



# RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS UNDER THE TREATY OF LISBON

ANNUAL REPORT  
2014-2015



European Parliament

EN

# PARLIAMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



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



751 MEPs



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.



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.

**Annual report 2014/2015**

**Relations between the European Parliament  
and national Parliaments under the Treaty of Lisbon**

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.

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Front cover photo: Opening session of the "European Parliamentary Week" 2015, European Parliament, Brussels, 3 February 2015.  
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The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments advises the political bodies, Members and the secretariat of the European Parliament in their institutional cooperation and legislative dialogue with the national Parliaments. It provides support for interparliamentary activities, contributes to the implementation of the Treaty provisions on interparliamentary cooperation in the EP and provides expertise throughout the legislative cycle and other EP political competences.

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments acts as a knowledge centre for information about national Parliaments and provides information to the EP administration on best practices in national Parliaments. It represents the European Parliament in the administrative networks of interparliamentary cooperation. It manages relations with the officials that represent the national Parliaments in Brussels and maintains close links with their administrations.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015

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## **Preface by the EP Vice-Presidents responsible for relations with national Parliaments**

This is the fourth annual report on developments in relations between the European Parliament and national Parliaments under the Treaty of Lisbon, published by the European Parliament's Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments. While the last annual report 2013/2014 included some of the events from early 2014, no separate report was issued for that year due to the European elections. This report looks back at the remaining events of 2014, all of 2015 and highlights current trends in interparliamentary cooperation.

Interparliamentary cooperation does not take place in a vacuum, but is shaped by current political developments. Over the past two years, the European Union has faced - and continues to face - many challenges. Migration, the economic and financial crisis, terrorism, youth unemployment, wars and turmoil in our neighbourhood as well as climate change have shown us how interconnected and interdependent our countries have become and how difficult it still is sometimes to find common responses to these challenges.

These challenges have dominated many interparliamentary debates during the past two years. The European Parliament views such exchanges as places where EU and national policies come together and feed off each other, to the benefit of both. As stated in the European Parliament resolution of 16 April 2014 on relations between the European Parliament and the national parliaments, "a key function of such meetings is to allow the national parliaments to take account of the European perspective in national debates, and the European Parliament to take account of the national perspective in European debates."

In its 2014 resolution, the European Parliament underlines that the aim of interparliamentary cooperation is to "foster the exchange of information and best practice between the national parliaments and the European Parliament, with a view to enabling all of them to exercise more effective scrutiny and contribute more fully, without undermining their respective competences", to "ensure that parliaments are able to exercise their powers in respect of EU matters to the full", and to "foster the emergence of a genuinely European parliamentary and political culture."

Today, such cooperation takes place in many different forms, including the following: conferences and meetings, visits and videoconferences, online networks and databases. As in previous years, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments worked tirelessly in 2014 and 2015 to ensure that Members and staff of the European Parliament have the right tools at their disposal to enhance their cooperation with national Parliaments. The tailor-made services provided by the Directorate range from the preparation of briefings and notes, the organisation of meetings and videoconferences, to the maintenance of information networks such as IPEX and ECPRD or new developments such as the database of "corresponding committees", or the relaunched "Connect" database of national Parliament documents.

We firmly believe that interparliamentary cooperation can contribute to building bridges and foster common understanding in these turbulent times, and are confident that this report demonstrates the breadth and depth that this cooperation has reached today.



Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso  
Vice-President



Anneli Jäätteenmäki  
Vice-President

## 1. Introduction

This annual report builds on the previous reports issued by the European Parliament's Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments. It identifies a number of key developments and trends in interparliamentary cooperation over the past two years, before going on to analyse institutional parliamentary cooperation and interparliamentary meetings that took place during this period in greater detail.

The state of play is followed by chapters on the early warning mechanism, informal political dialogue and tools for exchanging information and networking. Detailed statistical information is available in the annexes.

Previous annual reports, as well as current news, publications and statistics are available at the website of the European Parliament's Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, [www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl).

## 2. Key developments and trends in interparliamentary cooperation

### 2.1. The European elections, the new European Parliament and the new Commission

*In 2014 the European Union's political landscape was marked by the European Parliament elections in May and the arrival of a new European Commission in November. For the first time ever, both events were linked through the "Spitzenkandidaten" process, where political groups campaigning for the elections proposed candidates for the post of European Commission President.*

*For the European Parliament, the elections also provided an opportunity to take stock of and further develop its relations with national Parliaments. For the European Commission, its new President Jean-Claude Juncker underlined that its relationship with the European Parliament is the source of its democratic legitimacy, and also announced his intention to forge a new partnership with national Parliaments.*

As in 2009, the European Parliament used the end of the legislature to take stock of interparliamentary cooperation and make proposals for its future development. Based on a report prepared by the Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Carlo Casini, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on 16 April 2014 on relations between the European Parliament and the national parliaments (2013/2185(INI)). In this resolution, the European Parliament welcomed the actions that had been taken since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon to intensify cooperation between the national Parliaments and the European Parliament.

The resolution made several proposals to deepen this dialogue. For instance, closer cooperation between rapporteurs on specific legislative issues or regular, thematically structured and effective meetings between political groups and European political parties to be held in the framework of EU interparliamentary cooperation. The European Parliament also stressed that interparliamentary cooperation must seek at all times to bring the right people together at the right time to address the right issues in a meaningful way, so as to ensure that the decisions taken in the various areas of responsibility benefit from the "added value" brought by real dialogue and proper debate, and believed that the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC) should remain the forum for a regular

exchange of views, information and best practice regarding the practical aspects of parliamentary scrutiny.

The European Parliament ensured a continuous dialogue with national Parliaments throughout the election period and participated actively in the institutional interparliamentary meetings organised in the Parliaments of the EU Member States, for instance the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments that took place in Vilnius in April 2014 or the COSAC plenary meeting that was held in Athens in June 2014.

Despite a natural decrease in the number of interparliamentary meetings organised by the European Parliament's committees in the election period, after the elections the arrival of a large number of new Members, the setting up of its committees and the busy political agenda at European level provided a new impetus for interparliamentary activity in the European Parliament. In 2015, committees organised more debates with national Parliaments than in most of the previous years, including other activities such as delegation visits or videoconferences. These developments are described in greater detail in Chapter 4 on interparliamentary meetings; detailed statistics are available in the annexes.

For the new European Commission, the "special partnership" with the European Parliament featured prominently on its agenda, as did relations with national Parliaments. In the "mission letters" that Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker addressed to the Commissioners-designate after his election in 2014, he underlined that the "Commission's relationship with the European Parliament is the source of our democratic legitimacy". As regards national Parliaments, President Juncker highlighted that he wanted "all Commissioners to commit to a new partnership with national Parliaments".

The Commission took stock of this commitment in its Work Programme for 2016, adopted on 27 October 2015, which stated that "[i]n the past year we have stepped up the Commission's engagement and dialogue with national Parliaments, both in terms of meetings and exchanges of view with parliamentary committees, and by a renewed commitment to the political dialogue on draft proposals", and announced its intention "to build on this further in 2016 with further steps to ensure that national parliaments have a strong voice in European policy-making."

## **2.2. Interparliamentary cooperation on economic governance**

*In the past two years, the European Parliament and national Parliaments further consolidated their dialogue in the area of economic governance. Based on the conclusions of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments in April 2015, the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union adopted its Rules of Procedure in Luxembourg on 10 November 2015. This agreement on procedural questions should enable the Conference to focus entirely on the substance of the political challenges ahead.*

While the fundamental principles of democratic legitimacy and accountability have to be guaranteed at the level at which decisions are taken and implemented, the European Parliament has long held the view that interparliamentary cooperation has an important complementary role to play in order to exchange ideas and best practices in the field of economic governance. In this context, it is worth looking back at the development of this cooperation in greater detail, even though it predates the reporting period of this publication.



### ***Background***

In March 2011, in the wake of the economic and financial crisis, the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs organised a meeting with national Parliamentarians to discuss their first experiences with the "European semester", the EU's annual cycle of economic policy guidance and surveillance that was launched at the time. At the initiative of its Committees on Economic and Monetary Affairs, on Employment and Social Affairs, and on Budgets, the European Parliament organised an interparliamentary event on the European Semester for Economic Policy Coordination in February 2012. In January 2013, this meeting was developed further, renamed the "European Parliamentary Week" and has been organised at the beginning of every year since then.

Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union ("Fiscal Compact") foresaw the organisation of a "conference of representatives of the relevant committees of the European Parliament and representatives of the relevant committees of national Parliaments in order to discuss budgetary policies and other issues covered by this Treaty." During the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments in Nicosia in April 2013, an agreement was reached to implement the provisions of this Treaty article. The Interparliamentary Conference referred to in Article 13 of the Fiscal Compact then convened for the first time from 16 to 17 October 2013 in Vilnius, organised by the Lithuanian Parliament.

### ***Important developments in 2014***

The second Article 13 Conference was co-organised by the European Parliament and the Hellenic Parliament in Brussels. Under the title "European Parliamentary Week", it was combined with the interparliamentary event on the European Semester, which was organised by the European Parliament. From 20th to 22nd January 2014, the European Parliamentary Week convened around 140 Members of national Parliaments, 60 Members of the European Parliament and about 100 officials from the national Parliaments.

High-level speakers included the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, the Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament, Vangelis Meimarakis, the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, and the President of the German Bundestag, Norbert Lammert. The topics for debate ranged from addressing macroeconomic imbalances in Europe and the democratic legitimacy of economic adjustment programmes to promoting growth and jobs in Europe and enhanced fiscal surveillance in EMU.

The third Conference was organised by the Italian Parliament from 29th to 30th September 2014 in Rome. The delegation from the European Parliament consisted of 14 Members and was co-chaired by Vice-President Olli Rehn and Roberto Gualtieri, Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. The debates focused on the role of investment in stimulating growth, the tools in the EU economic and financial governance, the banking union and the coordination of European tax policies with special emphasis on the digital economy. The final session of the event was dedicated to discussing the proposed Rules of Procedure for the Conference.

### ***Important developments in 2015***

The European Parliamentary Week 2015 took place from 3rd to 4th February 2015 at the European Parliament in Brussels. The event convened around 70 MEPs and about 110 Parliamentarians from across the EU to discuss economic, budgetary and social issues.

Within the framework of the European Parliamentary Week, two events took place. The first event was the interparliamentary meeting on the European Semester Cycles 2014 and 2015, in the context of the preparation of the European Parliament reports for the priorities for the next Semester Cycle based on the Annual Growth Survey. The purpose of this event was to enhance the democratic dimension of the EU decision-making process and to strengthen cooperation between national Parliaments and the European Parliament in order to scrutinise the actions of the executive at national and European levels within the framework of the Semester cycle.

The second event was the Interparliamentary Conference under Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union. The Conference was co-organised and co-chaired by the Latvian Parliament and the European Parliament. The purpose of this event was to discuss issues coming under the scope of Article 13 of the Fiscal Compact with emphasis on the European Union's new infrastructure plan, best practices in implementing the Fiscal Compact and the social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union.

Speakers at the European Parliamentary Week 2015 included the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, the Speaker of the Latvian Parliament, Ināra Mūrniece, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker and Pierre Moscovici, European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs.

The autumn meeting of the "Article 13 Conference" was organised by the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies on 9th and 10th November in Luxembourg. The European Parliament delegation consisted of 12 Members and was led by Roberto Gualtieri, Chair of its Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. Debates focused on the social dimension of EMU, parliamentary scrutiny, fair tax competition and economic growth. Keynote speakers included the President of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies, Mars Di Bartolomeo, the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Xavier Bettel, as well as Alain Lamassoure MEP and Roberto Gualtieri.

Following long negotiations, and on the basis of the principles agreed by the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments in Rome in April 2015, the Interparliamentary Conference also adopted its Rules of Procedure in Luxembourg. The Rules state that "[t]he Conference, following Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union, shall be named "Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union" (...)".

According to the Rules, the Interparliamentary Conference shall provide "a framework for debate and exchange of information and best practices in implementing the provisions of the Treaty in order to strengthen cooperation between national Parliaments and the European Parliament and contribute to ensuring democratic accountability in the area of economic governance and budgetary policy in the EU, particularly in the EMU, taking into account the social dimension and without prejudice to the competences of EU Parliaments."

The Rules also specify that the Interparliamentary Conference shall convene "at least twice a year, in coordination with the cycle of the European Semester. In the first semester of each year, it shall be held in Brussels and will be co-hosted and co-chaired over by the Presidency Parliament and the European Parliament. In the second semester of each year, it shall be held

in the Member State holding the EU Presidency and presided over by the Presidency Parliament."

Amendments to these Rules are subject to a decision by consensus and "must be in accordance with the framework set by the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments." According to the guidelines for interparliamentary cooperation that were agreed by the Speakers of the national Parliaments and the European Parliament in Lisbon in 2008, the Conference of Speakers "shall oversee the coordination of inter-parliamentary EU activities". Therefore, it was particularly important that the European Parliament included a specific reference to the framework set by the Conference of Speakers in these Rules of Procedure.

This agreement on procedural questions should enable the Conference to focus entirely on the substance of the political challenges ahead. This was evidenced by the topical discussions during the first Interparliamentary Conference organised after the Rules of Procedure came into force. On 17th February 2016, the States-General of The Netherlands and the European Parliament invited national Parliaments to the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union. On 16th February 2016, the European Parliament also invited national Parliaments to the interparliamentary meeting on the European Semester Cycles 2015/2016. Both events were part of the 2016 edition of the European Parliamentary Week and were attended by about 45 Members of the European Parliament, 130 Members of national Parliaments and 120 accompanying officials.

Interparliamentary dialogue on the economy and related issues also continued outside the European Parliamentary Week and the Interparliamentary Conference. In the past two years, European Parliament committees continued their practice of holding focused debates with their counterparts from national Parliaments. In September 2014 and 2015, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs organised its annual exchange of views with national Parliaments to discuss its draft report on the European Semester. In June 2015, the European Parliament's Special Committee on Tax Rulings and Other Measures Similar in Nature or Effect (TAXE) also invited national Parliaments to an exchange of views on "Aggressive tax planning and democratic control: role of parliaments."

### **2.3. Interparliamentary cooperation on foreign and security policy**

*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 about 100 Parliamentarians from across the EU. In addition, the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs frequently invites national Parliaments to its meetings in Brussels, complementing the interparliamentary dialogue in this vital policy area.*

In 2014, the fourth and fifth Interparliamentary Conferences for CFSP/CSDP took place in Athens (3rd to 4th April) and Rome (5th to 7th November). In 2015, the sixth and seventh Interparliamentary Conferences were held in Riga (4th to 6th March) and Luxembourg (5th to 6th September). The European Parliament delegation to these meetings was chaired by Elmar Brok, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

### ***Important developments in 2014***

In Athens, the debates focused on the Eastern Partnership, with a particular focus on the Ukrainian crisis, the Southern Neighbourhood (Syria, Egypt and the Middle East), and on the follow-up of the 2013 European Council on Defence, in particular the maritime dimension and the role of parliaments in deploying military forces under CSDP. Three workshops were organised on "The EU maritime security strategy, the maritime dimension of CSDP", "Developments in the Middle East", and on "Deploying military forces under CSDP, parliamentary decision making procedures and practices".

The fifth Conference in Rome was the first to take place after the European elections 2014, with the participation of the new High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP), Federica Mogherini. The main issues debated were Ukraine, Syria and Iraq, the Middle East, Libya, EU battlegroups, EU-Africa relations and the Western Balkans. Three specialised workshops followed on "The future of EU Battlegroups", "EU-Africa relations", and on "Regional stability and enlargement to the Western Balkans".

In Rome, the Interparliamentary Conference concluded the review of how it functioned, which had been launched in accordance with the decisions of the Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU and the Conclusions of the first Interparliamentary Conference held in 2012. It was decided that the Interparliamentary Conference should continue to be organised within the existing Rules of Procedure and that the focus should be on improving the best practices for the conduct of the Interparliamentary Conference. A "Best Practices" document was agreed which provided additional guidance on the implementation of the Rules, and in addition confirmed the key role of the European Parliament in the Interparliamentary Conference. At its meeting in Rome in April 2015, the Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU welcomed the conclusion of the review.

### ***Important developments in 2015***

At the Riga meeting, the main topics debated at the Interparliamentary Conference were the fight against international terrorism and radicalisation, the situation in Ukraine, the European neighbourhood (Eastern Partnership/Riga Summit, and Southern neighbourhood/Mediterranean and Middle East), and CSDP, in particular the June 2015 European Council on Defence. The four specialised workshops focused on "The Riga Summit - Redefining the Eastern Partnership", "The European response to the instability and threats in the Southern Mediterranean and the Middle East", "The Hybrid War – a new Security Challenge for Europe", and "Challenges and solutions for EU Battle groups deployment".

The debates at the Conference in Luxembourg in September 2015 were dominated by the issue of migration, the situation in the European neighbourhood, the review of the ENP, the EU's security strategy, defence and the impact of climate change on security. The first plenary session on the European Neighbourhood Policy and the priorities and strategies in the area of CFSP/CSDP was largely dominated by the issue of migration and recent developments in Europe's neighbourhood. The debate also touched upon other CFSP/CSDP issues, including the preparation of the new global strategy on foreign and security policy, where the HR/VP underlined that she would welcome the input of the national Parliaments and the European Parliament. The second plenary session focussed on climate change in the framework of security. Three specialised workshops took place in parallel and focused on a more functional management of migration flows, strengthening civilian CSDP missions and

the follow-up on implementation of conclusions of the European Council on defence in June 2015.

Following up on the HR/VP's invitation to submit ideas and suggestions for the EU's new global strategy, after the Conference, the Head of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies' delegation to the Interparliamentary Conference wrote to all national Parliaments and asked for their contributions. The Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies compiled these contributions and transmitted them to the HR/VP in December 2015.

In addition to the meetings of the Interparliamentary Conference, the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs frequently invites its counterparts from national Parliaments to Brussels. In December 2014, it organised an interparliamentary committee meeting on "The EU external action agenda - Western Balkans". A meeting in May 2015 focused on "The Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy - Outlook at the June 2015 European Council on Defence" and in November 2015 national Parliamentarians and MEPs discussed the topics "Proxy wars in the MENA region and follow up to the June European Council of Defence, including the EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy".

#### **2.4. National Parliaments in the European context**

*Over the past years, national Parliaments have made various suggestions for improving how they exercise their current prerogatives and launched a debate on the creation of new instruments aimed at involving national Parliaments in EU decision-making. The European Parliament also launched a proposal to cooperate on the implementation of EU law.*

There were concrete proposals from Chambers more active in this area, namely the Danish Parliament, the Dutch House of Representatives and the UK House of Lords. These proposals include a more efficient use of subsidiarity checks by improving the "yellow card" procedure (among others, by extending the time period from 8 to 12 weeks and adding a proportionality check), exploring a so-called "green card" that would allow national Parliaments to make suggestions for legislative initiatives, and securing a role for national Parliaments regarding the Commission's Annual Working Programme.

Such proposals were first discussed during informal clusters or working groups where other national Parliaments were invited by the initiators to explore possible developments. The Latvian and Luxembourg COSAC Presidency responded favourably to the request of addressing these issues in the COSAC bi-annual reports and organising thorough exchanges of views on the matter during COSAC meetings (see Chapter 3.1).

In addition to these initiatives taken by the national Parliaments themselves, in November 2015 UK Prime Minister David Cameron addressed a letter to Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, setting out the areas where he was seeking reforms. In this letter, the UK Prime Minister proposed "a new arrangement where groups of national parliaments, acting together, can stop unwanted legislative proposals", often referred to as a "red card". At its meeting on 18th to 19th February 2016, the European Council agreed a set of arrangements which included, amongst others, a mechanism for cases where national Parliaments' "reasoned opinions on the non-compliance of a draft Union legislative act with the principle of subsidiarity, sent within 12 weeks from the transmission of that draft, represent more than 55 % of the votes" allocated to them. These arrangements "will become effective on the date

the Government of the United Kingdom informs the Secretary-General of the Council that the United Kingdom has decided to remain a member of the European Union."

***Importance of existing Treaty framework and institutional balance***

From the European Parliament's perspective, interparliamentary cooperation can contribute to productive exchanges of information, joint examination of issues, mutually beneficial dialogue and smoother transposition of EU legislation into national law. The European Parliament has expressed its readiness to explore the avenues for further developing the instruments currently in force for implementing Protocols 1 and 2 of the Lisbon Treaty and for enhancing the dialogue between national Parliaments and European institutions, provided this is done in the framework of the existing Treaty provisions and the overall institutional balance at EU level.

***The European Parliament proposal for cooperation on implementation of EU law***

With a view to better involving national Parliaments in the debate on scrutiny and the evaluation of EU legislation, the European Parliament has sought to develop a new form of cooperation. It hopes for a joint effort to arrive at a more informed assessment on whether EU legislation is being properly implemented in practice, and how far it is producing the desired results for citizens, at both European and national levels. In June 2014, the President of the European Parliament wrote to his counterparts in the national Parliaments, consulting them on the proposals to amend existing EU legislation that were included in the European Commission's Work Programme for 2014. This first letter was followed up by the European Parliament's Secretary General in March and December 2015, for the 2015 and 2016 Work Programmes of the European Commission.

The information provided in this framework should contribute to the preparation of "implementation appraisals" delivered to the relevant European Parliament committees ahead of their consideration of the new legislative proposal in question. Reference is also made to any other information from the national Parliaments on the implementation, application or effectiveness of EU law that could help the European Parliament to produce more detailed "European Implementation Assessments". These briefings prepared for Members and committees of the European Parliament are made available to national Parliaments and the general public on the European Parliament's website.

The European Parliament is aware of the differences in the national constitutional frameworks and that not all national Parliaments undertake scrutiny and evaluation activities, but remains convinced that shared information in the implementation and effectiveness of EU law can provide invaluable support in deciding how EU legislation can be improved. This is why the European Parliament envisages putting in place an informal framework which can allow for such information sharing in different ways, e.g. through bilateral contacts and study visits.

This initiative is a very clear way to further improving the interparliamentary and inter-administrative cooperation and aims to fortify channels of communication. The idea was welcomed when it was presented at the meeting of Secretaries-General of the EU Parliaments in Rome in March 2015. COSAC also welcomed this new idea in its LIII Contribution adopted at the meeting in Riga in June 2015, and noted that "Parliaments have broadly expressed their willingness to exchange best practices and share ideas on parliamentary monitoring on transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU law with the European Parliament while emphasising the position of some national Parliaments that such monitoring

lies within the competence of the executive and/or the European Commission". The willingness to enhance the cooperation with the European Parliament on selected legislative dossiers was also mentioned, with an explicit reference to "enhancing cooperation between the rapporteurs of the European Parliament and national Parliaments".

### ***Greater European Integration: The Way Forward***

Meeting in Rome on 14 September 2015, the Presidents of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, the French National Assembly, the German Bundestag, and the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies stated that they are convinced that new impetus must be given to European integration.

The four Parliament Presidents signed a declaration "Greater European Integration: The Way Forward", which underlined "that more, not less, Europe is needed to respond to the challenges we face, both internally and externally." The declaration states that "greater political integration is needed", that "the strengthening of Europe's Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), as well as of its social dimension, are needed" and that "greater adherence to the founding fathers' vision is needed."

In the following months, this declaration was signed by several other national Parliament Presidents, and European Parliament President Schulz welcomed the initiative. At the time of writing, it is expected that the declaration will be discussed at the 2016 Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU in Luxembourg.

## **3. Institutional parliamentary cooperation**

### **3.1. The Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC)**

*COSAC, 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. It is supported by a Presidential Troika of which the European Parliament is a permanent member and can rely on the organisational backing of a small secretariat, hosted by the European Parliament and led by an official seconded from a national Parliament ('Permanent Member').*

In 2014 and 2015 there was an increasing trend towards reaffirming the interparliamentary nature of COSAC debates by inviting a greater number of Parliamentarians as keynote speakers and fewer representatives of the national and European executives. This development was advocated and encouraged by the European Parliament, as a member of the COSAC "Troika" (the preceding, current and future Presidency Parliaments, as well as the European Parliament). It is noteworthy that all Presidencies strived to reinforce not only the balanced choice of topics and of keynote speakers, but also the composition of panels and the way in which the debates were conducted. Delegates were able to participate and interact during varied side events e.g. through the "catch the eye" procedure for livelier exchanges and additional presentations of national Parliament initiatives.

The choice of topics showed the Presidencies' willingness to assert COSAC as the appropriate forum for open and inclusive debates on the most important developments in the

EU and on the international stage. The EU's foreign and neighbourhood policies, trade, energy and economic policies were high on the agenda, with a marked intention to contribute to the discussions of other specialized interparliamentary conferences, in a balanced interplay, which fully acknowledged their respective mandates, thus avoiding all unproductive overlap or competition. The 2014 European elections and the fifth anniversary of the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty also had an impact on the setting of the agenda.

In line with a recently established tradition, the European Parliament delegation ensured a stronger presence in the workings of COSAC: during the Greek, Italian, Latvian, and Luxembourg Presidencies, 10 MEPs - Vice-Presidents, committee chairs and rapporteurs - were invited to address COSAC as keynote speakers and two MEPs were invited as "first responders". Their interventions and contributions to the subsequent debates provided invaluable insights into the European Parliament's position on topics ranging from the crisis in Ukraine, the EU's policies in the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe to the EU energy and trade policies or the Review of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

MEPs also intervened as keynote speakers on topics of institutional nature, such as: The relations between the European Parliament and national Parliaments; democratic legitimacy and European leadership; the future of supranational democracy five years after the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty; the European Commission's Multiannual Work Programme and the Role of Parliaments. The topics on the agenda of the plenary meetings were often also addressed in the bi-annual reports to which all national Parliaments contribute, and the outcome of these reports was duly reflected in the Contribution and Conclusions which were adopted.

The European Parliament was commended and thanked on several occasions by various delegations of national Parliaments for its constant and active support towards macro-regional integration, for its decisive contribution to greatly improving the 2014 to 2020 Cohesion package and reaching a final agreement, and for its resolution of 15th January 2015 on the situation in Ukraine. In addition, the European Parliament's role in controlling EU agencies was acknowledged in the LII Contribution.

The past years also consolidated the existing trend to inform COSAC via official letters or short interventions of the outcome of the joint meetings held before each COSAC plenary by the representatives of the EU affairs committees of a limited number of national Parliaments<sup>1</sup>. Their input was welcomed and on occasions contributed to the choice of topics on the agenda.

Reacting swiftly to the important developments on the international stage, COSAC adopted various statements on the situation in Ukraine. The LIII COSAC plenary Statement on the recent entry bans imposed by the Russian Federation on EU politicians and civil servants was initially submitted by Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, Vice-President of the European Parliament, and further amended and adopted by unanimity in plenary.

In addition to holding in-depth exchanges of views on crucial developments in EU affairs, COSAC undertook a reflection on its role and the practical ways of enhancing national

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<sup>1</sup> The Visegrád Group countries (Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia), the "Baltic Sea Parliamentary Forum" (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland), the Slovenian Državni zbor and the Croatian Hrvatski sabor, or the Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees on European Union Affairs of the Parliaments of the EU South.



Parliaments' involvement in EU decision-making. This was done at the initiative of the COSAC Presidencies or in response to requests from various chambers and the outcome of the debate was reflected in the adopted Contributions and Conclusions.

COSAC provided a suitable platform for the brief presentation of various national Parliaments' ideas and proposals:

- The report of the European Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament "23 recommendations on how to strengthen the role of national Parliaments in a changing European governance" (LI Chairpersons meeting);
- The report "Ahead in Europe" on how the Dutch House of Representatives and Parliaments in the Member States could have more influence on European decision-making (LI Plenary);
- The UK House of Lords' Report on the Role of national Parliaments in the European Union (LII Plenary);
- Improving the "yellow card" procedure, exploring a so-called "green card" (enhanced political dialogue) and securing a role for national Parliaments regarding the Commission's Annual Working Programme were high on the agenda of both COSAC and informal interparliamentary clusters meetings. On an exceptional basis, the outcome of such informal meetings was presented during COSAC meetings.

A list of topics and keynote speakers of all COSAC meetings in 2014 and 2015 is available in Annex I.

### ***The "green card"***

Based on a proposal by the Chairman of the EU Select Committee of the UK House of Lords, the "green card" was conceived with the view to call for new legislative action, or to amend or repeal existing legislation, including delegated or implementing acts.

In the COSAC debates reservations were expressed concerning the "green card's" compatibility with the Treaty, its transposition into national law and its impact on the institutional balance. As a result of the European Parliament's amendments, which were unanimously adopted, the LIII COSAC Contribution refers to the "green card" as "a new enhanced form of political dialogue" and stresses the need for the "green card" to comply with the existing Treaty provisions and with the inter-institutional balance of powers.

The House of Lords presented the first proposal for a Green Card on Food Waste, which was co-signed by 16 of the 41 EU Chairs of European Committees in national Parliaments and submitted to the European Commission on 22nd July 2015. The Commission took note of the invitation to adopt a more strategic approach to the reduction of food waste and committed to pay particular attention to Parliaments' suggestions.

Since then, green card proposals have been presented by the French National Assembly (on the taxation of multinational companies) and the Latvian Parliament (on amending the Audiovisual Media Services Directive).

The reflection on the "green card's" scope and procedure was continued in the framework of a COSAC working group set up under Luxembourg COSAC Presidency. The workings of the group confirmed wide support for this non-binding form of enhanced and coordinated political dialogue. Where procedural issues were concerned, it was agreed to proceed in a

flexible way without undermining the Commission's right to legislative initiative and in full respect of the current Treaties' provisions and of the inter-institutional balance of powers.

### ***Improving the "yellow card" procedure***

The Conclusions of the 2014 Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU tasked COSAC with "exploring the possibilities for a more efficient use of subsidiarity checks". The outcome of the meetings of informal interparliamentary clusters and the findings of the COSAC bi-annual reports provided COSAC with extensive evidence on how to improve the current subsidiarity procedure. The three main points raised were: exploring the extension of the 8-week deadline, the elaboration of informal guidelines on the conduct of subsidiarity assessments and the reasoned opinion procedure, and improving the timeliness and quality of the European Commission's replies.

COSAC invited Parliaments to cooperate closely around the elaboration of a voluntary, non-binding informal set of best practices and guidelines on the subsidiarity check within the framework of COSAC. In this respect, the COSAC working group on *Strengthening the political dialogue by introducing a "green card" and improving the reasoned opinion procedure ("yellow card")* suggested that reasoned opinions should mention the legislative proposal it refers to, indicate clearly that the text is a reasoned opinion, include a translation or a summary of the text in English and French, a summary of the argumentation, the legal basis and the motivation.

COSAC called on the Commission to exclude the recess periods in the EU institutions and the mid-December to New Year break from the 8-week deadline provided by the Treaties for the subsidiarity check. The Commission was also invited to pursue its efforts to ensure better quality and more timely responses to reasoned opinions.

### **3.2. The Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU (EUSC)**

*The EUSC is the steering body of interparliamentary cooperation and meets in the spring of each year in the country that held the EU Council presidency during the second semester of the previous year. The EUSC is preceded by a preparatory meeting of the Secretaries General of the Parliaments of the participating countries.*

#### ***Important developments in 2014***

The 2014 Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU was organised by the Lithuanian Parliament and took place in Vilnius from 6th to 8th April. It focused mainly on interparliamentary cooperation with the Eastern Partnership countries. Representatives of these countries were invited to the meeting.

The Speakers expressed deep concern about the Ukrainian crisis and the illegal annexation of Crimea, and supported Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. They welcomed the signing of the political provisions of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, hoping that the remaining provisions would be signed soon thereafter. The Speakers went on to underline the strategic importance of the European Neighbourhood Policy including the Eastern Partnership Countries for the EU and the wider European region.

The Speakers also discussed the role of national Parliaments in tackling the consequences of the economic and financial crisis and expressed their concerns about the many unemployed people in the EU, especially about the high level of unemployment among the young people.

When taking stock five years after the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the Speakers welcomed the greater involvement of national Parliaments in the EU legislative process and noted that national Parliaments had become increasingly more active in using their right to issue reasoned opinions. Nevertheless, they underlined that efforts should be made to make the engagement of national Parliaments in the legislative process of the Union more constructive, to allow national Parliaments to positively shape EU legislation. In this context, they supported the political dialogue initiative launched by European Commission President Barroso in 2006 and invited the incoming Commission to continue it.

On interparliamentary cooperation in the area of freedom, security and justice, the Speakers recognised the achievements of the Stockholm multiannual programme and were of the view that new strategic guidelines should strengthen this area. They underlined the need to promote the full implementation of the common immigration policy and of operations at the EU external borders, which should save lives at sea while fighting against human trafficking, and to promote the principle of solidarity and of a fair responsibility-sharing between Member States.

### ***Important developments in 2015***

From 19th to 21st April 2015, the Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU was held in Rome. Organised by the Italian Parliament, the debates focused on growth, fundamental rights, the role of the Parliaments of the Union in negotiating international treaties and strengthening the political dialogue. The Speakers agreed basic principles of the Rules of Procedure of the Interparliamentary Conference of Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU ("Article 13 Conference", see Chapter 2.2).

The economic crisis was the dominant topic, although the Speakers acknowledged that the European economy was showing some signs of recovery. In debating measures to address the problems, they agreed on the need to put in place innovative solutions that could both overcome structural weaknesses and make optimal use of the special economic and social qualities of the EU. They therefore welcomed the new initiatives undertaken by the EU institutions, in particular the "Investment Plan for Europe" and the package of proposals for building an energy union.

During a debate on fundamental rights, the Speakers emphasised that the EU was a point of reference for the protection of fundamental rights. They acknowledged the need for more robust and tighter procedures to monitor the level of protection afforded to fundamental rights within Member States. The Speakers also emphasised the importance of an appropriate legal framework for protecting the rights of national minorities and other minorities such as Roma. The Speakers followed with particular interest the preparation of an agenda for migration. Following the latest humanitarian tragedies in the Mediterranean, they expected the Commission to show the strongest possible ambition in coming up with common European solutions in a spirit of solidarity and sharing of responsibilities between Member States. In addition, the Speakers signed a declaration on "Strengthening rescue operations in the Mediterranean".

The Speakers also underlined the important role that EU Parliaments could play in the negotiations on the currently proposed trade agreements and in this respect welcomed the decision of the Council to authorise the Commission to make its negotiating mandates public for the first time ever. They expressed their appreciation for the resolute commitment of the European Parliament to activate and apply the new powers conferred to it by the Lisbon

Treaty. The Speakers reaffirmed that national Parliaments must be granted the possibility of performing specific competences in relation to as many free-trade agreements as possible and, more generally, be accorded greater access to information relating to ongoing negotiations, so that they might make their orientations known during the negotiations themselves rather than having their powers of intervention restricted to the ratification process only.

The Speakers noted that, although not expressly provided for in the Treaties, political dialogue now constitutes the main channel of interaction between national Parliaments and the institutions of the EU. The Speakers called on the European Commission to improve the promptness and quality of its responses to the contributions it receives from national Parliaments, and welcomed the initiatives of the new European Commission, in particular, the undertaking of the European Commissioners to increase the number of meetings with national Parliaments. In this context, the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, proposed an amendment to the meeting conclusions, which was adopted and stated that "The Speakers also look forward to the strengthening of political dialogue between national Parliaments and the European Parliament enhancing the cooperation between the rapporteurs of the European Parliament and of national Parliaments."

The President of the European Parliament also participated in the negotiations of the principles of the Rules of Procedure of the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union and helped to broker fair and balanced compromises.

#### **4. Interparliamentary meetings**

##### **4.1. Interparliamentary meetings - more focussed exchanges between experts**

*2014 and 2015 saw the continuation of the trend towards smaller, more focussed interparliamentary debates in the European Parliament. The majority of meetings organised in the European Parliament are now "Interparliamentary Committee meetings", which are organised at the initiative of one or more European Parliament committees with the support of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments. National Parliaments are occasionally also invited to debate a particular item on the agenda of a regular committee meeting.*

Due to the European Parliament elections, in 2014 only six official interparliamentary meetings were organised in the European Parliament. Three of them were meetings that take place every year, for instance the European Parliamentary Week, the well-established meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality to celebrate International Women's Day, and the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs' annual exchange of views with national Parliaments on the draft report on the European Semester cycle, which takes place during a regular committee meeting.

In addition, in February 2014 the European Parliament's then Vice-Presidents for relations with national Parliaments, Miguel Ángel Martínez and Othmar Karas, hosted a Parliamentary Forum on "EU Parliaments in global governance", and in March 2014 a Joint Committee Meeting was organised by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs with

its counterpart from the Hellenic Parliament on the future priorities in this policy area. In December 2014, the Committee on Foreign Affairs invited national Parliamentarians for a debate on "The EU external action agenda - Western Balkans".

Following the constitution of the European Parliament's committees in the wake of the elections, they stepped up their interparliamentary cooperation in 2015 and organised no less than 16 meetings with national Parliaments in that year. This is the second-highest figure in recent years, only topped in 2013 when 17 such meetings were organised, and is an indication of the importance that the European Parliament attaches to the dialogue with its national counterparts.

In addition to the well-established meetings mentioned above, several committees also organised debates with national Parliaments for the first time in many years, for instance the Committee on Transport and Tourism in October ("Trans-European transport networks (TEN-T) including cross-border links") or the Committee on Culture and Education in December ("Education and youth policy").

As in previous years, the largest meeting with the national Parliaments of the EU Member States to take place in 2015 at the European Parliament in Brussels was the European Parliamentary Week with 112 participating national Parliamentarians from the EU Member States, described in greater detail in Chapter 2.2. of this report. In terms of attendance of national Parliamentarians, this was followed by the meeting organised by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety in March to discuss the Paris climate change conference ("From COP 21 Paris to 2015: a roadmap towards an innovative low-carbon, resource-efficient Europe") with 47 national MPs and 44 MEPs participating, the exchange of views organised by the Special Committee on Tax Rulings and Other Measures Similar in Nature or Effect in June ("Aggressive Tax Planning and Democratic Control: Role of Parliaments") with 39 MPs and 42 MEPs attending, and the meeting organised by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs in September, "Migration (in the context of the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic approach)" with 37 MPs and 47 MEPs.

Other, more specialised meetings for a targeted audience included a workshop by the Committee on Legal Affairs on "Cross-border activities in the EU" in February, a hearing in the Committee on Petitions on "The Right to Petitions" in June, and an interparliamentary committee meeting organised by the Committee on Development on "Unfulfilled Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the newly-agreed Sustainable Development Goals" in October.

All in all, the meetings with national Parliaments organised at the European Parliament in Brussels brought together 279 MEPs and 296 national Parliamentarians in 2014 and 561 MEPs and 499 national Parliamentarians in 2015.

A list of all interparliamentary meetings organised by European Parliament committees in 2014 and 2015, as well as detailed statistics are available in Annex II.

The services of the European Parliament also organise meetings and exchanges with their counterparts from the administrations of national Parliaments. For instance, in January 2015 the European Parliament's Directorate for Democracy Support, which provides assistance for

election observations and capacity building, convened a meeting of national Parliament officials working in the field of democracy support and capacity building in Brussels.

#### **4.2. Bilateral visits - a flexible and efficient formula**

*Bilateral visits offer the opportunity for a more informal and focused dialogue and are usually organised at the initiative of the visiting national Parliament or parliamentary chamber. The European Parliament's Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments provides a range of tailor-made services to the committees, bodies and services of the European Parliament and the national Parliaments. This ranges from advice on developing the most targeted and interesting programme of meetings, to providing logistical support, meeting rooms and interpretation.*

Due to the European elections, there were only 20 visits from national Parliaments to the European Parliament in the first half 2014 that were organised with the support of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments. The second half of 2014 saw a rapid increase in the number and frequency of such visits, both at political and administrative level, with 31 such visits being organised with the support of the Directorate.

However in 2015 the number of such visits organised with the support of the Directorate skyrocketed to 91, underlining the increasing importance of interparliamentary cooperation. The participants and topics of these visits showcase the breadth and depth that this cooperation has reached in the past years: From the Speakers of national Parliaments or parliamentary chambers - for instance the visits of the Speaker of the Dutch House of Representatives in September 2014, the Speaker of the French Senate in April 2015, or the Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies in December 2015 - to working visits of committees and committee chairs covering a wide range of policy areas - from home affairs to environment or development and many more - to a large number of visiting officials from national Parliaments coming from many different areas of parliamentary work.

A detailed list of all visits from national Parliaments to the European Parliament that were organised in 2014 and 2015 with the support of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments is available in Annex III.

#### **4.3. Videoconferencing**

*Videoconferencing offers many opportunities for interparliamentary cooperation. Over the last couple of years, the administration of the European Parliament developed a technical solution which enables videoconferencing with excellent image and sound quality and interpretation into several languages.*

Videoconferencing is becoming increasingly popular in interparliamentary cooperation. The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments works closely together with the competent technical services in the European Parliament administration to make sure that the best possible service is provided to official bodies and Members. In 2013 and 2014 the European Parliament conducted a technical survey to gather information about the videoconferencing systems available in national Parliaments. The survey results showed that more than half of the national parliamentary chambers had videoconferencing systems at their disposal.

This new technology can support interparliamentary cooperation in many different ways. For instance, it can enable Parliamentarians to stay in touch on a particular issue over time, or to arrange discussions on current issues without the need for lengthy logistical preparations. Here are some practical examples from the last two years:

- The Italian Members of the European Parliament used videoconferencing to keep the contact with the Italian Parliament in the preparations for the Italian Presidency in the second half of 2014.
- During the negotiations for the Single Resolution Mechanism for banks, in February 2014 the Finance Committee of the German Bundestag discussed this important issue with the European Parliament rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs via videoconference.
- In October 2015, the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs organised a debate with the EU affairs committee of the French National Assembly to discuss the migration crisis.
- The European Parliament and the Dutch Parliament also made use of videoconferencing to prepare the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union in February 2016.

These are just some examples of how this new technology can complement the traditional ways of interparliamentary cooperation. While it will never replace personal, face-to-face meetings entirely, it has become a useful tool whose full potential has yet to be fully explored.

## **5. The early warning mechanism and the informal political dialogue**

*Protocol No. 2 attached to the EU Treaties sets out a review mechanism involving national Parliaments regarding proposed legislation which does not fall under the exclusive competence of the European Union, the so-called "early warning mechanism". Thus, national Parliaments may review EU draft legislative acts within eight weeks of transmission and issue a "reasoned opinion" if they consider that an EU legislative proposal does not comply with the principle of subsidiarity. The Protocol provides a procedure for compulsory review by the issuing institution, normally this being the Commission, of a legislative proposal when reasoned opinions received exceed set thresholds (colloquially known as the "yellow" and "orange" cards).*

*In addition, Protocol No. 1 attached to the EU Treaties requires that consultation documents (green and white papers and communications) shall be forwarded directly by the European Commission to national Parliaments. National Parliaments frequently comment on these documents as well, in the European Parliament this is usually referred to as "Informal Political Dialogue".*

### ***Early warning mechanism***

In the majority of cases, the written submissions from national Parliaments on draft legislative acts go beyond the issue of subsidiarity, discussing the substantive merits of proposals. In the European Parliament, these submissions are referred to as "contributions".

Since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in December 2009, over 500 draft legislative acts were sent by the Commission to national Parliaments for examination under the terms of Protocol 2. In response, over 2000 submissions were sent by national Parliaments. Of these, only about 300 (about 15%) were reasoned opinions alleging a breach of the subsidiarity

principle, while the vast majority (about 85%) were contributions that dealt with the substance of the proposals.

This demonstrates that national Parliaments have not used this mechanism to stall the legislative process at EU level. So far, national Parliaments have only twice reached the threshold required to trigger the so-called "yellow card" review procedure: In 2012 for the "Monti II" proposal on the right to strike, which the Commission withdrew afterwards (though not on grounds of subsidiarity), and in 2013 for the European Public Prosecutors Office, where the Commission maintained its proposal.

The number of new draft legislative acts decreased significantly in 2014 and 2015, at first because of the transition period related to the European elections and then as a result of the focused political programme of the new European Commission. This, in turn, also led to a decrease of submissions from national Parliaments received by the European Parliament. In 2014, national Parliaments transmitted 13 reasoned opinions and 138 contributions, and in 2015 they issued 8 reasoned opinions and 82 contributions.

As described above, in recent years some national Parliaments presented proposals to improve the early warning mechanism, for instance by increasing the eight-week timeframe or adding a check on the proportionality principle. The European Parliament included its own assessment of the mechanism in its resolution of 16th April 2014 on relations between the European Parliament and the national parliaments ("Casini Report"). In its resolution, the European Parliament stated, amongst others, that it believed "that the early warning mechanism should be viewed and used as one of the tools for ensuring effective cooperation between European and national institutions", that it welcomed "the fact that in practice this mechanism is also being used as a channel for consultation and cooperative dialogue between the various institutions within the EU's multilevel system" and that it believed "that reasoned opinions delivered by the national parliaments should be viewed by the institutions not least as an opportunity to gain a clearer picture of how best to achieve the objectives set for legislative acts, and calls on the Commission to reply promptly and fully to reasoned opinions and contributions sent in by the national parliaments".

Detailed statistics for the reasoned opinions and contributions received under the early warning mechanism in 2014 and 2015 are available in Annex IV.

### ***Informal political dialogue***

In 2014 and 2015, national Parliaments continued to make active use of the "Informal Political Dialogue". Through this - as the name indicates, informal - channel, they send comments on legislative files that fall under the exclusive competence of the European Union and are therefore not subject to the early warning mechanism, and on a large variety of non-legislative documents or ongoing debates at European level, for instance consultation documents from the European Commission. Since 2009, the European Parliament has received around 1400 such contributions from national Parliaments, which are published in a database on the European Parliament's intranet.

### ***European Parliament initiative - reform of the electoral law of the European Union***

On 11 November 2015, the European Parliament adopted a Proposal for a Council decision adopting the provisions amending the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage (2015/0907(APP)), and subsequently transmitted it to the national Parliaments of the EU Member States.



At the initiative of the Dutch House of Representatives, a group of national Parliaments addressed a letter to the President of the European Parliament, expressing their concerns over communication shortcomings regarding the transmission of the proposal. In his reply, President Schulz addressed these concerns and outlined the process of transmission in detail.

In addition, at the time of writing this report, sixteen national Parliaments or parliamentary chambers have reacted to the European Parliament proposal: The Czech Chamber of Deputies, the Czech Senate, the Dutch Senate, the Dutch House of Representatives, the Finnish Parliament, the French National Assembly, the French Senate, the Irish Houses of the Oireachtas, the Lithuanian Parliament, the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies, the Polish Sejm and the Polish Senate, the Romanian Chamber of Deputies, the Swedish Parliament, the UK House of Commons and the UK House of Lords.

In his replies to the national Parliaments, European Parliament President Martin Schulz thanked them for their submissions, stating that he referred their submissions to the competent committee and underlining his conviction that they will provide important input for the further consideration of this matter. The President wrote that there will be an open dialogue on this important topic at the session on "Strengthening the European Union" of the forthcoming Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments in Luxembourg on 22-24 May 2016 and emphasised that he and his colleagues look forward to continuing the valuable dialogue on this issue with national Parliaments in the months to come.

## **6. Tools for exchanging information and networking**

### **6.1. Interparliamentary EU information exchange (IPEX)**

*On the Interparliamentary EU information Exchange (IPEX) website, the Parliaments of the European Union exchange EU-related documents and information. It was established in response to a recommendation by the EU Speakers Conference in Rome in 2000 and was inaugurated at the EU Speakers' Conference in Copenhagen in 2006. Since then, the national Parliaments of the EU Member States and the candidate countries as well as the European Parliament have contributed by uploading information related to EU matters. After the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon in December 2009, the website was relaunched in July 2011 to meet the new challenges ahead.*

During the past two years, IPEX has consolidated its position as an essential tool for interparliamentary cooperation. Constant small developments made IPEX more and more reliable as a database and as a network for the exchange of information amongst Parliaments of the EU. Special attention was given to networking and to the users of IPEX. In this respect promotional meetings were carried out in some national Parliaments as well as in the European Parliament, and a first IPEX Users Conference was held in Copenhagen in January 2015.

These two years also saw two Presidencies of IPEX, by the Lithuanian Parliament and the Italian Chamber of Deputies respectively. The main features of the two Presidencies were the new IPEX Guidelines adopted at the EU Speakers' Conference in Rome in April 2015, the first IPEX Users Conference in Copenhagen, a debate on the role of IPEX and several improvements to the website. The new Guidelines introduce a rotating presidency of the

Board, giving all Parliaments and Parliamentary Chambers the possibility to chair the Board and feel a greater sense of shared ownership in the running of IPEX.

The debate on the role of IPEX started during the Lithuanian presidency of IPEX. There was a general consensus that the exchange of information should be extended to all EU-related activities and that the networking element should be enhanced by using all the tools available in IPEX, for instance the "ad hoc" forums and the "News from Parliaments" section. At their annual meetings in 2014 and 2015, the Secretaries-General of the Parliaments of the EU supported and recognised the efforts carried out by all parliaments to make IPEX a reliable parliamentary tool.

The IPEX Users Conference revealed how important promotion activities among parliamentary staff and committees were. In this context the role of the correspondents proved to be essential. With this in mind, the annual correspondents meeting held in Vienna in November 2015 was mainly dedicated to the enhancement and improvement of networking, and how to develop and implement the EU Speakers Conference Conclusions of 2015 as well as the suggestions for improvements resulting from the Users Conference in Copenhagen.

IPEX publishes currently over 70,000 pages from national parliaments, holding scrutiny related information for more than 10,000 documents produced by the EU institutions and linked to almost 8,500 dossiers. In 2015, the total number of legislative and non-legislative documents recorded in IPEX was 805 (2014: 933).

In 2015, the IPEX website was visited by 234.480 unique visitors. This is a decrease from 2014, but far above the levels recorded in 2012 and 2013 (2014: 281.592; 2013: 201.538; 2012: 70.505). The number of pages visited in 2015 - almost 7 million - followed the same pattern of increase as seen in 2012 and 2013, only exceeded by last year's record-breaking results (2014: 10.515.505 pages visited; 2013: 5.364.448; 2012: 4.969.713).

## **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, ECPRD counts 66 parliamentary chambers (including 41 in the European Union) from 54 countries and European institutions as members. Almost 120 Correspondents and Deputy Correspondents represent their respective parliament in the network and contribute to main ECPRD activities which consist of an intense exchange of information and best practice.*

In the past two years, ECPRD has remained a unique source of comparative information in Europe. ECPRD's main activities comprise of seminars and comparative requests on legislative and parliamentary matters. The ECPRD seminars are hosted by its member parliaments and take place normally five to six times a year. The ECPRD Secretariat as part of the European Parliament's Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments provided constant logistical support to organise events.

In April 2015, the European Parliament organized its first ECPRD seminar in a long time. Its three Directorates-General for Innovation and Technological Support, Communication, and the Presidency organized jointly the 13th edition of the "Parli@ments on the Net" seminar under the title "Communication, digitalisation of processes and transparency in Parliaments".

The event was attended by more than 80 experts from national Parliaments and received very positive feedback.

As regards the comparative requests, ECPRD Member Parliaments submitted in 2014 a total of 268 requests on legislative and parliamentary matters to the network. This was topped in 2015 by 287 requests which came close the record high in 2012. In 2014 these requests triggered 6606 replies whereas the response rate for 2015 amounts to 6530 contributions. The figures do not only confirm the sustained information need expressed by Members and services in Parliaments but mean also a significant workload to the network.

The European Parliament is the main financial contributor to ECPRD in terms of staff, reimbursement of travel expenses of some member Parliaments and the hosting of the ECPRD website. In return, the European Parliament relies heavily on the network when services are in need of information and best practice.

The European Parliament's Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments as a facilitator provides support to the respective service to elaborate the requests. In 2014, it submitted five requests to the network including two on best practice in parliaments with regard to lobbying. 2015 saw a significant increase in European Parliament requests, with a total of 13 requests. This evolution can be explained by a higher level of awareness in the House and a constant use of ECPRD services by some key clients. Out of the 13 requests, two were made on managing the financial interests of MEPs and two on issues related to the procedure of waiving their immunity. Requests on metrics and on strategic planning in parliaments were submitted in the context of the Strategic Execution Framework programme. One request on impact assessment in parliaments has to be seen as a contribution to the "Completing the Legislative Cycle" scheme. A request on the legal aspects of robotics can be regarded as an attempt to identify other parliaments in the European Union which are working on similar matters in order to establish a more detailed information exchange.

Furthermore, in a number of cases the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments was contacted by other European Parliament services in order to provide information on national Parliaments which could be replied by using data stored on the ECPRD website.

In 2014, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments coordinated 21 European Parliament replies to requests from other parliaments, mostly on administrative and procedural matters. 20 contributions were made in 2015, again on a wide range of topics.

In addition, the ECPRD website was developed further. In 2014 this work was focussed mainly on the implementation of the results of the "Comparative Parliamentary Data Project". Since 2015, new "Parliamentary Factsheets" for each parliament regroups in one place all available key data, contacts and request and replies activities. This allows retrieval of information about a parliament which cannot be found elsewhere.

### ***Spotlight on Parliaments in Europe***

In 2014, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments also launched a new information service called "Spotlight on Parliaments in Europe". The objective of this initiative is to exploit better the wealth of information kept in the ECPRD request database and to inform not only MEPs but also other specific European Parliament target groups on matters which are closely related to their topical work. The "Spotlight" summarizes the outcome of selected comparative requests which were exchanged between ECPRD

Parliaments. 8 editions of four pages maximum have been issued since October 2014 on matters such as the participation rights of MEPs in their respective national Parliament or the lists of safe countries of origin under asylum laws in EU Member States. The reactions collected at the launch of this project have been positive and encouraging.

A detailed list of ECPRD meetings, comparative requests issued by the European Parliament and an overview of the editions of the "Spotlight on Parliaments in Europe" issued in 2014 and 2015 are available in Annex V.

### **6.3. Other tools**

*The European Parliament's Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments is constantly working to improve the tools that MEPs and staff have at their disposal for information exchange and cooperation with national Parliaments. Please find here some examples of the Directorate's work in 2014 and 2015.*

#### ***Connect - The European Parliament's database of national Parliament documents***

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments manages the Connect database on the European Parliament intranet, which contains all EU-related documents that national Parliaments have officially transmitted to the European Parliament since 2010.

At present, MEPs, assistants, political groups, committee secretariats and other European Parliament officials, as well as the Brussels-based representatives of the national Parliaments can access the database on the European Parliament's intranet at <http://www.connect.ep.parl.union.eu>.

In 2014, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments launched a major IT project to migrate the Connect database from the European Parliament intranet to its publicly accessible website, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl>. It is envisaged that the new database will be available in late 2016 or early 2017.

#### ***"Presidency Parliament" support programmes***

The European Parliament has constantly promoted extensive cooperation between its administration and those of national Parliaments. Interparliamentary cooperation and exchanges are intensified in the preparatory phase of the parliamentary dimension of each Presidency. Where the parliament of a country which holds the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time requests in writing the assistance of the European Parliament to prepare its activities in the context of the parliamentary dimension of the Presidency, the European Parliament may contribute to the cost of the programme on a shared basis with the corresponding parliament within the limits of sound financial management.

In 2014-2015, the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments agreed to such a support programme for the Latvian and Slovak Parliaments. With a view to contributing to the success of the parliamentary dimension of the Latvian Presidency, various visits of Members of the Latvian Parliament were organised, along with study visits for experts from the Latvian Parliament to the European Parliament's committees and services. In addition, the European Parliament agreed to the secondment of a Latvian European Parliament official to the COSAC Secretariat as representative of the Latvian COSAC Presidency during an 18-month mandate.

Similar activities for both members and parliamentary staff were organised in November 2015 in preparation of the upcoming Slovak Presidency. Building on the previous secondment experience which proved to be fruitful and mutually beneficial, the European Parliament accommodated the Slovak Parliament's request for the secondment of a Slovak European Parliament official to the COSAC Secretariat during the Slovak COSAC Presidency.

### ***Directory of corresponding committees (CorCom)***

Hosted by the European Parliament, the Directory of Corresponding Committees (CorCom) is a unique and user-friendly database that contains information about all committees in the national Parliaments and the European Parliament.

While interparliamentary cooperation intensified over the last couple of years, identifying the right contact among 41 national parliamentary chambers occasionally still posed a challenge. This is why in 2014 the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments gave its long-standing "Directory of corresponding committees" a complete overhaul and relaunched this unique and user-friendly search tool.

MEPs, assistants, political groups, committee secretariats and other European Parliament officials can now access the new Directory on the European Parliament's intranet at <http://www.corcom.ep.parl.union.eu>, where they can instantly generate a list of all national Parliament committees whose political remit corresponds to a particular European Parliament committee, including the names of the corresponding committee chairs, secretariat contact details, links to the committee websites, etc.

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments is responsible for managing the Directory, but the data itself is provided by the Brussels-based representatives of national Parliaments. Whilst every effort has been made to identify the national Parliament committees that most closely correspond to the committees of the European Parliament, it is important to note that the competences of parliamentary committees are not always directly comparable.

The Brussels-based representatives of the national Parliaments can access the Directory from the computers in their offices at the European Parliament.

As always in interparliamentary cooperation, the goal is to bring together the right people at the right time on the right topic.

### ***National Parliament representatives in Brussels***

The Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments hosts the Brussels-based representatives of the national Parliaments and provides them with offices, meeting rooms and IT infrastructure. By now, all EU Member States have a representative of their Parliament in Brussels. An updated list of representatives is available under "National Parliament contacts" at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl/en/about/contacts.html>.

## ANNEXES

### ANNEX I - COSAC Meetings - Topics and Keynote Speakers

Event	Topics	Keynote speakers / panellists
Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC Athens, 26-27 January 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-connecting Europe with its citizens: the role of the institutions</li> <li>• Exchange of views on relations between the European Parliament and National Parliaments</li> <li>• Priorities of the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the European Union</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration</li> <li>• <b>Mr Carlo CASINI, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament, rapporteur of the EP on relations between the European Parliament and National Parliaments</b></li> <li>• Mr Evangelos VENIZELOS, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic</li> </ul>
Plenary meeting of the LI COSAC Athens, 15-17 June 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of play of the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the European Union</li> <li>• Challenges for the EU: the crisis in Ukraine</li> <li>• Democratic legitimacy and European leadership: the day after the European elections</li> <li>• Meeting of the COSAC Women's Forum               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The female capital against the backdrop of the economic and financial crisis</li> <li>- Economic and financial crisis: the impact on women</li> <li>- Integration of gender perspective in the EU growth strategy</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rethinking the European employment Strategy</li> <li>• Investing in European youth: the way out of the economic crisis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Antonis SAMARAS, Prime Minister of Greece</li> <li>• <b>Mr Elmar BROK, Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament</b></li> <li>• <b>Mr Miguel Angel MARTÍNEZ MARTÍNEZ, Vice President of the European Parliament, responsible for relations with National Parliaments</b>, Mr Constantinos TASSOULAS, MP, President of the "Konstantinos Karamanlis" Institute for democracy, Greece</li> <li>• Mrs Aikaterini SIDIROPOULOU - PAPAKOSTA, Chair of Special Permanent Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights, Hellenic Parliament</li> <li>• Prof. Marija Aušrinė PAVILIONIENĖ, MP Lithuanian Parliament Coordinator of the COSAC Women's Forum</li> <li>• Mr Lászlo ANDOR, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion</li> <li>• Mr Paulo MOTA PINTO, Chair of the European Affairs Committee, Assembly of the Republic, Portugal</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Guarantee Scheme: Best Practices</li> <li>• Encouraging Creativity and Young Entrepreneurship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Silvia MODIG, MP, Finnish Parliament</li> <li>• Ms Zanda KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA, Chair of the European Affairs Committee, Latvian Parliament</li> </ul>
Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC Rome, 17-18 July 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priorities of the Italian Presidency and prospects for the European Union after the European elections</li> <li>• European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Sandro GOZI, Under-Secretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in charge of European Affairs, Mr Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration</li> <li>• Mr Graziano DELRIO, Under-Secretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in charge of regional cohesion policies and sport, Mr Johannes HAHN, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy</li> </ul>
LII COSAC Rome, 30 November- 2 December 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of play of the Italian Presidency of the EU Council</li> <li>• The future of supranational democracy 5 years after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty: What role for European institutions and national Parliaments?</li> <li>• Review of the Europe 2020 Strategy: growth, employment, competitiveness</li> <li>• European integration prospects: Global role of the European Union and projection of its policies in the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe</li> <li>• Democratic control of European agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Matteo RENZI, President of the Italian Council of Ministers</li> <li>• Mr Frans TIMMERMANS, First Vice-President, European Commission, <b>Ms Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament</b>, Lord Timothy BOSWELL, Chair of the EU Select Committee, UK House of Lords, Mr Marc ANGEL, Chair of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee, Luxembourg Chambre des Députés</li> <li>• Mr Pier Carlo PADOAN, Italian Economy and Finance Minister, Ms Danielle AUROI, Chairwoman of the European Affairs Committee, French Assemblée nationale, Mr Gunther KRICHBAUM, Chairman of the Committee on Affairs of the European Union, German Bundestag, Mr Juan MOSCOSO DEL PRADO, Member of the Finance Committee and Foreign Affairs Committee, Spanish Cortes Generales</li> <li>• <b>Mr Ramón Luis VALCÁRCEL SISO, Vice-President, European Parliament</b>, Mr Claudio MARTINI, Member of the Committee on EU Policies, Italian Senato della Repubblica, Ms Lolita ČIGĀNE, Chair of the European Affairs Committee, Latvian Saeima, Mr Sandro GOZI, Under-Secretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in charge of European Affairs</li> <li>• Mr Morten KJÆRUM, Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and Coordinator of the European Agency Network for 2014, Sir William CASH, Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee, UK House of Commons</li> </ul>

<p>Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC Riga, 2 February 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priorities of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and Prospects for the European Union after the Election of the New European Commission</li>   <li>• Eastern Partnership and Challenges Ahead</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Zanda KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, Mr Frans TIMMERMANS, First Vice-President of the European Commission for Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights</li>   <li>• Mr Urban AHLIN, Speaker of the Swedish Riksdag, Mr Edgars RINKĒVIČS, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, Mr Ostap SEMERAK, First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on European Integration of the Ukrainian Verkhova Rada</li> </ul>
<p>Plenary meeting of the LIII COSAC Riga, 31 May - 2 June 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of play of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union</li>   <li>• European Union Energy Policy: State of Play, Challenges and Opportunities</li>   <li>• EU Trade Policy for the Next Five Years: Focus on the EU-US TTIP negotiations</li>   <li>• Future of the Parliamentary Scrutiny of European Union Affairs</li>   <li>-National Parliaments' Involvement in EU Decision-making: State of Play and Overview of Existing Instruments</li>   <li>-Green card: Towards an Enhanced Political Dialogue</li>   <li>-The European Commission's Multiannual Work Programme and the Role of Parliaments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Laimdota STRAUJUMA, Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia</li>   <li>• Mr Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Vice-President of the European Commission for Energy Union, <b>Mr Jerzy BUZEK, Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of the European Parliament</b>, Mr Petr HLOBIL, Chair of the Green 10</li>   <li>• Ms Cecilia MALMSTRÖM, EU Commissioner for Trade, <b>Mr Artis PABRIKS, Member of the Committee on International Trade of the European Parliament</b></li>   <li>• Mr Herman DE CROO, Member of the Flemish Parliament, Mr Gunter KRICHBAUM, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the German Bundestag.</li>   <li>• Mr Dominic HANNIGAN, Chair of the Joint Committee on European Affairs of the Irish Houses of the Oireachtas, Mr Paolo TANCREDI, Vice-Chair of the EU Policies Committee, Italian Camera dei Deputati.</li>   <li>• <b>Ms Maria João RODRIGUES, Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament</b>, Ms Danielle AUROI, Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the French Assemblée nationale</li> </ul>
<p>Meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC Luxembourg, 12-13 July 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priorities of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Nicolas SCHMIT, Minister of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening of the political dialogue by introducing a "green card" and improvement of the reasoned opinion procedure ("yellow card")</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Paulo MOTA PINTO, Chair of the Committee on European Affairs of the Portuguese Assembleia da República, Lord Timothy BOSWELL, Chair of the European Union Committee of the UK House of Lords, Mr Frans TIMMERMANS, First Vice-President of the European Commission for Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights</li> </ul>
<p>Plenary meeting of the LIV COSAC Luxembourg, 29 November - 1 December 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common asylum policy and legal migration policy</li> <li>• Fight against irregular migration and securing Europe's external borders</li> <li>• A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe</li> <li>• Enlargement policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Gaston STRONCK, Director of the International Economic Relations and European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, <b>Ms Laura FERRARA, Member of the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee of the European Parliament</b>, Mr Jean-Pierre SCHEMBRI, European Asylum Support Office (EASO)</li> <li>• Mr Michele BORDO, Chairman of the Committee on EU policies of the Camera dei Deputati of Italy, Rear Admiral Hervé BLÉJEAN, Deputy Commander of EUNAVFOR MED</li> <li>• Mr Andrus ANSIP, Vice-President of the European Commission for the Digital Single Market, Mr Jean-Paul ZENS, Premier Conseiller de Gouvernement, Service des médias et des communications, Ministère d'Etat du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, Mr Kalle PALLING, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu of Estonia, <b>Ms Angelika MLINAR, Member of the European Parliament</b></li> <li>• Mr Simon MORDUE, Director « Strategy and Turkey », DG NEAR, European Commission, Mr Kamal Izidor SHAKER, Chairman of the Committee on EU Affairs of the Drzavni zbor of Slovenia, Mr Gunther KRICHBAUM, Chairman of the Committee on EU Affairs of the German Bundestag</li> </ul>

## ANNEX II - Interparliamentary meetings organised by European Parliament committees in Brussels

### 2014

EP committee	Event	Participation of			
		National Parliaments			EP
		Members	Parliaments	Chambers	Members
ECON/ EMPL/ BUDG	20-22 January <u>European Parliamentary Week:</u> Interparliamentary Conference on Economic Governance of the European Union (Article 13 Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance (TSCG))* The European Semester Cycles 2013 and 2014	136	28	41	58
	18 February <u>Parliamentary Forum</u> hosted by Miguel Angel Martínez & Othmar Karas, European Parliament Vice-Presidents for relations with national Parliaments: "EU Parliaments in global governance"	28	15	16	8
FEMM	5 March <u>Interparliamentary committee meeting:</u> "Preventing violence against women - A challenge for all"	34	20	22	8
LIBE	19 March <u>Joint Committee Meeting:</u> "Future Priorities in the Field of Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs"	37	24	19	60
ECON	23 September <u>Exchange of views with national Parliaments:</u> "The 2014 cycle of the European Semester"	18	9	11	47
AFET	1-2 December <u>Interparliamentary committee meeting:</u> "The EU external action agenda - Western Balkans"	43	27	34	98

### 2015

EP committee	Event	Participation of			
		National Parliaments			EP
		Members	Parliaments	Chambers	Members
ECON/ EMPL/ BUDG	2-4 February <u>European Parliamentary Week:</u> The European Semester Cycles 2014-2015 The Conference under Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union*	112	28	42	73
LIBE	23-24 February <u>Interparliamentary committee meeting:</u> "Smart borders package: European challenges, national experiences, the way ahead"	25	16	20	40
JURI	26 February <u>Workshop:</u> "Civil law and justice forum: Cross-border activities in the EU - Making life easier for citizens"	11	11	11	5
FEMM	5 March <u>Interparliamentary committee meeting:</u> "Empowering women and girls through education"	34	17	26	16
ENVI	30 March <u>Interparliamentary committee meeting:</u> "From COP 21 Paris to 2015: a roadmap towards an innovative low-carbon, resource-efficient Europe"	47	21	27	44
AFET	4-5 May <u>Interparliamentary committee meeting:</u> "The Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy - Outlook at the June 2015 European Council on Defence"	35	20	26	48

EP committee	Event	Participation of			
		National Parliaments			EP
		Members	Parliaments	Chambers	Members
LIBE	28-29 May <u>Interparliamentary committee meeting:</u> "Conference on the Democratic oversight of intelligence services in the EU"	34	17	21	36
TAXE	17 June <u>Exchange of views with national Parliaments:</u> "Aggressive Tax Planning and Democratic Control: Role of Parliaments"	39	18	20	42
PETI	23 June <u>Hearing with national Parliaments:</u> "The Right to Petitions"	7	6	6	18
ECON	15 September <u>Exchange of views with national Parliaments:</u> "The 2015 Cycle of the European Semester"	18	11	12	32
LIBE	23 September <u>Interparliamentary committee meeting:</u> "Migration (in context of the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic approach)"	37	17	19	47
TRAN	13 October <u>Interparliamentary committee meeting:</u> "Trans-European transport network (TEN-T) including cross-border links"	30	14	17	23
DEVE	13 October <u>Interparliamentary committee meeting:</u> "Unfulfilled Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the newly-agreed Sustainable Development Goals"	12	7	8	17
AFET	10 November <u>Interparliamentary committee meeting:</u> "Proxy wars in the MENA region and follow up to the June European Council of Defence, including the EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy"	20	13	16	71
AFCO	19 November <u>Interparliamentary committee meeting:</u> "The future institutional evolution of the Union: enhancing political dialogue between EP and national Parliaments and reinforcing the scrutiny over the executive at European level"	20	13	14	26
CULT	3 December <u>Interparliamentary committee meeting:</u> "Education and youth policy"	18	11	12	23

\* This overview lists the Interparliamentary Conferences with the titles used in the official meeting programmes at the time. On 10 November 2015, the Interparliamentary Conference adopted its Rules of Procedure which state: *"The Conference, following Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union, shall be named "Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union", hereafter Interparliamentary Conference on SECG."*

## ANNEX III - National Parliament visits to the European Parliament

This overview lists all visits to the European Parliament that were organised with the support of the European Parliament's Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, as well as videoconferences between the European Parliament and national Parliaments that were organised with its support. It is not an exhaustive list of all visits of Members or officials of national Parliaments to the European Parliament.

Unless explicitly specified otherwise, all data relates to visits at political level (e.g., "European Affairs Committee" refers to a visit by Members of the European Affairs Committee, whereas "Officials of the Regional Development Committee" refers to a visit at staff level).

### 2014

Date	Country / Chamber	Committee / other
08/01/2014	UK - House of Lords	Select Committee
08/01/2014	IE - Houses of the Oireachtas	Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Committee
20/01/2014	UK - House of Lords	Internal Affairs Sub-Committee
21/01/2014	SE - Riksdag	Committee on Social Insurance
22/01/2014	FI - Eduskunta	Committee clerks
28/01/2014	UK - House of Lords	Home Affairs Sub-Committee
11/02/2014	IE - Houses of the Oireachtas	Joint Committee on EU Affairs
11/02/2014	UK - House of Commons	Environment Audit Committee
17/02/2014	NL - Tweede Kamer	Visit of a Member of Parliament
20/02/2014	UK - House of Commons	Officials
05/03/2014	IT - Senato IT - Camera dei Deputati	Foreign Affairs Committee (Videoconference) European Affairs Committee (Videoconference)
27-28/03/2014	DK - Folketing	Officials of the Committee Secretariat of the EU Affairs Committee
01/04/2014	DK - Folketing	Visit of Eva Kjer Hansen, Chair of the EU Affairs Committee
03/04/2014	SE - Riksdag	Delegation of Members of Parliament
03-04/04/2014	UK - House of Commons	Officials
15/05/2014	AT - Nationalrat	Officials of the Parlamentsdirektion
05/06/2014	AT - Nationalrat	Visit of the Head of the legal, legislative and research service of the Parlamentsdirektion
23/06/2014	UK - House of Lords	EU Institutions Familiarisation Visit (officials)
25/06/2014	UK - Westminster Foundation for Democracy	Delegation of officials from the East African Legislative Assembly - EALA
27/06/2014	LV - Saeima	Preparations for the Latvian Presidency (Videoconference)
08/09/2014	NL - Tweede Kamer	Visit of Anouchka van Miltenburg, Speaker
11-12/09/2014	AT - Nationalrat	Officials of the Visitors and Events Service of the Parlamentsdirektion
24-25/09/2014	UK - House of Lords	EU Economic and Financial Sub-Committee
30/09/2014	SE - Riksdag	Officials of the Committee on Defence and the Committee on Industry and Trade
01-02/10/2014	DK - Folketing	Officials of the Committee Secretariat
06-07/10/2014	DK - Folketing	Officials of the Committee Secretariat
09/10/2014	LV - Saeima	Visit of Zanda Kalniņa – Lukaševica, Chair of the the EU Affairs Committee
15/10/2014	EE - Republic of Estonia	Visit of Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of the Republic of Estonia
31/10/2014	NL - Tweede Kamer	Officials
03-04/11/2014	FI - Eduskunta	Delegation of Members of Parliament
04-05/11/2014	UK - House of Lords	Internal Market Sub-Committee

10/11/2014	NL - Tweede Kamer	Officials
11-12/11/2014	Nordic Council	Environment Committee
12-13/11/2014	UK - House of Lords	Officials
13/11/2014	SE - Riksdag	Officials of the Communications Division
13/11/2014	UK-IE - British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly	European Affairs Committee
13-14/11/2014	UK - House of Commons	Officials of the Regional Development Committee
17-18/11/2014	IE - Houses of the Oireachtas	Officials
18-19/11/2014	UK - House of Lords	Sub-Committee on Home Affairs, Health and Education
19/11/2014	FR - Assemblée nationale	Defence Committee and Legal Affairs Committee
19-20/11/2014	FR - Assemblée nationale	Foreign Affairs Committee
19-20/11/2014	UK - House of Commons	Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee
19-20/11/2014	CZ - Poslanecká Snemovna	Electoral Committee
03/12/2014	IT - Camera dei Deputati	Visit of Rosy Bindi, Chair, and other Members of the Parliamentary Antimafia Inquiry Committee
04/12/2014	SE - Riksdag	Officials of the EU Information Unit
09/12/2014	IT - Camera dei Deputati	Waste Inquiry Committee
09/12/2014	LV - Saeima	Visit of the Chairs of the Budget, Social, European Affairs and Economic Committees
09/12/2014	SI - Državni Zbor	Delegation of Members of Parliament
11/12/2014	DE - Bundestag	EU Affairs Committee
12/12/2014	NL - Tweede Kamer	Officials
12/12/2014	PL - Sejm	Delegation of Members of Parliament

## 2015

<b>Date</b>	<b>Country / Chamber</b>	<b>Committee / other</b>
19/01/2015	DK - Folketinget	Officials
19/01/2015	LV - Saeima	European Affairs Committee
20/01/2015	FR - Sénat	Visit of Jean Bizet, Chair, and Simon Sutour, Vice-Chair of the EU Affairs Committee
21/01/2015	NL - Tweede Kamer	Visit of a Member of Parliament
21/01/2015	CY - House of Representatives	Committee on Refugees-Enclaved-Missing-Adversely Affected Persons
21/01/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Delegation of Members of Parliament
21-22/01/2015	NL - Tweede Kamer	Committee on Infrastructure and Environment
21-22/01/2015	FI - Eduskunta	Delegation of Members of Parliament
22/01/2015	UK - House of Commons	Public Accounts Committee
22/01/2015	Nordic council	Delegation of Members
26/01/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Visit of Danielle Auroi, Chair of the European Affairs Committee
26/01/2015	IT - Senato & Camera dei Deputati	Officials
28/01/2015	UK - House of Commons	Energy and Climate Change
28/01/2015	ES - Cortes Generales	Delegation of Members of Parliament
28-29/02/2015	HU - National Assembly	Officials
02/02/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Foreign Affairs Committee
04/02/2015	DE - Bundestag	Sports Committee
05/02/2015	FR - Sénat & Assemblée nationale	Delegation of Members of Parliament
16-17/02/2015	AT - Nationalrat	Officials
25/02/2015	IE - Houses of the Oireachtas	Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality
02-04/03/2015	PL - Sejm	Officials of the Correspondence and Information Office of the Chancellery
03/03/2015	UK - House of Commons & House of Lords	Tripartite meeting between Members of the UK Houses and British MEPs

04/03/2015	DE - Bundestag	Committee of Transport
05/03/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Brainstorming Committee on law and freedoms in the digital age
11/03/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	European Affairs Committee
17/03/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Economic Committee
17/03/2015	SE - Riksdag	Committee on Defence
23/03/2015	NL - Tweede Kamer	Committee on Finance
23/03/2015	SE - Riksdag	Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean
24/03/2015	FR - Sénat	European Affairs Committee
24/03/2015	SE - Riksdag	Committee on EU Affairs
30/03/2015	NL - Tweede Kamer	Visit of Anouchka van Miltenburg, Speaker
30/03/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Visit of Elisabeth Guigou, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
06/04/2015	DE - Bundestag	Committee on Environment, Nature Conservation, Building, Nuclear Safety
13-14/04/2015	UK - House of Commons	Officials of the Library
14/04/2015	SI - Državni Zbor	Visit of Kamal Izidor Shaker, Chair of the EU Affairs Committee; Uršula Zore Tavčar, Secretary General and Jerneja Bergoč, Deputy Secretary General; Members of Parliament
16/04/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	European Affairs Committee
16/04/2015	UK - House of Commons	Officials
20/04/2015	NL - Tweede Kamer	Committee on Infrastructure and Environment
22/04/2015	DK - Folketinget	Danish/Greenlandic delegation of Members of Parliament
24/04/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Social Affairs Committee
28/04/2015	FR - Sénat	Visit of Gérard Larcher, Speaker
04/05/2015	DE - Bundestag	Delegation of Members of Parliament
06/05/2015	IT - Senato	EU Affairs Committee (Videoconference)
07/05/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Economic Affairs Committee
12/05/2015	IE - Houses of the Oireachtas	Officials
12/05/2015	SE - Riksdag	Committee on the Constitution
12-13/05/2015	HU - National Assembly	Officials of the Cultural Affairs Committee
13/05/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Legal Affairs Committee
18/05/2015	FR - Sénat	Delegation of Members of Parliament
19-20/05/2015	SE - Riksdag	Officials of the Government offices
26-28/05/2015	RO - Camera Deputaților	Visit of Cristian-Adrian Paniciu, Secretary General
28-29/05/2015	UK - House of Commons	EU Institutions Familiarisation Visit (officials)
15/06/2015	SE - Riksdag	Committee on Transport and Communications
23/06/2015	DE - Bundestag	Tourism Committee
23-24/06/2015	DE - Bundestag	Committee on Legal Affairs
30/06/2015	IT - Senato	Delegation of Administrators
02/07/2015	SK - National Council	Visit of Daniel Guspan, Secretary General of the Chancellery
02/07/2015	UK - House of Lords	EU Select Committee; EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee; EU Internal Market Sub-Committee
06/07/2015	NL - Tweede Kamer	Visit of Anouchka van Miltenburg, Speaker
07/07/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	EU Affairs Committee
14/07/2015	UK-IE - British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly	Economic Committee
16/07/2015	NL - Tweede Kamer	EU Affairs Committee
02-03/09/2015	UK - House of Lords	Visit of The Baroness Scott of Needham Market, Member of Parliament
08/09/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Finance Committee
14-15/09/2015	FI - Eduskunta	Delegation of new Members of Parliament
16-17/09/2015	FI - Eduskunta	Delegation of new Members of Parliament
17/09/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Foreign Affairs Committee
17/09/2015	SE - Riksdag	Committee on Cultural Affairs

21/09/2015	DE - Bundestag	Committee on Development
21/09/2015	NL - Tweede Kamer	EU Committee
22/09/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Committee for Sustainable Development; Finance Committee; Foreign Affairs Committee
29-30/09/2015	AT - Nationalrat	Visit of Karlheinz Kopf, Vice-President
29-30/09/2015	UK - House of Lords	EU Institutions Familiarisation Visit (officials)
12-13/10/2015	FI - Eduskunta	Delegation of new Members of Parliament
13/10/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Delegation of Members of Parliament (Videoconference)
14-15/10/2015	FI - Eduskunta	Delegation of new Members of Parliament
20/10/2015	IE - Houses of the Oireachtas	Officials of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
27/10/2015	NL - Tweede Kamer	Visit of Mark Harbers, Delegation Chair (Videoconference)
10/11/2015	UK - House of Lords	EU Internal Market Sub-Committee
10/11/2015	SE - Riksdag	Committee on Health and Welfare
12/11/2015	SE - Riksdag	Officials of the Communications Division
16/11/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Social Affairs Committee
18-19/11/2015	RO - Senat	Visit of Ovidiu Liviu Dontu, Chair, and other MPs of the Committee on constitutional affairs, civil liberties and monitoring the implementation of the decisions issued by the European Court of Human Rights
25-26/11/2015	CZ - Senát	Delegation of Members of Parliament
30/11/2015	NL - Tweede Kamer	Visit of Anouchka van Miltenburg, Speaker
02/12/2015	EE - Riigikogou	EU Affairs Committee
02/12/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Economic Affairs Committee
07/12/2015	FR - Assemblée nationale	Finance Committee
07-08/12/2015	IT - Camera dei Deputati	Visit of Laura Boldrini, Speaker
08/12/2015	DE - Bundestag	Children Committee

## ANNEX IV - Early warning mechanism data

The Committee on Legal Affairs, which is responsible for issues in relation to compliance with the principle of subsidiarity within the European Parliament, has provided the following definitions for submissions from national Parliaments:

- **"Reasoned opinions"** are submissions which indicate the non-compliance of a draft legislative act with the principle of subsidiarity and have been communicated to the European Parliament within the eight week deadline referred to in Article 6 of Protocol No 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon.
- **"Contributions"** indicate any other submissions which do not fulfil the criteria listed above for a reasoned opinion.

Submissions received by national Parliaments in 2014 and 2015					
Member State	Parliament/Chamber	Reasoned opinions		Contributions	
		2014	2015	2014	2015
Austria	Nationalrat	1	0	2	0
Austria	Bundesrat	5	0	0	3
Belgium	Chambre des Représentants	0	0	0	2
Belgium	Sénat	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	Narodno Sabranie	0	0	0	1
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor	0	0	1	1
Cyprus	Vouli ton Antiprosópon	0	0	0	2
Czech Republic	Poslanecká sněmovna	0	1	2	1
Czech Republic	Senát	1	1	10	6
Denmark	Folketinget	0	0	0	0
Estonia	Riigikogu	0	0	0	0
Finland	Eduskunta	0	0	0	1
France	Assemblée Nationale	0	0	2	6
France	Sénat	1	0	0	1
Germany	Bundestag	0	0	0	0
Germany	Bundesrat	0	0	4	4
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon	0	0	0	0
Hungary	Országgyűlés	0	1	0	0
Ireland	Houses of Oireachtas	0	0	1	1
Italy	Camera dei deputati	0	0	9	4
Italy	Senato	0	0	32	13
Lithuania	Seimas	1	0	1	0
Luxembourg	Chambre des Députés	1	0	1	1
Latvia	Saeima	0	0	1	0
Malta	Kamra tar-Rappreżentanti	0	0	1	0
The Netherlands	Tweede Kamer	1	1	1	1
The Netherlands	Eerste Kamer	0	0	0	0
Poland	Sejm	0	0	0	1
Poland	Senat	0	0	4	1
Portugal	Assembleia da República	0	0	25	8
Romania	Camera Deputaţilor	0	1	8	7
Romania	Senatul	0	0	0	5
Spain	Cortes	0	1	31	10
Sweden	Riksdagen	1	1	0	0
Slovenia	Državni Zbor	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	Državni Svet	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	Národná rada	0	1	0	2
United Kingdom	House of Commons	1	0	1	0
United Kingdom	House of Lords	0	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>82</b>

This table only lists national Parliament documents that were sent in response to draft legislative acts falling under Protocol 2 of the Lisbon Treaty. It does not include documents that were sent in reaction to non-legislative consultation documents, green papers or white papers (the so-called "Informal political dialogue").



## ANNEX V - 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 2014 and 2015 through comparative requests:

2014

- Usage of mobile devices and solutions to mobility (tablet survey)
- Survey concerning the work-life balance for staff in services dealing with legislative tasks
- Rules regarding of contacts between parliaments' staff and lobbyists/interest representatives
- Legislation on interest representation (lobbying) in the EU Member States
- Sign language interpretation at events in Parliament

2015

- Declaration of financial interests by MPs in connection to their activities as lawyers
- Affirmative action / positive discrimination in parliaments
- Parliamentary practice and organisation regarding impact assessment (ex-ante) and evaluation (ex-post)
- Special aspects in the procedures applicable to the requests for the waiver of parliamentary immunity
- Key Performance Indicators in Parliaments
- Scrutiny of the MP's declaration of financial interests and conflict prevention mechanisms
- Legal questions related to the development of robotics and artificial intelligence
- Strategic planning implementation in parliaments
- Maternity leave for Members of Parliament
- Procedures in national parliaments for assessing the impact of draft legislation on fundamental rights
- Lifting the parliamentary immunity of a MP
- Parliamentary assistants working for individual Members: Rules in place to deal with conflicts and harassment
- Legal questions related to the development of robotics and artificial intelligence (Update)

### B. ECPRD seminars and statutory meetings in 2014 and 2015

Event	Place	Date
<b>2014 Seminars</b>		
Structures and procedures with regard to the code of conduct for MPs and with regard to the integrity of parliamentary staff	Skopje	8-9 May 2014
Growing income inequality and democratic stability	London	5-6 June 2014
Stenographic records: Hansard in the 21st century	Ljubljana	5-6 June 2014
From e-Parliament to smart-Parliament: How to improve citizen's participation using web technologies and social media? And how can parliamentary rules of procedure support transparency and participation?	Rome	12-13 June 2014
The e-Parliament in action: best practices about ICT strategic planning, information security, mobility and cloud computing	Podgorica	6-7 November 2014

<b>2014 Statutory meetings</b>		
Meeting of the Executive Committee	Berlin	27-28 March 2014
Meeting of the Executive Committee	Tallinn	4-5 September 2014
European Conference of Presidents of Parliament (and meeting of Secretaries General on ECPRD)	Oslo	11-12 September 2014
Annual Conference of Correspondents	Belgrade	16-18 October 2014
<b>2015 Seminars</b>		
Communication, digitalisation of processes and transparency in Parliaments (Parli@ments on the Net XIII)	Brussels, European Parliament	16-17 April 2015
Some crucial issues for Parliaments in Europe: fiscal policy towards boosting accountability, social security and technological progress	Warsaw	28-29 May 2015
Public involvement in the procedure of the drafting and enactment of laws'	Zagreb	11-12 June 2015
Libraries and research services serving openness and transparency of parliament	Budapest	24-25 September 2015
The practicalities, advantages and disadvantages of unicameral and bicameral parliamentary systems	The Hague	5-6 November 2015
e-Parliament - ICT services from everywhere and at any time: New challenges and projects	Ankara	5-6 November 2015
<b>2015 Statutory meetings</b>		
Meeting of the Executive Committee	Rome	26-27 March 2015
Meeting of the Executive Committee	Strasbourg	10-11 September 2015
Annual Conference of Correspondents	Berne	10-17 October 2015

### **C. Spotlight on Parliaments in Europe**

Participation rights of MEPs in Sittings of National Parliaments

Spotlight n°1- October 2014

Review of stability and convergence programmes by national Parliaments within the framework of the European Semester

Spotlight n°2 - November 2014

Control of the use of EU Structural Funds by national Parliaments

Spotlight n°3 - January 2015

The legal foundations for the participation of national Parliaments in EU matters

Spotlight n°4 - March 2015

Financial Assistance and Support Services for Asylum Seekers across the EU

Spotlight n°5 - May 2015

Parliamentary Scrutiny in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, specifically in that which concerns data protection

Spotlight n°6 - June 2015

List of Safe Countries of Origin under asylum laws in EU Member States

Spotlight n°7 - September 2015

Debates and activities in National Parliaments on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the EU and the US

Spotlight n°8 - December 2015

# NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF THE EU MEMBER STATES

March 2016



directly elected



indirectly elected / appointed / other

<b>Belgique/België/ Belgien</b> BELGIUM Kamer van Volksvertegen- woordigers/ 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 Folketing 179
<b>Deutschland</b> GERMANY Deutscher Bundestag 630 Bundesrat 69	<b>Eesti</b> ESTONIA Riigikogu 101	<b>Éire/Ireland</b> IRELAND Dáil Éireann 158 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 <sup>1</sup> (Vouli 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 69	<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 379 Senat 168	<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 <sup>2</sup> 815

Sources: ECPRD; National Parliament factsheets produced by the European Parliament's Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments; IPU Parline database; own research, 14/03/2016 | <sup>1</sup> Another 24 seats are reserved for Members coming from the Turkish Cypriot community but, due to the political situation on the island, are currently vacant - <sup>2</sup> Eligible Members of the House of Lords, data retrieved on 14/03/2016 from the membership table on the House of Lords website.



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