

# RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND EU NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

EN



## ANNUAL REPORT 2019



European Parliament

# PARLIAMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



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



751 seats\*



Citizens are directly represented at EU 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 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.

\* As from 1 February 2020, the European Parliament has 705 seats following the UK's withdrawal from the EU on 31 January 2020.

**Annual report 2019**

**Relations between the European Parliament and  
EU national Parliaments**

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 the Presidency.

**Katrin RUHRMANN**

Director

[katrin.ruhrmann@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:katrin.ruhrmann@europarl.europa.eu)

**Jesús GÓMEZ**

Head of Unit, Legislative Dialogue Unit

[jesus.gomez@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:jesus.gomez@europarl.europa.eu)

**Pekka NURMINEN**

Head of Unit, Institutional Cooperation Unit

[pekka.nurminen@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:pekka.nurminen@europarl.europa.eu)

Manuscript completed by:

**Hanneke WESTERBAAN**

Administrator, Legislative Dialogue Unit

[hanneke.westerbaan@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:hanneke.westerbaan@europarl.europa.eu)

Manuscript closed on 30 April 2020.

[relnatparl@ep.europa.eu](mailto:relnatparl@ep.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**

*This annual activity report of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments gives an overview of all activities and developments in interparliamentary cooperation with national Parliaments in 2019. This cooperation involved 41 national Parliaments and Chambers across the 28 Member States and the European Parliament.*

2019 was a year of change. In May, a new European Parliament was elected with the highest turnout in the last 20 years. European citizens, and in particular young voters, gave a strong signal that they want to be part of shaping the future of the European Union and that the EU is important to them.

2019 was also the last year of UK' membership of the EU. Although we regret the 'decision of the UK to leave the EU, we respect it. Defining the future relationship will be one of the challenges during 2020. EU Chief Negotiator Mr Michel Barnier was a regular speaker at many interparliamentary meetings in 2019, keeping national Parliaments and the European Parliament fully informed throughout the Brexit negotiations. We have no doubt that this excellent relationship will continue in negotiations on the future relationship.

2019 also marked the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, the so-called Treaty of Parliaments. The Lisbon Treaty fundamentally changed interparliamentary cooperation and has made national Parliaments actors on the European level. Through the Subsidiarity Control Mechanism and Informal Political Dialogue, national Parliaments have their say on European legislation independent from their governments. This has contributed to strengthening the democratic legitimacy of the EU.

Relations with national Parliaments have continued to develop over the last number of years. There has been intense interparliamentary debate and exchange on issues such as migration, climate change, Brexit and the EU's budget.

In addition, the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol, a new interparliamentary forum, has been further developed since its establishment in 2017.

Our future work will be overshadowed by the current COVID-19 crisis. Health and economic recovery will be priorities and will be the focus of many debates in the different interparliamentary fora. As a result, cooperation between the European Parliament and national Parliaments will be more important than ever.

We need to continue linking the European and national level, and the Conference on the Future of Europe will be an opportunity to debate ideas and proposals for our common future. This debate, however, has to go beyond a single Conference and we should seek to continuously engage with citizens on Europe's future.

National Parliaments are key partners for us in the European Parliament. Together we can achieve our goals and defend our values. We do not always agree on all issues, but we are united in defending European parliamentary democracy. A strong EU can only work with the support and input of empowered, independent and well-informed Parliaments.

As Vice-Presidents for relations with national Parliaments, we encourage interparliamentary dialogue, and we look forward to continuing our work with national Parliamentarians to ensure that the EU remains a peaceful and prosperous place for its citizens.

Brussels, March 2020



Mairead McGuinness  
First Vice-President

Dita Charanzová  
Vice-President

## **Key developments and main topics on the interparliamentary agenda in 2019**

In terms of interparliamentary activities, 2019 was largely marked by the European Parliament elections held in May. In the second half of 2019, as is usual at the beginning of a new legislature, when new Members are settling into their political groups, committees and delegations, interparliamentary activities and exchanges were slowly relaunched. This state of affairs was reflected in a lower number of Interparliamentary Committee Meetings (ICMs) and bilateral visits in 2019.

There were also fewer submissions under Protocol Nos 1 and 2, owing to fewer legislative proposals at the beginning of the new legislature. However, interparliamentary cooperation in the form of high-level conferences and institutionalised formats such as the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC) continued as usual.

From January 2017 until the European elections, the work of the Directorate was conducted under the political leadership and guidance of Mr Antonio Tajani, EP President, Ms Mairead McGuinness and Mr Bogusław Liberadzki, EP Vice-Presidents responsible for relations with national Parliaments, and Ms Danuta Hübner, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO).

In July 2019, the European Parliament elected Mr David Sassoli as its new President. Ms Mairead McGuinness was elected again as First Vice-President and, together with Vice-President Ms Dita Charanzová, remains responsible for relations with national Parliaments. Former EP President Mr Antonio Tajani was elected Chair of the AFCO Committee and of the Conference of Committee Chairs.

Interparliamentary cooperation was largely supported on all levels by EP committees, political bodies (mainly the Conference of Presidents and the Conference of Committee Chairs) and political groups. In 2019, a number of topics resurfaced in discussions in most interparliamentary forums, such as Brexit and the EU's new multiannual financial framework. Common values and the rule of law, climate change, the Western Balkans and the European neighbourhood policy were also discussed on many occasions, not least because these topics were priorities of the EU Presidencies in 2019.

In political terms, 2019 was a year in which not only the EU but many of its Member States faced crucial elections or political developments. The year that could have seen triumph for movements calling for the renationalisation of EU competences was instead a year which overcame negative expectations and turned the tide for turnout in the European elections. Mobilisation on the topic of the climate heightened the interest of EU citizens in European politics and the EU institutions.

### **1. A new European Parliament**

In May 2019, a new European Parliament was elected. 58 % of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) were elected for the first time. During the EP's constitutive plenary meeting in July 2019, MEPs elected not only its President, but also its 14 Vice-Presidents and 5 Quaestors. The newly formed committees chose their chairs and vice-chairs.

During the plenary session in September 2019, Commission President Mr Jean-Claude Juncker delivered his last State of the Union speech. In the same month, Parliament elected Ms Ursula von der Leyen as the new Commission President, shortly followed by the hearings of the new European Commissioners by the committees relevant to their portfolios. Parliamentary scrutiny of Commissioners-designate is an essential role of the European Parliament. In November 2019, Parliament approved the new European Commission.

On 1 December 2019, the new Commission began its term. Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has pledged to lead a 'geopolitical Commission' with six main political priorities: a stronger Europe in the world, a European Green Deal, a Europe fit for the digital age, an economy that works for people, a new push for European democracy, and promoting the European way of life.

## **2. Revision of the Guidelines for Interparliamentary Cooperation**

At the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments (EUSC), held in April 2019 in Vienna, the Speakers mandated the Finnish Presidency to establish a working group to put forward proposals for a technical update of the Guidelines for Interparliamentary Cooperation in the European Union, adopted in Lisbon in 2008.

The working group was invited to prepare a report for the next EUSC in Helsinki in 2020 with a view to:

- the technical adaptation of the guidelines to existing conditions, including more stringent use of references to the Treaties and a linguistic review of the guidelines as a whole;
- the inclusion of new conference formats in the guidelines, such as the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union, the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, and the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol;
- better use of modern means of communication to facilitate interparliamentary cooperation.

The working group was set up and prepared a draft proposal to be discussed at the 2020 EUSC.

## **3. National Parliament contributions to the debate during negotiations on Brexit**

The negotiations on the UK's withdrawal from the EU were on the agendas of many interparliamentary and bilateral meetings in 2019. EU Chief Negotiator Mr Michel Barnier attended numerous COSAC meetings as a speaker. British MPs from both the House of Commons and the House of Lords regularly met with Members of the European Parliament, and in particular with the EP Brexit coordinator, Mr Guy Verhofstadt, as well as other members of the EP Brexit Steering Group.

The European Parliament organised an ICM on the EU's future relations with the UK after Brexit, with the participation of Mr Michel Barnier, on 2 April 2019.

At the COSAC plenary meeting held in Bucharest in June 2019, pleas were made for privileged post-Brexit trade relations, while stressing the need to maintain the single market's integrity. The meeting also covered the inseparability of the four freedoms and the UK's fulfilment of its financial obligations towards the EU.

At its next meeting held in Helsinki in December 2019, COSAC dedicated an entire session to a debate on Brexit. COSAC noted with regret the UK's imminent departure from the European Union. Concern was expressed that the transitional period agreed by the Commission and the UK Government would leave little time to negotiate the future relationship between the EU and the UK.

The European Parliament has played an important role in the Brexit process, since it was the only Parliament, aside from the UK Parliament, to vote on the Withdrawal Agreement. The EP gave its consent to the Withdrawal Agreement on 29 January 2020. After the historic vote, President Sassoli said: 'It deeply saddens me to think that we have come to this point. Fifty years of integration cannot easily be dissolved. We will all have to work hard to build a new relationship, always focusing on the interests and protection of citizens' rights'<sup>1</sup>. The European Parliament will continue to play an essential role in the negotiations planned for 2020 on future EU relations with the United Kingdom.

#### **4. Multiannual financial framework**

The EU budget for the coming years, the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027, continued to figure high on the agendas of various interparliamentary meetings. The newly elected European Parliament, in its resolution of 10 October 2019 on the MFF<sup>2</sup>, confirmed the position adopted in November 2018<sup>3</sup>.

In December 2019, COSAC called for the timely and satisfactory approval of the MFF, recalling that late adoption would mean delayed implementation of the EU's strategic targets. COSAC also noted that the adoption of the MFF would involve finding agreement on a review of the EU's system of own resources. COSAC stressed the need for new objective mechanisms to protect the financial interests of the Union when they are jeopardised by disrespect for the rule of law, or where there is a systemic threat to the values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union.

#### **5. Fundamental rights and the rule of law**

At its plenary meeting of December 2019, COSAC recalled that the Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. The rule of law was, in COSAC's view, fundamental to the EU's legitimacy in the eyes of its citizens. COSAC therefore endorsed a strong role for the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in ensuring respect for fundamental rights in the day-to-day exercise of the EU's functions.

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1 [Press release of 29 January 2020 entitled 'Brexit deal approved by the European Parliament'](#).

2 [European Parliament resolution of 10 October 2019 entitled '2021-2027 multiannual financial framework and own resources: time to meet citizens' expectations'](#).

3 [European Parliament resolution of 14 November 2018 entitled 'Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 – Parliament's position with a view to an agreement'](#).

At the same meeting, COSAC considered that as all Member States have committed, under the Treaty on European Union, to upholding the rule of law, they should all accept transparent and impartial monitoring and peer review of the conditions of the rule of law in the Member States. COSAC affirmed that where deficiencies in the rule of law jeopardise the functioning of the single market or the implementation of EU policies, the EU and its Member States have legitimate grounds for concern and appropriate action.

The Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) on Europol enables the national Parliaments to scrutinise Europol jointly with the European Parliament to ensure that the agency is fully accountable and transparent. The JPSG politically monitors Europol activities, with a particular focus on the impact of those activities on the fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons. In 2019, the fourth meeting of the JPSG on Europol placed an emphasis on the state of play and activities of the Europol Travel Intelligence Centre (ETIC) and the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3). At the fifth meeting of the JPSG on Europol, the thematic debate focused on Europol's priorities for information management (see chapter 3.1).

## **6. Neighbourhood policy and enlargement**

Members of national Parliaments and Members of the European Parliament discussed the relations of the EU with its neighbouring countries in considerable depth. The first plenary session of the Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC CFSP/CSDP), held in Bucharest on 7 March 2019, was dedicated to evaluation of the Eastern Partnership on its 10th anniversary. MPs and MEPs talked to a representative of the European External Action Service (EEAS) about the challenges currently facing the region and the need to strengthen the resilience and societal structures of the Eastern Partnership countries.

At its meeting of April 2019, the EUSC agreed that stability in the Western Balkans was essential for stability on the entire continent. It reaffirmed the European perspective of the countries of the Western Balkans and their commitment to the enlargement of the European Union.

It also acknowledged the impressive achievements of the Eastern Partnership. It endorsed cooperation between the European Union and the six eastern European states participating in the Eastern Partnership. It expressed its support for efforts aimed at the sustainable and peaceful settlement of conflicts in the Eastern Neighbourhood.

It also stated that the EU Member States and the EU's partner states in the Southern Neighbourhood faced numerous common challenges, notably with regard to migration flows, climate change, sustainable development, and the fight against terrorism and international crime, which could only be overcome through intensive regional cooperation.

On 24 October 2019, the European Parliament adopted a resolution<sup>4</sup> in which it expressed deep disappointment over the failure to agree on the opening of EU accession talks with Albania and North Macedonia at the EU summit of 17 and 18 October 2019.

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4 [European Parliament resolution of 24 October 2019 on opening accession negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania.](#)

On 4 December 2019, the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) co-organised an ICM with the Legislative Dialogue Unit which included a session on enlargement entitled 'The future of enlargement – how to overcome the credibility deficit and boost reforms'. The meeting was a follow-up to an ICM held in April 2019, at which European neighbourhood policy and enlargement policy, among other topics, had already been discussed. December's meeting was a good opportunity for MPs and MEPs to hold an initial exchange of views with Mr Josep Borrell, Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), and Mr Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations.

## **7. Climate policy**

The von der Leyen Commission unveiled a plan to achieve climate neutrality in the EU by 2050. Prior to its presentation in plenary in December 2019, the EP had adopted a resolution on 28 November 2019<sup>5</sup> in which it asked the Commission to ensure that all proposals were aligned to the 1.5°C target. It also asked the EU to cut emissions by 55 % by 2030 with the objective of becoming climate neutral by 2050. Finally, in its resolution the EP made a plea to reduce global emissions from shipping and aviation.

In its December 2019 plenary meeting in Helsinki, COSAC noted that implementing such a climate policy required significant investments throughout the European Union and appropriate measures to mitigate possible hardship caused by the transition to a climate-smart economic model. COSAC also suggested that the Commission explore use of the European Semester mechanism as a tool for encouraging effective implementation of climate targets and of the sustainable development objectives set out in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Following the IPC CFSP/CSDP held in Helsinki in September 2019, the Co-Chairs issued a joint statement in which they highlighted that 'climate security concerns should be integrated into the entire foreign policy portfolio, including foreign trade'. They also called on the Member States to assume a stronger role in the effective implementation of international conventions such as the Paris Agreement on climate change.

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5 [European Parliament resolution of 28 November 2019 on the climate and environmental emergency.](#)

# 1. INSTITUTIONAL INTERPARLIAMENTARY BODIES

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



*COSAC, or the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs, was established in November 1989 in Paris. It is unique in that it is the only interparliamentary forum enshrined in the Treaties (Protocol 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 defining the direction and work of COSAC. A Presidential Troika, of which the European Parliament is a permanent member, supports it. The Presidency relies on the organisational backing of a small secretariat, hosted by the EP and led by an official seconded from a national Parliament ('Permanent Member').*

See [www.ipex.eu](http://www.ipex.eu)



Mr Antonio Tajani, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, and Ms Mairead McGuinness, First Vice-President of the European Parliament, at the COSAC Chairpersons' meeting in Helsinki, 21-22 July 2019 ©parleu2019.fi

In 2019, COSAC meetings placed a strong emphasis on the European elections, the renewal of the European Parliament and the subsequent renewal of the other EU institutions. This emphasis was reflected not only in debates on the future agendas and composition of the institutions, but also in discussions on the transparency of the institutions and their closeness to EU citizens. The long-term debate on the EU's role, ambitions, obligations and own resources and on its relationship with the international community, the Member States and its own citizens was given fresh impetus by the European elections.

The Brexit process continued to move forward and to feature high on the agendas of many meetings. The transparency, inclusivity and competence of the EU Chief Negotiator, Mr Michel Barnier, and his readiness to report meaningful developments to COSAC in a timely manner were appreciated unanimously. Also duly noted were the EP's determination to preserve the unity of the EU-27 and its role in guaranteeing peace in Europe and the rights and freedoms of citizens.

The specific political, institutional and social realities of both the Romanian and the Finnish Presidencies had a clear influence on the content and atmosphere of debates.



The Romanian Presidency focused the agenda on EU international trade relations, the future UK-EU relationship, the European Education Area, innovation and technological progress, and its impact on social Europe (dates and topics of all four COSAC meetings are listed in Annex 1).

The most relevant exchanges during the COSAC plenary in Helsinki centred around the Conference for the Future of Europe (CFE).



The topic was not initially on the meeting agenda but was added at short notice, owing to the need for a last-minute reshuffle of the agenda and the fact that the EP had begun to develop its own ideas on the CFE. The debate enabled all delegations to state their expectations for the CFE clearly. Despite differing points of view, national Parliaments expressed a clear desire to be fully involved in the conference. The other topic that allowed for a particularly extensive exchange was the rule of law, with a view to possible new EU mechanisms in the field. Of particular note in the debate was the fact that no national delegation contested EU competence in this area and that nobody challenged the need for objective and common safeguards.

2019 was a complex year for the EP delegation as a result of the elections and their influence on MEPs' agendas and the change of functions and roles in the renewed Parliament. In spite of this, the EP delegation consolidated its long-established partnership with the Parliaments holding the

Council Presidency, with a view to building a steady, confidence-based partnership which aims to find common positions acceptable to all.

### **Main development in 2019:**

- The EP delegation strengthened fruitful relations with the Parliaments holding the Presidency and consolidated the role of the Troika as a forger of broad consensus.

## **1.2 Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments (EUSC)**

*The annual Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments (EUSC) was established on the basis of the Stockholm Guidelines adopted in 2010. They provide for one annual meeting, organised by the Member State holding the second semester Presidency in a given year, to take place during the spring Presidency of the following year. The 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 European Union Parliaments.*

See [www.ipex.eu](http://www.ipex.eu)



Mr Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the Austrian National Council; Mr Mauri Pekkarinen, Deputy Speaker of the Finnish Parliament; Ms Mairead McGuinness, First Vice-President of the European Parliament; Mr Henn Põlluaas, President of the Riigikogu (Parliament of Estonia); Mr Ingo Appé, President of the Austrian Federal Council ©Austrian Parliament.

The annual EUSC took place in Vienna on 8 and 9 April 2019. The meeting was chaired by Mr Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the National Council of Austria, and Mr Ingo Appé, President of the Federal Council of Austria. The European Parliament was represented by its First Vice-President, Ms Mairead McGuinness. Ms McGuinness delivered a keynote speech at the opening session of the conference, following the welcome speeches given by the two Austrian Presidents.

In her address, Ms McGuinness referred to Brexit, pleading for a policy of compromise rather than conflict. She outlined the challenges that the EU is facing, including climate change and the future of work in the age of digitalisation and artificial intelligence, and said that the EU represented the best way of addressing these challenges together. With the European elections approaching, the First Vice-President launched an appeal for both the European Parliament and the national Parliaments to work together closely for a high voter turnout. She added that the EU and the Member States needed to work together to ensure rules against sources of foreign disinformation, social networks designed to manipulate public opinion and the illegal use of citizens' personal data to influence voting intentions<sup>6</sup>.

The EUSC debated two topics. The first session was dedicated to 'The European Union and its neighbours' and focused on the enlargement perspective of Western Balkan countries and the Eastern Partnership, and on the situation in the Southern Mediterranean region. The second session was dedicated to 'The European Union ahead of the 2019 European elections – further development of cooperation between national Parliaments and European institutions'.

The EUSC conclusions<sup>7</sup> focused on neighbourhood policy and enlargement, the European elections, European values, democratic resilience and subsidiarity.

Finally, the EUSC gave the Finnish Presidency a mandate to organise a working group to put forward proposals for a technical update of the Guidelines for Interparliamentary Cooperation in the EU, adopted in Lisbon in 2008. Moreover, the Speakers asked the incoming Finnish Presidency to prepare, in whichever format it saw fit, a common understanding document for the ICM on the evaluation of Eurojust, with regard to aspects not regulated under Regulation (EU) 2018/1727<sup>8</sup>. The outcome of both issues was to be presented during the EUSC in Helsinki from 17 to 19 May 2020.

### **Main developments in 2019:**

- The EUSC focused its discussion on enlargement and interparliamentary cooperation;
- It mandated the Finnish Presidency to update the Guidelines on Interparliamentary Cooperation in the EU (adopted in Lisbon in 2008).

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6 [https://www.parlament.gv.at/ENGL/ZUSD/PDF/EU2018\\_Minutes\\_Conference\\_EU\\_Speakers\\_EN.pdf](https://www.parlament.gv.at/ENGL/ZUSD/PDF/EU2018_Minutes_Conference_EU_Speakers_EN.pdf)

7 [Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments, 8-9 April 2019, Vienna – Conclusions of the Presidency](#)

8 [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1727 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation \(Eurojust\), and replacing and repealing Council Decision 2002/187/JHA.](#)

## 2. INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCES (IPCS)

### 2.1 European Parliamentary Week (EPW), the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union and the European Semester Conference

*The Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (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 the exchange of information and best practices in implementing the provisions of the Treaty and aims to strengthen cooperation between EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament. The conference also contributes to ensuring democratic accountability in the area of economic governance and budgetary policy in the EU, particularly in the Economic and Monetary Union, taking into account the social dimension and without prejudice to the competences of EU national Parliaments and the EP.*

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

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

The 2019 EPW, co-organised by the European Parliament and the Romanian Presidency, took place on 18 and 19 February 2019 in Brussels and was attended by 128 Members of national Parliaments. All but one EU national Parliament were represented, together with observers from EU candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia and Turkey, in addition to special guests from Norway and Switzerland. The very high attendance was one of the elements that contributed to the success of the eighth edition of EPW in 2019.

Participants were invited to discuss and exchange views on economic, budgetary and social priorities. The topics discussed at the European Semester Conference contributed to the objective of even closer cooperation between Members of EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament on issues related to the European Semester. The most recurrent topics in the debates were the completion of the Banking Union, particularly the European Deposit Insurance Scheme, establishing a common budget for the eurozone to stabilise economies in harder times, amending the European Stability Mechanism and building more democratic accountability.

The European Semester debate was followed up by three parallel ICMs (organised by BUDG, ECON and EMPL)<sup>9</sup> that addressed a number of topics, such as the next multiannual financial framework (MFF), new own resources for the EU budget, the Banking Union, taxation and anti-money laundering, new forms of employment, and measures taken by Member States for people with disabilities.

<sup>9</sup> The Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

The IPC on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU focused on convergence, stabilisation and cohesion in the Economic and Monetary Union, in particular the new EU programmes to support investment and access to finance under the new MFF, the proposed budget for the euro area, the proposal for the creation of the European Monetary Fund and the investment priorities for post-2020.

The 20th anniversary of the Euro (#Euroat20) was celebrated in the presence of high-level guests. The President of the Eurogroup, Mr Mário Centeno, the Vice-President of the European Central Bank, Mr Luis de Guindos, and the Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, Mr Pierre Moscovici, addressed the conference. The lively debate between Members of EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament was concluded with a speech from EP President Mr Antonio Tajani, who confirmed that one of his priorities was to bring EU policies and institutions closer to citizens and that the national Parliaments play a key role in reaching this goal.

All debates contributed to the purpose of bringing together Members of the EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament with a view to working more closely together on issues related to the European Semester.



European Parliamentary Week poster, 2019 ©EU\_EP.

As is customary in the second half of the year, the IPC on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union took place on 30 September and 1 October 2019 under the Finnish Presidency in Helsinki. The meeting brought together 106 Members of Parliaments and 75 staff members. The newly elected European Parliament delegation consisted of six Members.

The IPC centred on an exchange of views on the following four topics:

1. Economic governance in the Economic and Monetary Union and the European Stability Mechanism
2. Accelerating growth and jobs in Europe;
3. Measures for promoting investment, innovation and sustainable development;
4. How to support innovation for sustainable growth.

In addition to speakers from the EU national Parliaments, the European Parliament and the EU institutions, speakers from academia and from the private sector contributed their specific perspectives to the debate. All four debates reflected the strong interest of national Parliaments and the European Parliament in these topics.



EP President Antonio Tajani speaking at the European Semester Conference in Brussels, 19 February 2019 ©EU\_EP.

### **Main development in 2019:**

- For the second consecutive year, the programme of the EPW was concentrated into one-and-a-half days, merging the European Semester Conference with the IPC on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU; this format proved to be very conducive to lively and concise debate.

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

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

In 2019, the 14th and 15th editions of the IPC CFSP/CSDP took place in Bucharest (6-8 March) and Helsinki (4-6 September). The EP delegations to both meetings were composed of Members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and of the Sub-Committee on Security and Defence and were chaired by Mr David McAllister, Chair of the AFET Committee.

119 parliamentarians from the Parliaments of 27 EU Member States and the European Parliament attended the IPC CFSP/CSDP in Bucharest. Just a few months before the European elections, attendees discussed current foreign and security policy challenges, such as the security of the Black Sea region, the EU's relations with its eastern neighbours and the future of EU foreign policy after Brexit. The meeting took place in the context of the parliamentary dimension of the Romanian Presidency of the Council and was organised jointly by the Romanian Parliament and the European Parliament.

Workshops were dedicated to:

- The future of the CFSP and the CSDP in the light of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU;
- The EU Strategy for the Danube Region;
- Cyber security and hybrid warfare;
- Military mobility – a challenge to develop synergies between NATO and the EU.

In their final statement the Co-Chairs reaffirmed that the time had come for the EU to develop a genuine CFSP to promote its interests, principles and values in the face of increasing challenges, notably in its neighbourhood. The instruments available needed to be used more effectively and Member States should prioritise unified EU positions. EU ambitions needed to be met with adequate commitment in terms of decision-making processes.

A European Women's Deputy Declaration was adopted by female parliamentarians in the margins of the IPC and presented in plenary to mark International Women's Day on 8 March 2019.



Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC CFSP/CSDP) in Bucharest, 6-8 March 2019 ©ro2019.eu

During the second half of 2019, the IPC held in Helsinki was attended by 193 parliamentarians from the EU Member States, the European Parliament, EU candidate countries and countries invited as guests. Following the first session with the President of Finland, Mr Sauli Niinistö, who spoke about security challenges in the Baltic Sea region and the Arctic, participants discussed the EU's priorities in the area of the CFSP and the CSDP with the VP/HR, Ms Federica Mogherini, via video conference. An interactive debate with Members of the European Parliament and of national Parliaments followed her introduction on current and ongoing EU activities in the area of the CFSP and the CSDP. Mr Carl Bildt, former Prime Minister of Sweden, reflected upon transatlantic relations along with participants. Other topics discussed included EU defence, hybrid threats, security threats related to climate change, Iran and the Western Balkans.

During the conference, specific workshops were dedicated to the following topics:

1. Political developments in the Western Balkans;
2. Countering hybrid threats: assessing the EU's policies and instruments;
3. Iran – options for the EU and the future of the nuclear deal.

In their final statement, the Co-Chairs recalled that 'over the past two decades three quarters of our citizens have consistently favoured a more common European defence' and that 'the European Union still needs to deliver on that demand'. They also supported the idea that EU defence cooperation should continue to be coordinated with NATO. They welcomed the proposals by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to increase external action funding in the new MFF 2021-2027.



Interparliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC CFSP/CSDP) in Helsinki, 4-6 September 2019 ©parleu2019.fi

The Co-Chairs called on the Commission and the VP/HR 'to make hybrid risk surveys a standard tool in the EU's external action' and underlined 'the need for the EU to remain a source for reliable information and for fact-based assessments'. They stressed that 'climate security concerns should be integrated into the entire foreign policy portfolio, including foreign trade'. Finally, they called on the Member States to take a stronger role in the effective implementation of international conventions such as the Paris Agreement on climate change.

### **Main developments in 2019:**

- The Chair of the AFET Committee proposed the reintroduction of conclusions and a number of procedural innovations (e.g. introduction of an 'urgency debate' on a topic to be defined at the beginning of each IPC; use of the 'blue card' and 'catch-the-eye' procedures) with a view to re-energising debates;
- The IPC CFSP/CSDP in Helsinki presented an opportunity for newly elected Members of the European Parliament to get involved in the work of the IPC.

### 3. INTERPARLIAMENTARY SCRUTINY AND EVALUATION IN THE AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

#### 3.1 Joint parliamentary scrutiny of Europol: An innovative institutional set-up for parliamentary scrutiny



*Article 88 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) permits national Parliaments for the first time to scrutinise jointly with the European Parliament an EU agency operating in the area of freedom, security and justice. On the basis of the [Europol Regulation](#), which came into force on 1 May 2017, the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) on Europol was established to ensure that Europol is fully accountable and transparent. The main responsibilities of the scrutiny group are outlined in Article 51 of the Europol Regulation, which defines its role in politically monitoring Europol activities with a particular focus on the impact of those activities on the fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons.*

*The JPSG 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.*

Security is one of the key responsibilities of Parliaments. Significant progress has already been made towards creating an area of freedom, security and justice for EU citizens. Security is an area of competence shared between the EU and the Member States, in which cooperation is important in order to increase the exchange of information and counter threats of a cross-border nature while preserving fundamental rights.

Over the years, Europol has provided indispensable support in line with its mission to support and strengthen action by the Member States in preventing and combating serious crime affecting two or more Member States and terrorism. To make full use of Europol's potential, the European Parliament made repeated calls for Europol to become a hub for law enforcement information exchange and for its resources to be increased.

The fourth and fifth meetings of the JPSG were organised in 2019 and met with great success.

The fourth meeting of the JPSG was organised jointly by the Romanian Parliament and the European Parliament and was held on 24 and 25 February 2019 in Bucharest<sup>10</sup>. In the second semester, the European Parliament and the Finnish Parliament jointly organised the fifth meeting of the JPSG, which was held on 23 and 24 September 2019 at the premises of the European Parliament in Brussels<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> The JPSG meeting in Bucharest was attended by over 66 parliamentarians, representing 34 Chambers and 26 Member States, as well as by the seven Members of the European Parliament delegation to the JPSG.

<sup>11</sup> The JPSG meeting in Brussels was attended by 65 national parliamentarians, representing 34 Chambers and 25 Member States. The European Parliament is represented in the JPSG by 16 Members.



Fourth meeting of the JPSG in Bucharest on 24 and 25 February 2019 ©ro2019.eu

The agendas of JPSG meetings traditionally feature standing items, namely in-depth exchanges of views with the Executive Director of Europol on Europol's activities and challenges, as well as on its multi-annual work programme. These exchanges are complemented by presentations by the Chairperson of the Europol Management Board and a report by the JPSG representative to the Management Board meetings. Other regular keynote speakers include the European Data Protection Supervisor and the Chair of the Europol Cooperation Board, who inform delegates about the latest developments in the protection of personal data with regard to Europol's activities. The presentations are followed by question and answer sessions.

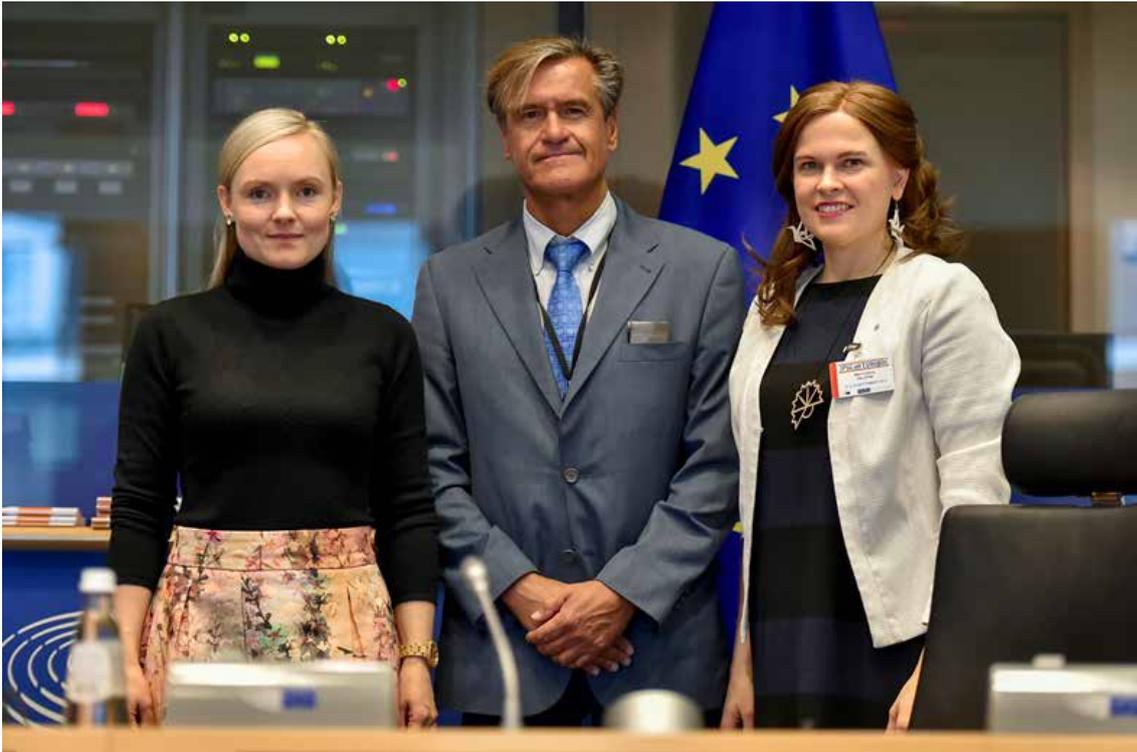
In addition to the abovementioned regular items, thematic debates are organised. The choice of topics is in line with the JPSG's scrutiny priorities. The fourth meeting placed an emphasis on the state of play and activities of the Europol Travel Intelligence Centre (ETIC) and the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3). At the fifth meeting, the thematic debate focused on Europol's information management priorities. The Minister of the Interior of Finland, Maria Ohisalo, delivered an address highlighting the need to enhance EU information systems and their interoperability for improved border management.

Sir Julian King, Commissioner for the Security Union and a regular guest since the creation of the JPSG, addressed both meetings, informing delegates about the vast scope of EU action in this field.

The most notable procedural developments of 2019 were the upgrade of the Parliament of Denmark from an 'observer' to the JPSG to that of a 'Member with limited rights in the JPSG'<sup>12</sup>, and the revision of the Rules of Procedure.

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12 Denmark is no longer a member of EU law enforcement agency Europol as of 2017, following a referendum in which Danes voted against changing Denmark's opt-out on justice and home affairs matters. As a result, Denmark signed a new cooperation agreement with the agency. Within the JPSG, the Danish Parliament will not take part in decision-making, but its position will be recorded. JPSG meetings will not take place in Denmark when it holds the rotating Presidency of the Council and Danish Members of Parliament will not be eligible for appointment as the JPSG representative to the Europol Management Board.



Finnish Minister of the Interior Ms Maria Ohisalo and JPSG Co-Chairs Mr Juan Fernando López Aguilar and Ms Mari-Leena Talvitie ©EU\_EP.

### **Main developments in 2019:**

- The JPSG working group on the representation of Denmark in JPSG meetings concluded its work successfully;
- Chambers continued to exercise their right to submit written questions to Europol and asked for additional clarity on the submission procedure;
- The review of the Rules of Procedure took place during the fifth JSPG meeting, two years after the JSPG's constitutive meeting, within the deadline set by the EUSC. Reflection and work on unresolved issues will continue, possibly within the framework of a dedicated working group.

## **3.2 The European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust)**

*The European Parliament and the EU national Parliaments have launched a process of reflection towards the establishment of their joint parliamentary evaluation of Eurojust's activities, provided for in Article 85 of the TFEU.*

*Since its creation in 2002, Eurojust has become a central player in judicial cooperation in criminal matters. The TFEU established a new legal basis for the future development of Eurojust. In 2018, the EP and the Council adopted a new Regulation on Eurojust with a view to providing a single and renovated legal framework for a new fully-fledged Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust).*

The Eurojust Regulation establishes a new governance system, clarifies the relationship between Eurojust and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), prescribes a new data protection regime, adopts new rules for Eurojust's external relations and strengthens the role of the European Parliament and EU national Parliaments in the democratic oversight of Eurojust's activities.

In order to increase the transparency and democratic oversight of Eurojust, the revised regulation provides for a mechanism for the joint evaluation of Eurojust's activities by the EP and EU national Parliaments. The evaluation should take place within the framework of an ICM on European Parliament premises in Brussels, with the participation of members of the competent committees of the EP and of EU national Parliaments. The ICM should fully respect Eurojust's independence as regards actions to be taken in specific operational cases and the obligation of discretion and confidentiality.

The Eurojust Regulation entered into force in December 2018, but only became applicable in December 2019, enabling Eurojust and Member States to prepare for the application of the new rules.

### **Main developments in 2019:**

- The 2019 EUSC asked the incoming Finnish Presidency to prepare a common understanding document for the ICM on the evaluation of Eurojust, with regard to aspects not regulated under Regulation (EU) 2018/1727, so as to enable the 2020 EUSC in Helsinki to reach conclusions on these matters;
- The Finnish Presidency drew up a note to that effect, which was discussed at the meeting of Secretaries-General of the European Union Parliaments of 26 and 27 January 2020 in Helsinki.

## **3.3 The European Border and Coast Guard**

Interparliamentary cooperation on the scrutiny of the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) is the most recent development in parliamentary relations in the field of justice and home affairs. The new EBCG Regulation<sup>13</sup>, proposed by the European Commission in 2018 and adopted in 2019, is an important element of the EU's comprehensive approach to migration and border management. The regulation aims to address migratory challenges and potential future threats at the external borders and to ensure a high level of internal security, while safeguarding the free movement of persons within the Union.

The EBCG is composed of national authorities and of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. National Parliaments have the power of scrutiny over the competent national authorities, as assigned to them by the national constitutional systems of the Member States. The European Parliament is responsible for scrutinising the EBCG Agency, in line with the Treaties.

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<sup>13</sup> [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard and repealing Regulations \(EU\) No 1052/2013 and \(EU\) 2016/1624.](#)

Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896, which deals with interparliamentary cooperation, provides that:

*'1. In order to address the specific nature of the European Border and Coast Guard, in that it is composed of national authorities and the Agency, and to ensure that the scrutiny functions of the European Parliament over the Agency and of the national parliaments over their respective national authorities are effectively exercised, as provided for in the Treaties and by national law respectively, the European Parliament and the national parliaments may cooperate in the framework of Article 9 of Protocol No 1 on the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union annexed to the TEU and to the TFEU<sup>14</sup>.*

*2. When invited by the European Parliament and the national parliaments meeting within the context of paragraph 1, the executive director and the chairperson of the management board shall attend such meetings.*

*3. The Agency shall transmit its annual activity report to the national parliaments.'*

The interparliamentary cooperation envisaged for the ECBG has a different, narrower scope than the JPSG on Europol or the ICM for the evaluation of the activities of Eurojust.

The scope and nature of the various forms of interparliamentary cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs are quite different. Practical arrangements, adapted to the specificity of each mandate, will ensure that the scrutiny provisions are fully enforced with the effects intended by the co-legislators.

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14 Article 9 of Protocol (No 1) on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union to the Treaty of Lisbon, which reads '[t]he European Parliament and national Parliaments [...] together determine the organisation and promotion of effective and regular interparliamentary cooperation within the Union.'

## 4. INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS

### 4.1 Interparliamentary Committee Meetings (ICMs)

*The committees of the European Parliament organise up to 20 ICMs per year, inviting the corresponding committees of the EU national Parliaments to engage in focused debates. Other interparliamentary meetings are organised by the Parliament of the Member State holding the Council Presidency.*

ICMs have proven to be a very effective way for Members of the European Parliament to share views with their national counterparts. ICMs are not only a forum for exchange on legislative issues, thereby contributing to better law-making, but also a platform on which to discuss political issues of common interest and to meet with the VP/HR and Commissioners. ICMs are co-organised on the initiative of one or more committees of the European Parliament with the support of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments.

In 2019, owing to the European elections, only seven ICMs<sup>15</sup> were organised by five different parliamentary committees, providing for debates between 232 Members of national Parliaments and 190 Members of the European Parliament.

The AFET Committee held two ICMs. On 2 April 2019, it organised an ICM on EU foreign policy and security, which it split into three sessions. The first session was dedicated to an exchange of views on the future of the CFSP. The main issues discussed were the challenges facing the EU today, the positions of Member States towards qualified majority voting on the CFSP in the Council and the need for the EU to focus on stronger leadership in terms of foreign and security policy.

The second panel of the ICM focused on the EU's future relations with the UK after Brexit, with the participation of EU Chief Negotiator, Mr Michel Barnier. Mr Barnier said: 'I trust we can complete these Brexit negotiations in a positive way, in order for the EU to square up to the numerous challenges that are becoming even more serious for us: climate change, the economy, technological warfare, migration and European defence'. The third panel debated the way forward for the European neighbourhood policy (ENP) and enlargement policy with the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Mr Johannes Hahn.

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2019, the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM), together with the Legislative Dialogue Unit of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, invited Members of national Parliaments of the EU Member States to attend an ICM on women's power in politics.

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15 Including 3 ICMs organised within the framework of European Parliamentary Week (see chapter 2.1).



ICM on the occasion of International Women's Day 2019 ©EU-EP.

The event was organised around two themes. The first panel discussed the issue of the real power of women in politics and how to boost it. A second was dedicated to young women in politics. This ICM provided a global forum for an exchange of experiences and best practices to advance women's representation in politics. The closing remarks were made by VP/HR Ms Federica Mogherini. She pointed out the current backlash against reaching gender equality and that men must help to achieve it.



Lively interparliamentary debate on the European Semester and its impact on national economies ©EU-EP.

On 24 September 2019, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) invited EU national Parliaments to an ICM to debate the country-specific recommendations. The discussion focused on the implementation of the 2019 European Semester priorities, as well as on the priorities for the 2020 Annual Growth Survey, which will be the basis for next year's European Semester.



Mr David McAllister, Chair of the AFET Committee, Mr Josep Borrell, VP/HR, and Mr Witold Jan Waszczykowski, Vice-Chair of the AFET Committee, at the ICM co-organised by the Legislative Dialogue Unit and the AFET Committee on 4 December 2019 ©EU-EP.

On 4 December 2019, a second ICM was organised by the AFET Committee. This ICM enabled an initial exchange between the new EU leadership and parliamentarians from national Parliaments and the European Parliament, at the beginning of the new legislature.

Mr Josep Borrell, the new VP/HR, and Mr Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, participated in the meeting.

A list of the ICMs organised by European Parliament committees in 2019 and more detailed statistics can be found in Annex II.

### **Main development in 2019:**

- Fewer ICMs were held in 2019 than usual owing to the European elections and the establishment of the new Parliament.

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

*Building on the extensive expertise developed through committee-based cooperation, in 2019 the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments provided support and facilitated relations with EU national Parliaments in the field of EU external action.*

Interest in cooperation and the exchange of best practices in the field of EU external action has continued to grow on the side of both the EP and national Parliaments.

The 6th Speakers' Summit (in the context of the G20) and the 15th plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM) were hosted by the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 13 and 14 February 2019. Both events, organised by the Euromed and Middle East Unit (Directorate for Regions – Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union (DG EXPO)) were opened by President Antonio Tajani and focused on the migration and refugee challenges on both sides of the Mediterranean.

These issues elicited an animated debate among participants, at both the Speakers' Summit and the PA-UfM plenary session. The Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Mr Dimitris Avramopoulos, and the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, Mr Nasser Kamel, also addressed the Speakers' Summit.

Turkey took over the presidency of the PA-UfM from the European Parliament at the end of the plenary session. The plenary decided to establish the seat of the PA-UfM in Rome, the practical arrangements for which will continue under the Turkish Presidency of the PA-UfM.

As 2019 was the year of the European elections, interparliamentary cooperation in the field of EU external action was reduced. Nevertheless, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments worked closely with DG EXPO within the framework of the EP's Pre-Accession Fellowship Programme for Western Balkan Parliaments and hosted a staff member of the Montenegrin Parliament for a study visit. This offered the opportunity to experience the work of the European Parliament and interparliamentary cooperation in the EU.

From 5 to 7 September 2019, First Vice-President Ms Mairead McGuinness participated in the meeting of G7 Parliaments in Brest, France, where she represented EP President Mr David Sassoli.

On 24 and 25 October 2019, the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament was organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Strasbourg. The Council of Europe hosted around 60 Presidents, together with 300 other delegates from the Council of Europe Member States and partner countries, as well as from other international assemblies. The European Parliament was represented by Vice-President Ms Dita Charanzová.



Opening speech by Ms Liliane Maury Pasquier at the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament in Strasbourg on 24 October 2019 ©Council of Europe.

### **Main developments in 2019:**

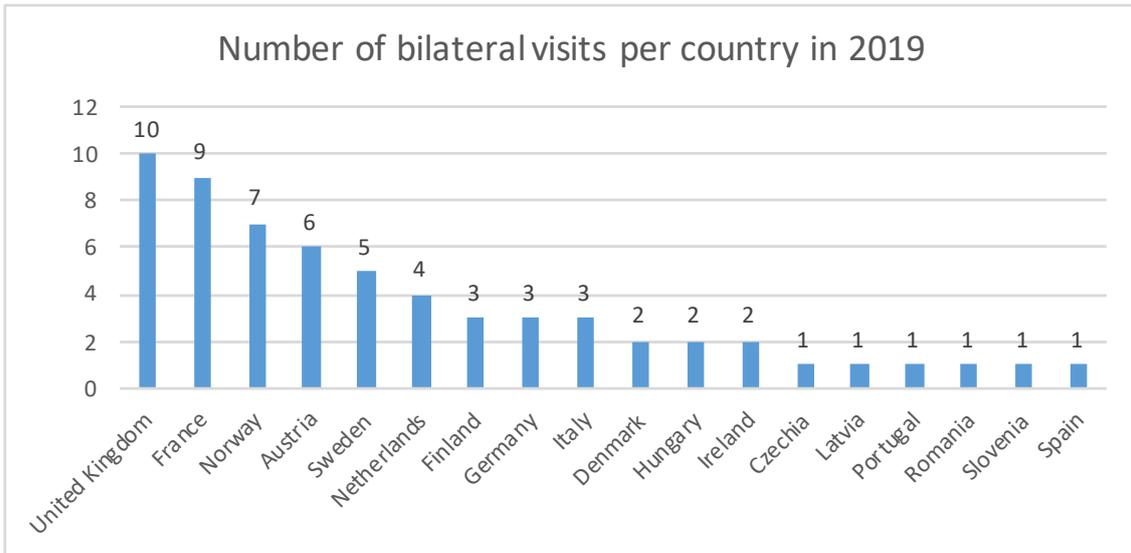
- Continued cooperation with DG EXPO within the framework of the Pre-Accession Fellowship Programme;
- Establishment of an indicative calendar of the most relevant multilateral parliamentary assemblies involving both the EP and national Parliaments (Inter-Parliamentary Union, PACE, Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, etc.), with a view to facilitating relations between the EP and the national Parliaments involved.

### **4.3 Bilateral visits from EU national Parliaments to the European Parliament**

*Bilateral visits are a constantly evolving tool and format for interparliamentary dialogue between Members of national Parliaments and the European Parliament. 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 2019, the number of bilateral visits (62) was lower than in the previous year, which was largely due to the European elections during which Parliament was in recess and legislative work slowed. The European Parliament received a high number of visits from the UK Parliament (10), the French National Assembly (9), Norway (7) and Austria (6).

The Brexit negotiations clearly impacted the topics and frequency of bilateral visits from the UK Parliament in 2019.



Visits from French delegations were largely related to ongoing EU legislative dossiers.

The Norwegian Parliament confirmed its interest in the EU and the EP more specifically by sending seven delegations to visit different EP bodies and Members in 2019. The Norwegian Parliament's interest can also be seen in the context of Brexit, since the Norwegian model, or the possibility of the UK joining the European Economic Area (EEA), i.e. the international agreement which enables the extension of the European Union's single market to non-EU countries, figured in 2019 as a possible option for future EU-UK relations.

Visits from the Austrian National Council were largely aimed at further enhancing working relations with the EP. Austrian delegations also visited the European Parliament's Visitors' Centre and the House of European History in order to gather input and ideas for the relaunch of the Austrian Parliament's visitors' centre in Vienna.

In addition, visits for parliamentarians and staff were organised for the Parliaments of the incoming EU Council Presidency, under the Presidency Parliament Support Programme (see chapter 7.3).

Occasionally, upon request, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments organises capacity-building study visits for parliamentary staff of Parliaments/Chambers that are in the process of adapting or modernising their organisation and express an interest in the functioning of the EP.

A detailed list of all visits, including videoconferences, from EU national Parliaments to the European Parliament organised by the Directorate in 2019 is available in Annex III.

### **Main development in 2019:**

- Bilateral visits decreased from 90 in 2018 to 62 in 2019 as a result of the European elections.

## 4.4 Use of videoconferencing for bilateral exchanges

*Videoconferencing opens up new opportunities and can facilitate interparliamentary cooperation. The European Parliament can provide a technical solution that enables videoconferencing with excellent image and sound quality and interpretation into several languages. The use of videoconferences can contribute to more regular contact between parliamentarians and can reduce travel time and mission costs, while being eco-friendly. All in all, this constitutes a cost-effective tool for organising meetings.*



Videoconferencing in the European Parliament, ©EU-EP.

Videoconferencing could well become a complement to the more traditional interparliamentary meetings. The Finnish Presidency organised a working group to update the Guidelines for Interparliamentary Cooperation in the EU<sup>16</sup>. The working group recognised and reported that better use of modern means of communication could further facilitate interparliamentary cooperation, in both a bilateral and a multilateral context.

### **Main developments in 2019:**

- In 2019, three videoconferences were organised in the context of interparliamentary cooperation.
- Use of videoconferencing has still been quite limited owing partly to technical constraints and the lack of adequate equipment in some national Parliaments.

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<sup>16</sup> [Enhanced interparliamentary cooperation through modern technology.](#)

## 5. LEGISLATIVE COOPERATION WITH EU NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

### 5.1 Early Warning System and Protocol No 2 to the Treaty of Lisbon

*Under the principle of subsidiarity (enshrined in Article 5 of the TEU), in areas which do not fall within its exclusive competence the Union must act only if and in so far as the objectives of the proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can be better achieved at Union level. National Parliaments ensure compliance with the principle of subsidiarity in accordance with the procedure set out in this Protocol. 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.*

*Protocol No 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality sets out a review mechanism, the Early Warning System (EWS). Under this mechanism national Parliaments may, within eight weeks from the date of transmission of a draft legislative act, send to the Presidents of the institutions a reasoned opinion stating why they consider that the draft in question does not comply with the principle of subsidiarity.*

#### 5.1.1 Early Warning System

With regard to the EWS, submissions from EU national Parliaments are considered under the following categories<sup>17</sup>:

1. Reasoned opinion: if submitted under that heading and received within the eight-week deadline referred to in Article 6 of Protocol No 2 to the Treaty of Lisbon<sup>18</sup>, and raising the issue of non-compliance with the principle of subsidiarity;
2. Contribution: where the submission does not fulfil the above criteria.

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

If, in the context of the ordinary legislative procedure, national Parliaments with at least a simple majority of the votes challenge the compliance of a legislative proposal with the principle of subsidiarity and the Commission decides to maintain its proposal, the matter is referred to the legislator (the European Parliament and the Council). If the legislator considers that the legislative proposal is not compatible with the principle of subsidiarity, it may reject it subject to a majority of 55% of the members of the Council or a majority of the votes cast in the European Parliament

<sup>17</sup> See Conference of Committee Chairs document of 15 December 2010: 'Common approach for the treatment at committee level of national Parliaments' reasoned opinions and all other contributions of national Parliaments'.

<sup>18</sup> Article 6 of Protocol No 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality: 'Any national Parliament or any chamber of a national Parliament may, within eight weeks from the date of transmission of a draft legislative act, in the official languages of the Union, send to the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission a reasoned opinion stating why it considers that the draft in question does not comply with the principle of subsidiarity. It will be for each national Parliament or each chamber of a national Parliament to consult, where appropriate, regional parliaments with legislative powers'

(orange card). To date, the yellow card procedure has been triggered three times<sup>19</sup>, while the orange card procedure has never been used.

Within the European Parliament, the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) is responsible for monitoring compliance with the principle of subsidiarity of reasoned opinions<sup>20</sup>. Every six months a member of the committee is appointed as standing rapporteur for subsidiarity on the basis of rotation among the political groups.

Mr Angel Dzhambazki (ECR) fulfilled the role of standing rapporteur for subsidiarity during the first half of 2019, followed by Mr Nacho Sánchez Amor (S&D) in the second half of the year. The JURI Committee also regularly draws up a report on the Commission's annual report on subsidiarity and proportionality.

Mr Antonio Tajani, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, and Mr Nacho Sánchez Amor, standing rapporteur for subsidiarity in the JURI Committee, participated as keynote speakers in the 9th Subsidiarity Conference entitled 'Active Subsidiarity: Creating EU Added Value Together', held on 22 November 2019 in Rome. The conference was jointly organised by the European Committee of the Regions and the Conference of the Presidents of Italian Regional Parliaments.

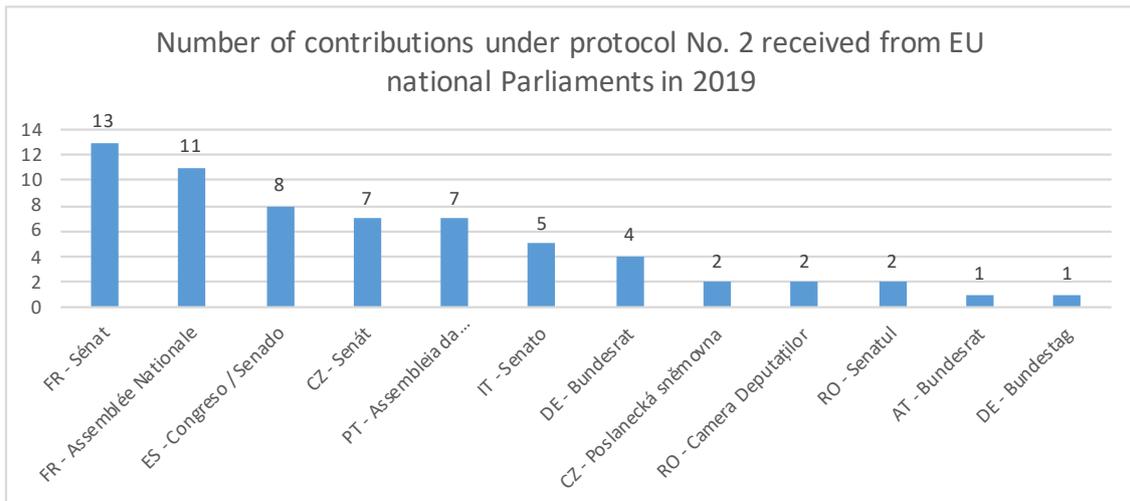
### 5.1.2 EU national Parliaments' submissions

In 2019, the EP received only 63 submissions from EU national Parliaments under Protocol No 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. The 63 submissions were all contributions and no reasoned opinions were submitted. In 2018, the EP received 473 submissions, of which 46 were reasoned opinions and 427 contributions. This 87 % fall in submissions between 2019 and 2018 may be explained by the fact that the EP's eighth term came to an end in 2019 and that the majority of legislative proposals were in their final adoption phase. Moreover, between January and April 2019, the national Parliaments received only 14 legislative proposals under Protocol No 2.

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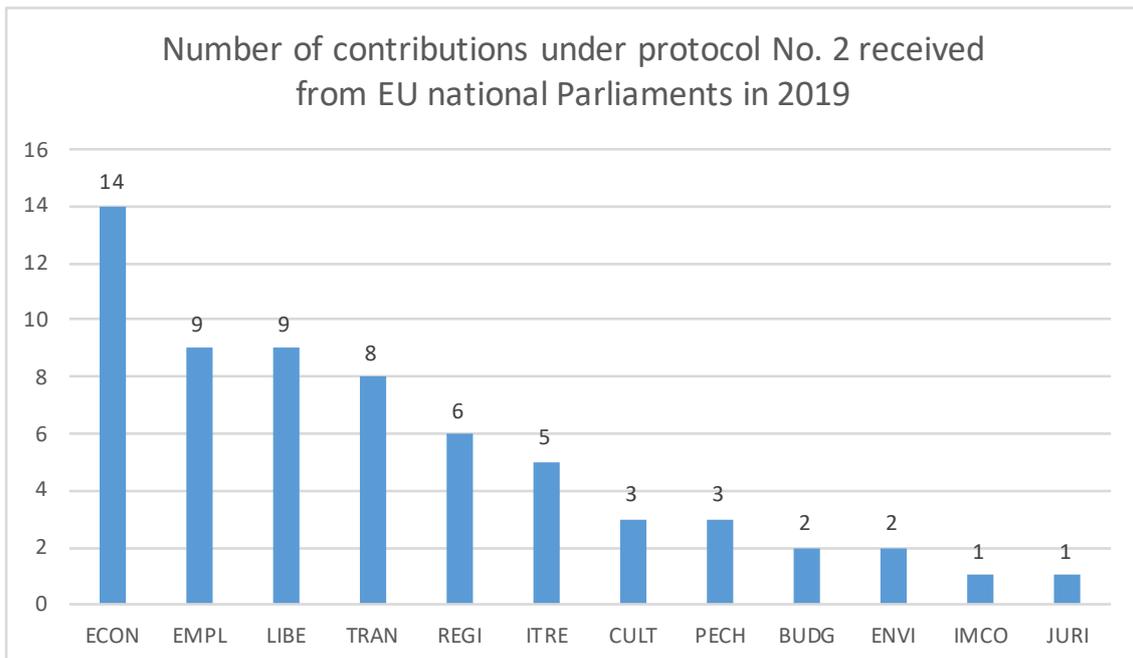
19 The yellow card procedure was used in 2012 with regard to a Commission proposal for a regulation concerning the exercise of the right to take collective action within the context of the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services ('Monti II'). The Commission ultimately withdrew its proposal, though it took the view that the subsidiarity principle had not been infringed. It was used again in 2013 following the submission of the proposal for a regulation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office. The Commission decided to [maintain the proposal](#), arguing that it was in line with the subsidiarity principle. It was further used in 2016 against the [proposal for a revision of the Directive on the Posting of Workers](#). The Commission gave extensive [reasons](#) for maintaining its proposal, given that it did not infringe the principle of subsidiarity, the posting of workers being, by definition, a transnational issue.

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



Number of contributions from Parliaments in 2019 by Chamber. There were no reasoned opinions.

In 2019, only 12 out of 41 Chambers submitted contributions. The most active were the French Parliament (13 from the Senate and 11 from the Chamber of Deputies), the Spanish Parliament (8), the Czech Senate (7) and the Portuguese Parliament (7).



Number of contributions received by committee. There were no reasoned opinions.

The committees that received the most contributions were the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, and the Committee on Transport and Tourism.

In the period since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon (December 2009-December 2019), a total of 887 draft legislative acts have been sent to national Parliaments for examination under the terms of Protocol No 2 to the Treaty of Lisbon. In response, the European Parliament has received 3 335 submissions from national Parliaments. Of these, 474 (14 %) were reasoned opinions, while the remaining 2 861 were contributions that dealt with the substance of proposals.

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

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments provides Members (in particular rapporteurs), political bodies and EP services with specific expertise and briefings on EU national Parliaments' submissions throughout the legislative cycle, which have been used as input for drafting committee reports and for trilogue negotiations with the Council. The Directorate also manages the CONNECT database, which contains all reasoned opinions and contributions received from national Parliaments (see chapter 7.1)<sup>21</sup>.

### **Main development in 2019:**

- Fewer legislative proposals to scrutinise as the legislative term was nearing its end. Legislative efforts were centred on the finalisation and adoption of proposals.

#### **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 within the scope of Protocol No 2. This note gives an overview of all submissions received since the previous note and refers to all legislative files which are on the agenda of the following EP plenary session. The note is also included in the meeting file for the EP's Conference of Committee Chairs, which meets on the Tuesday of each Strasbourg plenary session. The State of Play Note is also published on the Directorate's website ahead of each EP plenary session.

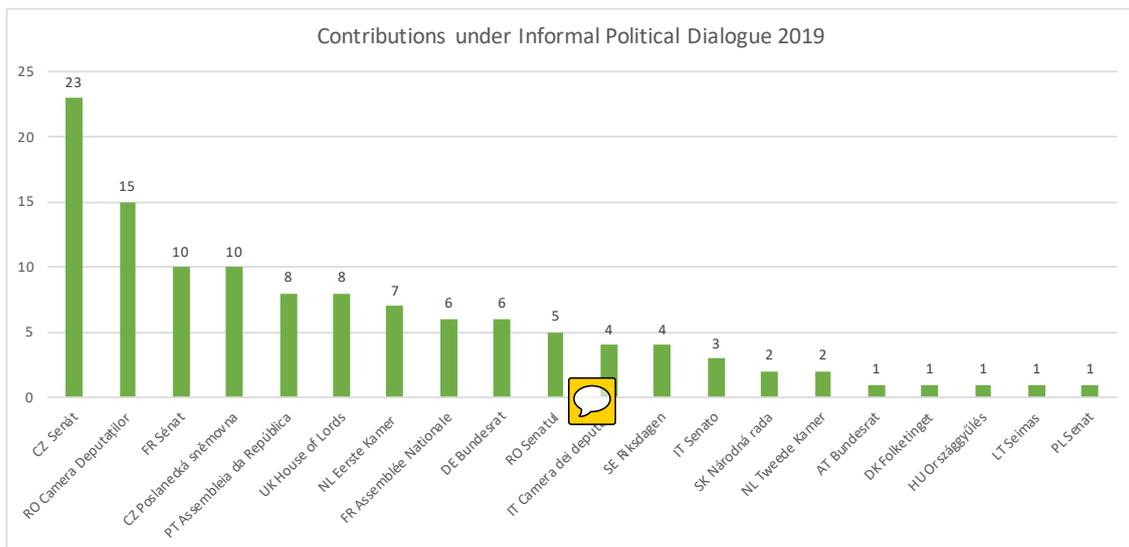
## **5.2 Informal Political Dialogue and Protocol No 1 to the TFEU**

*Protocol No 1 to the TFEU provides that EU national Parliaments may comment on legislative files falling under the exclusive competence of the EU as well as on non-legislative documents, for example relating to ongoing debates at European level, Commission Green/White Papers or communications from the Commission. These contributions are handled under the Informal Political Dialogue (IPD).*

In 2019, EU national Parliaments continued to make active use of this tool by submitting 118 contributions. In this context, the three most active Parliaments/Chambers in 2019 were the Czech Senate (23), the Romanian Chamber of Deputies (15), the French Senate (10) and the Czech Chamber of Deputies (10).

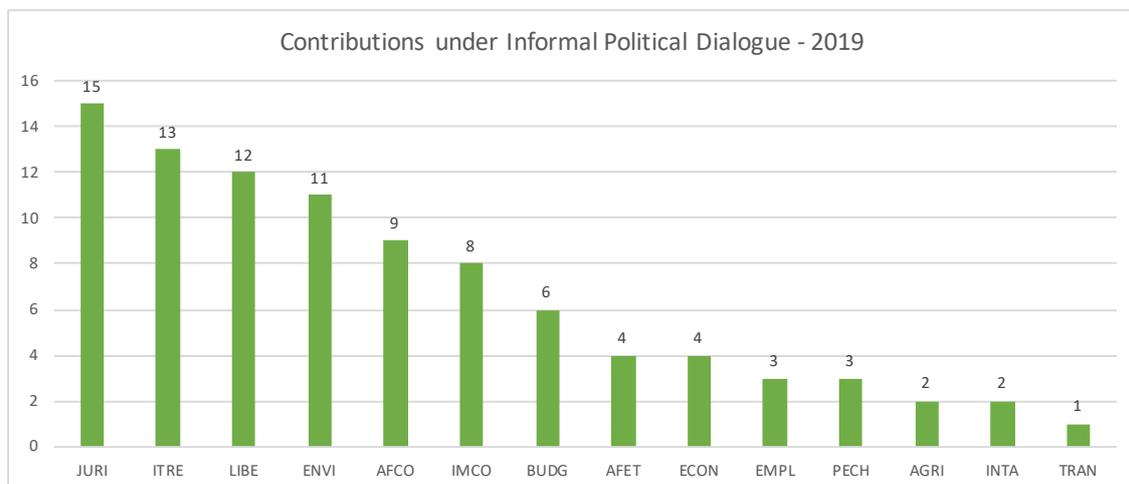
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21 The database can be found here: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl/en/connect/welcome.html>



Number of contributions from Parliaments in 2019 by Chamber.

A total of 93 of the contributions were assigned to committees. The four committees that received the most IPD contributions were the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) with 15, the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) with 13, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) with 12 and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) with 11.



Number of contributions from Parliaments in 2019 by committee<sup>22</sup>.

Since 2009, the EP has received 2 268 contributions from EU national Parliaments under Protocol No 1, which have been published in the CONNECT database<sup>23</sup>. Detailed statistics on the contributions received under the IPD in 2019 are available in Annex V.

22 The chart on committees is short of 20 own opinions and 5 joint opinions which were not assigned to committees.

23 <http://www.connefop.europarl.europa.eu/connefop/app/?protocol=1>

### **Main developments in 2019:**

- The number of contributions submitted under the Informal Political Dialogue decreased by 54 %, from 259 in 2018 to 118 in 2019. This decrease was most likely the result of the end of the legislative term (European elections were held in May 2019), when the legislative activity of the EU institutions slowed considerably;
- National Parliaments now more frequently provide a summary in English with their submissions under both Protocol No 2 and Protocol No 1. This facilitates the work of the legislators.

## 6. NETWORKS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

### 6.1 Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange (IPEX)



*The objective of the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange (IPEX) is to support interparliamentary cooperation by providing a platform and a network for the electronic exchange of EU-related information between Parliaments in the EU. IPEX was launched as an initiative of EU national Parliaments and was developed with the technical assistance of the European Parliament. In 2019, 41 Chambers of 28 national Parliaments and the European Parliament used IPEX in their daily activities. IPEX is subject to continual improvement to meet the changing needs of its users.*

*IPEX has been characterised variously as a 'tool', a 'platform' and a 'network'. These three definitions are testament to the evolution of the instrument. Its transition from a tool to a network has been slow but is now coming to fruition.*

See: [www.ipex.eu](http://www.ipex.eu)

2019 has been the year of the finalisation of the IPEX Digital Strategy and of the first IPEX Work Programme.

Three working groups were created to explore the following issues:

- Strengthening the promotion of IPEX (chaired by a staff member of the German Bundestag);
- Enhancing the IPEX network (chaired by the Danish Folketing and later by the Luxembourgish Chambre des Députés);
- Improving the IPEX database digital system (chaired by the EP).

The working groups prepared reports and concrete proposals for the IPEX Board on how to further develop IPEX as a driver of initiatives in the context of interparliamentary cooperation.

The proposals drawn up by the working groups were discussed during the Board meetings in Vienna (January and May 2019) and Brussels (October 2019). The Board formally adopted the results of the working groups.

The annual IPEX Correspondents meeting, held on 14 and 15 November 2019 in Vienna and organised by the Austrian Presidency, was an occasion for the adoption of new discussion formats and for the implementation of creative ideas that allowed for further development of the IPEX network. As a result, IPEX is already undergoing a transformation and is set to become the 'one-stop-shop' for interparliamentary exchange on EU affairs that the EP and the national Parliaments have been calling for.

A key indicator of the increasing significance of IPEX in the development of interparliamentary cooperation was the decision of the European Parliament to provide the necessary funds to support the development of the new IPEX website in 2020. On the basis of the Work Programme implementing the Digital Strategy, the IPEX Board has developed new forms of exchange among Parliaments and the new IPEX website should allow for their establishment in the day-to-day work. Without this strong commitment from the EP, it would have been impossible to make the necessary improvements to cooperation among Parliaments on EU affairs. This key contribution, a joint effort by the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments and the Directorate for Resources (Directorate-General for the Presidency (DG PRES)), the Directorate-General for Innovation and Technological Support (DG ITEC) and the Cabinet of the Secretary-General, certainly represented one of the best examples of 'impact through cooperation' in practice in 2019.

Also in 2019, IPEX successfully implemented the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and published the IPEX Privacy Statement, together with the Memorandum of Understanding defining the duties of the joint data controllers (the IPEX Board and the national Parliaments).

In addition to these intensive activities, IPEX pursued its role as a platform related to subsidiarity and the scrutiny of EU draft legislation by national Parliaments.

IPEX currently publishes more than 106 000 pages issued by national Parliaments and the EU institutions, holding scrutiny-related information in almost 80 000 documents produced by national Parliaments and linked to some 12 000 dossiers. In 2019, the total number of legislative and non-legislative documents recorded in IPEX was 811, a fall from the previous year as a result of the change in parliamentary term (2018: 1 119; 2017: 1 053; 2016: 1 064; 2015: 805).

In 2019, the IPEX website had more than 340 000 unique visitors, following the general trend of previous years (2018: 285 881; 2017: 307 737; 2016: 253 264; 2015: 234 480). However, the number of pages viewed – almost 43 million! – is by far the highest recorded so far, with an increase of more than 30 million pages in relation to 2018.

### **Main developments in 2019:**

- Completion of an inventory of proposals and ideas for content for the new sections of the IPEX website;
- IPEX consolidated its role as a network.

## **6.2 European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD)**



*Managed jointly by the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the ECPRD counts 66 parliamentary Chambers (including 41 in the European Union) from 54 countries and EU institutions among its members. Almost 120 correspondents and deputy correspondents represent their respective Parliament in the network and contribute to the main ECPRD activities, which consist of an intensive exchange of information and best practice.*

For the third time, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments and the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) successfully organised an ECPRD seminar entitled 'Empowering through knowledge: Parliamentary research in an era of disinformation and information overload'. The event attracted 65 participants from 33 parliamentary Chambers and international organisations. The seminar started with a discussion among senior managers and directors on the main challenges in running a research service, followed by a series of case studies on how to welcome a new Parliament.

Another session focused on 'Evidence-based policy-making', providing participants with insights into policy evaluation. A session on 'Working with partners' provided an opportunity for the US Congressional Research Service and other services within the US Congress to present their activities and to reply to questions. Evidence-based policy-making and the need for ethical guidelines for independence and reliance on expertise were the topic of an inspiring discussion. First Vice-President Ms Mairead McGuinness and EP Secretary-General Mr Klaus Welle also addressed the seminar.

In total, the ECPRD Secretariat was involved in the organisation of six seminars and four statutory meetings, all in close cooperation with the host Parliaments.

In 2019, ECPRD member Parliaments submitted 306 comparative requests to the network, compared to 333 in 2018. These requests triggered 7310 replies, representing a slight fall in comparison with the 2018 figure of 7963. The ECPRD Secretariat monitored the submission of requests closely in order to make sure that ECPRD standards were respected. It is worth noting that for the first time some national Parliament services and the European Parliament received requests relating to national freedom of information acts and to Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 on access to documents.

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments also provided support to EP services by facilitating and transmitting their requests to the ECPRD network. In total, the EP submitted 16 requests to the ECPRD network over the course of 2019. This represents a significant increase from 2018, which saw only five EP requests. Furthermore, the EP provided 29 replies to requests from other ECPRD Parliaments, a figure which remained almost the same as in 2018 (31 replies).

Support from the EP's IT services remained essential for the proper functioning of the ECPRD website and the request workflow in 2019. ECPRD member Parliaments expressed their trust that the EP would ensure the smooth functioning of the service.

### **Main development in 2019:**

- Implementation of the new General Data Protection Regulation.

### 6.3 Network of EU national Parliaments' representatives in Brussels

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

EU national Parliaments are represented by national officials in Brussels who are hosted by the EP. On 31 December 2019, 56 staff members from 39 Chambers were occupying 36 offices on European Parliament premises<sup>24</sup>. The representatives regularly share and exchange information both among themselves and with EP services, with a view to facilitating and fostering interparliamentary exchange and cooperation.

The representatives work in the same building that houses the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments. This creates numerous synergies and promotes easy exchanges. The Directorate continued to organise a number of workshops for the national Parliament's representatives. The purpose of these workshops is to present specific areas of work and administrative projects of the European Parliament and to hold informal discussions on related topics of common interest, with a view to learning from each other and gaining a better understanding of the different administrative cultures.

In 2019, workshops were organised on the European elections, Brexit, the EPRS, and the work and activities of the EP's Directorate-General for Internal Polices (DG IPOL). All workshops were attended by the Director-General concerned. One workshop was dedicated to a debate with the Secretary-General, Mr Klaus Welle.

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

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

#### **Main developments in 2019:**

- Further development of informal workshops with representatives;
- Relocation of representatives' offices from the Wiertz building to the Montoyer building.

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<sup>24</sup> Including COSAC Secretariat and IPEX information officer.

## 6.4 Staff seminars

*'Whereas 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', suggests the EP resolution on the implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national Parliaments<sup>25</sup>. In 2019, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments organised a series of seminars for staff from EU national Parliaments/Chambers. Their aim was to bring together staff from national Parliaments and the EP in order to present and discuss relevant European topics, learn from each other and exchange best practices.*

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

On 19 and 20 March 2019, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, together with the Directorate-General for Communication, organised a staff seminar entitled 'Communication from a parliamentary perspective', bringing together around 62 members of staff from national Parliaments/Chambers. Staff from EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament had a lively discussion about how to communicate with citizens as an institution and shared their knowledge and experience. This two-day seminar was an opportunity for participants to discuss and gain valuable insight into communication practices, from both a European perspective and different national perspectives.

Another staff seminar, on the topic of the European Semester, was organised by the Economic Governance Support Unit (DG IPOL) with the support of the Directorate. Parliamentary research staff of the EU national Parliaments and the EP continue to cooperate through the ECPRD network (see chapter 6.2).

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25 [European Parliament resolution of 19 April 2018 on the implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning national Parliaments.](#)

## 7. TOOLS AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

### 7.1 CONNECT

# CONNECT

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

As of 2017, the CONNECT database can be consulted on the Directorate's website<sup>26</sup>. All information in CONNECT, including reasoned opinions and contributions received from national Parliaments, is directly available in e-Committee, the common working space of DGs IPOL and EXPO, under the procedure to which they relate. This applies not only to reasoned opinions but also to all contributions received from EU national Parliaments.

CONNECT enables rapporteurs, Members, assistants and staff of the committee secretariats, as well as all external stakeholders, to have an up-to-date and complete overview of all submissions received from national Parliaments at any moment of a given legislative procedure. In 2019, a total of **181** submissions were received: **63** (35%) were submitted within the framework of the Protocol No 2 subsidiarity checks and **118** (65%) contributions under the Informal Political Dialogue.

On 31 December 2019, a total of **5 675** submissions (reasoned opinions and contributions) from EU national Parliaments could be found in the CONNECT database. **3 322** (59%) were submitted within the framework of the Protocol No 2 subsidiarity checks and **2 353** (41%) were submitted under the Informal Political Dialogue.

#### **Main developments in 2019:**

- Promotion of CONNECT among newly elected MEPs in the monthly State of Play Note sent to MEPs;
- Drop in the number of submissions as a result of 2019 being election year.

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<sup>26</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl/en/connect.html>

## 7.2 Directory of Corresponding Committees (CorCom)

# CORCOM

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

Following the adoption of a resolution in May 2009<sup>27</sup> on the development of the relations between the EU national Parliaments and the European Parliament (rapporteur Mr Elmar Brok), the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament have been revised accordingly, and now state that 'a committee may directly engage in dialogue with national parliaments at committee level within the limits of the budgetary appropriations set aside for that purpose. This may include appropriate forms of pre-legislative and post-legislative cooperation' (Rule 150.3).

The CorCom application improves continually to meet the changing needs of its users. It has become a web-based application<sup>28</sup>, being much more user-friendly and equipped with a whole range of new features. The number of pages viewed monthly is 392 on average.

## 7.3 Presidency Parliament Support Programme

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

In recent years a number of EU Member States have held the EU Council Presidency for the first time. Parliaments from these countries were particularly interested in the EP's Presidency Support Programme. In this context, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments organised three study visits in spring 2019 for nine officials of the Croatian Sabor who would be responsible for the preparation of the parliamentary dimension of the Croatian Presidency. These meetings involved contacts with relevant European Parliament committee secretariats and other services, the IPEX Officer, the COSAC Secretariat, and representatives of several national Parliaments of countries that had recently held the EU Council Presidency.

<sup>27</sup> [European Parliament resolution of 7 May 2009 on the development of the relations between the European Parliament and national parliaments under the Treaty of Lisbon.](#)

<sup>28</sup> CorCom is for internal use only. It is available on the intranet of the European Parliament.

The objective of the meetings was to exchange experiences and best practices with regard to the organisation of major interparliamentary meetings and conferences, such as COSAC, the IPC on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU, the IPC CFSP/CSDP and the meetings of the JPSG on Europol.

In addition, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments facilitated bilateral visits from the Finnish and German Parliaments, which served as preparation for their Presidencies. All participants in the programme confirmed that the sharing of experiences and the lessons learnt, as well as the close cooperation established, were particularly useful in ensuring better planning of the parliamentary dimension of the Presidency.

#### **Main developments in 2019:**

- Organisation of a comprehensive support programme for staff of the Croatian Parliament, as a first-time holder of the Presidency, at the EP in Brussels;
- Organisation of tailor-made programmes for Parliaments of incoming Presidency countries (those not holding the Presidency for the first time).

## **7.4 Publications of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments**

*The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments produces a number of publications. One such publication, 'Spotlight on Parliaments in Europe', summarises information on selected topical matters which has been exchanged among 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.*

'Spotlight on Parliaments in Europe' summarises information on selected topical matters which has been exchanged among Parliaments in the ECPRD network.

In 2019, the Directorate prepared two issues:

- Spotlight n°24 – February 2019 – Monitoring of the transposition of directives and the implementing measures of EU regulations;
- Spotlight n°25 – November 2019 – Constituencies in national parliamentary elections.

The publications are available on the [Directorate's website](#).

The *Weekly Agenda* is sent on Fridays by email to all Members of the European Parliament and to the services of the European Parliament. In 2019, 36 *Weekly Agendas* were sent out. The publication covers interparliamentary events of the upcoming two weeks, such as bilateral visits, interparliamentary conferences and ICMs. Information is given on the date, place and EP services involved.

The Directorate also produces a monthly *State of Play Note* on reasoned opinions and contributions submitted by national Parliaments (see chapter 5.1.3).

It also operates a website providing information on upcoming activities and publications of the Directorate.

## 8. DIRECTORATE FOR RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

2019 was yet another year of growth and cooperation for the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments. Numerous activities, new colleagues and partners, participation in high-level interparliamentary events, stronger ties with other services of the European Parliament and important milestones have marked this year.

In line with the motto of DG PRES, 'Impact through cooperation', the Directorate has continued to provide Members and the Secretariat of the EP with the services and advice required for the further development of institutional cooperation and legislative dialogue with EU national Parliaments.

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

The Directorate is grateful for the continuous support of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General as well as of all services in the EP Directorates-General it cooperates with.

Director: Katrin Ruhrmann

The Directorate consists of two units:

### **Legislative Dialogue Unit**

The Legislative Dialogue Unit is mainly responsible for political and legislative dialogue with national Parliaments. It plans, coordinates and organises interparliamentary meetings at committee level, including ICMs, European Parliamentary Week and the JPSG on Europol. It also ensures monitoring of the subsidiarity check and follow-up with rapporteurs and committees of the implementation of Protocol No 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. The Unit also organises thematic seminars bringing together EP 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, i.e. the EUSC, meetings of Secretaries-General of EU Parliaments and COSAC. The Unit also deals with established networks, in particular IPEX and ECPRD, as well as handling cooperation with DG EXPO and coordinating the Presidency Parliament Support Programme and capacity-building visits.

Head of Unit: Pekka Nurminen

This report, as well as further information related to the European Parliament's relations with EU national Parliaments, can be found on the EP website:

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

## ANNEXES

### ANNEX I – COSAC meetings – Topics and keynote speakers 2019

COSAC event	Place, Date	Topics	European Parliament's keynote Speakers / panellists
Meeting of the Chairpersons	Bucharest, 20-21 January 2019	I Priorities of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU II Increasing cohesion and ensuring convergence through MFF instruments	
Plenary meeting of the LXI COSAC	Bucharest, 23-25 June 2019	I Achievements of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU II Prospects for the EU's international trade relations; the future of relations between the EU and the UK in the context of Brexit III The European Education Area as a driving factor for reshaping and strengthening the single market IV Economy based on innovation, technological progress and the social impact of the EU; the role of national Parliaments in fostering the 'new economy' of the EU	
Meeting of the Chairpersons	Helsinki, 21-22 July 2019	I The Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU II Promoting the rule of law in the EU and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights III Speech by Mr Maroš Šefčovič IV A winning climate strategy for Europe V Speech by Mr Michel Barnier	Ms Mairead McGuinness, First Vice-President of the European Parliament
Plenary meeting of the LXII COSAC	Helsinki, 1-3 December 2019		

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

## ANNEX II – Interparliamentary meetings organised by the European Parliament committees in Brussels<sup>29</sup> in 2019

				Number of participants:			
Date	European Parliament committee	Event		National Parliaments			EP
		Type of meeting	Title of meeting	Members	Parliaments	Chambers	Members
18-19 February 2019	ECON EMPL BUDG	European Parliamentary Week: • Conference on the European Semester	Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union	<b>128</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Plenary day 1: 11</b> <b>Plenary day 2: 21</b> <b>ECON ICM: 13</b> <b>BUDG ICM: 9</b> <b>EMPL ICM: 5</b>
7 March 2019	FEMM	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Women's power in politics	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>
1-2 April 2019	AFET	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	EU foreign policy and security	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>41</b>
24 September 2019	ECON	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	Country-specific recommendations	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>43</b>
4 December 2019	AFET	Interparliamentary Committee Meeting	EU foreign policy priorities for the new institutional cycle	<b>38</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Total number of participants</b>				<b>232</b>			<b>190</b>

<sup>29</sup> Unless otherwise specified, all meetings are Interparliamentary Committee Meetings

### ANNEX III – Visits of EU national Parliaments<sup>30</sup> to the European Parliament (including videoconferences) 2019

Date(s)	Country and Chamber	Visitor	Who the visitor met with at the EP	Type of visit	Number of participating MPs	Number of participating staff members
9 January 2019	THE NETHERLANDS – Tweede Kamer	MPs	MEP Tang, MEP Rosati	MPs	2	1
22 January 2019	NORWAY – Storting	Delegation of the Committee on Labour and Social Affairs	MEP Ulvskog, MEP Lenaers	MPs	10	1
24 January 2019	NORWAY – Storting	Staff of the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise	EP staff	Staff		26
29 January 2019	ITALY – Senato	Delegation of the Committee on European Affairs	Vice-President Castaldo, MEP Toia, MEP Gardini	MPs	3	1
30 January 2019	HUNGARY – Országgyűlés	New MPs study visit	Vice-President Járóka, Hungarian MEPs, EP staff	MPs	12	8
31 January 2019	ITALY – Camera dei Deputati	EU Policies Committee (videoconference)	Italian AFCO MEPs	MPs	NN	
4 February 2019	UNITED KINGDOM – House of Commons	Delegation of the Committee on Exiting the EU	MEP Verhofstadt, MEPs in the Brexit Steering Group	MPs	15	3
5-6 February 2019	UNITED KINGDOM – House of Lords	Staff	MEP Corbett, EP staff	Staff		2
5 February 2019	FRANCE – Assemblée Nationale	MPs	MEP Omarjee, MEP Manscour	MPs	2	2
5 February 2019	GERMANY – Bundestag	EU Affairs Committee	AFET Chair McAllister, MEP Fleckenstein, MEP Olbrycht, MEP Thomas	MPs	20	14
5-6 February 2019	GERMANY – Bundestag	Subcommittee on EU Law	MEP Sippel, MEP Melo, MEP Regner, MEP Zwiefka, MEP Rozière	MPs	6	2

<sup>30</sup> EU national Parliaments; Norwegian Parliament; Nordic Council.

6 February 2019	GERMANY – Bundestag	EU Affairs Committee; Budget Subcommittee	CONT Chair Gräßle, MEP Thomas, MEP Olbrycht, MEP Deprez, MEP Geier	MPs	6	7
6-7 February 2019	SWEDEN – Riksdag	Speaker	President Tajani, First Vice-President McGuinness	Speaker		
6-7 February 2019	NORWAY – Storting	MPs	Vice-President Hautala, MEP Hökmark, MEP Kari, MEP Dohrmann, EP staff	MPs	12	2
19 February 2019	AUSTRIA – Bundesrat	Delegation of the EU Committee	MEP Freund, MEP Kadenbach, MEP Karas, MEP Schmidt	MPs	14	2
20 February 2019	FRANCE – Assemblée Nationale	Visit of MPs on the EU Plastics Strategy	MEP Ries	MPs	2	1
20 February 2019	FRANCE – Assemblée Nationale	MPs	PECH Chair Cadec	MPs	2	3
20 February 2019	FRANCE – Assemblée Nationale	Visit of MPs on US fiscality for French citizens born in the US	MEP Berès, MEP Rozière	MPs	2	1
21 February 2019	SWEDEN – Riksdag	EU Affairs Committee	AFCO Chair Hübner	MPs	15	7
25 February 2019	NORWAY – Storting	Staff of the Centre Party	MEP Jäätteenmäki, MEP Federley	Staff		17
7-8 March 2019	UNITED KINGDOM – House of Commons	Staff of the House of Commons Library	MEP Corbett, EP staff	Staff		8
18 March 2019	UNITED KINGDOM – House of Commons	Clerk and Clerk Adviser of the European Scrutiny Committee	EP staff	Staff		3

Date(s)	Country and Chamber	Visitor	Who the visitor met with at the EP	Type of visit	Number of participating MPs	Number of participating staff members
18-19 March 2019	CZECHIA – Senát	Senator	MEP Niedermayer, EP staff	MP	1	
18-19 March 2019	SWEDEN – Riksdag	MEPs	Swedish MEPs, EP staff	MPs	3	
19 March 2019	AUSTRIA – Nationalrat	Mr Wolfgang Sobotka, President	MEP Becker, MEP Karas, MEP Mlinar, MEP Schmidt, MEP Vilimsky, MEP Waitz	Speaker	1	2
19 March 2019	SPAIN – Senado	Mr Pío García-Escudero, Presidente del Senado	President Tajani, MEP Díaz de Mera, MEP González Pons	Speaker	1	4
19 March 2019	SPAIN – Congreso de los Diputados	Ms Ana Pastor, Presidenta del Congreso	President Tajani, MEP Díaz de Mera, MEP González Pons	Speaker	1	3
20 March 2019	IRELAND – Houses of the Oireachtas	Chair of the Joint Committee on the Irish Language	EP staff	MPs	1	1
27 March 2019	NORWAY – Storting	Regional staff of the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	EP staff	Staff		22
1 April 2019	FRANCE – Assemblée Nationale	MPs	MEP Pargneaux, MEP Vălean	MPs	3	
3 April 2019	NORWAY – Storting	Staff of the Norwegian Data Protection Authority	EP staff	Staff		10
3 April 2019	FINLAND – Eduskunta	Staff for preparation of the fifth meeting of the JPSG on Europol	EP staff	Staff		1

8 April 2019	THE NETHERLANDS – Tweede Kamer	Delegation of the Committee on Social Affairs	MEP Lenaers, MEP Jongerius	MPs	5	5
16 April 2019	FRANCE – Assemblée Nationale	MPs	MEP Morin–Chartier, MEP Guillaume, MEP Berès, MEP Riquet, MEP Bay, MEP Corazza-Bildt, Secretary-General Welle	MPs	2	
16 May 2019	FINLAND – Eduskunta	Staff of the Communication and Information Department	EP staff	Staff		4
21 May 2019	HUNGARY – Országgyűlés	Staff of the Visegrád Four countries (HU, CZ, PL, SK)	Staff of the Visegrád Four Parliaments	Staff		6
23 May 2019	AUSTRIA – Nationalrat	Staff	EP staff	Staff		11
26 June 2019	SWEDEN – Riksdag	Staff	EP staff	Staff		2
11 September 2019	UNITED KINGDOM – House of Lords	Members of the House of Lords	First Vice-President McGuinness, AFET Chair McAllister, AFCO Chair Tajani, Deputy Secretary-General Winkler	MPs	1	1
12 September 2019	UNITED KINGDOM – House of Commons	Staff	MEP Monteith, MEP Brown, EP staff	Staff		6
18 September 2019 <sup>31</sup>	FRANCE – Assemblée Nationale	Bureau of the EU Affairs Committee	MEP Aubry, MEP Schirdewan, MEP Danjean, MEP García Pérez	MPs	10	2
23 September 2019	AUSTRIA – Nationalrat	President	President Sassoli, Vice-President Karas, MEP Edtstadler	Speaker	1	5
23 September 2019	THE NETHERLANDS – Tweede Kamer	Staff	EP staff	MPs		16

31 This visit took place in Strasbourg.

Date(s)	Country and Chamber	Visitor	Who the visitor met with at the EP	Type of visit	Number of participating MPs	Number of participating staff members
24 September 2019	IRELAND – Houses of the Oireachtas	EU Affairs Committee (videoconference)	Irish MEPs	Staff	11	
25 September 2019	DENMARK – Folketing	Delegation of the European Affairs Committee	MEP Schaldemose, EP staff	MPs	14	2
30 September 2019	AUSTRIA – Nationalrat	Staff	EP staff	Staff		1
3 October 2019	NORWAY – Storting	Staff of the Norwegian Mission to the EU	EP staff	Staff		18
2-3 October 2019	UNITED KINGDOM – House of Lords	Visit of clerks for familiarisation with the EP	EP staff	Staff		3
7-11 October 2019	PORTUGAL – Assembleia da República	Staff visit on the European Semester	EP staff	Staff		1
9 October 2019	EFTA Parliamentary Committee	MPs	First Vice-President McGuinness, AFET Chair McAllister, IMCO Chair De Sutter, INTA Chair Lange, MEP Schwab, MEP Danielsson	MPs	6	2
10 October 2019	FRANCE – Assemblée Nationale	Members of the Working Group on Brexit	Coordinator of the Brexit Steering Group Verhofstadt	MPs	3	1
11 October 2019	SWEDEN – Riksdag	Staff of Service Department	EP staff	Staff		4

22-23 October 2019 <sup>32</sup>	UNITED KINGDOM – House of Lords	Delegation of the EU Select Committee	MEP Bearder, MEP Porritt, MEP Voaden, AFET Chair McAllister, MEP Kirton-Darling, MEP Long, MEP Smith, MEP Moraes, MEP Hübner, MEP Lange, Coordinator of the Brexit Steering Group Verhofstadt	MPs	5	1
5 November 2019	FRANCE – Assemblée Nationale	MP	ECON Chair Tinagli	MPs	1	1
18 November 2019	DENMARK – Folketing	Danish Minister for Transport and delegation of the Transport Committee	TRAN Chair Delli, MEP Vind, MEP Gade, MEP Ertug, EP staff	MPs	11	6
20 November 2019	AUSTRIA – Nationalrat	Staff	EP staff	Staff		6
20-21 November 2019	UNITED KINGDOM – House of Commons	Staff visit on trade in goods and borders	EP staff	Staff		8
21 November 2019	FINLAND – Eduskunta	Finnish Presidency team	EP staff	Staff		2
2 December 2019	THE NETHERLANDS – Tweede Kamer	Temporary Committee on the Digital Future	MEP Berendsen, MEP Tang, MEP van Sparrentak and EP staff	MPs	4	2
2 December 2019	SLOVENIA – National Assembly	Delegation of officials	DG EPRS, STOA			7
4-5 December 2019	UNITED KINGDOM – House of Commons	Staff visit on 'A level playing field'	EP staff	Staff		8
11-12 December 2019	ROMANIA – Senat	Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs	Vice-President Charanzová, MEP Pagazaurtundúa	MP	1	
12 December 2019	ITALY – Camera dei Deputati	Videoconference with the Agriculture Committee	Italian MEPs on the AGRI Committee	MPs		

<sup>32</sup> This visit took place in Strasbourg.

## ANNEX IV – Early Warning System data

<b>Number of contributions received from EU national Parliaments in 2019</b>		
<b>Member State</b>	<b>Parliament/Chamber</b>	<b>Contributions</b>
France	FR – Sénat	13
France	FR – Assemblée Nationale	11
Spain	ES – Congreso/Senado	8
Czechia	CZ – Senát	7
Portugal	PT – Assembleia da República	7
Italy	IT – Senato	5
Germany	DE – Bundesrat	4
Czechia	CZ – Poslanecká sněmovna	2
Romania	RO – Camera Deputaților	2
Romania	RO – Senatul	2
Austria	AT – Bundesrat	1
Germany	DE – Bundestag	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>63</b>

## ANNEX V – Contributions under Protocol No 1 – Informal Political Dialogue

This table lists EU national Parliaments' documents sent in response to draft legislative acts falling under the exclusive competence of the EU, as well as to a large variety of non-legislative documents, such as Green/White Papers or communications from the European Commission falling under Protocol No 1 to the TFEU.

<b>Contributions received from EU national Parliaments in 2019</b>		
<b>Member State</b>	<b>Parliament/Chamber</b>	<b>Contributions</b>
Czechia	CZ Senát	23
Romania	RO Camera Deputaţilor	15
France	FR Sénat	10
Czechia	CZ Poslanecká sněmovna	10
Portugal	PT Assembleia da República	8
United Kingdom	UK House of Lords	8
The Netherlands	NL Eerste Kamer	7
France	FR Assemblée Nationale	6
Germany	DE Bundesrat	6
Romania	RO Senatul	5
Italy	IT Camera dei Deputati	4
Sweden	SE Riksdagen	4
Italy	IT Senato	3
Slovakia	SK Národná rada	2
The Netherlands	NL Tweede Kamer	2
Austria	AT Bundesrat	1
Denmark	DK Folketing	1
Hungary	HU Országgyűlés	1
Lithuania	LT Seimas	1
Poland	PL Senat	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		118

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

### **A. Issues on which political bodies and administrative services of the European Parliament consulted the ECPRD network in 2019 through comparative requests (5):**

- Parliamentary assistants working for individual Members: Rules in place to deal with conflicts and harassment (update of ECPRD request 3001)
- Government support to parliamentary diplomacy in the EU
- Recent improvements or upgrades of services to Members of Parliament
- Parliamentary committees: Set-up and membership (update of request 2158)
- Division of Parliamentary Committee Chairmanships (update of request 2099)
- Impact assessment and evaluation capacities in national Parliaments
- The law of immunities of members of national Parliament
- Policies and procedures for dealing with sexual harassment in European Parliaments
- Rules on appearance and dress code in the Plenary
- Questionnaire on the revision of the Handbook on the Incompatibilities and Immunity of MEPs
- Georgia electoral observation survey voters' tracking
- National Parliaments with external training / conference centres
- Parliamentary committees of inquiry (PCIs)
- Questionnaire on the right of legislative initiative of parliaments
- Questionnaire on the second Chamber

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

- Spiritual or religious groups in Parliament
- The Parliamentary Television Channel – Chaîne de télévision parlementaire
- Questionnaire about Office Cloud Services
- The Legal Status of MPs – Recent Developments – Brussels 2019 PP&P Seminar Questionnaire
- Redesign and management of parliamentary websites
- Electronic voting in parliamentary committees
- Reinventing the front office of the Information and Archives Department
- Facilities for disabled MPs
- Access control systems used in Parliaments
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovations and Projects in the Parliaments (within the framework of the ICT seminar)
- Parliamentary Reports – Legislative and Oversight Publications
- Parliamentary Medical Clinics
- Sustainable Procurement in Parliaments
- Survey for the ECPRD Seminar 2019 – 'Challenges in a digital age: Preservation, management and promotion of the Parliament's documentary output and bibliographical heritage'
- Search Technology in Parliaments
- Defining performance indicators under the Parliaments' programme-based performance

budgeting approach

- Use of laptops, tablets and smartphones in Plenary and committees
- Booking visits for plenary sessions
- Electronic Resources (e-journals, e-books and databases) in Parliaments
- Parliaments' social media presence
- Parliamentary investigation – investigative committees and their competences
- Développement durable – meilleures pratiques dans les parlements / Sustainable development – best practices in Parliaments
- Parliament mission expenses and the use of travel agencies in Parliament – Additional questions
- Electronic archiving – Archivage électronique
- Automatic system for transcribing debates (now with links to similar requests)
- Parliament mission expenses and the use of travel agencies in Parliament (update of request 3433)
- Internal Control and Internal Audit of Parliament services
- Including interjections, interruptions or comments by MPs in the Stenographic Reports of the Plenary

## B. ECPRD seminars and statutory meetings in 2019

<b>SEMINARS</b>		
Seminar – ‘Supporting Parliament in Budget Scrutiny’ (Area of interest: Economic and Budgetary Affairs)	The Hague	9-10 May 2019
Seminar (Area of interest: Libraries, Research Services and Archives)	Madrid	6-8 June 2019
Seminar – ‘Parliaments on the Net’ (Area of interest: ICT in Parliaments)	Ljubljana	13-14 June 2019
Seminar – ‘Rights and Obligations of MPs’ (Area of interest: Parliamentary Practice and Procedure)	Brussels, House of Representatives and Senate	24-25 October 2019
Seminar – ‘Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovations and Projects in the Parliaments’ (Area of interest: ICT in Parliaments)	Tallinn	3-4 October 2019
Seminar – ‘Empowering through knowledge: Parliamentary research in an era of disinformation and information overload’ (Area of interest: Libraries, Research Services and Archives)	Brussels, EP	7-8 November 2019
<b>STATUTORY MEETINGS</b>		
Meeting of Executive Committee	Dublin, Oireachtas	21-22 March 2019
Meeting of Executive Committee	London, House of Commons	5-6 September 2019
Annual Conference of Correspondents	Berlin, Bundestag and Bundesrat	10-11 October 2019
European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, Meeting of Secretaries-General	Strasbourg, PACE	24-25 October 2019







# NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF THE EU MEMBER STATES

December 2019



directly elected



indirectly elected / appointed / other

 <b>Belgique/België/ Belgien</b> BELGIUM Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers/ Chambre des représentants/ Abgeordneten-kammer 150  Senaat/ Sénat/ Senat 60 	 <b>България</b> BULGARIA Народно събрание (Narodno sabranie) 240  	 <b>Česká republika</b> CZECH REPUBLIC Poslanecká sněmovna 200  Senát 81 	 <b>Danmark</b> DENMARK Folketinget 179 
 <b>Deutschland</b> GERMANY Deutscher Bundestag 709  Bundesrat 69 	 <b>Eesti</b> ESTONIA Riigikogu 101 	 <b>Éire/Ireland</b> IRELAND Dáil Éireann 160  Seanad Éireann 60 	 <b>Ελλάδα</b> GREECE Βουλή των Ελλήνων (Vouli ton Ellinon) 300 
 <b>España</b> SPAIN Congreso de los Diputados 350  Senado 208  58 	 <b>France</b> FRANCE Assemblée nationale 577  Sénat 348 	 <b>Hrvatska</b> CROATIA Hrvatski sabor 151 	 <b>Italia</b> ITALY Camera dei Deputati 630  Senato della Repubblica 315  5 
 <b>Κύπρος</b> CYPRUS Βουλή των Αντιπροσώπων (Vouli ton Antiprosopon) 56 	 <b>Latvija</b> LATVIA Saeima 100 	 <b>Lietuva</b> LITHUANIA Seimas 141 	 <b>Luxembourg</b> LUXEMBOURG Chambre des Députés 60 
 <b>Magyarország</b> HUNGARY Országgyűlés 199 	 <b>Malta</b> MALTA Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati 67 	 <b>Nederland</b> THE NETHERLANDS Tweede Kamer 150  Eerste Kamer 75 	 <b>Österreich</b> AUSTRIA Nationalrat 183  Bundesrat 61 
 <b>Polska</b> POLAND Sejm 460  Senat 100 	 <b>Portugal</b> PORTUGAL Assembleia da República 230 	 <b>România</b> ROMANIA Camera Deputatilor 329  Senat 136 	 <b>Slovenija</b> SLOVENIA Državni zbor 90  Državni svet 40 
 <b>Slovensko</b> SLOVAKIA Národná Rada 150 	 <b>Suomi/ Finland</b> FINLAND Eduskunta 200 	 <b>Sverige</b> SWEDEN Riksdagen 349 	 <b>United Kingdom</b> UNITED KINGDOM House of Commons 650  House of Lords 794 

[RELNATPARL@EP.EUROPA.EU](mailto:RELNATPARL@EP.EUROPA.EU)

[WWW.EUROPARL/EUROPA.EU/RELNATPARL](http://WWW.EUROPARL/EUROPA.EU/RELNATPARL)