

ENTRE EUROPEEN DE **R**ECHERCHE ET DE
DOCUMENTATION PARLEMENTAIRES



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR **P**ARLIAMENTARY
RESearch AND **D**OCUMENTATION

EUROPÄISCHES **Z**ENTRUM FÜR PARLAMENTARISCHE
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ECPRD

Priorities and Programme

2008 – 2009

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1. ECPRD Priorities 2008 – 2009

According to the ECPRD Statutes, the institution's main objective is to promote the exchange of information, ideas, experience and good practice among the administrations of parliaments in Europe. The ECPRD network provides a unique forum for making requests and receiving answers on issues of common and comparable concern to parliaments and their members throughout Europe. Correspondents must contribute to this joint effort to exchange information among national parliaments, since this is in a way the ECPRD's very *raison d'être*. An active input by all parliaments and services concerned is essential for the Centre to be able to carry out its mission. Taking the statutory objectives into account, the ECPRD priorities for the years 2008 – 2009 could be defined as follows:

1. To develop further the exchange of information via the procedure of comparative requests and more particularly:
 - to encourage a higher readiness to respond to requests;
 - to increase substantially the number of comparative summary reports produced by requesting chambers;
 - to assure the timely publication of replies and summary reports on the ECPRD website.
2. To develop the exchange of information in four Areas of Interest where Coordinators have been nominated (Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives; Information and Communication Technology in Parliaments; Parliamentary Practice and Procedure; Macroeconomic Research), in particular via thematic pages and "Forums" on the ECPRD website.
3. To continue to organise seminars for parliamentary staff on subjects of common interest on the basis of proposals made by national parliaments.
4. To develop further the ECPRD website so that it can become a truly thriving platform on which parliamentary information (on legislation, studies, administration, ICT, best practice, etc.) can be easily found and used.
5. To encourage the involvement of all ECPRD Correspondents and their deputies in the full range of the Centre's activities; and improve the understanding of ECPRD's work in national Parliaments.
6. To enlarge the Correspondents' network by having correspondents nominated for parliaments which have yet to do so (Malta, Monaco and Montenegro).
7. To co-operate with other networks dealing with the exchange of parliamentary information (e.g. IPEX, EUROVOC) with a view to avoiding duplication of activities.

2. Programme of seminars and meetings

Several seminars will be organised in the years 2008 and 2009. The detailed list of seminars can be found below. The Executive Committee will meet in Strasbourg on 5 September 2008 and subsequently in Spring and September 2009. The Conference of Correspondents will meet twice: in Brussels in October 2008 and in Bratislava in October 2009.

2.1. *ECPRD Programme 2008*

Title	Place	Date
Meeting of the Executive Committee (with the Coordinators)	Tallinn	7 March
Seminar on "Parliament, Independent Agencies and Public Sector Companies" (<i>Area of Interest: Parliamentary Practice and Procedure</i>)	Madrid, Senado	18-19 April
Meeting of the Secretaries-General (in the framework of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments)	Strasbourg, PACE	23 May
Seminar on "Parliamentary Libraries: Sharing Knowledge" (<i>Area of Interest: Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives</i>)	Vienna	29-30 May
Meeting of the Executive Committee (with the Coordinators)	Strasbourg, PACE	5 September
Seminar on "The European Central Bank in a New European and World Economy" (<i>Area of Interest: Macroeconomic Research</i>)	Strasbourg and Frankfurt	11-12 September
Annual Conference of Correspondents	Brussels, European Parliament	9-11 October
Seminar on the ICT in Parliaments (subject to be decided) (<i>Area of Interest: ICT in Parliaments</i>)	Copenhagen	29-31 October

2.2. *ECPRD Draft Programme 2009*

Title	Place	Date
Seminar on "Press Services for MPs" (<i>Area of Interest: Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives</i>)	Bern	spring
Meeting of the Executive Committee (with the Co-Ordinators)	???	spring
Seminar on "State Budgets and Budgets of National Parliaments" (<i>Area of Interest: Macroeconomic Research</i>)	Ljubljana	March/April
Seminar on "Parliamentary Research Services" (<i>Area of Interest: Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives</i>)	London	June or September
Seminar on the ICT in Parliaments (subject to be decided) (<i>Area of Interest: ICT in Parliaments</i>)	Madrid (?)	to be decided
Meeting of the Executive Committee (with the Co-Ordinators)	Brussels, European Parliament	September
Annual Conference of Correspondents	Bratislava	October