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## Conclusions on IPEX

- (1) The Secretaries General take note of the annual report on the current status of IPEX and thank the Board for its work in 2011.
- (2) The Secretaries General approve the new IPEX Guidelines as stated in Attachment 1.
- (3) The Secretaries General agree about the composition of the 2012 IPEX Board:
  - The national Parliaments hosting the previous, current and upcoming Conference of Speakers of European Union Parliaments (Poland, Sejm and Senate; Cyprus, House of Representatives; Lithuania, Seimas)
  - Belgium, Chamber and Senate
  - Denmark
  - Germany, German Bundestag (Chair)
  - France, Assemblée Nationale and Sénat
  - Italy, Camera dei Deputati and Senato della Repubblica
  - Portugal
  - Romania, Chamber of Deputies and Senate
  - Slovenia, National Assembly
  - United Kingdom, House of Commons
  - The European Parliament
- (4) The Secretaries General thank the European Parliament for its role in developing the IPEX 2.0 website. The new website has eliminated the technical and performance issues which were associated with the original website.
- (5) The Secretaries General recognize that the further promotion and use of the website is contingent upon making IPEX a more reliable tool for the exchange of EU information and documents. The Secretaries General agree to act in the sense of providing all personal, financial and technical means in their Parliaments with the aim to
  - a) promote the timely and accurate upload of documents to IPEX including the uniform application of metadata and symbols to each dossier according to the results of the 2011 meeting of the IPEX Correspondents
  - b) promote the proliferation of accessible information by encouraging the publication of English and French summaries (or translation) of important decisions, especially of those concerning the control of the principle of subsidiarity and political dialog
  - c) ensure that the website's new or advanced features – including changes to the database, the XML transfer

of documents, news section and forums are explained to and promoted in their parliaments.

- (6) The Secretaries General welcome the website's new features including a whole range of easy-to-use search and newsletter functions; and even more importantly it also offers many new ways for parliaments to share information, particularly about questions of subsidiarity and the political dialog.
- (7) The Secretaries General welcome in particular the steps taken by the European Commission and the Council to enhance their cooperation with IPEX.
- (8) The Secretaries General entrust the IPEX Board to prepare steps regarding the hiring of the IPEX Information Officer for 2013 and 2014. The Secretaries General are aware that the cofinancing of the costs of the IPEX Information Officer should be shared equally amongst all participating Parliaments.
- (9) The Secretaries General welcome the Survey as prepared by the Central Support of the ongoing initiatives of the EU Parliaments and Institutions for establishing standards for digital data and documents and mandate the IPEX Board to:
  - a) starting a cooperation with the relevant EU Institutions as well as with the ECPRD and with UN/IPU Global Centre for ICT in Parliament in order to act as an unique "information point" on digital standardization;
  - b) explore the possibility of sharing a common open format standard and using the EUROVOC thesaurus for parliamentary documents concerning the scrutiny of EU Affairs uploaded by the national Parliaments in IPEX.