

Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments 27-28 January 2019, Vienna

Approved by the Secretaries General on 28 January 2019

Conclusions on IPEX

1. The Secretaries General take note of the Annual Report on the current status of IPEX and thank the IPEX Board for its work in 2018.
2. The Secretaries General confirm the following composition of the IPEX Board during the Austrian Presidency of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments in 2019/2020:
 - Austria (Nationalrat and Bundesrat) (ex officio)
 - Estonia (Riigikogu) (ex officio)
 - Finland (Eduskunta) (ex officio)
 - Romania (Camera Deputatilor and Senatul) (ex officio)
 - European Parliament (ex officio)
 - Belgium (Kamer van Volksvertegenwoordigers/Chambre des représentants and Senaat/Sénat)
 - Bulgaria (Narodno sabranie)
 - Denmark (Folketing)
 - France (Assemblée nationale and Sénat)
 - Germany (Bundestag)
 - Greece (Vouli ton Ellinon)
 - Italy (Camera dei Deputati and Senato della Repubblica)
 - Luxembourg (Chambre des Députés)
 - Poland (Sejm and Senat)
 - Portugal (Assembleia da República)
 - Slovakia (Národná rada)
 - Sweden (Riksdag)
 - The Netherlands (Eerste and Tweede Kamer)

According to the IPEX Guidelines, COSAC, the ECPRD, the European Commission and the Council participate in and contribute to the IPEX Board meetings.

3. The Secretaries General acknowledge the ongoing work accomplished in view of the IPEX three-year Work Programme, trusting that this will make IPEX even

more user-friendly and reliable. The Secretaries General take note of the adoption of the detailed action plans of the Working Groups on promoting IPEX and on Enhancing the IPEX network, and call to implement the planned activities according to the approved timeframe.

4. The Secretaries General welcome the new subpages dedicated to COSAC and the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol, acknowledging that IPEX is becoming a “one stop shop” for interparliamentary exchange on EU affairs and documents. The Secretaries General take note of the Conclusions of LX COSAC on the schedule for fully integrating the COSAC website into the IPEX platform and encourage to keep up the pace of the process of consolidating and strengthening the IPEX.
5. The Secretaries General acknowledge the discussions held during the annual IPEX Correspondents’ Meeting on 22–23 November 2018 in Tallinn and take into consideration the overview of the meeting. The Secretaries General underline the importance of the annual IPEX Correspondents’ Meetings that represents an excellent opportunity for improving the cooperation at the level of parliamentary officials.
6. The Secretaries General acknowledge the discussions held during the second IPEX Users Conference on 2 March 2018 in Stockholm and take into consideration the report of the conference. The Secretaries General recommend continuing the practice of organising such conferences as a tool for further networking and promoting IPEX among its users.
7. The Secretaries General take note of the continuation of the employment of the current IPEX Information Officer and confirm the increase of the commitments of national Parliaments to co-financing the position of the IPEX Information Officer, as expressed in the letters of intent on the co-financing of the post for the period 2019–2020. The Secretaries General thank the Belgian Senate for administrating the position of the Information Officer.
8. The Secretaries General express their gratitude to the European Parliament for ensuring the management and maintenance of the IPEX website, and for its support in further development of IPEX environment.
9. The Secretaries General call on the IPEX Board to present and implement the new legislation on General Data Protection (GDPR), taking into consideration its application and the guidelines of the European Parliament, and the need to ensure the protection of personal data on IPEX.
10. The Secretaries General welcome the initiative to launch a debate on the future of IPEX in association with the social media as started at IPEX Users Conference on 2 March in Stockholm, the Board meeting on 11 October in Brussels and IPEX Correspondents’ Meeting on 22–23 November in Tallinn. The wide variety of opinions on the role of IPEX will guide further developments of IPEX as an open tool of interparliamentary cooperation in the European Union.