.

In 2024, the ECPRD Secretariat played a central role in organising a total of seven ECPRD webinars and seminars (See Annex VI C for details).

Joint Seminar

The JOINT AoI Seminar: Use of Data Visualisation for Parliaments (Budapest, 23 and 24 May 2024), organised by the Hungarian National Assembly, gathered 70 participants to discuss the use of data visualisation in parliaments.

Area of interest – Economic and budgetary affairs

Webinar: Fiscal Consolidation – The Portuguese Experience (Lisbon, 14 March 2024) This webinar, organised by the Portuguese Assembleia da República, attracted 49 participants to discuss the challenges and drivers of fiscal consolidation in Portugal from 2014 to 2023.

Area of interest – ICT in Parliaments

ICT 2024 Seminar: Open Data in Parliaments (Oslo, 29 and 30 April 2024) Hosted by the Norwegian Stortinget, this seminar brought together 61 participants to explore the strategies behind open data in parliaments. Topics included data visualisation, the use of artificial intelligence and fostering civic engagement through transparency and innovation.

Area of interest – Libraries, research services and archives

The seminar Use of Artificial Intelligence for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (Rome, 18-19 April 2024), organised by the Italian Chamber of Deputies, gathered 87 participants to analyse the opportunities and limitations of AI in parliamentary research. Discussions focused on the criteria and limits for using generative AI, developing AI systems for documentation, and leveraging AI for public awareness.

Navigating and supporting change in a new Parliament (Brussels – European Parliament, 5 and 6 December 2024) This seminar brought together representatives from 30 countries to address challenges faced by parliamentary libraries, research services and archives. The event emphasised collaboration, knowledge sharing and the need for constant adaptation to support informed decision-making in an evolving parliamentary landscape.

Area of interest – Parliamentary practice and procedure

The Webinar on Parliaments and the General Data Protection Regulation (Vienna, 29 January 2024), organised by the Austrian Bundesrat, saw 73 participants discuss the implications of the Court of Justice of the EU's judgment in case C-33/22 of 16 January 2024 on the scope of the GDPR in relation to parliamentary activities.

The Seminar – Parliamentary calendars and agenda planning (Skopje, 26-27 September 2024), organised by the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, was attended by 23 participants from various European parliaments. Key topics included the importance of parliamentary calendars, agenda planning, public consultations, and the use of ICT tools for calendar digitisation.

6.3.5 The ECPRD website

Launched in 2007, the ECPRD website no longer meets evolving network needs. In 2024, a major modernisation effort began, funded by the European Parliament, to update

procedures, provide a more modern, efficient and interactive layout, and meet the increasingly complex security requirements. This modernisation process, completed and financed by the European Parliament, involved several workshops to gather user feedback with a view to presenting the draft project at the Annual Conference in November 2025.

Main developments in 2024:

- Decline in the number of comparative requests: after years of growth, the volume of comparative requests dropped, easing pressure on correspondents.
- Focus on AI in parliamentary processes reflecting a broader interest in technology integration and governance.
- Updated guidelines for requests and seminars aimed at improving request quality, managing higher volumes, and organising seminars more effectively.
- Progress in website modernisation: a significant redesign of the ECPRD website began, targeting improved usability, security and interactivity.
- Active participation in seminars and webinars.

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

In recent years, parliamentary democracy and support for capacity building and actions in the area of fundamental rights have acquired strategic importance and become areas of common interest for Parliaments across 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 (DG EXPO), the goal of this three-year project is to create a network of colleagues from EU Parliaments dealing with programmes with non-EU Parliaments aimed at strengthening democracy in its various dimensions.

By improving and consolidating informal contacts and channels, the exchange 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 EU's external actions.

Exchanges between the European Parliament and national Parliaments in the field of EU external action have increased over the years in terms of both the frequency and variety of events.

In response to the growing shared interest, and taking into account the creation of the section of the IPEX platform dedicated to the Democracy Support Network, the Directorate, together with DG EXPO, accomplished 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 measures and mediation.

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

At their meeting on 29 January 2024 in Madrid, the Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments adopted their 'Conclusions on IPEX', which, inter alia, 'welcomed the continuous cooperation between IPEX and the Democracy Support Network (DSN) and called on national Parliaments to actively share information on democracy support activities through the IPEX platform and the DSN'.

EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament engaged in several democracy support activities with non-EU Parliaments, with different levels of engagement, tools and priorities. The aim of this network among the staff of the European Parliament and EU

national Parliaments is to improve mutual understanding through knowledge sharing and the exchange of best practice.

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 that are under preparation, ongoing or have concluded. Each EU national Parliament has selected a person responsible for the network in each chamber.

Several online meetings took place in 2024, with the principal focus on support for the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Additionally, meetings also focused on democracy support activities in the Western Balkans, Moldova, Morocco and Armenia. The Democracy Support Network once again proved to be a useful platform to coordinate the array of initiatives being carried out by a wide variety of actors.

The objectives for 2025 are to continue working on and supporting the existing cooperation tools, including the Democracy Support Network, in particular by helping to organise an annual in-person meeting. In addition, the Democracy Support section of the IPEX website will need to be revamped to make it a more efficient and user-friendly tool to support interparliamentary cooperation in the field of EU external action.

Main developments in 2024:

- Continued Democracy Support Network work with three online meetings mainly dealing with support for the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the parliaments of the Western Balkans.

6.5 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 Council of the EU 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 parliament of the country holding the presidency 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 cooperation 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 (PPSP) was originally created as a tool to assist Parliaments from EU Member States that were due to hold the Council of the EU presidency for the first time. As it proved a helpful tool during the preparatory phase of the presidencies, and in view of the continuous developments in interparliamentary cooperation, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments decided to extend the PPSP to all future presidencies. In recent years, Council of the EU presidencies have placed extra emphasis on, and invested more in, the parliamentary dimension to increase the number of events, meetings and initiatives they hold during their presidency, compared to a decade ago.

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments organised a meeting with the Polish Parliament, which was due to hold the presidency in 2024, at the European Parliament's premises in Brussels.



The programme for officials from the Chancellery of the Polish Sejm and the Polish Senate took place on 26 and 27 September 2024. The participants from Warsaw held exchanges with a number of colleagues from the Secretariat of the European Parliament, as well as representatives of national Parliaments from past presidencies (Spain, Belgium and Hungary), who shared their experiences in organising the full range of interparliamentary events and activities. The officials discussed topics related to the organisation of the

Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) meetings (with the participation of the COSAC Secretariat permanent member), the Interparliamentary Conferences on Stability, Economic Cooperation and Governance, and on the common foreign and security policy / common security and defence policy (CFSP/CSDP), and the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) on Europol.

The seminar also included discussions on the interpretation and technical aspects of interparliamentary meetings, cybersecurity policymaking, awareness and training, audiovisual aspects of media communication and protocol aspects of interparliamentary meetings. A meeting was also organised on IPEX (with the IPEX Information Officer), and on the visit of the European Parliament's Conference of Presidents to the national Parliament holding the rotating presidency.

Main developments in 2024:

- Successful PPSP meeting with numerous officials participating on behalf of the Chancellery of the Polish Sejm and the Polish Senate.

6.6 Network of EU national Parliament 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, at its Brussels and Strasbourg premises.

EU national Parliaments send national officials to Brussels to facilitate relations with the EU. As of December 2024, 56 staff from the 27 national Parliaments in the EU (including the COSAC secretariat and IPEX information officer) were occupying 40 offices in the European Parliament's premises. These representatives are national officials who, in addition to their administrative assignments, are tasked with ensuring the mutual exchange of information (in a two-way flow between the European Parliament and the EU national Parliaments), as a key component of EU affairs.

The representatives work in the same building as the Directorate. This creates numerous synergies and promotes easy exchanges.

A [list of the national Parliaments' representatives](#) is available on the website of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments.

Main developments in 2024:

- Meeting with the Secretaries-General of the European Parliament's political groups, held on 24 January 2024.
- Meeting with Marc Angel, European Parliament Vice-President and Chair of the Working Group on ICT Innovation Strategy on Artificial Intelligence assisting parliaments in their work, held on 6 March 2024.

6.7 Staff seminars

As the European Parliament affirmed in its [2018 resolution on the implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national Parliaments](#), ‘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’. Since 2019, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments organised a series of seminars for staff from EU national Parliaments/Chambers. The aim was to bring together staff from national Parliaments and the European Parliament in order to present and discuss relevant European topics, learn from each other and exchange best practice.

In addition to interparliamentary cooperation at political level, an important development in recent years has been the organisation of staff seminars 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 European Parliament and the EU national Parliaments.

Economic governance

The Economic Governance Support Unit, in cooperation with the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, continued to organise staff seminars with national Parliaments to share the latest information on the Economic Governance of the EU and economic and monetary union (EMU) scrutiny. 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 practice. In 2024, three seminars of this kind were organised, all of which took place in person in Brussels, Vilnius and Budapest.

- At the staff-to-staff side event of the European Parliamentary Week (EPW) 2024, colleagues from national parliaments and the European Parliament engaged in a discussion with Prof Niels Thygesen, Chair of the European Fiscal Board and alumnus of the Delors Committee (1988-89), which was mandated to examine and propose concrete steps towards EMU.
- The two-day staff-to-staff summer seminar in Vilnius was co-organised by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, in cooperation with the Economic Governance Support and EMU Scrutiny Unit (EGOV) of the European Parliament. It focused on discussions about EU economic governance reform, the Recovery and Resilience Facility, and financial support for Ukraine. Additionally, two workshops were organised to assess and brainstorm potential improvements to the Article 13 Conference.

- The staff-to-staff meeting held on the margins of the Article 13 Conference in Budapest and jointly organised by colleagues from the Hungarian Parliament Presidency and the European Parliament, featured a presentation by Gábor Horváth, Chair of the Fiscal Council of Hungary, on the role of fiscal councils in EU national Parliaments.

CSDP Hub

In 2024, two meetings of the informal CSDP Hub were organised on the margins of the Interparliamentary Conference for the CFSP/CSDP. The first, on the margins of the 24th CFSP/CSDP Conference, dealt with the topics of the implementation of the Strategic Compass, and the European Peace Facility. In the second semester, the CSDP Hub discussed the topic of 'Defence capabilities – the implementation of the European Defence Industrial Strategy'. The meetings involved parliamentary staff specialised in security and defence matters and were very well attended, with a high level of interest from the participants.

Foresight and better Lawmaking

On 7 and 8 March 2024, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, together with the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS), organised the 'Conference on Foresight and Better Law-Making – Legislating for Future Generations: Trends and Challenges in Impact Assessment and Anticipatory Policy-Making'. Its goal was to assess, ahead of the 2024 European elections and of the definition of EU priorities for 2024-2029, the role of the 2021 Better Regulation framework supporting co-legislators when drafting EU legislation, which for the first time included foresight in the EU legislative toolbox. In the meantime, the EU and its Member States were faced with an unprecedented number of major challenges at geopolitical, geoeconomic, climate and democratic level. The conference brought together experts from EU institutions and national parliaments but also from key international partners to learn about best practice and pave the way for further cooperation. The conference allowed for the exchange of views and best practice on these topics, and stressed the importance of making laws fit for the future.

Parliamentary communication

On 9 and 10 April 2024, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, together with the Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM), organised a staff seminar entitled 'Communicating at the service of democratic engagement', bringing together around 48 members of staff from national Parliaments/ Chambers. The seminar was attended by around 50 communication experts and stakeholders from national Parliaments and the European Parliament to delve into various facets of parliamentary communication and its crucial role in fostering democracy during the election year.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

A good example of successful staff seminars with EU national Parliaments was the event organised jointly by the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments and colleagues

from the Unit for Equality, Inclusion and Diversity in the Directorate-General for Personnel (DG PERS). The third Interparliamentary Seminar on Equality, Inclusion and Diversity took place on 2 October 2024. The aim of this event was to share best practices in human resources related to inclusion and diversity with the administrations of national Parliaments.

The meeting opened with a speech by European Parliament Vice-President Younous Omarjee, Member of the High-Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity. In addition to presentations by staff from national Parliaments and the European Parliament's Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Unit, the European Institute for Gender Equality also provided expert insights. Key topics included recruitment and working policies for staff with (intellectual) disabilities, gender equality strategies, measures aimed at improving work-life balance, non-discrimination, initiatives aimed at tackling intergenerational challenges and establishing an inclusive workplace for LGBTIQ+, ethnic and religious minorities. The meeting also served as a forum for deepening dialogue between national Parliaments and the European Parliament, by facilitating the exchange of ideas on how to build a more diverse and inclusive workplace.

Main developments in 2024:

- Staff cooperation continues to increase, with numerous staff seminars organised every year. In 2024, eight staff seminars were organised between the administrations of the European Parliament and national Parliaments.
- Given the success of the seminars, and based on the participants' feedback, similar events for staff from national Parliaments might be organised in the coming years, possibly also in smaller and more focused formats, such as workshops.

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 several years before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The European Parliament – through its Directorate-General for Logistics and Interpretation for Conferences (DG LINC) – has over the years developed technical solutions to enable videoconferencing with very high image and sound quality, as well as interpretation into several languages. The COVID-19 pandemic made it imperative to adapt and improve the new ways of working and cooperating remotely, and led to a huge digital and technical leap in the organisation of hybrid parliamentary meetings.

In the post COVID-19 context, remote and hybrid meetings through videoconferencing – including multilingual meetings with interpretation – have become an integral part of the work at the European Parliament and in interparliamentary meetings with national Parliaments.

The growing salience of remote meetings led to a joint videoconferencing platform project between the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments. The project was first proposed in 2021 by the German Bundestag, which invited the European Parliament to assume a coordinating role in the creation of a suitably stable, user-friendly and secure videoconferencing system and thereby to facilitate interparliamentary cooperation. In the European Parliament, the Remote Conference Services Unit in DG LINC has been responsible for the work, with support from the Budget Unit and Multilingual Solutions Unit. In cooperation with representatives of national Parliaments, two working groups were established to define requirements for a new videoconferencing system and remote simultaneous interpretation services.

This is the first joint public procurement between the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments to result in economies of scale and lower costs for all parties involved, as well as ensuring that the videoconferencing solution is adapted to the EU's legal and security standards.

A total of 32 Chambers from EU national parliaments signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Parliament, allowing the European Parliament to act on behalf of the signatories and to launch the European public procurement procedure, encompassing two lots – Lot 1 for access to a multilingual videoconferencing system (32 participating Chambers) and Lot 2 for remote simultaneous interpretation services (24 participating Chambers).



From left to right: Katarina Barley, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Directors-General Sanna Lepola and Agnieszka Walter-Drop, and Martin Hojsík, Vice-President of the European Parliament, during the kick-off meeting with national Parliaments. © European Parliament

Following years of technical work, the call for tenders was launched in April 2024 and the contract was awarded in September of the same year. A kick-off meeting with national Parliaments on the use of the framework contracts for the videoconferencing system and remote interpretation services took place on 15 October 2024.

The meeting was hosted by the European Parliament, with the participation of Vice-President Katarina Barley, responsible for Relations with National Parliaments and Vice-President Martin Hojsík, Chair of the Bureau Working Group on Citizens' Language and Linguistic Services. The hybrid meeting was attended by around 100 people from the administration of EU national Parliaments (30 in-person and 75 remotely).

As the next step, the services of the European Parliament are working in close collaboration with the administrations of the EU national Parliaments participating in the framework contracts to ensure their uptake. For both lots, national Parliaments started ordering services in early 2025. Assistance is being provided to national Parliaments preparing their first meetings on the platform, with priority given to the upcoming Council presidencies. The European Parliament plans to convene another plenary meeting with all the involved parliaments in a year's time, with a view to evaluating the use of the contracts, drawing lessons learnt and exchanging best practice to improve the use of the contracts throughout their 4-year validity period.

Main developments in 2024:

- A joint procurement is a step up in cooperation between the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments. Enhanced cooperation is intended to provide effective and efficient support to core parliamentary services, to build lasting technical-level cooperation between our institutions and to ultimately offer access to a high-quality European conferencing solution as well as economies of scale. With its feasibility proven, this method could be applicable in any other business area in the future.
- The Secretaries-General of the EU national Parliaments signed the memoranda of understanding with the European Parliament in the first quarter of the year, after a consultation period about the final version of the specifications for the two lots to be contracted. The call for tenders was launched on 29 April 2024 and the contract was awarded in September 2024.

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 Protocols No 1 and 2 throughout the legislative cycle. In this context, the Directorate manages the [CONNECT](#) database, which includes all documents received from national Parliaments under Protocols Nos 1 and 2 since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon. Reasoned opinions related to the EWS are available in all official EU languages.

Since 2017, the CONNECT database can be consulted on the Directorate’s website. All information on CONNECT, including reasoned opinions and contributions received from national Parliaments, is directly available on the committee pages on the European Parliament’s intranet, 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 Nos 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.

Main developments in 2024:

- The CONNECT database is in the process of being updated to enable it to receive automatic submissions via the new National Parliaments’ Submission (NPS) tool.
- The new NPS tool has become operational and some national Parliaments have started using it to submit their contributions (see Section 7.4).

7.3 Directory of Corresponding Committees (CorCom)

CORCOM

The Directory of Corresponding Committees (CorCom) is an information source on national Parliament committees corresponding to the committees of the European Parliament. It also provides information about the various committee secretariats of EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament. 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 as a way of identifying 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 the [European Parliament resolution of May 2009 on the development of relations between EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament under the Treaty of Lisbon](#) (rapporteur: Elmar Brok (PPE)), the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament were revised accordingly. The rules 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 156(3)).

The CorCom application has undergone continuous improvements and updates to meet the changing needs of its users. In the past couple of years, it has been converted into a web-based application for internal use only with restricted user access. Available on the intranet of the European Parliament, it has been made much more user-friendly and now includes a range of new features.

7.4 National Parliaments' Submission tool

The National Parliaments' Submission (NPS) tool is a user-friendly, online European Parliament platform specifically created for the transmission of EU national Parliaments' contributions on Protocols No 1 and 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 started in 2019. Its aim is to offer a user-friendly, automated online registration tool for the submission of reasoned opinions and contributions from EU national Parliaments. By filling in an online form, national Parliaments are able to provide information about the submission (filling in the necessary data) and upload it. It is then automatically sent to the European Parliament's competent services and attributed and forwarded to an internal pre-defined distribution list.

The benefit of the NPS tool is that it is easy to use and a quicker and more secure way of sending national Parliaments' submissions on Protocols No 1 and 2. It is more secure in terms of hacking and data phishing.

This tool makes it easier to obtain correct and accurate data about submissions. It provides immediate confirmation of the official receipt of the submission by the European Parliament. By speeding up the process, the submission can reach the relevant Parliament committee and the rapporteur in a timely way, while the file is still on the committee's agenda. It increases the efficiency of the legislative dialogue between the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments, as well as intensifying interparliamentary cooperation.

Main developments in 2024:

- Since its launch in July 2023, a growing number of national Parliaments have started to use the NPS tool, with 38 submissions received via the NPS tool in 2024 – 9 under the IPD (Protocol No 1), and 29 within the framework of the Protocol No 2 subsidiarity checks.

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 the activities and developments in EU interparliamentary cooperation in a given year, with detailed statistics.

'Spotlight on Parliaments in Europe' summarises information on selected topical matters exchanged between Parliaments in the ECPRD network.

In addition, 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.

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 on the dedicated website of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments.

7.5.2 Spotlight on Parliaments in Europe

The 'Spotlight' publication summarises information on selected topical matters exchanged between Parliaments in the ECPRD network.

In 2024, the Directorate prepared two issues of 'Spotlight':

- Spotlight No 46 – February 2024: Editorial quality of draft legislation.
- Spotlight No 47 – May 2024: Provisional leadership of newly elected Parliaments

7.5.3 Weekly Agenda

The Weekly Agenda is sent on Fridays by email to all MEPs and to the services of the European Parliament. In 2024, 46 Weekly Agendas were sent. This publication covers interparliamentary events during the upcoming two weeks, such as bilateral visits, interparliamentary conferences and interparliamentary committee meetings. Information is provided on the date and venue, and on the European Parliament services involved.

7.5.4 State of Play Note

The Directorate also produces a monthly State of Play Note on reasoned opinions and contributions submitted by national Parliaments (see Chapter 5.1).

7.5.5 Calendar of interparliamentary activities

The [calendar of interparliamentary activities](#) is published every six months, following its endorsement by the Conference of Presidents. It covers interparliamentary events organised by the national Parliament holding the Council presidency and by the European Parliament, such as interparliamentary conferences, high-level conferences and ICMs, and it is sent biannually by the President of the European Parliament to the speakers of national Parliaments.

7.5.6 Fact sheets on EU national Parliaments

Finally, each of the 39 EU national Parliament/Chamber's has a [fact sheet](#) published on the Directorate's website. Each fact sheet is a concise document containing a description of each Parliament/Chamber, which is regularly updated.

8. DIRECTORATE FOR RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments is part of the European Parliament's Directorate-General for Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships (DG PART), created in November 2022, with Sanna Lepola as Director-General.

The Directorate provides high-quality support to the European Parliament's political bodies, MEPs and the Secretariat in their institutional cooperation and legislative dialogue with EU national Parliaments, and assists 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 also ensures 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, the Director-General of DG PART and all services in the European Parliament Directorates-General with which it cooperates.

Jesús Gómez was Acting Director for Relations with National Parliaments until 1 September 2024 when Leticia Zuleta de Reales Ansaldo took up the post of Director.

The Directorate consists of two units: the Legislative Dialogue Unit and the Institutional Cooperation Unit.

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, the EPW and the JPSG on Europol. It also ensures the monitoring of the subsidiarity check and follow-up with rapporteurs and committees of the implementation of Protocol No 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

Institutional Cooperation Unit

The areas of responsibility of the Institutional Cooperation Unit include multilateral regulated cooperation, namely 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, handles cooperation with DG EXPO and coordinates the PPSP and capacity-building visits and seminars.

Head of Unit: Andrea Laskavá.

Anne Louise McLauchlan was Head of Unit of the Institutional Cooperation Unit until her retirement on 31 December 2024.

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 for the Directorate](#).

ANNEXES

ANNEX I – COSAC meetings and topics in 2024

COSAC event	Place, date	Topics
COSAC Chairpersons' Meeting	Namur, 14-15 January 2024	I. Presentation of the priorities of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU II. The European Pillar of Social Rights III. Enlargement and its impact on the future of the EU
Plenary Meeting of the LXXI COSAC	Brussels, 24-26 March 2024	I. Review of the 2019-2024 European legislative term and prospects for the Council's strategic agenda for 2024-2029 II. Gender policy and the representation of women and men in parliament III. Open Strategic Autonomy: competitiveness and resilience IV. Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe: the way ahead
COSAC Chairpersons' Meeting	Budapest, 28-29 July 2024	V. Programme and priorities of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union VI. State of play of the Western Balkan and Eastern enlargements of the European Union
LXXII COSAC Plenary Meeting	Budapest, 27-29 October 2024	VII. Programme and results of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union VIII. The state of the European Union in the year of institutional transition and the 15-year application of the Treaty of Lisbon IX. European demographic trends and responses at national and European level X. European security and defence

For more detailed information on the agendas of COSAC meetings as published by the presidencies, please consult the [IPEX website](http://www.ipex.eu) (www.ipex.eu).

ANNEX II – Interparliamentary Committee Meetings and Interparliamentary Conferences organised by the European Parliament in Brussels in 2024

Date	European Parliament committee	Event		Number of Participants			
		Type of meeting	Title of meeting	National Parliament Members	National Parliaments	National Parliament Chambers	MEPs
12-13 February 2024	ECON-BUDG-EMPL	European Parliamentary Week: Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union	113	26	33	19
7 March 2024	FEMM	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	International Women's Day / Women in Sport	28	16	21	10
12 November 2024	LIBE	Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group	15th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) on EUROPOL	49	19	23	15
2 December 2024	LIBE	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Evaluation of EUROJUST'S ACTIVITIES	29	18	20	19
4 December 2024	JURI	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	JURI ICM on 'E-justice: lessons learned from national perspectives'	18	12	13	5
12 December 2024	LIBE	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	The fifth Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on 'The situation of the Rule of Law in the EU' (LIBE ICM)	35	17	24	38
Total number of participants				272	108	134	106

ANNEX III – Visits of EU national Parliaments to the European Parliament in 2024

Date	Country and Chamber	Visitor	Meeting counterparts in the European Parliament	Type of visit	Number of MPs	Number of staff
10 January 2024	GERMANY - Bundestag	Leaders and Vice-leaders of the SPD Political Group	President and 2 Vice-Presidents of S&D Group	Staff	0	10
24 January 2024	AUSTRIA - Nationalrat	Wolfgang Sobotka, President	DG PRES, DG PART	MPs	1	0
30 January 2024	IRELAND - Oireachtas	MPs from the EU Affairs Committee members	Irish MEPs and MEPs from the AFCO Committee	MPs	6	2
5 February 2024	THE NETHERLANDS - Tweede Kamer	Staff of the Research and Analysis Department	DG EPRS	Staff	0	3
14-15 February 2024	NORWAY - Stortinget	MPs	MEPs from the ITRE, LIBE and PECH Committees and DG PART	MPs	12	5
20 February 2024	FINLAND - Eduskunta	Foreign Affairs Committee	Chair of the AFET Committee	MPs	13	2
5 March 2024	SWEDEN - Riksdag	MPs	MEPs from the AFCO Committee	MPs	12	3
5 March 2024	CYPRUS - House of Representatives	Officials from the House of representatives	DG PART, DG IPOL, DG EXPO, DG EPRS	Staff	0	7
6 March 2024	GERMANY - Bundestag	G 10 Commission of the German Bundestag	MEPs from the former PEGA Committee	MPs	8	2
18 March 2024	FINLAND - Eduskunta	New Finnish MPs	Finnish MEPs, DG PRES, DG EXPO, DG PART	MPs	12	2

Date	Country and Chamber	Visitor	Meeting counterparts in the European Parliament	Type of visit	Number of MPs	Number of staff
21 March 2024	FRANCE - Senate	Enquiry Committee on the price of electricity	MEPs from the ITRE Committee - MP Christophe Grudler (France – Renew) and MP Nicolas Gonzales Cazares (Spain – S&D)	MPs	3	3
17 April 2024	FINLAND - Eduskunta	The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra	MEPs, DG PART	MPs	8	2
24 April 2024	FRANCE - Senate and National Assembly	Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices	European Science Media Hub, Digital Policy Unit (EPRS)	MPs	3	3
8 May 2024	THE NETHERLANDS - Tweede Kamer	EU advisors to the Standing Committees on Finance, Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Education	DG PART, DG EPRS	Staff	0	5
27 May 2024	FRANCE - Senate	European Affairs Committee	EP Secretary-General, Director, Members Research Service	MPs	3	2
29 May 2024	THE NETHERLANDS - Tweede Kamer	Staff of the EU Affairs Committee	DG PART, DG EPRS	Staff	0	6
24 July 2024	IRELAND - Oireachtas	MPs	Irish MEPs	MPs	2	1
11 September 2024	NORWAY - Stortinget	Norwegian Political advisers	Advisers to MEPs	Staff	0	12
18 September 2024	GERMANY - Bundestag	Delegation of the political group CDU/CSU in Strasbourg	MEPs from the PPE Group	MPs	6	2
23 September 2024	THE NETHERLANDS - Eerste Kamer	Staff working visit	DG PART, DG PRES, DG EPRS	Staff	0	5

Date	Country and Chamber	Visitor	Meeting counterparts in the European Parliament	Type of visit	Number of MPs	Number of staff
23 September 2024	THE NETHERLANDS - Tweede Kamer	Staff of the EU Affairs Committee	Accredited Parliamentary Assistants (APAs) of Dutch MEPs	Staff	0	14
25 September 2024	NORWAY - Stortinget	Committee on Health and Care Services of the Norwegian Parliaments	MEPs	MPs	5	5
26-27 September 2024	POLAND - Sejm and Senate	Officials in the framework of the Presidency Parliament Support Programme (PPSP)	Staff from AFET, LIBE, EMPL, IPOL, ECON Committees, DG PART, DG PRES, DG LINC	Staff	0	27
30 September 2024	THE NETHERLANDS - Tweede Kamer	Standing Committee on Social Affairs	DG PART, DG IPOL	MPs	6	2
1 October 2024	PORTUGAL - Assembleia da República	Members of the National Defence Commission	SEDE Chair, Portuguese MEPs, DG PART, DG EXPO	MPs	10	3
3 October 2024	AUSTRIA - Nationalrat	Wolfgang Sobotka, President	EP President Roberta Metsola, EP Vice-Presidents Pina Picierno and Esteban González Pons, MEP Sergey Lagodinsky	MP	1	0
15 October 2024	PORTUGAL - Assembleia da República	Committee on Local Authorities and Territorial Cohesion	REGI First Vice-Chair Gabriella Gerzsenyi, Portuguese MEPs from REGI	MPs	8	0
5 November 2024	FINLAND - Eduskunta	Grand Committee of EU Affairs	EP Secretary-General, Finnish MEPs, MEPs from PPE, S&D and Greens/EFA Groups, DG PART	MPs	16	5
14 November 2024	FRANCE - Senate	European Affairs Committee	MEP Andreas Schwab (Germany - PPE)	MPs	2	1

Date	Country and Chamber	Visitor	Meeting counterparts in the European Parliament	Type of visit	Number of MPs	Number of staff
18 November 2024	CYPRUS - House of Representatives	Officials	DG ITEC, DG PRES staff involved in electronic plenary voting	Staff	0	6
18 November 2024	ROMANIA - Camera Deputaţilor	Staff study visit	DG LINC, DG PART	Staff	0	3
20 November 2024	ESTONIA - Riigikogu	Officials	DG PART, DG EPRS, IMCO Committee Secretariat	Staff	0	5
6 December 2024	FRANCE - Senate	International Affairs and Protocol Unit	DG EXPO, Protocol Service	Staff	0	15

ANNEX IV – Submissions under Protocol 2: Early Warning System Data

The Committee on Legal Affairs, which is responsible for issues relating 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 that 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 No 2 to the Treaties.
- **'Contributions'** indicate any other submissions that do not fulfil the criteria listed above for a reasoned opinion.

Submissions received from national Parliaments in 2024

Member State	Parliament/Chamber	Reasoned Opinions	Contributions
Austria	Nationalrat	0	0
Austria	Bundesrat	0	0
Belgium	Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers / Chambre des Représentants	0	0
Belgium	Senaat / Sénat	0	1
Bulgaria	Narodno Sabranie	0	0
Croatia	Hrvatski sabor	0	0
Cyprus	Vouli ton Antiprosópon	0	0
Czechia	Poslanecká sněmovna	1	12
Czechia	Sénat	0	14
Denmark	Folketinget	0	0
Estonia	Riigikogu	0	0
Finland	Eduskunta	0	0
France	Assemblée Nationale	0	1
France	Sénat	2	14
Germany	Bundestag	0	0
Germany	Bundesrat	0	8
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon	0	1
Hungary	Országgyűlés	1	0
Ireland	Houses of Oireachtas (Dáil Éireann / Seanad Éireann)	2	3
Italy	Camera dei deputati	1	25
Italy	Senato	0	14
Lithuania	Seimas	0	0
Luxembourg	Chambre des Députés	0	0

Member State	Parliament/Chamber	Reasoned Opinions	Contributions
Latvia	Saeima	0	0
Malta	Kamra tar-Rappreżentanti	1	2
The Netherlands	Tweede Kamer	0	0
The Netherlands	Eerste Kamer	0	5
Poland	Sejm	0	0
Poland	Senat	0	1
Portugal	Assembleia da República	0	6
Romania	Camera Deputaţilor	0	3
Romania	Senat	0	10
Spain	Congreso de los Diputados / Senado	0	21
Sweden	Riksdag	6	0
Slovenia	Državni Zbor	0	0
Slovenia	Državni Svet	0	0
Slovakia	Národná rada	0	0
TOTAL		14	141

ANNEX V – Contributions under Protocol 1 – Informal Political Dialogue

Contributions under the IPD in 2024

Member State	Parliament/chamber	Contributions
Austria	Nationalrat	0
Austria	Bundesrat	0
Belgium	Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers / Chambre des Représentants	0
Belgium	Senaat / Sénat	7
Bulgaria	Narodno Sabranie	0
Croatia	Hrvatski sabor	1
Cyprus	Vouli ton Antiprosópon	0
Czechia	Poslanecká sněmovna	10
Czechia	Sénat	7
Denmark	Folketinget	0
Estonia	Riigikogu	0
Finland	Eduskunta	0
France	Assemblée Nationale	5
France	Sénat	8
Germany	Bundestag	0
Germany	Bundesrat	12
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon	0
Hungary	Országgyűlés	0
Ireland	Houses of Oireachtas (Dáil Éireann / Seanad Éireann)	2
Italy	Camera dei deputati	6
Italy	Senato	1

Member State	Parliament/chamber	Contributions
Lithuania	Seimas	1
Luxembourg	Chambre des Députés	0
Latvia	Saeima	0
Malta	Kamra tar-Rappreżentanti	0
The Netherlands	Tweede Kamer	1
The Netherlands	Eerste Kamer	6
Poland	Sejm	0
Poland	Senat	0
Portugal	Assembleia da República	0
Romania	Camera Deputaţilor	39
Romania	Senat	8
Spain	Cortes Generales (Congreso de los Diputados / Senado)	0
Sweden	Riksdag	0
Slovenia	Državni Zbor	0
Slovenia	Državni Svet	0
Slovakia	Národná rada	0
TOTAL		114

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 through comparative requests in 2024

Date	Title of request	Request number
6 February 2024	National taxation of MEP salaries	5723
5 March 2024	Survey on information sharing practices within the ECPRD network	5763
7 March 2024	The status of the seat ('statut de siège') of the EU's National Parliaments	5765
18 June 2024	Interception of Members of Parliament's or Members of the European Parliament's communications	5832
17 September 2024	Contact for foresight activities at the parliaments	5885
3 October 2024	The scrutiny of the European Council by national parliaments	5900
27 November 2024	Security and management of the vehicles of your Chamber	5955

B. Issues to which the European Parliament provided replies to requests from other ECPRD parliaments in 2024 (request number and title)

Request number	Title of request
5953	Incompatibilities due to family relationships or marriage
5950	Electronic voting process for nominations or a secret ballot
5949	Political Party Group Meetings
5936	Legislative drafting services, legal advice and review of draft legislation in parliamentary administrations
5926	Staff allowance
5924	International travels of the Members of Parliament
5915	Special Legislative Methods
5909	Parliamentary rules or guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) (follow-up on request No 5715)
5908	Private school education and tax
5904	Infected blood products
5901	Age Management Legal Framework

Request number	Title of request
5898	Calculations on CO2 Emissions
5892	Guidance for members of Parliament on the use of AI tools in the course of their parliamentary duties
5891	Deputy Chairmanship of Parliamentary Groups
5884	Pin badges for parliamentary staff
5882	Compromise Texts in Parliamentary Law
5881	Parliamentary Album
5879	The Methods of the Minutes
5874	Youth parliaments under national legislatures
5864	Registration and enrolment of students in the first class of primary school
5862	Security and protection in Parliament
5859	Remuneration of Parliamentary Secretariat Staff
5857	Scientific Concept for the Development of the Legislation
5855	Construction of new facilities around parliamentary building
5854	Parliamentary Calendar and Agenda planning
5853	Asset Life Cycle Management in Parliaments (Online Request)
5850	Plurality of elective mandates and conflicts of interest
5846	Parliamentary Libraries and Archives – staffing and services
5845	Book on Parliament
5841	The deontological responsibility of public office holders for the powers they delegate to their staff or to civil servants.
5837	Experiences With Paid Content and Advertisements on Social Media
5836	Parliamentary tools for requesting governmental information and data
5835	Action Plans and Strategies of Research Centres
5834	The role of information specialists at parliamentary research services
5833	Regulation of accreditations, activities and conduct of the press in Parliament (urgent request)
5811	The procedure for allocating workspaces within the Parliament building
5810	Requirement to disclose information regarding calendars, schedules or diaries of Members of Parliament (Update of No 3079)
5805	Citizen participation in political life and the specific role of associations in the legislative process
5803	The use of artificial intelligence for simultaneous interpreting in parliamentary debates
5799	Souvenir Shops in Parliament
5797	Plenary hall discipline
5795	The use of (generative) AI-tools for parliamentary reporting
5790	Use of data visualisation for parliaments – ECPRD joint seminar
5788	Legislative and regulatory frameworks governing the use of means of controlled neutralisation/termination of unmanned aerial systems that are outside the control of EU Regulations 2019/947 and 2019/945
5775	Local product placement/sale incentive

Request number	Title of request
5764	Legal regulation of investigative secrecy in cases where there is an overriding public interest
5763	Survey on information sharing practices within the ECPRD network
5758	Regulation of fresh and mineral water extraction fees
5751	Code of conduct for Members of Parliament outside of their parliamentary activities
5745	Regulation of deepfakes
5741	Open Data in Parliaments
5738	Interest representation/lobbying regulation
5729	Simultaneous bias of all judges at the highest Constitutional Court
5728	Prohibition of begging (panhandling)
5727	Rules on the attendance of embassy staff at parliamentary sessions and on access to parliamentary buildings (urgent request)
5725	Preference of national airlines for government-funded air travel
5719	Children's healthcare in sports
5715	The use of artificial intelligence for parliamentary research and documentation
5708	Electronic submission of amendments and voting on the details
5693	Legislation in the area of air quality, odours and olfactory discomfort
5685	Cultural Heritage Protection during Conflicts
5684	EV taxation and incentives
5682	Flagging with another country's flag and illuminating the facade of parliament buildings
5676	Guidelines for the use of chatbots within parliament
5669	Legal instruments and enforcement policy against the dissemination of messages that can be perceived as antiSemitic or supportive of terrorism
5665	The accessibility of Parliament's video recordings
5660	Gender Budgeting

C. ECPRD seminars and statutory meetings in 2024

Date	Meeting type	Event title	Place
29 January 2024	Webinar - Area of Interest: Parliamentary Practice and Procedure	Parliaments and the general data protection regulation	Vienna , Austrian Parliament (remote)
22 February 2024	Statutory meeting	Executive Committee	Brussels , European Parliament (remote)
14 March 2024	Webinar - Area of Interest: Economic and Budgetary Affairs	Fiscal consolidation: drivers and main challenges in the Portuguese 2014-2023 experience	Lisbon , Portuguese Assembly (remote)
19 April 2024	Seminar - Area of Interest: Libraries, Research Services and Archives	Use of artificial intelligence for parliamentary research and documentation	Rome , Italian Chamber of Deputies
29-10 April 2024	Seminar - Area of Interest: ICT in Parliaments	Open data in Parliaments – the best way!	Oslo , Norwegian Parliament
23-24 May 2024	Seminar - Joint Areas of Interest	Use of data visualisation for parliaments	Budapest , Hungarian National Assembly
17 June 2024	Statutory meeting	Executive Committee	Strasbourg , Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
19 September 2024	Statutory meeting	Executive Committee	Brussels , European Parliament (remote)
26-27 September 2024	Seminar - Area of Interest: Parliamentary Practice and Procedure	Parliamentary calendars and agenda planning	Skopje , North Macedonian National Assembly
5-6 December 2024	Seminar - Area of Interest: Libraries, Research Services and Archives	Navigating and supporting change in a new parliament	Brussels , European Parliament
14-15 December 2024	Statutory meeting	Annual Conference of Correspondents	Dublin, Houses of the Oireachtas

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.
- **CONT**: Committee on Budgetary Control, European Parliament.
- **CORCOM**: The Directory of Corresponding Committees. An information source on national Parliament 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 EU affairs.
- **CULT**: Committee on Culture and Education, 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.
- **DG PART**: Directorate-General for Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships.
- **DROI**: Subcommittee on Human Rights, European Parliament.
- **ECPRD**: European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation. Information exchange network for the administrations of Parliaments across Europe, functioning on the basis of comparative requests.
- **ECON**: Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, European Parliament.
- **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 national Parliament of the country that held the previous autumn's Council of the EU Presidency.

- **EWS:** Early Warning System. A review mechanism set out in Protocol No 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.
- **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 Council of the EU 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 from 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) Parliaments.
- **MEPs:** Members of the European Parliament.
- **NPS:** National Parliaments' Submission tool. An online platform for EU national Parliaments to submit reasoned opinions and contributions to the European Parliament.
- **PPSP:** Presidency Parliament Support Programme
- **SEDE:** Committee on Security and Defence, European Parliament.
- **TEU:** Treaty on European Union.
- **TFEU:** Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF THE EU MEMBER STATES

December 2024



Member State		Parliament/Chamber	Directly elected	Indirectly elected/ appointed/other
 België/Belgique/ Belgien	Belgium	Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers/ Chambre des représentants/ Abgeordnetenversammlung	150	0
		Senaat/ Sénat/ Senat	0	60
 България	Bulgaria	Народно събрание (Narodno sabranie)	240	0
 Česká republika	Czechia	Poslanecká sněmovna	200	0
		Senát	81	0
 Danmark	Denmark	Folketinget	179	0
 Deutschland	Germany	Deutscher Bundestag	736	0
		Bundesrat	0	69
 Eesti	Estonia	Riigikogu	101	0
 Éire/Ireland	Ireland	Dáil Éireann	174	0
		Seanad Éireann	0	60
 Ελλάδα	Greece	Βουλή των Ελλήνων (Vouli ton Ellinon)	300	0
 España	Spain	Congreso de los Diputados	350	0
		Senado	208	58
 France	France	Assemblée nationale	577	0
		Sénat	0	348
 Hrvatska	Croatia	Hrvatski sabor	151	0
 Italia	Italy	Camera dei Deputati	400	0
		Senato della Repubblica	200	5
 Κύπρος	Cyprus	Βουλή των Αντιπροσώπων (Vouli ton Antiprosopon)	56	0
 Latvija	Latvia	Saeima	100	0
 Lietuva	Lithuania	Seimas	141	0
 Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Chambre des Députés	60	0
 Magyarország	Hungary	Országgyűlés	199	0
 Malta	Malta	Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati	67	12
		Tweede Kamer	150	0
 Nederland	The Netherlands	Eerste Kamer	0	75
		Nationalrat	183	0
 Österreich	Austria	Bundesrat	0	60
		Sejm	460	0
 Polska	Poland	Senat	100	0
 Portugal	Portugal	Assembleia da República	230	0
 România	Romania	Camera Deputatilor	330	0
		Senat	134	0
 Slovenija	Slovenia	Državni zbor	90	0
		Državni svet	0	40
 Slovensko	Slovakia	Národná rada	150	0
 Suomi/ Finland	Finland	Eduskunta	200	0
 Sverige	Sweden	Riksdagen	349	0

Source: Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments in cooperation with the Representatives of the EU National Parliaments in Brussels.



RELNATPARL@EP.EUROPA.EU

WWW.EUROPARL.EUROPA.EU/RELNATPARL

