Centre Européen de Recherches
et de Documentation Parlementaires

European Centre for Parliamentary
Research and Documentation

Europäisches Zentrum für Parlamentarische
Wissenschaft und Dokumentation

13 May 2019

ECPRD

ACTIVITY REPORT

DRAFT

2016-2018

Contents

1.   Introduction by the Co-Directors

In the period under review the ECPRD network was able to celebrate its 40th anniversary at the annual meeting of correspondents in Strasbourg in October 2017. This was organised jointly by the European Parliament (EP) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the founding organisations of the ECPRD network.

More than ever this activity report shows that the ECPRD has become an essential tool for the member parliaments, and in particular for their research and library services, to meet the information needs of their respective Members. In addition, ECPRD seminars continue to be a successful vehicle for exchange of best practice between parliamentary administrations.

The ECPRD has become a model for similar projects involving parliamentary information exchange around the world. The *Festschrift '40 Years ECPRD - a real contribution to the effectiveness of democracy in Europe'*, which was published on the occasion of the 40th anniversary, described what underpins this success story. First of all, the ECPRD provides responses to real needs which stem directly from questions asked by MPs and those providing services in parliaments. Secondly, it is based on the strong commitment of people, the ECPRD correspondents who organise the exchange of information with a minimum of red tape. Contributing to the ECPRD constitutes a win-win situation for the member parliaments providing mutual support to each other. Last but not least, the close co-operation between the two European institutions at the helm of ECPRD as facilitators, the EP and PACE, ensures the sustainability of the network.

40 years of the ECPRD have seen many projects, events and other activities. Much has changed since the early days of the ECPRD. It took years of experimenting to find the best way how parliaments could manage information exchange on a regular, demand-driven basis. The comparative requests and the annual seminars on topical issues have turned out to be formats "that work". However, nothing would work without the Internet. The ECPRD website has become central to the network and a growing source of parliamentary knowledge.

Comparative requests

The 40th anniversary of the ECPRD in 2017 coincided also with a new all-time record of comparative requests submitted by ECPRD member parliaments. In 2017 correspondents dealt with 337 requests compared to 274 requests in the previous year. This was the first time that the number of requests was more than 300 a year. The number of 333 requests in 2018 shows that the 2017 record was not an exceptional case, indicating the high expectations parliaments have in the ECPRD network. Replies to requests also increased, from 6362 in 2016 to 7160 in 2017 and 7174 in 2018, which underscores the commitment of the network to provide colleagues with the information they need. Information obtained through the ECPRD informs parliamentary debates and fosters the effectiveness of parliaments.

ECPRD conferences and seminars

The four to six ECPRD seminars a year hosted by member parliaments under the guidance of the responsible ECPRD Coordinators form an activity which is older than the comparative requests in their present form. They offer a unique opportunity for staff in parliaments to meet and exchange with their counterparts. Every year over 300 experts experience the unique atmosphere of an ECPRD seminar and widen their horizon by learning from each other. In total, 910 colleagues from parliaments attended a seminar and contributed to the programme. It is not only the exchange of information and best practices

which matters in this context but also the experience of being part of a wider 'European' family. The events underline the nature of the ECPRD as a network of people and colleagues. Our thanks go to the Secretaries General of Parliaments for releasing the necessary resources for these events and to the correspondents and other colleagues for their continued commitment and enthusiasm.

The ECPRD website

Thanks to the generous contribution from the European Parliament, it was possible to implement a new version of the ECPRD website to coincide with the ECPRD's 40th anniversary. After ten years of piecemeal development it was necessary to make fundamental changes to ensure that the site is in line with current technologies. The expression 'responsive design' stands for the possibility to use the website seamlessly on all devices, be it a personal computer, a tablet or a mobile phone. The ECPRD website can now be consulted from all these night and day 7 days a week.

The ECPRD Secretariat and the website are both crucial to the network. We would like to thank all ECPRD member parliaments, in particular their Correspondents, the four ECPRD Coordinators and the ECPRD Secretariat for their commitment and hard work to make the network a sustainable success.

The Secretaries General are thus kindly called upon:

1. to endorse the present activity report and the priorities and programme for the coming years;
2. to maintain their support for the ECPRD and in particular to strengthen the position of their respective correspondent in their own House as a vital condition for the functioning of the network;
3. to implement measures in their Parliaments which stimulate the publication of final summary notes to comparative requests;
4. to ensure that the parliamentary factsheets are regularly updated;
5. to maintain their high level of commitment as hosts, also for future ECPRD statutory meetings and seminars, and to allow their staff to participate in these events.

Katrin Ruhrmann   Horst Schade

ECPRD Co-Director   ECPRD Co-Director

European Parliament   Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of
                                         Europe

2. Organisation

Co-Directors

    Katrin Ruhrmann, European Parliament (since May 2018)
    Horst Schade, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

    Pekka Nurminen, European Parliament (acting June 2017 - May 2018)
    Christine Verger, European Parliament (until May 2017)

Co-Secretaries

    Ulrich Hüschen, European Parliament
    Yann de Buyer, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Executive Committee

    Zlatko Atanasov, Sobranie, North Macedonia (since October 2018)
    Charlotte Cousins, Houses of the Oireachtas, Ireland (since October 2018)
    Richard Cracknell, House of Commons, United Kingdom (since October 2017)
    Claus Koggel, Bundesrat, Germany
    Jan-Henrik Pursiainen, Eduskunta, Finland (since October 2018)

    Elisabeth Dietrich-Schulz, Parlament, Austria (until October 2018)
    Gunnar Fors, Riksdag, Sweden (until October 2017)
    George Sotirelis, Voulí , Greece (until October 2017)
    Wieslaw Staskiewicz, Sejm, Poland (since October 2015 until October 2017)

ECPRD Coordinators of Areas of Interest

Economic and Budgetary Affairs

    Paola Bonacci, Camera dei Deputati, Italy

ICT in Parliaments

    Carlo Simonelli, Camera dei Deputati, Italy (until March 2016)
    Jerry Hilbert, European Parliament (since March 2016)

Libraries, Research Services and Archives

    Ida Kelemen, National Assembly, Hungary (since September 2017)
    Siiri Sillajoe, Riigikogu, Estonia (until September 2016)
    Robin Travis, Riksdag, Sweden (until September 2017)

Parliamentary Practice and Procedure

    Christoph Konrath, Parlament, Austria

ECPRD Website

    Webmaster: Ulrich Hüschen, European Parliament
    IT Project Manager: Jerry Hilbert, European Parliament

3. What is the ECPRD?

The ECPRD was created in 1977 in Vienna by the Conference of Speakers of European Parliamentary Assemblies, which delegated to the Presidents of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe its formation and management.

The objectives of the ECPRD are to promote the exchange of information, ideas, experience and good practice among the administrations of parliaments in Europe on subjects of common interest; to strengthen close co-operation among parliamentary services in all fields of parliamentary administration, legislation, information, research and documentation; and to collect, exchange and publicise studies produced by parliamentary services (Article 1 of the Statutes).

ECPRD should be seen as a network of experts in parliaments rather than a physical centre. Its strength lies in the un-bureaucratic exchange of information based very much on the voluntary commitment of people. This exchange materializes in the form of comparative requests and experts seminars.

Who are the members?

According to Article 2 of the ECPRD Statutes members are the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and parliamentary chambers where the President is a member of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament. Furthermore, there are some parliaments having observer and Partners for Democracy status.

At present the Centre consists of 66 parliamentary chambers (including 41 in EU Member States) from 54 countries and European institutions. 114 Correspondents and Deputy Correspondents represent their respective parliament in the network and contribute to main ECPRD activities.

How is the ECPRD organised?

Each member assembly appoints a senior official to act as the *correspondent* for the assembly. The Correspondent is the privileged point of contact for the assembly and should thus have access to the Secretary General and must be in a position to coordinate the contribution of the officials of his or her chamber to the work of the Centre. The success of the centre largely depends on the input provided by the Correspondents.

The European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments, consisting of the Presidents or Speakers of Parliamentary assemblies of members and special guests of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, is the supreme authority for the ECPRD and meets every second year.

The Secretaries General have administrative responsibility for the activities of the Centre and these are discussed when they meet during the Conference of Speakers. As regards the two Co-Directors and the two Co-Secretaries - representing the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe - these are appointed by the respective Secretaries General of these institutions. The Co-Directors and Co-Secretaries, who carry out their functions for the Centre in addition to their normal duties, are responsible for the day-to-day running of the ECPRD. The Conference of Correspondents is the annual meeting of Correspondents, at which the activities of the ECPRD are discussed and broader policy decisions are taken.

The Executive Committee is composed of the Co-Directors and five Correspondents (appointed by the Conference of Correspondents). It ensures the continuity of work between the annual meetings. The

Executive Committee meets at least twice a year. The Secretariat of the Centre, including the staff responsible for the Centre's website, is provided by an official of the European Parliament.

In 2006 four Areas of Interest were established: Economic and Budgetary Affairs (EBA), Information and communication Technologies in Parliaments (ICT) Libraries, Research Services and Archives (LRA), Parliamentary Practice and Procedure (PPP). The objective of these Areas of Interest is to foster the exchange of information and best practice mainly in form of specific seminars on topical issues hosted by an ECPRD member parliament. Four ECPRD Coordinators are appointed by the Executive Committee to fuel the activities within each area.

The success of the network is dependent on excellent cooperation between people and also the implementation of modern IT technologies. The activities of the ECPRD are supported by a dedicated website. Its private section, only accessible to the members of the network, hosts a powerful electronic workflow for requests and replies, a growing number of specific seminar mini-sites and parliamentary factsheets on each Chamber providing data and contacts.

How is it financed?

The ECPRD has neither its own budget nor does it receive financial contributions from the member Parliaments. The expenses for staff, secretariat and IT expenses are paid from different budget lines of the European Parliament. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe also contributes financially to the activities of the Centre.

Indirect financing takes the form of member Parliaments hosting seminars and meetings of the Centre and providing meeting rooms and interpreters. Some publications are also financed in this way. All Parliaments pay the travel and subsistence costs of their own officials attending seminars and meetings. A number of Parliaments of countries in Central and Eastern Europe benefit from financial support from the European Parliament to ensure participation in seminars and meetings.

4. ECPRD Activities 2016-2018

4.1 The evolution of comparative requests

Requests

In total, correspondents sent 944 requests to the ECPRD network betwen 2016 and 2018. Until 2016 it seemed as if a number between 250 and 300 requests per year is the maximum which the network is able to cope with after years of continous growth. 2016 ended with 274 requests submitted by parliaments. Surprisingly, in 2017 requests exceeded the threshold of 300 with 337 items. 2018 showed that this was not an exception with almost the same number of 333 requests. This confirms the ECPRD as a success story for the information exchange between parliaments. However, each request represents also an expectation to obtain the information needed. They also constitute a growing workload for correspondents and other experts in parliaments to provide quality replies on complex topics. It has to be seen if the trend persists or if there will be a return to "normality".

In addition, the requests submitted via the ECPRD website represent only the peak of the iceberg. ECPRD member parliaments are also engaged in bilateral contacts on specific topics.

Comparative requests
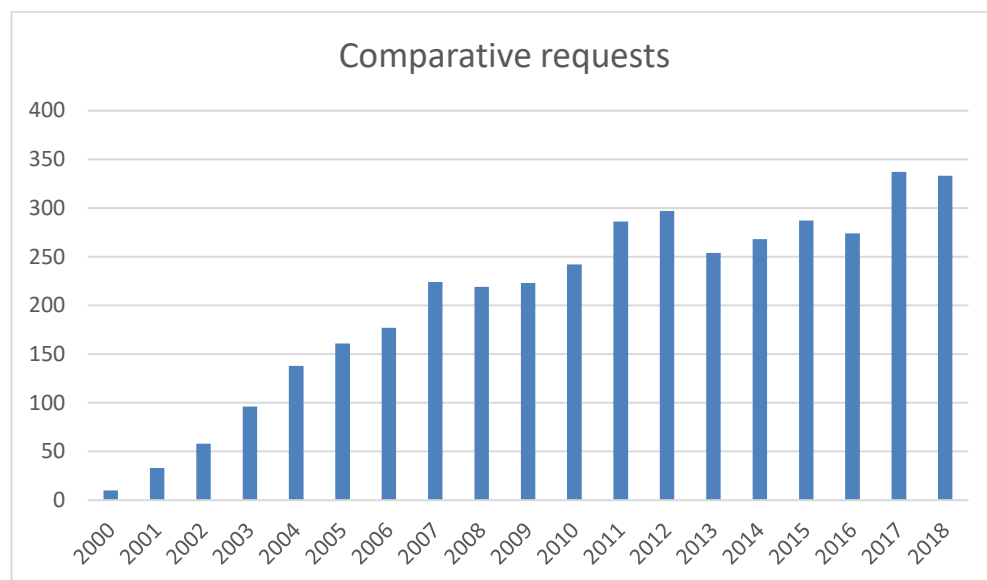
Replies to requests

The evolution of the replies follows the trend indicated by the requests, although with a smaller rise in 2017 and 2018. Parliaments provided 20.696 contributions betwen 2016 and 2018. Whereas 2016 saw 6362 replies, their numbers increased in 2017 to 7160 and almost the same number in 2018 with 7174 items. It highlights impressively the unbroken commitment of parliaments to help with information.

The figures have to be seen in the context of the request itself. Not all requests go to all parliaments. To opt for a selected target group in order to avoid unnecessary work has been the key message repeated at successive ECPRD conferences. It means that some parliaments receive more requests to deal with than others. Furthermore, in bilateral parliaments, requests on legislative issues are often "shared" among the Chambers in order to balance the workload. Furthermore, available resources in the research services and the nature and complexity of topics may also limit the local capacity to deal with all incoming requests.

Replies to comparative requests
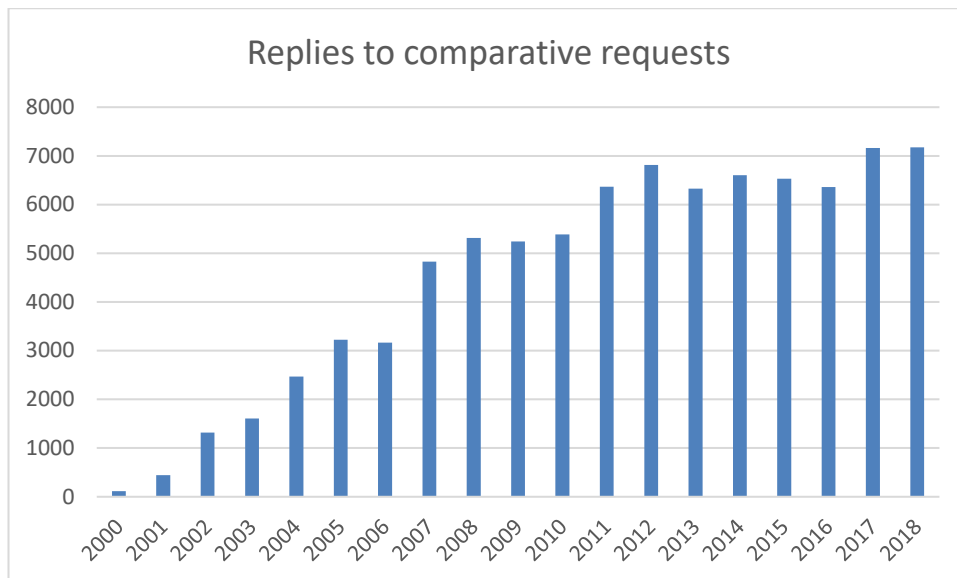
Reply rate

It is crucial for the correspondents to manage the expectations of their clients when preparing an ECPRD request. In this context, it is important to know that the reply rate to a request oscillates between 50% and 88% in the period under review. The median pourcentage is 59%. It is interesting to note that for 2018, one of the two peak years in terms of requests, the reply range was lower in a range of 40%-75% and a median rate of 75%. It has to be seen in the next years if there is a clear tendency in the number of requests and the reply behaviour.

Meet the deadline

The statistics show that 65% of the replies arrive before the deadline fixed by the requesting parliament. This figure is important as it allows us to estimate the amount of potentially available information at the moment when it is required to produce the note for the end client. However, the more reassuring message is provided by the fact that 80% of the contributions arrive around five days after the deadline and hence are probably still useful for the final version (that is in particular the case when the five days also cover a weekend).

Meet the deadline
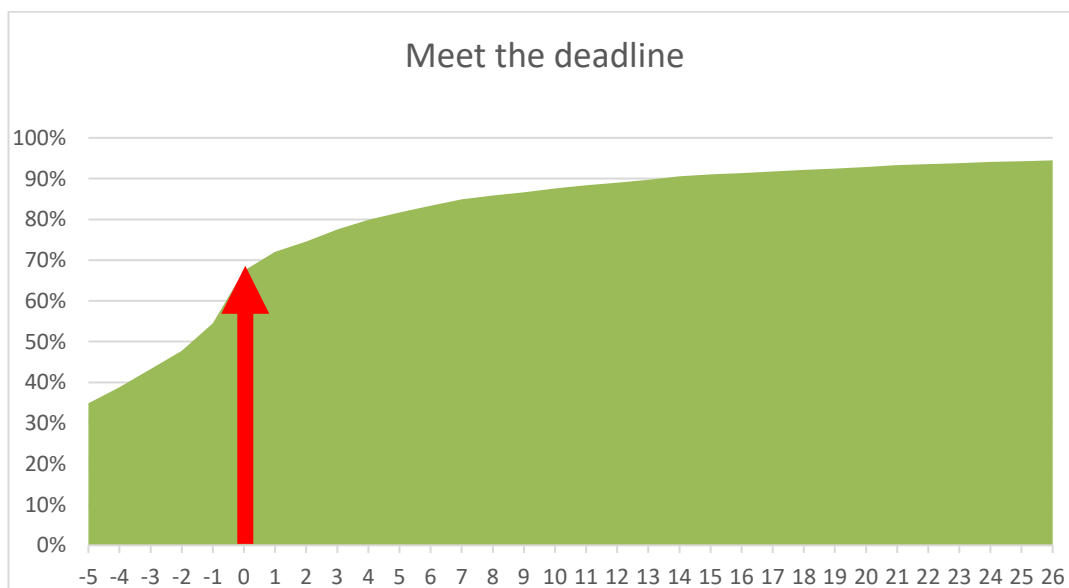
Subjects

The topics of ECPRD requests can roughly be divided into two main groups. About 40% deal with matters related to the functioning and management of parliaments. This group covers electoral issues, constitutional cases, competencies and scrutiny, political bodies and, significantly, everything linked to the Members. The biggest share within this main group with 16% of all requests is connected to the administration of parliament and covers issues such as staff, information and communication, websites and visitors.

The figures underline the importance of the ECPRD network for the exchange of best practices between the administrations of parliaments and the creation of ad hoc or perhaps permanent networks of experts.

The other 60% of all requests arise from the political agenda of the parliaments and their Members in particular. They reflect the legislative debate but possibly also specific personal interests and needs. In most of the cases the actual purpose is not mentioned for obvious reasons, although certain topics appear indirectly in the media. It shows that ECPRD requests are not academic exercises but part of political controversies.

Social policies, health issues, migration, public safety and legal matters have maintained since many years their top position with more than 14%. It shows that ECPRD requests are closely linked to problems and initiative which directly affect the citizen.
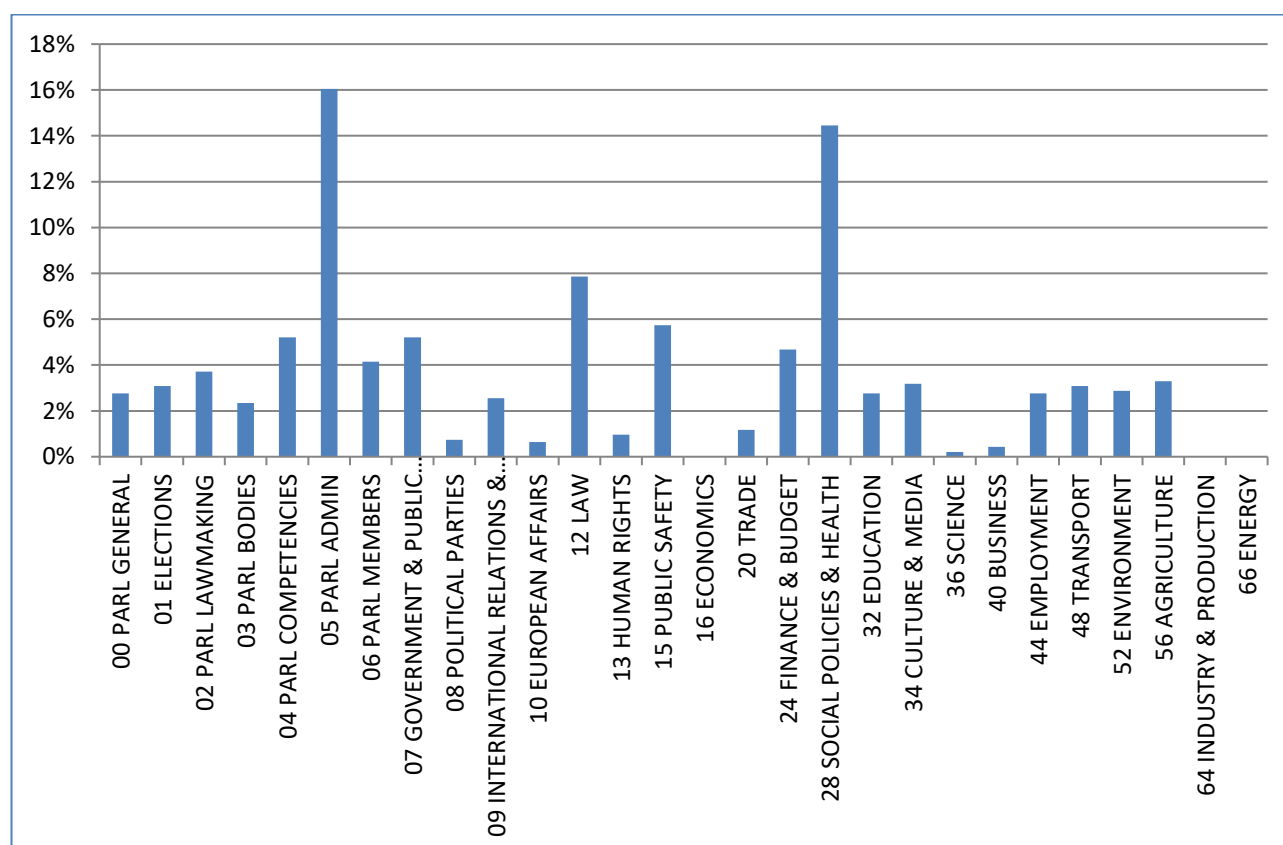
Final summaries
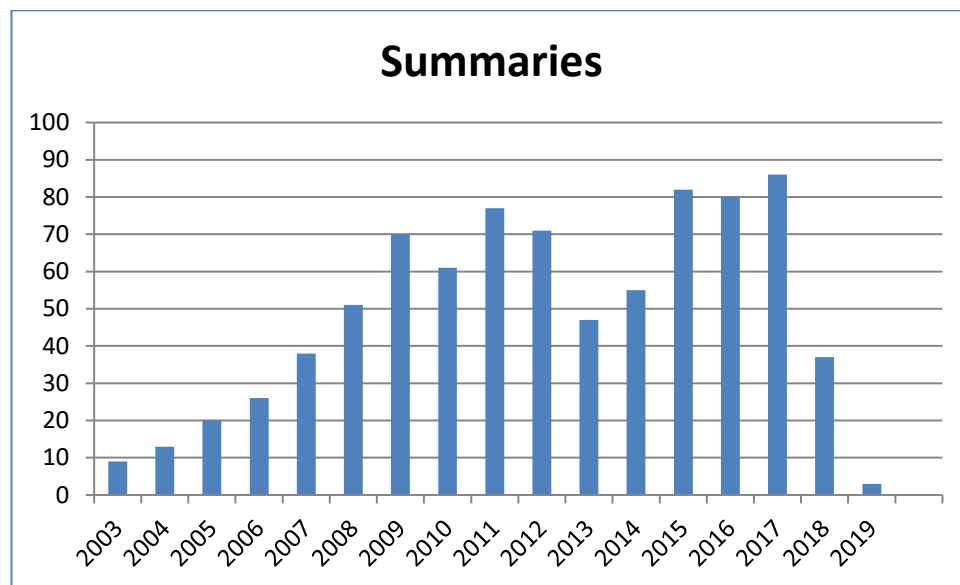
The figures for the period under review confirm the long term trend that only between 25-30% of the requests are concluded with a final summary.

4.2 ECPRD statutory meetings

Meeting of Secretaries General of Parliaments on the ECPRD on the occasion of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament

Strasbourg, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 16 September 2016

The ECPRD Co-Directors presented the ECPRD Activity Report 2014-2015 and the programme and priorities for 2017 and 2018.

Secretaries General showed their high-level satisfaction with the work of the network and approved the activity report and the priorities and programme for the upcoming two years. Several intentions to host an ECPRD seminar were expressed during the debate.

Executive Committee

Meeting of the ECPRD Executive Committee

Krakow, Sejm, 17-18 March 2016

Together with a representative from the French Assembly, the Executive Committee discussed the draft programme of the annual conference of correspondents in Paris on 17-19 November 2016 and in particular the topics and speakers of the pre-conference. The executive committee had a first exchange on the programme of the annual conference in Strasbourg in 2017 celebrating the 40th anniversary of the ECPRD.

A new coordinator, Mr Travis (Sweden), for the area of interest libraries, research services and archives, was appointed following the resignation of Ms Sillajoe. The committee approved the new design of the ECPRD logo and heard a report about the developments for the new version of the ECPRD website.

Executive Committee

Meeting of the ECPRD Executive Committee

Athens, Hellenic Parliament, 22-23 September 2016

The Executive Committee heard an update about the preparations of the annual meeting of correspondents in Paris in November 2016. It discussed modifications of the programme of the annual conference in Strasbourg in 2017 celebrating the 40th anniversary of the ECPRD.

A new coordinator, Mr Konrad (Austria), for the area of interest parliamentary practice and procedure, was appointed following the resignation of Mr Rezsohazy. The committee discussed the reports and projects of the coordinators and new possible formats in the area of interest libraries, research services and archives. The committee heard a second report about the developments for the new version of the ECPRD website.

Annual Conference of Correspondents 2016

Paris, Assemblée nationale and Sénat 17-19 November 2016

The programme of the pre-conference was divided into two topics. It started with presentations and a debate on the institutional autonomy of parliaments. The immunity of Members of Parliaments was the focus of the second part. In both parts, presentations were made by representatives from the French assemblies and external experts from the Italian Parliament and Israel.

The conference on Friday consisted of the usual exchange on the evolution of comparative requests. Correspondents were informed about the progress made to develop a new website. The workshops organised by the ECPRD Coordinators dealt with the activities of parliaments in the context of tax avoidance, best practices in libraries and research services, nominations in parliaments and with matters related to the introduction of the new website. A new item on the agenda called "current topics" allowed correspondents to raise topical issues. Among them was information on the last IFLA conference and on recent projects in the Dutch and Austrian Parliaments.

Executive Committee

Meeting of the ECPRD Executive Committee

Vienna, Parlament, 9-10 March 2017

The Executive Committee appointed Ms Ida Kelemen from the Hungarian National Assembly new ECPRD Coordinator of the Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives after the departure of Ms Robin Travis who took over a new function outside his Parliament. Ms Kelemen will act as well as main liaison officer with IFLA.

The Committee took stock of the state of preparations of the next annual conference in Strasbourg celebrating the 40th anniversary of the ECPRD network and discussed in detail the new *Festschrift* for which a number of contributions had already been received.

Meeting of the ECPRD Executive Committee

Stockholm, Riksdag, 28-29 September 2017

The Executive Committee appointed Ms Paola Bonacci for a third term as Coordinator for the Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs.

The committee was informed about the last preparations for the upcoming annual conference and heard the reports of the Coordinators. A printed version of the *Festschrift* '40 Years ECPRD' was presented and received the full appreciation of the committee. The proposal to develop new forms of experts' meetings within the ECPRD framework was discussed and approved. The EP Research Service and the Austrian Parliament will launch pilot projects on specific topics emerging from concrete research work as a one-day exercise for a limited number of experts working in the field. Further details can be found in the minutes of the meeting in Stockholm. Version 5 of the website was presented. The migration to the new platform was scheduled shortly before the annual meeting in Strasbourg.

Annual Conference of Correspondents 2017

Strasbourg, European Parliament and Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 19-21 October 2017

The 2017 annual meeting focussed on the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the ECPRD. The pre-conference started with a key note speech on the relevance of information in parliaments and for parliamentarians. It was followed by a historical look at how the ECPRD had become a model for the exchange of information and best practices. The day was concluded by two presentations outlining the challenges for research services and libraries in parliaments.

The conference was the moment to present a *Festschrift* in which correspondents from over 40 parliaments described the state of the art of parliamentary research and the importance of the ECPRD to meet the information needs of Members, political bodies and the administration.

Version 5 of the ECPRD website was launched shortly before the conference with a completely refurbished internal structure and a new "responsive" design for making it adaptive to all tools, be it a smartphone, a tablet or the classical PC.

Meeting of the ECPRD Executive Committee

Budapest, Országház, 8-9 March 2018

The Executive Committee dealt with the preparation of the Annual Conference in Helsinki. Colleagues from the Finnish Parliament presented their proposals for the pre-conference which will be devoted to the concept of the 'future' in the activities of parliaments. Furthermore, the Executive Committee approved the main items of the conference of correspondents on the Friday. One important point of the agenda would deal with the role of the ECPRD correspondents. In order to have some background information, it was decided to launch a survey to collect comparative data.

The committee heard and approved the reports of the ECPRD Coordinators and took note of progress made to complete and fix version 5 of the ECPRD website.

Meeting of the ECPRD Executive Committee

Berlin, Bundesrat, 6-7 September 2018

The Executive Committee discussed and approved the last amendments to the programme of the annual conference in Helsinki. In particular, it took note of the situation that two of its members, Ms Elisabeth Dietrich-Schulz from the Austrian Parliament and Mr George Sotirelis from the Hellenic Parliament, who will leave the committee because they had reached the end of their two terms, and that a third member, Mr Wieslaw Staskiewicz from the Polish Sejm, who had been replaced as ECPRD correspondent. The leaving members were thanked for their commitment to the ECPRD network. It was also agreed to send a specific reminder concerning the update and use of the parliamentary factsheets.

The committee welcomed the fact that the Parliaments of Jordan and Kyrgyzstan had become members of the ECPRD network under the status of 'Partners for Democracy' and that they had already appointed their respective correspondent.

The committee also had an extensive discussion on the situation of requests and replies which saw a significant increase in 2018.

In the context of the reports of the ECPRD Coordinators and the fixing of future venues for ECPRD events, the committee agreed to publish, as part of the activity report, a number of infographics of event venues in the past ten years.

Annual Conference of Correspondents

Helsinki, Eduskunta, 18-20 October 2018

The pre-conference dealt with the topic of the future in parliaments. The Finnish Eduskunta is one of the few parliaments in the world with a specific 'Committee on the Future'. Speakers from Finnish institutions and from selected ECPRD member parliaments presented their approaches to analyse future trends and their implication for the country and legislation.

The conference on Friday heard a presentation on the role of the ECPRD correspondent followed by an exchange on best practices in managing the growing number of ECPRD requests. The ECPRD Coordinators presented the outcome of their respective conference workshops and provided an overview about the seminars which had taken place and which were planned in the following years. Three new members were elected to the ECPRD Executive Committee. As usual, the latest test state of the ECPRD website was part of the agenda. Furthermore, Correspondents were called upon to update regularly the ECPRD Factsheets and in particular the parliamentary indicators. The conference closed with a report about activities within IFLA.

4.3 ECPRD Seminars in the Areas of Interest

Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs

Seminar 'Parliaments and the new economic and budgetary governance'

(Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs)

Baku, Parliament of Azerbaijan, 19-20 May 2016

54 experts from 29 Parliaments and institutions gathered at the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan to continue the exchange on the parliamentary involvement in the new budgetary governance and the related fiscal frameworks in European countries.

A detailed survey was started before in form of an ECPRD request and triggered a large number of significant replies. The seminar was divided into four thematic sessions, three of them introduced with a keynote speech delivered by a representative from the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The first session aimed at providing insights on how fiscal rules and allowed flexibility could help to implement deficit reducing strategies. Parliamentary involvement in the European Semester and in the overview of draft budgetary plans was the topic of the second session. Session three dealt with matters relating to public debt. The concluding fourth session provided information on the question as to how Parliaments organize budgetary in-house expertise.

Seminar 'Parliaments dealing with financial markets' issues'

(Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs)

Athens, Hellenic Parliament, 6-7 October 2017

43 participants from 25 parliamentary chambers gathered in the Hellenic Parliament to discuss the challenges posed by the peculiar financial markets' dynamics.

The seminar was divided into three sessions:

- Management and prevention of financial crises and the role of Parliaments: taking stock of recent crises;
- The relationship between Parliaments and Central Banks and other expert institutions to improve knowledge and understanding of financial aspects;
- "Open" Parliaments: transparency for the general public and information on financial markets issues

Seminar 'Costing and Regulatory Impact Assessment'

(Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs)

Tbilisi, Parliament of Georgia, 17-18 May 2018

The meeting was attended by 40 participants from 26 parliamentary chambers, including one academic and 9 officials and experts from the Parliament of Georgia and the Parliamentary Budget Office of the same country.

The seminar focused on the importance of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) for the activities carried out by member Parliaments concerning the rule-making process, as it effectively contributes to improve the quality of regulations. Even if RIA covers a diversified range of issues, its use is especially recommended when a considerable economic impact stemming from new regulations may be envisaged. That is why this theme was so significant for the activities of the Economic Area within the ECPRD network.

<u>**Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments**</u>

Seminar "A digital facelift for parliaments"

(Parli@ments on the Net XIV), Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments

Berlin, Bundesrat, 9-10 June 2016

Exactly 100 participants representing 41 parliamentary chambers gathered in Berlin at the German Bundesrat for the 14th edition of 'Parliaments on the Net', thus confirming the tradition that this type of seminar attracts the highest number of participants in the ECPRD network.

A detailed survey preceded the seminar in the form of an ECPRD request and triggered a large number of significant replies.

The seminar was comprised of five sessions in total. Under the headline "Flashlight: What's new", Session 1 offered a space for new current projects in some parliaments. Session 2 was specifically devoted to communication strategies aimed at young people. Session 3 saw a number of presentations on recently developed parliamentary Apps. Session 4 focussed on the workflow in parliamentary online editorial teams. For session 5 the attempt was made to identify future trends in the field of information technologies and web applications to which parliaments have to find solutions.

Seminar 'Cloud resources used by Parliaments: what strategy to do adopt?'

(Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments)

The Hague, Eerste Kamer, 9-11 November 2016

71 participants from 37 parliamentary chambers gathered in the Dutch Senate to discuss the implications and possible solutions caused by the huge increase in the use of cloud services and Open Data in the recent years.

Five sessions formed the programme of the event. Session 1 dealt with new projects in parliaments. Session 2 discussed the question whether parliamentary data should be in the cloud. Consequently, data security

for cloud resources was the topic of session 3. The following session 4 had a look at the challenges for parliaments in acquiring and using national-level open data. The seminar was concluded with a session on how to keep some control over the use of Big Data in the context of data mining, privacy and ownership.

Seminar 'The implications of budgetary pressures on investment in ICT services in Parliaments'
(Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments)
Valletta, Parliament of Malta, 14-15 September 2017

The seminar, which was the first one in the ECPRD context organised by the Maltese Parliament, was attended by 50 participants from 32 parliamentary assemblies.

The programme was divided into five sessions. Session 1 provided the opportunity to present new projects in parliaments without a specific connection to the seminar main topic. Session 2 dealt with document management systems and common data formats. Session 3 and 4 was focussed on a multitude of issues related to the paperless parliament. The seminar was concluded with a session on the broadcasting of parliamentary debates (Parliamentary television).

Seminar 'Digitalization of Society '
(Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments)
Oslo, Storting, 20-21 September 2018

69 participants from 40 parliamentary chambers attended the 2018 meeting which targeted not only the ICT community in ECPRD member parliaments, but also the experts in the web communication departments.

The programme was centred on the four main topics:

• Digitalization of society and what impact this has on Parliaments;

• How to plan innovation;

• New modes of interaction with citizens;

• Information Security and General Data Protection Regulation.

Following a tradition, the seminar started with presentations of new projects in parliaments

<u>Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives</u>

Seminar 'Innovative services for Parliamentary Libraries, Research Services and Archives'
(Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives)
Oslo, Storting, 7-9 September 2016

The seminar attracted some 65 participants from 35 different parliaments. The seminar featured 12 contributions from seven different parliaments – EP, Russia, Lithuania, Norway, the Netherlands, Germany and the UK. There were also contributions from experts and officials from Norway.

The topics dealt with were products and their dissemination, whether what the products produced are public or secret, a session on infographics and the final topic dealt with alternative ways of finding information.

Seminar 'Libraries, research and documentation services in Parliaments: experiences, trends and perspectives'
(Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives)
Rome, Camera dei deputati and Senato, 8-9 June 2017

The seminar, which was organized jointly by the Italian Chamber and Senate, attracted 71 participants from 40 parliaments. It commenced with Mary Mazanec, Director of the US Congressional Research Service (CRS), who opened the first day of the seminar with a keynote speech on the challenges to which her service needs to find appropriate solutions. The first session was on the principles of research and analysis in parliaments. Session 2 was devoted to the balance between support to parliament and opening to the public. Research integrated into the parliamentary processes was the topic of the third session.

Day Two was opened by a keynote speech by Anthony Teasdale from the European Parliamentary Research Service in which he outlined the key decisions taken when setting up this new service. Session 4 provided insights on skills, quality factors and evaluation methods related to research products. Collaboration with external partners was the focus of session 5. The seminar concluded with a view on the evaluation of public policies in session 6. All sessions started with the corresponding results of an ECPRD survey launched beforehand.

Seminar 'The future of parliamentary research services and libraries in an era of rapid change: Optimising quality, service, delivery and relevance'
(Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives)
Brussels, European Parliament, 21-22 September 2017

The Research Service of the European Parliament organised for the first time a seminar in the framework of the ECPRD which attracted 73 participants from 36 parliamentary chambers.

So-called 'breakout groups' constituted a new promising feature at an ECPRD seminar. Participants had the opportunity to discuss methodological issues and challenges in three parallel workshops on the Brexit, the circular economy and the migration policy in Europe. A special session was devoted to regional initiatives of cooperation between parliamentary research services in Nordic Countries, South-East Europe and the Visegrad Group (V4). This session but also contributions made in the workshops revealed a broad interest to engage in more information exchange between the services.

Seminar 'Parliamentary Research in a digital age'
(Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives)
London, House of Lords and House of Commons, 21-22 June 2018

The seminar was hosted jointly by the House of Commons and House of Lords of the UK Parliament and attended by 70 delegates representing 35 parliamentary bodies from all over Europe.

Under the topic " 'Parliamentary Research in a digital age", the seminar covered all fields of this area of interest (Libraries, Research and Archives) and focused on the following main topics:

• Disappearing information: challenges and opportunities for parliaments in preserving information for the future;

• Parliamentary Libraries on the move: challenges of service relocation and their impact on working methods of the staff and services provided for the clients;

• Using Infographics and data visualization in parliamentary research, its advantages and dangers;

• Marketing and Communicating Parliamentary Research: blogs, websites, use of video material and social media.

The topical panels were accompanied by poster sessions that provided participants with an opportunity for further professional introduction and discussion.

'The future of parliamentary research services and libraries in an era of rapid change:
How best to support elected members in their multiple roles'
(Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives)
Brussels, European Parliament, 27-28 September 2018

The seminar was organised jointly by the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) and the EP Directorate for the Relations with National Parliaments and attracted 60 participants from 28 parliamentary chambers.

The seminar focussed on service provision for Members in their multiple roles: in their individual capacity, as members of specialised committees and in their expanding outreach activities. It provided an opportunity to present new projects and to share experiences made. Specific parallel 'breakout groups' discussed methodological questions linked to research in the field of Brexit, immigration and the European Monetary Union.

<u>**Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure**</u>

Seminar 'Pre- and Post-Legislative Scrutiny In and Beyond Parliament: An Integrated Feature of the Legislative Process? – Case Studies and Best Practices'
(Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice & Procedure)
Dublin, Houses of Oireachtas, 24-25 November 2016

51 participants from 26 parliamentary chambers and one international organisation (the OSCE) attended the first ECPRD seminar since long hosted by the Irish Houses of the Oireachtas on pre- and Post-Legislative Scrutiny In and Beyond Parliament.

The programme was divided into three sections. It started with a session mainly on pre-legislative scrutiny followed by a session on EU legislation and closed by a section on the post-legislative phase. Two keynote speeches, one on legislative scrutiny in general and another one on impact assessments in parliaments provided relevant background information and a good starting point for the discussion. The objective of the seminar to present concrete case stories of legislation could be considered as a success.

Two so-called poster sessions during the extended coffee break were features which appeared for the first time at an ECPRD event and offered the possibility to present parliamentary scrutiny activities to small circles of interested people and offered the possibility for informal conversations**.**

Seminar 'Parliaments' legitimacy and the new supervisory instruments"
(Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure)
Lisboa, Assembleia da República, 8-9 May 2017

The Portuguese Parliament hosted an ECPRD seminar to discuss modes, practices and developments in parliamentary control. A total of 56 participants from 26 parliamentary chambers (including two parliamentary assemblies and a special guest) attended this Seminar**.**

The first session of the seminar focused on new supervisory instruments of parliaments. The second session continued on this topic and focused on four crucial questions faced by Parliamentary Committees of Inquiry, namely the relation between parliamentary inquiries and the courts, the exercise of control and cooperation in PCIs, concerns about sensible information, and conflict resolution. The third session discussed the effectiveness of more common instruments of parliamentary control as question times and written questions. For the second time after Dublin, a poster session was part of the seminar program. The poster sessions were becoming an important feature of the seminars in this Area of Interest as there is the chance to learn and discuss about other parliaments' experiences in an informal and spontaneous context.

Webinar on the state of play regarding the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in Parliaments
(Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure)
23 April 2018

As a pilot project, the ECPRD Coordinator Parliamentary Practice and Procedure organised a web-based workshop on the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and its implications for member parliaments. The webinar was organised by the Austrian Parliament. This regulation is in force as from May 2018 and has important implications for parliaments, which have, among other things, to appoint Data Protection Officers.

As the webinar proved to be successful, it was decided to organise more meetings in this format in the next year. The Austrian Parliament would be open to continue to act as host.

Seminar 'How is the beginning of an electoral term organised?'
(Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure)
Berlin, Bundestag, 31 May - 1 June 2018

The seminar was attended by 80 experts from 31 parliamentary chambers.

Organising the beginning of an electoral term was one of the recurring tasks of a parliamentary administration. On the one hand, parliaments dealt with purely practical matters, such as how to manage the transfer of room allocations and equipment from former to new Members of Parliament, as well as how to handle the transition within the IT infrastructure. On the other hand, the parliamentary administration also had to support the parliamentary transition with regard to the rules of procedure or the establishment of parliamentary groups.

The seminar combined open sessions in small groups and plenary sessions which enabled many persons to participate actively. Of special interest were introduction programs for MPs and administrative issues like office allocation.

4.4 Version 5 of the ECPRD website

The 40th anniversary of the ECPRD in 2017 was the perfect moment to inaugurate version 5 of the ECPRD website. Version 4 became operational in 2007 and was already a major jump forward as it laid the ground for making the website the central platform for information exchange within the ECPRD network. Today, the members of the network use the site and its workflows directly or indirectly almost every day when launching a request, providing a reply, registering for an ECPRD event or simply searching the database for topical information.

Over the ten years between 2007 and 2017, version 4 of the website was subject to many modifications and evolutions. New procedures such the electronic workflow for the requests and new modules like the seminar pages have been added. All this was done without touching the inner structure and organisation of the site. Version 5 makes the website fit for the next coming years not only because its core infrastructure and the visual look and feel have been refurbished. More important is the fact that the site can now be used in an optimal way on all existing devices, be it the classical desktop PC, a tablet or any mobile phone. This so-called "responsive design" allows to consult the website from everywhere whenever it is needed.

The work started in 2016 with a detailed assessment of the existing website with a specific focus on the internal structure. Obsolete functions and modules were discarded and a new more coherent and consistent structure was defined. Furthermore, it was necessary to bring the software used in line with the ruling IT requirements of the European Parliament. Intense discussions took place to define the new graphical design (the visible part of the website) inspired by the state of the art in web design with the aim to make the website easy to handle, attractive and "responsive" to the devices of the users.

In the following months, module by module was developed, tested and implemented. Setting up the server architecture and the internal database were crucial milestones. The Executive Committees discussed and approved the progress reports at its meetings. Correspondents could provide their views at the annual meeting 2016 and suggest future developments. At a certain stage it was deemed important to create a test group in order to get the necessary input from the point of view of the correspondents as the main user group. Contributions made by the group were very helpful.

The excellent cooperation with the General Directorate of Information and Technology of the European Parliament was essential for the success of the project.   This achievement was not possible without the

commitment and long-term experience of the ECPRD IT project manager Jerry Hilbert. To him go our very special thanks.

Version 5 will make the ECPRD website fit for the years to come for the benefit of all members of the network.

Annexes

Annex 1. Statutes ECPRD

STATUTES OF THE ECPRD [SEPTEMBER 2012]

The Statutes of the ECPRD were adopted by the ECPRD Secretaries General meeting at the Conference of Speakers in Budapest on 7 June 1996 and subsequently amended in Tallinn on 31 May 2006 and in Strasbourg on 21 September 2012.

PREAMBLE

The European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) was created in 1977 at the request of the Conference of Speakers of European Parliamentary Assemblies (as from 2004: the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament).

I. AIMS

Article 1

1. The objectives of the ECPRD are to promote the exchange of information, ideas, experience and good practice among the administrations of parliaments in Europe on subjects of common interest; to strengthen close co-operation among parliamentary services in all fields of parliamentary administration, legislation, information, research and documentation; and to collect, exchange and publicise studies produced by parliamentary services.
2. In the exchange of information the ECPRD shall promote, wherever possible, the use and development of Information and Communication Technology.
3. The ECPRD shall co-operate with other networks dealing with the exchange of information among parliaments in Europe.

II. COMPOSITION OF THE ECPRD

Article 2

The ECPRDs members are: the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and parliamentary chambers where the President is a member of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament.

Article 3

1. A parliament possessing special guest or observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe may participate in the different activities of the ECPRD but may not vote in its bodies.
2. The ECPRD may co-operate with non-European parliamentary chambers.

III. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE ECPRD

i. THE MEETING OF THE SECRETARIES GENERAL

Article 4

The ECPRD operates under the authority of the Secretaries General of member chambers. At their meetings held every two years on the occasion of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, they approve the activity report and action programme of the ECPRD and establish priorities for its functioning.

ii. THE CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS

Article 5

1.   The Secretary General of each parliamentary chamber appoints a senior official (Correspondent) to represent the chamber within the Conference of Correspondents of the ECPRD. Secretaries General may also appoint Deputy Correspondents.
2.   The Correspondent is selected from officials whose activities bring them into close contact with the ECPRD and who have direct access to the Secretary General of the chamber. He/she can thereby co-ordinate the activities of those officials of his/her chamber who are asked to play an active role in the ECPRD.

Article 6

1.   The Conference of Correspondents is responsible, in co-operation with the Co-Directors (see Article 8), for the organisation of the activities of the ECPRD. It examines the draft report on the activities of the ECPRD, drafted and presented by the Co-Directors, which includes the action programme of the ECPRD for the following two years.
2.   The report, together with the action programme, is then submitted for approval to the Secretaries General and subsequently to the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament which is invited to take note of it.
3.   Meetings of the Conference of Correspondents, chaired by the Co-Directors, take place at least every twelve months.
4.   Decisions of the Conference of Correspondents are reached, in principle, by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, issues will be decided by a vote with a necessary majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast, representing a majority of members of the ECPRD (see Article 2).

iii. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 7

1.   The Executive Committee is composed of the two Co-Directors and five Correspondents elected by the Conference of Correspondents. The Committee will meet as often as necessary, at the request of at least two of its members or five Correspondents.
2.   The members of the Executive Committee, other than the Co-Directors, shall be elected for a period of three years. They may be re-elected. Elections will take place at the Correspondents' annual meeting, with due consideration being paid to the need to maintain geographical balance in the membership of the Executive Committee.
3.   The Executive Committee may take decisions when a majority of its members is present. Decisions shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast.

iv. THE CO-DIRECTORS

Article 8

1. The Secretaries General of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe each nominate a senior official as a Co-Director of the ECPRD.
2. The two Co-Directors are responsible for the management of all activities of the ECPRD and are assisted by the two Co-Secretaries of the ECPRD and by other officials of their respective institutions.
3. The Co-Directors may at the same time be the Correspondents for their assemblies.

IV. WORKING METHODS

Article 9

1. The ECPRD promotes co-operation between member chambers through the exchange of information, compilation of documentation and studies and the organisation of seminars; and by the sharing of knowledge of parliamentary ICT applications. On a proposal from the Executive Committee, the Conference of Correspondents shall establish detailed guidelines for studies and comparative requests and for the organisation of ECPRD seminars.
2. The ECPRD may also participate in or initiate other activities organised within its fields of interest.
3. When it considers that a given area requires a continuity of activity, the Conference of Correspondents may decide on the appointment of a Co-ordinator responsible for promoting close co-operation between the member chambers in that area. The Co-ordinator shall be appointed by the Executive Committee from among the competent staff of member chambers, with the consent of the chamber concerned, for a renewable term of three years.
4. On a proposal from the Executive Committee, and to meet specific terms of reference, the Conference of Correspondents may also decide to set up ad hoc working groups composed of staff of member chambers. The Executive Committee shall determine their duration, which must not exceed three years.

V. FINANCING OF THE ECPRD

Article 10

1. Member chambers of the ECPRD meet the cost of participation of their officials in ECPRD activities as well as the costs of communication with the ECPRD.
2. Member chambers may organise activities of the ECPRD, such as meetings, seminars etc., and bear the costs of such events. They may also make voluntary financial contributions to the ECPRD.
3. The operating costs of the ECPRD are covered by the budgets of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in conformity with current practice.
4. The ECPRD may accept outside donations following a favourable opinion from the Conference of Correspondents.

VI. REVISION OF THE STATUTES

Article 11

The revision of these Statutes is the responsibility of the Secretaries General of the member chambers gathered at their meeting on the occasion of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament.

Annex 2. Statistics of comparative requests, of replies and of final comparative summaries 2003 - 2018

Comparative requests

Country	Chamber	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
	PACE					1		2	1	3	2	3	4	2	6	5	4	6	4	6	49
	AWEU									1		1									2
	EP	3	11	7	9	10	13	5	8	5	3	9	10	16	8	5	13	11	5	5	156
Albania	Kuvendi		1	1			1	4			2	1		1	3	12	10	7	10	8	61
Andorra	Consell General																				
Armenia	National Assembly					3	5	1	5	2					1	1	1			2	21
Austria	Parlament			1	3			2	4		4	2	2	3	3	4	1	3	3	4	39
Azerbaijan	National Assembly							1				1				1		1			4
Belgium	Chamber	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1		1	24
	Senat	1		1				1		2	1	1	5	1	1		1	1			16
Bosnia-Herzegovina	House of Representatives				2	3	3	3	5	1	3	4	2	2	2	1	1	3	3	2	40
Bulgaria	National Assembly			1	5	3	1		4	4	2	12	5	10	3	4	7	4	7	10	82
Canada	Parliament										1	2	1	1	1	1				1	8
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor					2		1		2	3	1		9	9	9	8	2	6	2	54
Cyprus	House of Representatives		1		1	2	3	1		2	1	1	3	5	6	4	4	2	3	12	51
Czech Republic	Chamber			1	3	19	16	5	10	9	6	8	7	6	5	12	18	19	13	31	188
Czech Republic	Senate										2	1	1		1						5
Denmark	Folketinget			1	3	2	2	1	3	4	3		2	1	4	4	2	4	9	2	47
Estonia	Riigikogu			3	1	8	4	5	3	8	4	2	5	4	2	1	1	3	8	9	71
Finland	Eduskunta			1	3		5	2	2	4	3	3	4	2	4	4	3	4	4	6	54
France	Assemblee nationale				1	3	5	7	10	11	12	17	13	8	8	11	4	8	16	10	144
	Senat							1		1				2	1	2	2	2	4	1	16
Georgia	Parliament				2	6	11	17	13	4	12	10	11	6	18	15	14	8	20	16	183

Country	Chamber																				Total
Germany	Bundesrat										1		1	1				1			4
	Bundestag	2	1	3	11	4	5	22	28	29	26	51	51	50	24	37	53	41	28	43	509
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon					1	1	1	2	3	1	5	5	2	5	7	1	2	5	2	43
Hungary	National Assembly			1		2	4	1	5	12	11	6	10	9	9	11	5	7	12	6	111
Iceland	Althingi				1	2					1					1			1	1	7
Ireland	Houses of the Oireachtas	1						1	4	7	10	5	11	6	5	8	5	5	13	15	96
Israel	Knesset						4	8	9	10	9	9	10	11	10	6	7	5	8	11	117
Italy	Camera dei Deputati		1	3	3		1	1	1	2		1		2	3	2	1	2	3	5	31
	Senato	1		1		1	1	3	2	2				2	1		6	1	4		25
Latvia	Saeima				1	1		3	2	4	1		1	5	3	2	3	2	3	5	36
Liechtenstein	Landtag																				
Lithuania	Seimas			1	2	1	6	2	3	3	5	5	8	5	5	7	9	6	11	12	91
Luxembourg	Chambre											1						1			2
Malta	Parliament													3	1	1					5
Moldova	National Assembly					2		4	1	3		5	9	9	3	4	7	7	2	4	60
Monaco	National Council																				
Montenegro	Parliament											2	2	4	3	8	4	3	9	5	40
Morocco	Chamber																				
Netherlands	Eerste Kamer	1	1	1				1				2							1		7
	Tweede Kamer			1	4	9	10	9	6	7	8	4	4	8	6	4	1	8	4	11	104
North Macedonia	Assembly					1		3	3	5	4	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	2	4	35
Norway	Stortinget							2	3	11	2		6	2	4	3	5	3	1	1	44
Poland	Sejm			1	4	4	4	7	14	9	10	6	6	12	11	7	5	6	4	2	112
	Senat			2	3	2	2	5	8	1	3	1	1	5	4	1	2	2	1	2	45
Portugal	Assembleia			6	4	2	1	4	5	3	4	4	3	5	1	4	3	10	7	8	74
Romania	Camera Deputalilor		1				2	1	3	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	10	4	52
	Senat								1		2	6	8	2	4	1	8	6	15	3	56
Russia	Duma					1	2			1								1			5
	Federation Council			1	3	4	1	1		1	5		5	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	32
San Marino	Consiglio Grande e Generale																				

Country	Chamber																					Total
Serbia	**National Assembly**								3	2	3	4	3	12	7	5	6	1	2		**48**
Slovakia	**National Council**		**2**	**4**	9	8	12	7	5	6	10	7	19	10	16	21	18	21	31	31	**237**
Slovenia	**National Council**				1		1	1	3			1			1			2	2	1	**13**
	National Assembly		**2**	**5**	1	1	5	1	3	1	8	4	4	2	4	2	5	6	5	2	**61**
Spain	**Congreso de los Diputados**		**3**			1	2	1	1	3	1		2	4	4		1	1	1	4	**29**
	Senado				1	2	1	2	4	3		2					1			1	**17**
Sweden	**Riksdag**		**2**	**3**	8	17	11	11	13	16	18	10	18	19	16	5	20	15	21	12	**235**
Switzerland	**Bundesversammlung**				2	1	2	1	3	1	1		1	2	1	3	2	1	1		**22**
Turkey	**The Grand National Assembly**		**1**	**1**	2	4	4	7	5	6	5	4	7	7	5	6		1		2	**67**
Ukraine	**Verkhovna Rada**				2	1							1							1	**5**
United Kingdom	**House of Commons**		**4**	**4**		3	2	4	5	5	6	5	9	5	2	10	4	7	13	5	**93**
	House of Lords			**2**	1		1	1	1	3	1	2	1	2			1	1	1		**18**
United States of America	**Congress**								1	1	1		5	3	1			2	1		**15**
		10	33	58	96	138	161	177	224	219	223	243	286	297	254	268	287	274	337	333	**3918**

NB: Please bear in mind that requests sometimes go only to a selection of parliaments and not to the entire ECPRD network

Country	Chamber	2000*	2001*	2002**	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
	PACE				2	10	9	3	22	16	12	12	20	30	22	6	10	15	9	11	209
	AWEU				2			1	11	1	3	2									20
	EP	2	2	10	12	14	15	26	34	39	38	29	35	38	38	21	20	34	36	30	473
Albania	Kuvendi		8	18	7	12	30	22	37	24	9	13	18	17	23	81	66	76	79	65	605
Andorra	Consell General							20	59	45	55	60	56	82	72	62	27	46	16	35	635
Armenia	National Assembly	1		4	5	18	36	25	35	19	4			2	4	1				22	176
Austria	Parlament	4	18	48	62	97	111	125	160	166	151	139	233	222	210	216	224	221	265	282	2954
Azerbaijan	National Assembly						3		7	11	6		2	4	4	15	11	6	21	8	98
Belgium	Chamber	5	13	43	53	77	112	100	142	147	154	139	190	196	180	158	183	169	139	113	2313
	Senat	6	23	62	60	69	102	100	127	160	165	149	136	149	153	152	160	135	88	86	2082
Bosnia-Herzegovina	House of Representatives			6	25	10	51	49	57	43	50	9	14	40	25	37	20	73	78	24	611
Bulgaria	National Assembly		6	13	43	50	55	8	71	93	122	95	57	35	41	39	16	31	33	12	820
Canada	Parliament					1					39	72	84	103	91	105	82	94	99	89	859
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor	2	12	39	29	56	65	58	91	77	90	84	86	99	120	179	180	168	202	224	1861
Cyprus	House of Representatives		8	22	15	45	37	43	105	133	89	125	155	167	159	129	81	58	27	11	1409
Czech Republic	Chamber	2	7	20	27	56	79	46	124	113	127	117	122	147	142	135	158	161	199	204	1986
Czech Republic	Senate		3	13	16	35	41	33	49	46	39	38	39	36	44	11	25	51	28	7	554

[1] *Figures for 2000 and 2001 based on number of replies by date of request

** Figures since 2002 based on the date of publication of the reply (when put on the website). Activated was the filter "Select by date of publication of the replies (instead of date of the requests) "

Country	Body																				Total
Denmark	**Folketinget**	3	12	45	57	79	120	125	167	*181*	170	164	175	200	149	142	164	171	153	138	2415
Estonia	**Riigikogu**	2	12	31	50	90	116	112	143	*159*	161	162	188	200	187	190	195	193	230	240	2661
Finland	**Eduskunta**	5	17	51	65	103	117	126	168	*186*	183	182	208	226	192	204	212	214	257	239	2955
France	**Assemblee nationale**	5	22	50	49	69	68	21	67	*170*	147	146	212	240	209	216	228	214	269	244	2646
	Senat	1	7	11	9	10	18	12	22	*16*	15	17	13	18	49	37	49	54	35	32	425
Georgia	**Parliament**	4	7	25	27	52	57	48	73	*69*	35	64	59	36	51	71	55	66	67	60	926
Germany	**Bundesrat**	2	13	34	34	44	68	47	54	*163*	154	149	174	181	200	214	211	209	274	276	2501
Germany	**Bundestag**	3	8	26	42	58	31	121	182	*175*	186	181	211	230	207	216	243	224	349	338	3031
Greece	**Vouli ton Ellinon**	2	11	28	40	56	89	75	112	*129*	145	160	191	196	173	190	191	180	228	219	2415
Hungary	**National Assembly**	1	2	11	7	14	20	23	28	*94*	112	131	163	166	165	179	188	191	226	232	1953
Iceland	**Althingi**	1	6	18	15	25	60	32	55	*55*	62	65	68	76	55	58	53	67	63	55	889
Ireland	**Houses of the Oireachtas**	3	5	18	12	5	11	21	58	*32*	59	61	49	49	60	56	48	101	108	111	867
Israel	**Knesset**						48	46	38	*48*	50	38	55	58	61	52	46	55	61	58	714
Italy	**Camera dei Deputati**	2	10	36	31	63	91	106	165	*179*	180	192	220	211	180	154	143	71	23	89	2146
	Senato	4	19	47	47	77	89	106	158	*175*	150	164	224	211	188	171	138	47	15	95	2125
Jordan	**House of Represent,**																			13	13
Latvia	**Saeima**	1	7	22	43	70	94	79	77	*91*	88	115	137	154	157	143	142	141	167	227	1955
Liechtenstein	**Landtag**					1		8	8	*27*	14	18	8	23	3	7	2	4	1	5	129
Lithuania	**Seimas**	1	4	17	28	63	86	87	96	*150*	139	153	171	173	180	187	178	178	210	214	2315
Luxembourg	**Chambre**	1		3	6	21	22	12	40	*33*	37	23	77	96	107	132	104	82	123	113	1032
Malta	**Parliament**					1								15	3	2		2	1	4	28
Moldova	**Assemblee nationale**	1	2	6	4	17	2	15	15	*12*	4	44	71	27	11	30	52	26	16	9	364
Monaco	**National Council**																				
Montenegro	**Parliament**											2	38	77	71	76	77	77	96	64	578
Morocco	**Chamber**															1					1
Netherlands	**Eerste Kamer**			2	31	14	15	7	40	*74*	70	53	48	43	21	39	45	37		8	547
	Tweede Kamer	4	11	37	45	27	50	79	118	*135*	104	135	184	186	155	159	157	171	181	145	2083
North Macedonia	**Assembly**	1	2	10	23	55	65	54	81	*77*	82	80	75	77	25	28	37	68	93	72	1005
Norway	**Stortinget**	1	3	14	24	33	62	57	81	*104*	111	87	113	132	112	112	92	102	120	103	1463
Poland	**Sejm**	2	9	25	46	86	114	114	145	*156*	155	158	185	188	176	187	194	179	226	245	2590
	Senat	2	8	28	35	25	65	40	60	*59*	45	59	70	64	136	183	197	138	225	240	1679

Portugal	**Assembleia**	6	12	31	53	83	93	85	135	*125*	153	150	186	200	183	194	188	180	217	228	2502
Romania	**Camera Deputalilor**	2	2	8	14	21	18	44	112	*140*	142	142	153	140	151	157	149	130	166	97	1788
	Senat	1		3	3	1		10	63	*36*	7	15	28	27	28	29	57	61	36	22	427
Russia	**Federation Council**		3	8	11	20	26	7	37	*35*	28	36	24	55	83	73	55	27	11	6	545
	Duma		1	2	7	31	33	45	53	*37*	32	34	30	28	22	9	6		2		372
San Marino	**Consiglio Grande**																		17	35	52
Serbia	**National Assembly**							27	81	*72*	51	68	50	50	69	87	76	88	84	42	845
Slovakia	**National Council**	1	5	24	39	88	105	104	135	*150*	143	142	166	169	161	168	185	175	205	207	2372
Slovenia	**National Council**	2	7	17	3	15	15	8	12	*5*	10	21	20	7	27	6	17	81	52	65	390
	National Assembly	2	6	27	33	62	81	78	85	*92*	132	110	124	162	118	152	152	153	169	173	1911
Spain	**Congreso de los Diputados**	1	14	24	18	50	49	56	74	*62*	94	113	186	205	182	198	196	170	238	264	2194
	Senado	3	21	56	56	89	56	42	65	*60*	72	90	100	59	68	70	73	56	81	67	1184
Sweden	**Riksdag**	8	24	65	63	89	109	119	156	*175*	152	174	185	206	189	202	213	198	262	249	2838
Switzerland	**Bundesversammlung**	1	8	29	29	52	73	69	82	*82*	96	84	79	95	88	82	76	69	63	62	1219
Turkey	**The Grand National Assembly**	1	4	11	27	5	11	36	40	*51*	60	60	55	51	57	54	39	62	80	73	777
Ukraine	**Verkhovna Rada**	3	5	24	25	15	15	7	24	*13*	5	8	18	24	10	13	25	28		2	264
United Kingdom	**House of Commons**	8	24	66	68	96	125	147	184	*190*	184	186	213	206	161	161	175	162	196	236	2788
	House of Lords	4	12	29	30	43	45	17	47	*40*	14	23	70	176	98	162	136	119	140	222	1427
United States of America	**Congress**					1	45	32	59	*65*	59	47	49	31	21	7	8	3	5	13	445
Total		117	445	1317	1607	2469	3223	3165	4826	5312	5245	5389	6370	6811	6328	6606	6530	6362	7160	7174	86456

Final summaries to comparative requests

Country	Chamber	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
	PACE		1		1		1	1			2	2		2	3	1	2	16
	AWEU								1									1
	EP	1	5	7	3	4	3	3	7	5	9	2	2	4	4	2		61
Albania	Kuvendi													3				3
Andorra	Consell General																	
Armenia	National Assembly																	
Austria	Parlament	2			1	4		3	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	27
Azerbaijan	National Assembly																	
Belgium	Chambre	2	3	1	1		1		1	1	3	1	1		1			16
	Senat				1		1	1	1		3	1	1					9
Bosnia-Herzegovina	House of Represent,				1	1		3				1	1	1	2	4	1	15
Bulgaria	National Assembly					1												1
Canada	Parliament										1							1
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor						1	3	1		7	2	6	10		8	2	40
Cyprus	House of Represent.													1				1
Czech Republic	Chamber			3			1		1	3		1		4	6	5		24
Czech Republic	Senate																	
Denmark	Folketinget										1							1
Estonia	Riigikogu					1	5	2		3	2		1	1	1			16
Finland	Eduskunta	1				1	1	2	1				1	1		1	1	10
France	Assemblee nationale	2		1			1				1	1						6
	Senat													1		2		3
Georgia	Parliament								1		1		1	1	3	1		8
Germany	Bundesrat						1	2			1			1				5
	Bundestag				1	2	2	4	10	8	2	1	4	18	17	28	1	98
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon						1	1	1	3		4		2	2	1	3	18
Hungary	National Assembly				1	1	1						7	3	5	4	5	27
Iceland	Althingi																	
Ireland	Oireachtas							4	4	8	3	4	2	1	3	2		31

Country	Chamber															Total
Israel	Knesset				1	3	3	1	4			2	1				15
Italy	Camera dei Deputati									1	1						2
	Senato			1	1	2	2			1							7
Latvia	Saeima		1		1					1	2	1					6
Liechtenstein	Landtag																
Lithuania	Seimas						1		1								2
Luxembourg	Chambre								1						1		2
Malta	Parliament																
Moldova	Assemblee nationale				1				7	1				4	5		18
Monaco	National Council																
Montenegro	Parliament														1		1
Netherlands	Eerste Kamer								1						1		2
	Tweede Kamer		1		1					1		2					5
North Macedonia	Assembly								2	1		1		2		1	7
Norway	Stortinget			1			1			1							3
Poland	Sejm				3	2	5	6	1	1	8	1			1		28
	Senate				1		1	2	1		3	1	2	2			13
Portugal	Assembleia						2	2			2	1	1	1	1	3	13
Romania	Camera Deputalilor			2	1	2		4	3	3	1	1					17
	Senat																
Russia	Duma																
	Federation Council								2	1	1	1	1	1			7
San Marino	Consiglio Grande																
Serbia	National Assembly						1	2	1			1					5
Slovakia	National Council	1	1			2	2			4					1		11
Slovenia	National Council											1			1	1	3
	National Assembly		2	1	1		3	4	3	2	1	3	3	4	4	3	34
Spain	Congreso			1				1		2	1	5		1	1	1	4
	Senado					1	1								1		3
Sweden	Riksdag		1		3	3	11	5	12	10	9	5	12	8	14	12	105
Switzerland	Bundesversammlung				1		2	1	1		1		1		1		8
Turkey	National Assembly				2		1	2	2	1	1	1	4		2		16

Ukraine	**Verkhovna Rada**																	
United Kingdom	**House of Commons**			1	3	5	5	4	4	1		1			2			**26**
	House of Lords						1	1	1		1		1			1		**6**
United States of America	**Congress**					1		1		2		1				1		**6**
		9	**13**	**20**	**26**	**38**	**51**	**70**	**61**	**80**	**71**	**47**	**55**	**82**	**80**	**86**	**37**	**826**

Annex 3 Attendance at ECPRD Seminars 2016 – 2018

Seminar 'Parliaments and the new economic and budgetary governance' Baku, Parliament of Azerbaijan, 19-20 May 2016	54
Seminar "A digital facelift for parliaments" (Parli@ments on the Net XIV), Berlin, Bundesrat, 9-10 June 2016	100
Seminar 'Innovative services for Parliamentary Libraries, Research Services and Archives' Oslo, Storting, 7 -9 September 2016	65
Seminar 'Cloud resources used by Parliaments: what strategy to do adopt?' The Hague, Eerste Kamer 9-11 November 2016	71
Seminar 'Pre- and Post-Legislative Scrutiny In and Beyond Parliament: An Integrated Feature of the Legislative Process? – Case Studies and Best Practices' Dublin, Houses of Oireachtas, 24-25 November 2016	51
Seminar 'Parliaments' legitimacy and the new supervisory instruments" Lisboa, Assembleia da República, 8-9 May 2017	56
Seminar 'Libraries, research and documentation services in Parliaments: experiences, trends and perspectives' Rome, Camera dei deputati and Senato, 8-9 June 2017	71
Seminar 'The implications of budgetary pressures on investment in ICT services in Parliaments' Valletta, Parliament of Malta, 14-15 September 2017	50
Seminar 'The future of parliamentary research services and libraries in an era of rapid change: Optimising quality, service, delivery and relevance' Brussels, European Parliament, 21-22 September 2017	73
Seminar 'Parliaments dealing with financial markets' issues' (Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs) Athens, Hellenic Parliament 5-6 October 2017	

Seminar 'Costing and Regulatory Impact Assessment' (Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs) Tbilisi, Parliament of Georgia 17-18 May 2018	40
Seminar 'How is the beginning of an electoral term organised?' (Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure) Berlin, Bundestag 31 May - 1 June 2018	80
Seminar 'Parliamentary Research in a digital age' (Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives) London, House of Lords and House of Commons, 21-22 June 2018	70
Seminar 'Digitalization of Society ' (Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments) Oslo, Storting, 20-21 September 2018	69
'The future of parliamentary research services and libraries in an era of rapid change: How best to support elected members in their multiple roles' (Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives) Brussels, European Parliament, 27-28 September 2018	60
Total	**910**