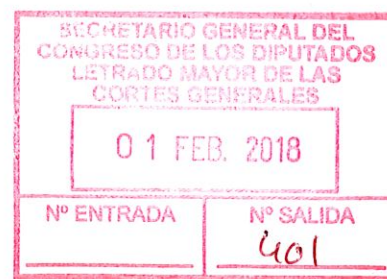




Congreso de los Diputados



INFORME SOBRE LA REUNIÓN DE LOS SECRETARIOS GENERALES DE LOS PARLAMENTOS DE LOS ESTADOS MIEMBROS DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA CELEBRADA EN TALLIN (ESTONIA) EL DÍA 29 DE ENERO DE 2018.

El pasado día 29 de enero tuvo lugar en Tallin, capital de la República de Estonia, una reunión de los Secretarios Generales de los Parlamentos de los Estados miembros de la Unión Europea con el objeto de preparar la Conferencia de Presidentes de Parlamentos de países de la Unión Europea, que se celebrará entre los próximos días 23 y 24 de abril de 2018.

A la misma asistió en nombre de España una delegación compuesta por el Letrado Mayor del Senado, D. Manuel Caveró Gómez, y por el Secretario General del Congreso de los Diputados, D. Carlos Gutiérrez Vicén. La lista de los restantes participantes figura como ANEXO I al presente informe.

La reunión se celebró en el Salón de Sesiones del Parlamento estonio (Riigikogu) con el orden del día que figura como ANEXO II.

La Sesión de Apertura comenzó a las 9 horas y acogió los discursos de bienvenida del Presidente del Consejo Nacional de la República Estonia, Sr. D. Eiki Nestor y del Secretario General de dicha Cámara, Sr. D. Peep Jahilo. Ambos dieron la bienvenida a las delegaciones y desearon éxito a la Conferencia de Presidentes remarcando la importancia de los avances en el Mercado único para un país pequeño como Estonia, al igual que la defensa de los derechos fundamentales en la Unión Europea en el marco de la defensa de los valores comunes. El Sr. Nestor destacó además la importancia de la transición digital en la evolución y el desarrollo económico. Por su parte, el Sr. Jahilo recordó el papel de los Secretarios Generales en tanto que máximos responsables de la Administración de los Parlamentos nacionales de los Estados miembros en la construcción europea y la necesidad del reforzamiento de los lazos entre estos Parlamentos nacionales.

Tras aprobar el orden del día se inició la Sesión I dedicada a debatir la Agenda de la Conferencia de Presidentes de los Parlamentos de la Unión Europea que tendrá lugar los próximos días 23 y 24 de abril en el Hotel Hilton de Tallin.

Dicha Conferencia, tras la correspondiente reunión de los Presidentes de los Parlamentos de la Troika presidencial comenzarán con una sesión de apertura en la que el Presidente del Riigikogu ofrecerá unas palabras de bienvenida así como las conclusiones de la reciente Presidencia de Estonia. Someterá a los presentes la adopción del Orden del Día de Conferencia.

Seguidamente, la sesión contará con las intervenciones iniciales de D. Antonio Tajani, Presidente del Parlamento Europeo y D. Frans Timmermans, Vicepresidente Primero de la Comisión Europea. Posteriormente la sesión se desarrollará sobre las siguientes líneas de discusión:

- Sesión I: El futuro de la Unión Europea en el contexto global de los cambios actuales y el papel de los Parlamentos nacionales en todo ello. En particular reflexionando



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sobre las consecuencias producidas por la salida del Reino Unido de la Unión Europea y la negociación sobre el Brexit.

- Sesión II: La Seguridad Europea. Debatiendo sobre las cuestiones que afectan tanto a la seguridad interna (movimientos migratorios y libre circulación) como a la externa: ciberseguridad, defensa europea, etc.

Se acompaña, como ANEXO III el borrador del orden del día de la próxima Conferencia de Presidentes de Parlamentos de los Estados miembros de la Unión Europea que se celebrará los próximos días 23 y 24 de abril de 2018.

Por otra parte, la Secretaria General de la Asamblea Nacional de Bulgaria, Sra. D.^a Stefana Karaslavova, presentó con la ayuda de un vídeo la dimensión de la actual Presidencia búlgara de la Unión Europea, exponiendo con detalle el conjunto de todas las reuniones que tendrán lugar.

La Sesión II se dedicó a tratar cuestiones relativas al IPEX y al apoyo de las administraciones parlamentarias en el control preliminar y la calidad de la legislación de la Unión Europea. Asimismo, se debatió el Informe anual del IPEX correspondiente al año 2017 que fue presentado por D. Milan Hodás, Director del Instituto Parlamentario del Consejo Nacional de Eslovaquia. En dicho debate el Sr. Martensson, Secretario General Adjunto del Parlamento sueco (Riksdagen) y el Sr. Risse, Secretario General del Bundestag alemán, pusieron el acento en la posibilidad de incluir en el sistema IPEX la información relativa al Grupo Conjunto de Control sobre Europol. El Sr. Hodás respondió a las intervenciones y señaló que toda la información está disponible en la página web del IPEX.

Concluido el debate se aprobó el Informe Anual del IPEX 2017, así como las conclusiones. Ambos documentos se acompañan como ANEXO IV.

Tras una breve suspensión en la que se tomó la tradicional foto de familia, la reunión se reanudó a las 11.00 horas con la Sesión III dedicada al estudio del futuro de la Unión Europea y la organización de los debates en los Parlamentos. En esta sesión intervino en primer lugar el Secretario General del Parlamento Europeo, Sr. D. Klaus Welle quien profundizó en algunos problemas de la expansión europea como los derivados de la situación en el mundo islámico (con consecuencias como el terrorismo o la emigración incontrolada) y de las relaciones con los Estados Unidos de América. Asimismo incidió en las dificultades de garantizar el control de la legislación europea.

Por su parte el Sr. D. Geert –Jan Hamilton, Secretario General del Senado de los Países Bajos se refirió también a los retos planteados por la crisis migratoria, la amenaza terrorista, la salida del Reino Unido de la Unión Europea, etc. Afirmó que los 27 Estados miembros deben estar comprometidos con la recuperación de la confianza de los ciudadanos y el reforzamiento de la democracia europea. Las obligaciones en materia de transparencia podrían ser un buen ejemplo de este compromiso. Destacó el incremento del papel de los Parlamentos Nacionales en los últimos diez años, a la cual, sin duda, han contribuido las nuevas tecnologías, e insistió en la responsabilidad de las Secretarías Generales en la realización de esta labor.



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Sobre estas intervenciones se desarrolló un debate entre los Secretarios Generales asistentes a la reunión destacándose la importancia de la apertura del Parlamento a los ciudadanos, la necesidad de un procedimiento legislativo transparente, también en su dimensión europea, y la interacción entre el nivel político y el técnico o administrativo.

Por último la Sesión IV se centró en las nuevas tecnologías y la digitalización: oportunidades y desafíos.

En ella intervino como oradora principal la Sra. D.^a Kadri Kaska, Analista de la Autoridad del Sistema de Información de Estonia. Expuso la especial identidad digital de su país que mantiene los máximos avances en esta materia y, en particular, las aplicaciones en el Riigikogu tanto en el procedimiento legislativo como en las votaciones y en el sistema electoral (donde es posible el voto electrónico en las elecciones locales). Destacó la preocupación creciente por la ciberseguridad y analizó las distintas amenazas así como las posibles defensas de la sociedad digital que goza de una gran resiliencia.

Tras un breve debate sobre esta materia el Sr. Jahilo expuso las conclusiones finales clausurándose la reunión.

Palacio del Congreso de los Diputados, a 31 de enero de 2018.

Carlos Gutiérrez Vicén

SECRETARIO GENERAL
DEL CONGRESO DE LOS DIPUTADOS



Congreso de los Diputados

ANEXO I
LISTADO DE PARTICIPANTES



**Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments
28–29 January 2018, Tallinn**

Final List of Participants

**Réunion des secrétaires généraux des parlements de l'Union européenne
28-29 janvier 2018, Tallinn**

Liste définitive des participants

Parliamentary Dimension
of the Estonian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union

MEMBER STATES – ÉTATS MEMBRES

AUSTRIA – AUTRICHE

Federal Parliament / Parlement fédéral / Bundesparlament

Mr Harald DOSSI	Secretary General
Mr Gerhard KOLLER	Head of Division for EU Participation and European Relations
Ms Nadine DRAGAN	Official of the EU and International Services

BELGIUM – BELGIQUE

House of Representatives / Chambre des représentants / Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers

Mr Marc VAN DER HULST	Secretary General
Mr Roeland JANSOONE	First Adviser

Senate / Sénat / Senaat

Mr Tim DE BONDT	Principal Adviser EU affairs
Ms Luna SADAT	Adviser EU affairs

BULGARIA – BULGARIE

National Assembly / Assemblée nationale / Narodno Sabranie

Ms Stefana KARASLAVOVA	Secretary General
Mr Nikolay JELIAZKOV	Expert
Mr Mladen LAMBEFF	Coordinator
Ms Roumyana STOYANOVA	Interpreter

CROATIA – CROATIE

Parliament / Parlement / Hrvatski sabor

Ms Djurdjica PRALAS	Deputy Secretary General
Ms Andrea HALAMBEK	Head of the Office for International and European Affairs

CYPRUS – CHYPRE

House of Representatives / Chambre des représentants / Vouli ton Antiprosopon

Ms Vassiliki ANASTASSIADOU	Secretary General
Ms Hara PARLA	Senior International Relations Officer

CZECH REPUBLIC – RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

Chamber of Deputies / Chambre des députés / Poslanecká sněmovna

Mr Jan MORAVEK Secretary General

Ms Kristina ZDICHYNCOVA Protocol Officer

Senate / Sénat / Senát

Mr Jiri UKLEIN Secretary General

Mr Jiri KRBEC Head of the International Relations Department

DENMARK – DANEMARK

Parliament / Parlement / Folketinget

Mr Carsten U. LARSEN Secretary General

Ms Pernille DELEURAN Head of the International Department

ESTONIA – ESTONIE

Parliament / Parlement / Riigikogu

Mr Peep JAHILO Secretary General

Mr Aaro MÕTTUS Deputy Secretary General

Ms Gea RENNEL Head of Foreign Relations Department

Ms Kristi SÕBER Representative of the Riigikogu to the European Parliament

FINLAND – FINLANDE

Parliament / Parlement / Eduskunta

Ms Maija-Leena PAAVOLA Secretary General

FRANCE – FRANCE

National Assembly / Assemblée nationale

Ms Marie-France HÉRIN Director of the European Affairs Department

Senate / Sénat

Mr Philippe DELIVET Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on European Affairs

GERMANY – ALLEMAGNE

German Bundestag / Bundestag allemand / Bundestag

Mr Horst RISSE	Secretary General
Ms Saskia LEUENBERGER	Head of Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies

Federal Council / Conseil Fédéral / Bundesrat

Mr Georg KLEEMANN	Deputy Secretary General
Ms Sandra MICHEL	Adviser on International Relations

GREECE – GRÈCE

Hellenic Parliament / Parlement hellénique / Vouli ton Ellinon

Mr Konstantinos ATHANASIOU	Secretary General
Ms Anastasia FRAGKOU	Head of Directorate for European and Bilateral Affairs

HUNGARY – HONGRIE

National Assembly / Assemblée nationale / Országgyűlés

Mr Krisztián KOVÁCS	Head of the EU Department, Directorate for Foreign Relations
Mr Csaba HUSZÁR	Adviser, Directorate for Foreign Relations, EU Department

IRELAND – IRLANDE

Parliament / Parlement / Houses of the Oireachtas

Mr Peter FINNEGAN	Secretary General
Ms Cáit HAYES	Permanent Representative of the Houses of the Oireachtas to the EU

ITALY – ITALIE

Chamber of Deputies / Chambre des députés / Camera dei Deputati

Mr Paolo VISCA	Head of the European Union Affairs Department
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Senate / Sénat / Senato

Mr Federico Silvio TONIATO	Deputy Secretary General for Parliamentary Services
Ms Beatrice GIANANI	Permanent Representative of the Italian Senate to the EU
Ms Lorella DI GIAMBATTISTA	Head of Central Office of Standing and Special Committees

LATVIA – LETTONIE

Parliament / Parlement / Saeima

Ms Lelde RAFELDE

Secretary General

LITHUANIA – LITUANIE

Parliament / Parlement / Seimas

Mr Matas MALDEIKIS

Permanent Representative of the Seimas of the Republic of
Lithuania to the European Union

MALTA – MALTE

House of Representatives / Chambre des représentants / Kamra tad-Deputati

Ms Eleanor SCERRI

Director - International Relations

THE NETHERLANDS – PAYS-BAS

House of Representatives / Chambre des représentants / Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal

Mr Jeffrey VAN HAASTER

Deputy Secretary General, Clerk of the Standing Committee on
European Affairs

Senate / Sénat / Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal

Mr Geert Jan HAMILTON

Secretary General

POLAND – POLOGNE

Parliament / Parlement / Sejm

Ms Agnieszka KACZMARSKA

Secretary General

Mr Bogdan JANOWSKI

Director of the International Affairs Bureau

Mr Adam DUDZIC

Deputy Director of the International Affairs Bureau

Ms Justyna SEWERYŃSKA

Interpreter

Senate / Sénat / Senat

Mr Jakub KOWALSKI

Secretary General

Ms Agata WÓJCIK

Official of the Office for International and European Union Affairs

Mr Marek ALBIN

Interpreter

PORTUGAL – PORTUGAL

Assembly of the Republic / Assemblée de la République / Assembleia da República

Mr Albino AZEVEDO SOARES	Secretary General
Ms Cristina CORREIA	Permanent Representative of the Portuguese Parliament to the EU

ROMANIA – ROUMANIE

Chamber of Deputies / Chambre des députés / Camerei Deputaților

Mr George Ionuț DUMITRICĂ	Deputy Secretary General
Ms Vali Mihaela GREERE	Parliamentary adviser

Senate / Sénat / Senat

Mr Mihaita CALIMENTE	Deputy Secretary General
Mr Razvan TUCULESCU	Parliamentary Adviser

SLOVAKIA – SLOVAQUIE

National Council / Conseil national / Národná rada

Mr Daniel GUSPAN	Secretary General
Mr Milan HODÁS	Director of the Parliamentary Institute

SLOVENIA – SLOVÉNIE

National Assembly / Assemblée nationale / Državni zbor

Ms Uršula ZORE TAVČAR	Secretary General
Mr Samo NOVAK	Senior Adviser in the Office of the President

National Council / Conseil national / Državni svet

Mr Dušan ŠTRUS	Secretary General
Ms Aldijana AHMETOVIĆ	Adviser

SPAIN – ESPAGNE

Congress of Deputies / Congrès des députés / Congreso de los Diputados

Mr Carlos GUTIÉRREZ	Secretary General
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Senate / Sénat / Senado

Mr Manuel CAVERO	Secretary General
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SWEDEN – SUÈDE

Parliament / Parlement / Riksdagen

Mr Claes MÅRTENSSON	Deputy Secretary General
Ms Livia SPADA	Permanent Representative of the Swedish Parliament to the EU Institutions

UNITED KINGDOM – ROYAUME-UNI

House of Commons / Chambre des communes

Mr Matthew HAMLYN	Head of the Overseas Office
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House of Lords / Chambre des lords

Mr Jake VAUGHAN	Reading Clerk and Clerk of the Overseas Office
Mr Paul DOWLING	National Parliament Representative to the EU

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT – PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN

Mr Klaus WELLE	Secretary General
Mr Pekka NURMINEN	Head of the Institutional Cooperation Unit / Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments

OTHER PARTICIPANTS – AUTRES PARTICIPANTS

IPEX – IPEX

Mr Calin-Mihai RACOTI	IPEX Information Officer
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SPEAKERS – ORATEURS

Mr Eiki NESTOR	President of the Riigikogu
Ms Kadri KASKA	Lead Analyst, Estonian Information System Authority

OBSERVERS – OBSERVATEURS

Mr Christoph EICHHORN	Ambassador, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
Mr Raimonds JANSONS	Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Latvia
Ms Gabriela TOMÁNKOVÁ	Ambassador, Embassy of the Czech Republic



Congreso de los Diputados

ANEXO II
ORDEN DEL DÍA

Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments 28–29 January 2018, Tallinn

Programme

Sunday, 28 January 2018

15:00–19:00 Arrival of the delegations and registration for the Meeting at the hotels

Meeting of Secretaries General of the Troika

17:30 Departure by bus from the hotels to the Troika meeting
Venue: Riigikogu, Lossi plats 1a, Tallinn

18:00–19:00 Meeting of Secretaries General of the Troika
(Slovakia, Estonia, Austria, European Parliament)

19:00 Departure for the dinner

19:00 Departure by bus from the hotels to the dinner venue

19:30 **Dinner** hosted by **Mr Peep JAHILO**, Secretary General of the Riigikogu
Venue: Tallinn Creative Hub, Põhja pst 27a, Tallinn

22:00 Return to the hotels by bus

Monday, 29 January 2018

8:30 Departure by bus from the hotels to the meeting venue
Venue: Plenary Hall of the Riigikogu, Lossi plats 1a, Tallinn

9:00–9:15 **Opening session**
Welcome address by **Mr Eiki NESTOR**, President of the Riigikogu

Introductory remarks by **Mr Peep JAHILO**, Secretary General of the Riigikogu
Adoption of the agenda of the Meeting

Debate

9:15–10:00 **Session I: Presentation of the draft programme of the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments**

Speaker: **Mr Peep JAHILO**, Secretary General of the Riigikogu

Debate



Presentation of the parliamentary dimension of the Bulgarian EU Council Presidency

Speaker: **Ms Stefana KARASLAVOVA**, Secretary General of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

10:00–10:30

Session II: IPEX related issues

IPEX Annual Report
Conclusions on IPEX

Speaker: **Mr Milan HODÁS**, Director of the Parliamentary Institute of the National Council of the Slovak Republic

Debate

10:30–11:15

Family photo and coffee break

11:15–12:15

Session III: Future of the EU: organisation of debates in the parliaments

Speakers:

Mr Klaus WELLE, Secretary General of the European Parliament

Mr Geert-Jan HAMILTON, Secretary General of the Senate of the Netherlands

Debate

12:15–13:15

Session IV: New technologies and digitalisation: opportunities and challenges

Speaker:

Ms Kadri KASKA, Senior Analyst of the Information System Authority of Estonia

Debate

13:15–13:30

Any other business

Closing remarks by **Mr Peep JAHILO**, Secretary General of the Riigikogu

13:30–14:30

Lunch

Venue: White Hall of the Riigikogu

14:30

Return to the hotels by bus. Departure of the delegations



Meeting of Secretaries General of the Troika 28 January 2018, Tallinn

Agenda

Sunday, 28 January 2018
18:00–19:00

17:30 Departure from the hotels to the Riigikogu
(Slovakia, Estonia, Austria, European Parliament)

1. Presentation and adoption of the agenda of the Meeting of the Secretaries General of the EU Parliaments
2. IPEX related issues
3. Presentation of the draft programme of the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments (23–24 April 2018, Tallinn)
4. Letters received by the Presidency
5. Any other business

Venue: The Riigikogu, Lossi plats 1a, Tallinn

19:00 Departure for the dinner



Congreso de los Diputados

ANEXO III

BORRADOR DEL ORDEN DEL DÍA DE LA PRÓXIMA CONFERENCIA DE PRESIDENTES DE PARLAMENTOS DE LOS ESTADOS MIEMBROS DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA

Draft as of 12 January 2018

Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments 23–24 April 2018, Tallinn

Draft programme

Monday, 23 April 2018

10:00–13:00 Arrival of the delegations and conference registration at the hotels

Meeting of Speakers of Parliaments of the Presidential Troika

13:30 Departure from the hotels to the conference venue
Venue: Hilton Tallinn Park, Fr. R. Kreutzwaldi 23, Tallinn

14:00–15:00 Meeting of Speakers of Parliaments of the Presidential Troika
(Slovakia, Estonia, Austria, European Parliament)

14:00 Departure from the hotels to the conference venue
Venue: Hilton Tallinn Park, Fr. R. Kreutzwaldi 23, Tallinn

Registration (for those not yet registered) at the conference venue.
Welcome coffee and refreshments

15:00–15:30 **Opening session**
Welcome address by **Mr Eiki NESTOR**, President of the Riigikogu

Adoption of the agenda for the Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments

Keynote speakers:

Mr Antonio TAJANI, President of the European Parliament (tbc)

Mr Frans TIMMERMANS, First Vice-President of the European Commission (tbc)

15:30–16:30 **Session I: The future of the European Union**

Keynote speakers:

Speaker of National Parliament (tbc)

Speaker of National Parliament (tbc)

Debate

16:30–17:00 **Family photo and coffee break**

17:00–18:00 **Session I: The future of the European Union (continues)**



- 18:00 Return to the hotels
- 19:30 Departure from the hotels to the dinner venue
- 20:00 **Dinner and cultural programme** hosted by **Mr Eiki NESTOR**,
President of the Riigikogu
Venue: Estonia Concert Hall, Estonia puiestee 4, Tallinn
- 23:00 Return to the hotels

Tuesday, 24 April 2018

- 9:00 Departure from the hotels to the conference venue
Venue: Hilton Tallinn Park, Fr. R. Kreutzwaldi 23, Tallinn
- 9:30–11:00 **Session II: European security**
- Keynote speakers:
Speaker of National Parliament (tbc)
- Speaker of National Parliament (tbc)
- Debate
- 11:00–11:30 **Coffee break**
- 11:30–12:30 **Session II: European security (continues)**
- 12:30–13:00 **Session III: Debate and adoption of the Conclusions**
- Closing remarks by **Mr Eiki NESTOR**, President of the Riigikogu
- 13:00–14:30 **Lunch**
- 14:30 Return to the hotels. Departure of the delegations



Congreso de los Diputados

ANEXO IV
INFORME ANUAL IPEX 2017



NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



IPEX ANNUAL REPORT 2017

**MEETING OF THE SECRETARIES GENERAL
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION PARLIAMENTS**

**28-29 January 2018
Tallinn**

Mr Daniel Guspan
Secretary General of the National Council of the
Slovak Republic

Chair of the IPEX Board

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to take the floor to present the 2017 IPEX annual report. Looking back at the last year, I feel very proud to observe that so many people are dedicated to this instrument of interparliamentary dialogue, which is one of the most successful and concrete projects realised in cooperation with the national Parliaments of the European Union and the support of the European Parliament.

As you may know, 2016 and 2017 have been for Slovakia, for the National Council of the Slovak Republic, a huge challenge. Indeed, during the second semester of 2016, the National Council of the Slovak Republic, in the framework of the parliamentary dimension of the Slovak Presidency, has prepared seven major - in terms of the contents, as well as the attendance - inter-parliamentary events. Several of these events, such as the Plenary Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of the Parliaments of the European Union, the Inter-parliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy, or the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union, have been the biggest official events held during our presidency.

In 2016, the National Council of the Slovak Republic has organized the so-called small COSAC or the COSAC Chairs, the Inter-parliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination, and Governance in the European Union and the Meeting of Chairpersons of the Economic Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union on the Energy Union. Given the fact that the Slovak Republic has been preside over the Council of the EU during the second half of the calendar year, we were also entitled to host the annual presidency of the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union; this also implied an obligation to organize further events in 2017. Our parliamentary presidency was thus the organizer of the Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments, and the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union Member States and at this conference, we had the honour to take over the rotating IPEX Presidency, according to the IPEX guidelines adopted in Rome in 2015. Therefore, the parliamentary dimension of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU have presented yet another yearlong commitment, the Slovak Presidency of the Governing Board of the EU Platform for Inter-parliamentary Information Exchange (IPEX).



NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



As this was the first Slovak Chairmanship of IPEX, taking over from the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg, I also take this opportunity to thank our Luxembourgish colleagues for their hard work and efforts in the last year. The Luxembourgish Chairmanship of the IPEX Board was a very successful one and has produced a very concrete and useful outcome, the IPEX Digital strategy, which will guide our work for years to come. Colleagues, thank you very much indeed and congratulations on your accomplishments. 2017 has been a particularly fruitful year for IPEX in many aspects, and, therefore I would like to express my sincere thanks also to the members of the Board, to the IPEX Information Officer as well as to the national Correspondents.

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1 Meetings under the Slovak Chairmanship

From 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016, Slovakia held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time in the country's history. In 2017, Slovak republic also took over the Chairmanship of IPEX from the Parliament of Luxembourg.

During its chairmanship, the National Council of the Slovak Republic has organised the following events:

- Three Board meetings (19 May 2017 and 19 January 2018 in Bratislava and 12 October 2017 in Brussels)
- The annual national Correspondents meeting (15-16 November 2017 in Bratislava)
- Nine Working group meetings (*Enhancing the IPEX network* - two times in Bratislava and once in Brussels; *Strengthening the promotion of IPEX network* - two times in Bratislava and once in Brussels; *Improving the IPEX digital system network* - two times in Bratislava and once in Brussels)

Five Working groups have been active during the Slovak Chairmanship.

- 1) Working group on the institutions, chaired by the Information officer, Mr Calin Racoti;
- 2) Working group on the Enhancing the IPEX network, chaired by Mr Mongin Forrest;
- 3) Working group on the Strengthening the promotion of IPEX network, chaired by Ms Birgit Von Pflug;
- 4) Working group on the Improving the IPEX digital system network, chaired by Mr Hilbert Gerard;
- 5) Working group on the organisation of the IPEX national Correspondents meeting, chaired by Ms Petra Ďurinová.

I would like to thank the IPEX Board members who chaired the working groups for their active involvement and their dedication in reaching the goals set by the IPEX Board.

It is also important to inform you, that Slovak presidency has received a letter from the Chairman of the Estonian EU Affairs Committee concerning the interconnectivity of COSAC

web-page and the IPEX platform. The letter states that, the IPEX has set itself an aim in a Digital Strategy for IPEX to provide inter alia also information from national parliaments concerning the parliamentary dimension of EU Council Presidencies. One important cooperation format that enriches the parliamentary dimension of EU presidencies is the Conference of the committees of the national Parliaments of the European Union Member States dealing with the European Union affairs (COSAC). Accordingly, the Chairman of the EU Affairs Committee, Mr. Toomas Vitsut would like to encourage the Board to analyse and propose the ways to interconnect COSAC web-page and IPEX platform.

The Board had an exchange of views on the letter, at meeting held in Brussels on 12 October 2017. It was agreed, that Mr. Guspan as IPEX Chair will send the letter to the Chairman of the Estonian EU Affairs Committee and will offer the service of the website.

At the same meeting, the Board discussed a suggestion from Ms. Birgit von Pflug, that the IPEX website should be actively promoted as a platform for the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group for Europol. It was also agreed by the Board, that Mr. Guspan as IPEX Chair will send the letter to the Co-Chairs of the Europol Scrutiny Group and will offer the service of the website. Mr. Guspan have already sent both letters.

The letter to the COSAC was debated by national delegations and representatives of European institutions during the LVIII COSAC, which took place in Tallinn, 27 and 28 November. In the Conclusions of the LVIII COSAC national politicians are encouraging "the COSAC Secretariat and the IPEX Board to cooperate towards increasing the interconnection between the COSAC website and the IPEX platform" and to look for ways of a future integration of the two.

As far as the letter to the Co-Chairs of the Europol Scrutiny Group is concerned, we have received a letter from Mr Raivo AEG, Chair of the delegation of the Parliament of Estonia to the JPSG. In his letter, he expressed support for the idea to have the IPEX platform host the website of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group. According to him, it would be extremely convenient to have all the documents related to this event in one database and available on one single website and IPEX would be ideal for this because it includes all the information and documents on inter parliamentary cooperation. He also pointed out that Estonian Parliament has no ownership of the Europol Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny group meetings, therefore, he hopes, that we will soon receive positive feedback also from the European Parliament.

2 New order of presidencies

Dear colleagues, as you all probably know, at our meeting held in Bratislava on 20 and 21 February 2017, we have confirmed the composition of the IPEX Board during the Estonian Presidency of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments in 2017/2018. Let me inform you about the composition of the IPEX Board in 2018/2019, which is as following:

- Chair of the Board: Slovakia (ex officio) – until the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union Member States;
- Ex officio members of the Board: Estonia (after the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union Member States - acting chair), Austria, Bulgaria and European Parliament;
- members willing to contribute to the Board and its activities: Belgium (both chambers), Denmark, France (both chambers), Germany (only the Bundestag), Greece, Italy (both chambers), Luxembourg, Poland (both chambers), Portugal, Romania (both chambers), the Netherlands (both Chambers) and Sweden.

Of course, the IPEX Information Officer, COSAC secretariat, the ECPRD, the European Commission and the Council participate in and contribute to the IPEX Board meetings (According to the IPEX Guidelines).

The revised order of the presidencies foresees that Estonia will take over the Chairmanship of IPEX from the National Council of the Slovak Republic in April 2018 at the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union Member States, which will take place in Tallinn on 23-24 April 2018.

3 Adoption the IPEX Work Programme 2017-2020

The IPEX Board members adopted the IPEX Work Programme 2017-2020, during their meeting held in Bratislava on 19 May 2017. The 3-year Work Programme was prepared by the WG on Digital Strategy and Work Programme, which was established by the Board on

2 October 2015. The procedural principles governing the Work Programme are stipulated in the Digital Strategy, as approved by the Secretaries General at their meeting held in Bratislava. The execution of the Work Programme is conducted through working groups. The working groups work under mandates approved by the IPEX Board and submit their conclusions in the form of

Action Plans to the Board (Art. 7 of IPEX Guidelines) for final approval as well as regular progress reports.

The Board, also at meeting held in Bratislava on 19 May 2017, nominated the chairs and members of the new working groups set up for each of the priority objective of the IPEX Work Programme 2017 – 2020. The Board agreed that Parliaments will be able to send whomever they wish to represent their Parliament in the respective WG. In the discussion concerning the composition of the working groups, some members of the board offered their support, although not being formal members of the respective group.

The composition of the working groups and their mandates is as follows:

<i>Working Group</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>Mandate</i>
<i>1. Enhancing the IPEX network</i>	<i>Danish Parliament</i>	<i>1. Austrian Parliament</i> <i>2. Estonian Riigikogu</i> <i>3. Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies</i> <i>4. Belgian Senate</i> <i>5. Romanian Parliament</i> <i>6. The Dutch Staten-Generaal</i>	<i>As described in point III.1 of the Work Programme</i>
<i>2. Strengthening the promotion of IPEX</i>	<i>German Bundestag</i>	<i>1. Polish Senate</i> <i>2. European Parliament</i> <i>3. Hellenic Parliament</i> <i>4. Italian Chamber of Deputies</i> <i>5. Maltese House of Representatives</i>	<i>As described in point III.2 of the Work Programme</i>



<i>3. Improving the IPEX digital system</i>	<i>European Parliament</i>	<i>1. Polish Sejm 2. National Council of the Slovak Republic 3. Italian Senate 4. Riksdagen (Sweden) 5. Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies</i>	<i>As described in point III.3 of the Work Programme</i>
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4 IPEX national Correspondents meeting

The National Council of the Slovak Republic also had the honour of hosting the IPEX national Correspondents meeting from 15-16 November 2017 in Bratislava. 52 participants representing 24 Member States and 4 candidate countries attended this Correspondents meeting.

Based on the proposals by the working group on the organisation of the national Correspondents meeting, chaired by Ms Petra Ďurinová from the National Council of the Slovak Republic, a draft programme was adopted by the members of the Board. The first day of the meeting consisted in two trainings held by the IPEX Information Officer. One training was for the newcomers and the second one was for the more experienced correspondents.

On the second day, participants gathered in the Constitution hall of the historical building of the National Council of the Slovak Republic in order to discuss the Report of the Chair concerning the activities of the IPEX Board. Then we have hosted three Workshops – one for each of the three priority objectives in the Work Programme (Enhancing the IPEX network; Strengthening the promotion of IPEX; Improving the IPEX digital system). The chair of the corresponding Working Group chaired each Workshop. This gave each Working Group the opportunity to discuss their mandate and ideas directly with the correspondents. In addition, there were two Workshop time slots – and each Working Group was represented in each timeslot. Each workshop lasted 90 minutes, so there have been a real chance for the IPEX Correspondents to communicate. After the workshops, there was the last point on the agenda: Report-back from the chairs of the Workshops.

5 Future of IPEX

IPEX, as a platform for the mutual exchange of information between the national Parliaments and the European Parliament concerning issues related to the European Union, has gone through many evolutions and developments since its start in 2000. I see this platform as very helpful and reliable instrument for the Inter- Parliamentary information exchange, and for networking as well. It is important not to forget about the people who are involved in, enthusiastic and committed to their work to promote and improve the IPEX. Here, in this very moment I would like to encourage all the future presidencies to follow this path and to recognize the importance of the connection of the IPEX related persons to get the best outcomes for the future of IPEX. Presidencies must foster continuous improvements, innovations and initiatives. Presidencies must be committed to initiative mindset for the future of the IPEX. The digital strategy and also a 3-year Work Programme clearly attest that IPEX is ready to take on new challenges and to be strictly forwardlooking.

Version January 24, 2018

Meeting of the Secretaries General
of the European Union Parliaments

28-29 January 2018, Tallinn

Draft Conclusions on IPEX

1. The Secretaries General take note of the annual report on the current status of IPEX and thank the IPEX Board and the National Council of the Slovak Republic, acting as its Chair, for their work in 2017.

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 2018/2019:

- Estonia (Riigikogu) - Chair of the IPEX Board (ex officio);
- Austria (Nationalrat and Bundesrat) (ex officio);
- Finland (Eduskunta) (ex officio);
- Bulgaria (Narodno sabranie) (ex officio);
- European Parliament (ex officio);
- Belgium (Kamer van Volksvertegenwoordigers/Chambre des représentants and Senaat/Sénat);
- Denmark (Folketing);
- France (Assemblée nationale et 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);



- Romania (Camera Deputaților and Senatul);
- Slovakia (Národná rada)
- The Netherlands (Eerste and Tweede Kamer);
- Sweden (Riksdagen)

Any other Parliament wishing to participate in the work of the IPEX Board.

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 thank the IPEX Board, and the National Council of the Slovak Republic, acting as its Chair, for defining the IPEX Work Programme 2017-2020. The procedural principles governing the Work Programme are stipulated in the Digital Strategy, as approved by the Secretaries General at their meeting held in Bratislava. The execution of the Work Programme is conducted through three working groups: Promoting IPEX, Enhancing the IPEX Network and Improving the IPEX Digital System. The working groups work under mandates approved by the IPEX Board and submit their conclusions in the form of Action Plans to the Board (Art. 7 of IPEX Guidelines) for final approval as well as regular progress reports.

4. The Secretaries General recognize the work of the IPEX Board in improving the IPEX system and recognizes the benefits of further increasing the level of parliamentary cooperation and exchange through an adequate upgrading of functions of the IPEX platform and network; they recommend to their services using IPEX as a channel for systematic exchange of information including early notification of subsidiarity concerns; they see the potential to develop IPEX as the main channel of communication between the EU institutions and national Parliaments.

5. The Secretaries General thank the National Council of the Slovak Republic for hosting the annual IPEX Correspondents' meeting on 15-16 November 2017 in Bratislava. The Secretaries General underline the importance of the annual IPEX Correspondents' meetings that represents an excellent opportunity for networking and further encourage the Correspondents to act as promoters of IPEX in their Parliaments.

6. The Secretaries General thank the European Parliament for hosting the Board meeting in Brussels on 12 October 2017.

7. The Secretaries General thank the National Council of the Slovak Republic, acting as IPEX Chair, for the support of the idea of the Chairman of the Estonian EU Affairs Committee

to move closer with the COSAC and invite the Board to continue its efforts towards integration between the COSAC website and the IPEX platform.

8. The Secretaries General thank the National Council of the Slovak Republic, acting as IPEX Chair, for sending the letter to the Co-Chairs of the Europol Scrutiny Group and offering the service of the website and invite the Board to continue its efforts to host the website of the Europol Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group.

9. The Secretaries General express their gratitude to the Belgian Senate for employing the IPEX Information Officer for a non-fixed term as of 1 January 2017 and for being transparent in the management of its costs. They also thank the European Parliament for providing the logistics and the infrastructure.

10. The Secretaries General thank the Riksdagen (Sweden) for its willingness to host the IPEX Users Conference in Stockholm. The IPEX Board has decided to organise a Conference for users of IPEX. The Conference will be held on Friday 2 March 2018 and will be hosted by the Swedish Parliament. The first Conference took place in Copenhagen in January 2015 and resulted in a report to the IPEX board with specific recommendations to improve the utility of the IPEX platform. The Secretaries General meeting in March 2015 recommended continuing the practice of organising such conferences as a tool for further promotion of IPEX inter alia among its users.