

CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE RECHERCHE  
ET DE DOCUMENTATION PARLEMENTAIRES



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR PARLIAMENTARY  
RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

EUROPÄISCHES ZENTRUM FÜR PARLAMENTARISCHE  
WISSENSCHAFT UND DOKUMENTATION

## **ECPRD 30 YEARS 1977 - 2007**

**A summary of major events and achievements of the  
European Centre for Parliamentary Research and  
Documentation**

Editors : Hanneke Coppolecchia and Mario Heinrich, with the collaboration of Josep Maria Ribot.

Brussels, European Parliament, September 2007.

## Foreword

“Founding Fathers” of institutions – or “Founding Parents” as we would, perhaps somewhat awkwardly say today, – are sometimes remarkably prescient.

The Speakers of parliaments who established the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) in Vienna in 1977 – two years after the 1975 Helsinki Final Act – are an excellent example. Not only did they make sure that the ECPRD would be open to all national parliaments in the wider Europe when the time came, but they also allowed the Secretaries General of the parliaments concerned, to render the statutes – centred around the ideas of ‘cooperation’ and common values – so flexible that they would be able to take on any new challenges that might arise.

And arisen they have. Today’s Europe is one where parliaments are asked as rarely before to adapt quickly to our changing societies and the world beyond national borders.

Parliaments have to defend, indeed sometimes regain, their stature in the national political life, under the merciless scrutiny of the mass media and civil society. Parliaments must meet the concerns of citizens, often channelled via NGOs, by delivering what is expected of them: high quality legislation. Parliamentary staff have the duty to provide the tools necessary to achieve this result.

Knowledge of other countries in Europe and beyond is essential, and not only in order to successfully master global challenges such as terrorism, global warming and the protection of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. In this field, ‘parliamentary diplomacy’ could play an important role by helping traditional, intergovernmental relations to resolve the many divergences that inevitably crop up between countries as they grow closer.

The ECPRD is meeting these challenges fully, as witnessed by the popularity it enjoys with national parliaments, and by the increasingly crucial role it plays as a clearing-house for requests for information of all kinds from its members and beyond, as well as a promoter of shared knowledge through the organisation of seminars for parliamentary staff throughout Europe.

We, Secretaries General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the 47-member states of the Council of Europe – indeed practically the same

membership area as the ECPRD itself – and of the European Parliament - composed of members from 27 member states of the European Union continuously going further in integration - are particularly well placed to know the differences in parliamentary rules, procedures and practices that exist between the different European countries, and therefore to appreciate the immense forum for mutual learning offered by the ECPRD. Such sharing in and learning from each other's successes and failures are an essential tool in the promotion of democracy.

However, beyond this, there is also the perhaps most important element, which is the human contact that every day helps us to build a more closely knit Europe.

The present publication takes us through the evolution of the ECPRD over three decades - from infant to a young, and yet mature, adult. We are proud of its achievements and certain of its ability to continue to serve its member parliaments for the good of our citizens. And we are confident about the continued determination of the European Parliament and of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to fulfil also in future the coordinating role they have assumed since the ECPRD's inception, to permit it to meet the many major tasks ahead.

We address our congratulations to the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation on its 30th anniversary and our best wishes for the future to all those involved in ECPRD activities. We are convinced that ECPRD will be able to cope with new challenges in our quickly evolving Europe, and that it will continue to be an indispensable tool in enhancing inter-parliamentary cooperation.

***Mateo SORINAS***  
*Secretary General*  
*Parliamentary Assembly*  
*of the Council of Europe*

***Harald RØMER***  
*Secretary General*  
*of the European Parliament*

## Introductory words

As the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation celebrates its 30 years of existence, all of us who work with it feel pride and gratitude - but also sorrow due to the recent loss of someone very dear to us.

On 23 March 2007 Mr Klaus Pöhle passed away at the age of seventy-six. Klaus Pöhle was in many respects *the* founding father of the ECPRD when it was established in 1977, and he was its first and longest serving Co-Director from that year until 1994, when he went into retirement after a long and distinguished career in the European Parliament. In ensuring the spectacular development of the ECPRD over nearly two decades, Mr Pöhle made a lasting impact on European parliamentary life and cooperation.

With its limited resources, the ECPRD above all depends on the good will and determination of all those who work on behalf of, and this has become one of its main strengths. They do so on a voluntary basis, since their work for the institution normally comes over and above their many other duties in their parliament.

Our gratitude as current ECPRD Co-Directors first of all goes to our predecessors in this function: from the European Parliament side the aforementioned Mr Klaus Pöhle (1977-1994), Mr Alfredo Di Stefano (1995), Mr Dirk Toornstra - who for a period of ten years contributed in a major way to the modernisation of the ECPRD, notably by creating ECPRD's website - (1996-2005, and ably assisted during all this time by Ms Dorne Jackson), Mr Bo Jensen (2005) and Mr Alain Barrau (2006). And from the side of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: Mr Jean Sabattier (1977-1981), Mr Georges Charitons (1982-1990) and Mr Gian-Paolo Castenetto (1990-1996).

We are also indebted to our devoted past and present Correspondents, Deputy Correspondents, Coordinators and those many who attend our different seminars, which form an important part of our activities.

However, the efforts of all these people would have come to little if it had not been for two persons in the ECPRD secretariat whose devotion and hard work over many years have permitted the institution to function so well. We are thinking of Ms Hanneke Coppolecchia-Somers, who has ensured the vital central liaison function within the ECPRD secretariat in

the European Parliament - since 1978 as special assistant to Mr Pöhl for the ECPRD and since 1990 as Co-secretary and Webmaster and who, to our great regret, intends soon to go into a well-deserved retirement. We thank you, Hanneke, and will miss you greatly.

Our thanks also go to Mr Mario Heinrich, who has worked closely with Ms Hanneke Coppolecchia on ECPRD matters from within the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for numerous years and who, fortunately for us, will continue in this role.

Our entire team are in debt to the Secretaries General of national parliaments, who through their continued strong political support for the ECPRD have contributed vitally to our mission. And our thanks extend to their staff for all their efforts in answering the rapidly growing number of questions coming from their colleagues in other ECPRD member parliaments.

The exchange of information between, and “networking” of, the staff of national parliaments for the good of European democracy, peace and understanding – especially in the fields of parliamentary practice, procedure and rules - can thus be said today to form the “core business” of the ECPRD. Someone has termed the process one of creating a “parliamentary community of knowledge”.

Mr Pöhl and his fellow founders back in 1977 surely wanted this. But it could only truly become a reality with the arrival of modern information technology, as indeed becomes clear in the historical overview in this publication.

Article 1 of the new Statutes - which were adopted by the ECPRD Secretaries General meeting in Tallinn on 31 May 2006 in order to permit the institution to fully adapt to a constantly changing parliamentary environment - makes the above aim abundantly clear:

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

*“In the exchange of information the ECPRD shall promote, wherever possible, the use and development of Information and Communication Technology”.*

*“The ECPRD shall co-operate with other networks dealing with the exchange of information among parliaments in Europe”.*

The seminars hosted by national parliaments in fields presenting a common interest are another important area. Here, Coordinators for the four current areas – “Information and Communication Technology in Parliaments”; “Parliamentary Practice and Procedure”; “Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives” and “Macro-Economic Research” – organise seminars in cooperation with the national parliaments concerned. The aim is not just to gain new knowledge *per se*, but also very much to gather like-minded people around interests of common concern and to stimulate informal networks among them afterwards.

We hope that the present publication will further clarify the evolution of ECPRD over time and its present manifold tasks, so important for the future of European democracy.

The constant development of European parliamentary democracy was indeed the central concern of the founding fathers in 1977. And so it remains, for all of us who have the privilege of continuing in their footsteps, at a time when the countries of our continent are coming increasingly closer.

***Piotr Nowina-Konopka***  
*Co-Director of the ECPRD*  
*European Parliament*

***Wojciech Sawicki***  
*Co-Director of the ECPRD*  
*Parliamentary Assembly of the*  
*Council of Europe*





## **A. THE PROCESS WHICH LED TO THE CREATION OF THE ECPRD**

(by *Mario Heinrich, ECPRD Co-secretary*)

### **I. GENERAL**

Already in the early 30s the European action of the former French Prime Ministers Edouard Herriot<sup>1</sup> and Aristide Briand<sup>2</sup> was marked by a wish to strengthen relations between national parliaments in Europe. In this connection one important tool was often mentioned: contacts between the “services de la documentation étrangère des parlements” (departments for foreign documentation of parliaments). Therefore, one may argue that inter-parliamentary cooperation in Europe started with better documentation.

The creation of the ECPRD is closely linked to the Conference of Speakers (Presidents) of European Parliamentary Assemblies (now European Conference of Presidents of Parliament). This conference met first in 1963 and was then limited to the parliaments of the EC member States and the European Parliament. It appeared useful to introduce, with that Conference, a body capable of favouring the harmonisation of parliamentary activities and of counter-balancing the action of the Executive. To a certain extent the Conference was a parliamentary counterpart to the meetings of Heads of State and Government of the EC which had started in 1961 but were discontinued between 1962 and 1969. The second Speakers’ Conference met only ten years later in Strasbourg, in January 1973. One of its objectives<sup>3</sup> and also of the Rome Speakers’ Conference in 1975 was to create a common technical organisation for the national parliaments and the EC Parliament, with a view to strengthening and institutionalising a cooperation which already existed informally<sup>4</sup>. It is to be noted that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) participated in the Speakers’ Conferences from 1975.

### **II. THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS BY EDGAR FAURE**

The essential proposal for the Centre was made by the then Speaker of the French National Assembly, Edgar Faure. His adviser at that time was Professor Doré. During the Strasbourg Speakers’ Conference in January 1973 he put forward the idea of creating an Institute for legal issues concerning parliaments (“droit parlementaire”). However already at that moment some reservations were made against the foundation of an additional independent Institute with autonomous structures<sup>5</sup>. At two further occasions he developed this proposal. At a lecture Faure gave in Bonn on 13 December 1973 he made a plea for a European Institute of Parliamentary Research to

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<sup>1</sup> See his book *Europa of 1930*

<sup>2</sup> Chapter «parliamentary relations» of his memorandum of May 1930 for the League of Nations

<sup>3</sup> Christian Brumter, *La Conférence des Présidents des Assemblées parlementaires européennes*, in: *Studia diplomatica*, 1979 No. 6, pp. 607 to 619 (617)

<sup>4</sup> For the details and the problems of European Speakers’ Conferences in those years, see Klaus Pöhle’ article, “A face-saver turns 25” reproduced in this brochure

<sup>5</sup> Report by the Presidents of the EP and PACE to the 1980 Speakers Conference in Madrid

be based on the activities of parliamentarians and also of University staff. The purpose of this Institute would be research into parliamentary democracy, the fundamental problems of growth and international relations<sup>6</sup>. He also evoked the proposal at a hearing of the PACE Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights in Paris on 18 and 19 April 1974 and at a PACE Round Table of Speakers and Secretaries General of national parliaments in Strasbourg on 7 May 1974. On that occasion the President of PACE indicated his interest in Mr Faure's proposal, particularly as the Centre was supposed to study problems related to parliamentary democracy<sup>7</sup>.

During an EP symposium held in Luxembourg on 2 and 3 May 1974 on European integration and the future of parliaments in Europe, President Faure proposed the setting-up of an Institute with the following four main subjects:

- problems of parliaments in Europe (e.g. balance between the Executive and the Legislature; scientific aids to parliamentary decision-making such as computers, data-processing and opinion polls; need to arrive at decisions by democratic and responsible means);
- problems of the European Parliament (e.g. powers over the Council, relations with national parliaments, European political parties);
- need for a European consciousness and culture particularly at the level of Universities, including the *Europeanisation* of Universities;
- studies in international relations including relations between the EC and the USA, Eastern Europe, the Middle East.

The Institute should be able to count on the assistance of the national parliaments. According to President Faure it should not be a ponderous organisation with buildings, administration machinery and employees. It should call, in the main, on services which already exist as well as on disinterested assistance<sup>8</sup>.

### **III. FOLLOW-UP TO THESE PROPOSALS AT THE SPEAKERS CONFERENCES, 1975 -77**

#### **a. 1975 and 1976**

In 1975 the Speakers' Conference in Rome dealt with general problems of contemporary parliamentary democracy. It concluded that with respect to these problems, it was important to take the necessary steps in a continuous, co-ordinated and broad way for the collection of information, documentation, researches and proposals. The EP in liaison with the Parliamentary Assembly accepted to facilitate the follow-up to this idea. They were asked by the Speakers to take the necessary steps in order to create a European Institute of Parliamentary Research.

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<sup>6</sup> See the detailed description in the publication on the symposium prepared by the EP's Directorate General for Research and Documentation, October 1975, p.316

<sup>7</sup> for details see Document 3444 par.11 of PACE on „Future of democratic institutions in Europe“

<sup>8</sup> pp.317 and 318 of the above mentioned EP publication

The Speakers' Conference held in Bonn on 9 and 10 July 1976 examined a feasibility study on the creation of a system of parliamentary research and documentation. It had been prepared by the Secretaries General of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.<sup>9</sup>

**b. The study on the creation of a system of parliamentary research and documentation**

When this study was prepared, it was not yet clear what would be the name of the body possibly to be created. That is why the word "system" was used. The study included four sections:

- objectives and subjects concerning research and documentation;
- working methods;
- organisation;
- budget and finance.

*aa) Parliamentary research*

The study suggested

- to prepare comparative studies of constitutional and legal provisions which govern activities of parliaments of EP, PACE and the (then) 18 Council of Europe member States and of their practical application through rules of procedure, customs, conventions and working methods; this was justified with the fact that the requests for such studies would increase after the direct elections of the EP, as many MEPs would no longer be members of their national parliaments and only have limited knowledge of the respective national parliament;
- to inform other users of reforms and other changes concerning national parliaments; such information would be useful for participating parliaments and for establishing a basis for more systematic and close relations between the European Assemblies and national parliaments. More information on parliaments was also necessary because of the serious problems of parliamentary democracy in those years.

*bb) Documentation*

With regard to documentation it was noted that while national parliaments had the necessary services these were designed to provide documentation mainly for their parliamentarians and chiefly on national questions. Parliamentary documentation on European questions should be the responsibility in particular of the EP but also of PACE.

Activities should consist of regular exchange of documents, compilation of directories of parliamentary documentation, where necessary, and the establishment of a network of contacts. Such contacts should normally be made at the level of parliamentary libraries. A central office could be set up as part of the EP's library if so desired. This office could organise or facilitate exchange of documentation, such as

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<sup>9</sup> EP Document 44.768/rev.

catalogue cards, bibliographies, library bulletins, microfilms, At that moment (1976) there were at EC mainly bilateral and very few multilateral arrangements among parliaments. Furthermore, computerised information, mainly on legal problems, should become more readily available (CELEX database, then under development).

The authors of the study considered that the extent to which a future Institute (or Centre) might coordinate various systems and activities at EC and COE levels and develop an information network for all parliaments associated with the Institute (Centre) remained to be established.

*cc) Working methods*

The study proposed that each parliament participating in the system should designate a unit to:

- provide for carrying out studies and deliver documentation;
- distribute studies and documentation received to members of its parliament;
- contribute to the work of the central office of parliamentary libraries;
- participate in the common activities in data processing,

This could be the existing parliamentary research and documentation system or its equivalent, at least during a test period. This would require only very limited additional resources.

To ensure coordination among these units a small central organisation appeared to be necessary. For practical reasons (availability of staff, translation facilities, distribution of documents) this could be left to the EP.

It could be useful to provide for staff exchanges within the system. The organisation of conferences etc. could contribute to creating a wider interest in the respective activities.

*dd) Organisation/structures*

Simple, practical and adaptable structures should be envisaged for the system:

- a Superior Council composed of the Speakers would fix the guidelines for the work of the Institute/Centre, adopt its annual work programme and budget and approve its annual activity report;
- under the direction of the Superior Council an Administrative Council would be formed by the Secretaries General of parliaments; the number of its members and the duration of their mandate could be limited, or be the subject of a rotation system; this Council would prepare the annual work programme according to the guidelines of the Superior Council; it would prepare the draft budget, follow the execution of the work programme and carry out the general oversight of the Institute's/Centre's work;
- to reduce expenses both Councils could meet in connection with the Speakers Conferences.

*ee) Budget and finance*

The authors of the study considered that there would be almost no expenditure. The Superior Council and the Administrative Councils' activities could, as already mentioned, be combined with those of the Speaker's Conference and the Secretariat of the Institute/Centre would be carried out by the EP.

Travel expenses would be borne by the respective parliaments and expenses of seminars and conferences by the hosting parliament. Translation costs could be borne by the EP and by the Council of Europe concerning non-EU languages. The cost of the Institute's/Centre's publications of studies and documentation should be limited. Perhaps a Foundation or voluntary contributions could facilitate this task.

*ff) Results of the study*

As no participating parliament opted for the creation of entirely new structures, the concept of an Institute was abandoned. At their Bonn Conference in 1976 the Speakers took note of the study and asked the Presidents of the EP and PACE to study the means to ensure the functioning of the system and to see to its implementation on a trial basis. Furthermore the Speakers noted with interest that meetings at expert level would be held in the near future. One of them was organised in Luxembourg in February 1977.

**c. The work of the experts in Luxembourg**

On 3 and 4 February 1977 an expert meeting on parliamentary libraries, research and documentation took place in Luxembourg. It agreed on the following conclusions concerning the possible creation of a European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation:

- an exchange of information on the structures of parliamentary library, research and documentation services is urgent;
- a directory should be prepared, listing the responsibilities of the staff members of the corresponding services of all national parliaments members of the Council of Europe and of the EP and PACE;
- a section in each of these parliaments should be tasked to act as liaison office for rapid information exchange;
- a rapid exchange of parliamentary documents free of charge should be developed between parliaments; this would close the gap of the UNESCO Convention on the exchange of official publications which does not include parliamentary documents;
- staff exchanges would familiarise parliamentary staff with the different working methods of other parliaments and different legal services;
- exchange of parliamentary documents on microform should be encouraged;

- important publications of libraries of parliaments and the EP and PACE, including annual activity reports, should be transmitted to a Centre for data exchanges which would prepare and distribute lists;
- a catalogue of titles of periodicals available in parliamentary libraries should be prepared and updated; in a second stage it could be envisaged to coordinate the classification, indexation and recording of periodical articles;
- information on research programmes of national parliaments which interest other parliaments should be submitted to a Centre for data exchanges so that summaries could be prepared and updated;
- detailed questionnaires on procedural matters of parliaments should be prepared, while avoiding duplication with the ASGP;
- establishment of a common parliamentary thesaurus;
- usefulness of connecting national parliaments to EURONET and to CELEX, the computer-based research system of EC law.

According to the study, because of the many proposals listed above to facilitate exchanges, a Centre for the exchange of data with the task of coordinating and developing projects for information exchanges would be necessary. This Centre should be the EP Secretariat (Directorate General for Research) and the staff for the Centre should be kept to the minimum.

Furthermore, it resulted clearly from the outcome of the seminar of experts held on 3 and 4 February 1977 that the officials of the national parliaments were strongly in favour of co-operation within a Centre. They had been waiting a long time for the establishment of a coordinated means of contact with the services of the other parliaments, capable of stepping up the flow of information without a corresponding increase in paper work or administrative cost. The experts also considered that a coordination of parliamentary efforts to cope with technological progress would be appropriate.



(Vienna, 10 and 11 June 1977 - Speakers' Conference)

On the basis of the experts' conclusions, the Speakers' Conference held in Vienna on 10 and 11 June 1977 invited the Presidents of the European Parliament and of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to take the appropriate steps to set up the Centre, which became operational since September 1977<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> for detail see the section "The final design takes shape" in the article by Klaus Pöhle "A face-saver turns 25", reproduced in this brochure



(Vienna, 10 and 11 June 1977 - Speakers' Conference)  
Source pictures: Filmarchiv Austria (Wochenschau 26/1977)

#### IV. EVALUATION AND FINAL REMARKS

Without the framework of the Speakers Conference, the Centre would probably not exist. It has therefore rightly been called the spiritual child of the Conference and considered as one of its practical results. Furthermore, from the outset the Centre has regarded itself as being virtually under the overall authority of the Conference, or at least of the meeting of the Secretaries General of the participating parliaments.

The genesis of the ECPRD shows impressively how the initial project to create an independent Institute for parliamentary research with its own infrastructures was adapted in several steps to the practical needs and circumstances of the parliaments of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament and thus constituted the basis for the Centre. The Centre was also conceived as an important link between the EP and the Parliamentary Assembly. They are both responsible for its management (dualistic structure of the Centre); however, for practical reasons the bulk of the Centre's work has always been carried out by the European Parliament, first in Luxembourg and since 1996 in Brussels. The existence of the ECPRD in which both institutions worked together closely and usefully was considered particularly important in 1978/79 when PACE was seeking to establish radically new relations with a profoundly altered European Parliament, due to its direct election.<sup>11</sup>

At least in the early years the ECPRD was called a bridge linking EU parliaments and non EU parliaments. This has permitted staff of non EU member parliaments to familiarize themselves with European parliamentary research and documentation long before their countries became full EU members.

The Centre was also, at least in the beginning, seen as a useful instrument with a view to the first direct elections of the EP (collecting data, editing a brochure with the electoral laws of member states etc).

Some months after the creation of the Centre Klaus Pöhle, the first ECPRD Co-director of the ECPRD questioned if it would be sufficient to rely on information provided by the then twenty-one national parliaments (now 47) of the Centre. He considered that technological progress should be used to gain access to the material of other parliamentary libraries and documentation services than those of the ECPRD. In 1977 as in 2007 the ECPRD was a kind of a hub, radiating to all parliamentary Assemblies in Europe.

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<sup>11</sup> Paragraph 12 of PACE document AS/Parl (32) 30 on the ECPRD





## **B. CURRENT STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE ECPRD**

### **Membership**

The ECPRD members are the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Assembly of the Western European Union and parliamentary chambers where the President is a member of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments. A parliament possessing special guest or observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the COE may participate in the different activities of the ECPRD but may not vote in its bodies. This makes a total of 72 parliamentary chambers able to take part in the ECPRD activities.

### **Governing bodies**

The meeting of Secretaries General of member chambers is the supreme body of the ECPRD and takes the basic decisions. The Secretaries General meet every two years in connection with the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments.

The Conference of Correspondents which holds an annual meeting, is responsible in co-operation with the Co-Directors for the organisation of the activities of the ECPRD. A correspondent is appointed by the Secretary General of each parliamentary chamber to represent the chamber within the conference. The correspondents<sup>12</sup> are selected from officials whose activities bring them in close contact with the ECPRD and who have direct access to the Secretary General of the chamber. This is to facilitate their task of being responsible within their own chamber for relations with the ECPRD.

The Executive Committee is composed of the two Co-Directors and five correspondents elected by the conference of correspondents for a period of three years but they are eligible for re-election. For the elections due consideration is paid to the need to maintain geographical balance in the membership of the Executive Committee.

The two Directors of the ECPRD are responsible for the management of all ECPRD activities and are assisted by the two Co-Secretaries of the ECPRD. The Secretaries General of the European Parliament and of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe each appoints a senior official as Co-Director.

### **Other organs**

Following a decision of the Conference of Correspondents on the appointment of a coordinator for a given area requiring a continuity of activity the Executive Committee appoints the coordinator from among the competent staff of member chambers, with the consent of the chamber concerned for a renewable term of three years.

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<sup>12</sup> On 16.7.1979 the Executive Committee agreed that in particular cases the title of honorary correspondent could be attributed to former correspondents.

On a proposal from the Executive Committee and to meet specific terms, the Conference of Correspondents may set up ad hoc working groups composed of staff of member chambers for a duration which must not exceed three years.



(Kiev, 30 March 2007: Meeting of the Executive Committee and Co-ordinators)

## C. ECPRD: THE FIRST TWELVE YEARS: 1978-1989

*A combination of political, economic and technological factors influenced the course of the ECPRD research activities and priorities from the late seventies to the end of the eighties. As a result, the Centre was active in three key areas: the consolidation of parliamentary democracy in Europe, the spread of information technology in parliamentary documentation systems and European integration.*

### **Fostering parliamentary democracy in Europe**

The creation of ECPRD in 1977 was largely the result of closer cooperation and understanding between all member parliaments with the aim of fostering parliamentary democracy through better dialogue and information-sharing. The running of the Centre was placed jointly in the hands of Mr Klaus Pöhl of the European Parliament and Mr Jean Sabattier of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. It began a regular *Newsletter* in French, German and English in December 1977, prepared by Hanneke Coppolecchia, the assistant of Mr Pöhl for ECPRD.

All the chambers of the Member States of the Council of Europe were invited to appoint a correspondent to liaise with the Centre. They met for the first time in May 1978 to draw up an action plan for future work. It was decided in 1981 that correspondents should meet every 18 months and collaborate closely with the working groups – to oversee their progress, as well as exercising a coordinating function. Over the years they have drawn up action programmes based on the work of the groups, and they have also monitored the Centre's progress.

By the eighties, as more countries in Europe turned to democracy, the Centre endeavoured to support them. Some, like Spain, Greece and Portugal had undergone dramatic socio-political changes during the seventies in the transition from authoritarian to democratic rule. Spain, in particular, was of interest to the ECPRD because of its exemplary transition process to democracy.

Relations with Central and Eastern European countries in the Soviet bloc were also gradually transformed as the cold war thawed and the former Soviet Union experienced important internal changes marking a departure from traditional Communism. The nurturing and consolidation of parliamentary democracy was thus an underlying theme of ECPRD activities throughout the 1980s, growing in importance after the demise of Communist regimes and the break-up of the Soviet bloc in 1989 (**correspondents' meeting, London, 1989**).

Encouraging the relationship with the citizens of Europe was a further strand in the ECPRD's activities. Political participation and public access to information became important aspects of parliamentary democracy to be actively promoted by the Centre (**Lisbon, 1986**).

## **Standardising and rationalising parliamentary documentation systems**

The spread of information technology had a significant impact upon the ECPRD during its first twelve years. The computerisation of data systems which occurred during the eighties brought about enormous changes in the initial organisation of the Centre as parliamentary libraries adopted new cataloguing systems, with microform catalogues being overtaken by online documentary databases. It was in January 1980 that it created its own database, *Base Études*.

While computerisation facilitated communication and information-sharing between member parliaments, the harmonisation of documentation systems and the exchange of information and research which lay at the heart of the ECPRD, it also had the effect of adding to the volume of administrative, technical and organisational matters which the Centre had to deal with. To respond to this, a number of working groups were set up under the aegis of the ECPRD Steering Committee at the **Conference in The Hague (June 1978)** to examine particular areas.

These working groups became the main forum for cooperation within the Centre. Before they were replaced by seminars in later years, the working groups would provide the recommendations which went to make up the action programmes included in the ECPRD reports submitted for approval to the Conference of Speakers. There were regular meetings between the Centre's Steering Committee and the chairmen of the working groups, mainly in Strasbourg, to coincide with meetings of correspondents.

### **Working group activity concentrated on the following areas**

- **Data Processing**

The Working Group on Data Processing and Office Automation aimed at promoting the exchange of information, documents and working papers, the organisation of discussions between experts and the exchange of technical personnel. The group was involved in encouraging the introduction and spread of computerisation throughout the eighties.

Striving for compatibility, the group sought to ensure mutual access to and interrogation of standard parliamentary documentary databases in the face of language barriers (involving translation problems), staff training requirements and a lack of common standards (especially in videotex systems). Exchange visits and training programmes were organised so as to allow better coordination and standardisation between all parliaments.

Moreover, by cooperating with the Commission of the European Community, access by national parliaments was facilitated to the Community's legal and statistical databases, CELEX and CRONOS. In 1983 an inter-institutional information system (INSIS) was introduced and extended to include national administrations and parliaments.

- **Libraries**

Libraries have been an essential element in the development of the parliamentary system of government, although they have not evolved homogeneously. From the outset it was decided that the working groups focusing on microforms and libraries should cooperate closely. In fact, by 1980 they had, to all intents and purposes, been merged.

The Libraries Working Group concentrated mainly on the exchange and training of staff so as to achieve a standardised classification system which would facilitate a smoother and speedier inter-library exchange of information. The first ECPRD publication (February 1980) was a book in three languages entitled *Organization of services in the Parliaments of the EC Member States and in the European Parliament*. It was followed up by a second volume on upper chambers in June 1983. Meanwhile, a more specific *Survey of Parliamentary Libraries, Documentation and Information Services* was issued in collaboration with the UK House of Commons in March 1983. In November 1990 a *Bibliography of bibliographic services of European parliamentary libraries* was produced in collaboration with the German Bundestag.

- **Thesaurus**

A thesaurus is a vital tool which, as part of a computerised documentation system, forms the intellectual basis for organising information databases. Used in connection with parliamentary and legal documentation, it enables source material to be identified more efficiently and more speedily. The objective of the Thesaurus Working Group was to achieve a situation in which the services of each parliament could directly interrogate the databases of the other parliaments. It was concerned to find a more effective parliamentary indexing system in order to deal with the ever increasing complexity of national and international legislation.

The emphasis during the eighties was on developing a multilingual parliamentary thesaurus called 'Eurovoc' which was, in part, an adaptation of the OECD Macrothesaurus. The first edition of Eurovoc was published in two volumes (the alphabetical and subject-oriented versions) and 7 languages in 1984. It was followed by a second, thoroughly revised edition in 1987 and an update in 1990.

In greatly simplified indexing, Eurovoc can be said to have made a significant contribution to European political cooperation.

- **Macroeconomic Research**

The Working Group on Macroeconomic Research was formed in 1987. It evolved from a subcommittee of the Data-Processing Group created in 1983 when the latter was instructed by the Centre to study economic models.

The Macroeconomic Research Working Group dealt with economic forecasts particularly relating to European integration. In 1989 it presented a world economic forecast for 1993 based on the newly developed MIMOSA model, pointing up the macroeconomic interdependence between European countries.

Macroeconomic research still remains a crucial interest of the ECPRD. After the abolition of all working groups at the correspondents' meeting in London in October 2006, a coordinator was appointed in November 2006 for the area of macroeconomic research.

#### ▪ **Research Work**

The Research Working Group was originally set up to provide an appropriate overview of research activities and to satisfy the urgent need for improvements in comparative studies and information-pooling to avoid unnecessary duplication. Despite initial legal, political and intellectual obstacles – since research papers had not been distributed externally prior to the founding of the Centre – profitable collaborative arrangements were soon established, and the Centre had received notification of 3700 studies by 1989, all of these listed with Eurovoc Descriptors in ECPRD News.

To meet the challenge of the Single European Act, the working group was temporarily relaunched in **1989** at the **London correspondents' meeting** where an ad hoc Working Group on Research was set up comprising the Centre's Co-Directors and four correspondents.

#### **Monitoring and documenting European integration**

The ECPRD has always constituted an information and technical interface between European Community members and non-members, divided into the 'small' and the 'big' Conferences of Speakers respectively. It has also served the purpose of facilitating better coordination between the European Parliament and national parliamentary assemblies (**Luxembourg, 1981**).

Although the Centre is not a political forum, its members are national and supranational parliamentary assemblies, each with their own respective political interests. The development of the European Community has therefore influenced the discussion between ECPRD members, particularly with respect to the course of research and the need for information and documentation.

On the occasion of the **Madrid Conference of European Speakers (1980)**, the lessons to be learnt from the first direct elections to the European Parliament were debated, especially in relation to national parliaments and the impact on inter-parliamentary relations. A report on the second European Parliament direct universal suffrage election of June 1984 was presented at the **Paris Conference of Speakers in 1985**. This was framed within a more general account of 'The State of the European Economic Community and its Prospects'.

Monitoring and documenting the implementation of European Community directives in the Member States has always been a priority for the ECPRD.

The development of effective cooperation between the various bodies of parliaments and between their administrative structures has been an important objective of the Centre. This was achieved in the eighties by fostering closer cooperation between different parliamentary committees working on similar issues, and the development of efficient and standardised inter-parliamentary consultation

systems. All this was extremely useful in developing awareness of Community activities within national parliaments, while at the same time serving to increase the sensitivity of Members of the European Parliament to the views and policies of national parliaments (**Rome, 1983**).

With the promulgation of the Single European Act in 1987, the pace of integration increased significantly and this accentuated existing problems of coordination between the European Parliament and national parliaments (**Luxembourg, 1987**).

Fears and doubts by non-European Community Members were expressed when the 'Euro challenge' was discussed in **Berne** at the **1988 Conference of Speakers** (a 'big' conference). In contrast, the overall assessment of the ECPRD presented jointly by the Presidents of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the occasion of the Centre's 10th anniversary was extremely positive:

*'The establishment of a Centre responsible for promoting mutual cooperation between parliaments and their members has proved extremely fruitful. There is therefore no doubt that the Centre should continue its activities.'* (Extract from the report).

The following year in **Madrid** at the **Conference of Speakers**, cooperation and coordination between the Parliaments of the Twelve and the European Parliament, and between national parliaments were the main topic on the agenda. Several proposals for establishing closer ties between different parliamentary actors were put forward in a report focusing on parliamentary integration in post-1992 Europe. The harmonisation of foreign policy amongst the Twelve and the European Parliament was also discussed at the Conference. Although this had been an issue since the **Conference in Copenhagen of 1984**, it was brought to the forefront in view of the forthcoming Single Market of 1992 and debates in the Member States on the subject of parliamentary supervision of foreign policy and, in particular, parliamentary activity in relation to European political cooperation (**Madrid, 1989**).





## D. ECPRD IN THE NINETIES: 1990-1996

*With the fall of communist regimes and the dissolution of the Central and Eastern European bloc starting in 1989, parliamentary democracy in Europe entered a new era. The ECPRD did its bit to ensure that the shift to democracy should be as smooth and efficient as possible. There was a marked increase in the activities of the ECPRD, with the number of meetings and seminars rising sharply. This created a series of administrative, organisational and legal problems, however, as the Centre opened up to new members with a difficult political legacy and dysfunctional parliamentary bureaucracies. By the mid-nineties it was felt that the ECPRD needed reform to enable it to continue its dual role of supporting both the new democracies and the exchange of information and documentation related to European integration. In the run-up to the millennium, the Centre nevertheless proved its ability to cope with demands from both East and West, while evolving and successfully adapting to meet all the new requirements placed upon it.*

### Parliamentary democracy spreads eastwards

Assisting new parliaments in Central and Eastern Europe has been a top priority on the ECPRD agenda since the **1990 Conference of Speakers in Brussels**. Parliamentary democracy in former communist countries has been nurtured and supported by the Centre in a number of ways. One of the most urgent tasks was the development of efficient parliamentary bureaucracies and the training of staff. In 1991 a Pan-European Inter-parliamentary Cooperation Programme was introduced in order to respond to the increasing demand for information and training from Central and Eastern European countries. The main points of the programme were:

- information and training of Central and Eastern European parliamentarians and administrators;
- cooperation in the field of legislation;
- assistance with documentation and the organisation of meetings.

The ECPRD played a role in facilitating all three tasks. The Centre concentrated primarily on providing administrative support and know-how by means of exchange visits for both parliamentarians and administrators. European national parliaments also organised visits on a bilateral basis so as to encourage the spread of information and demonstrate the workings of parliamentary democracy. Often parliamentary libraries had to be rebuilt almost from scratch, and hence the supply of modern tools was particularly important.

Training courses and seminars aimed at both parliamentary officials and parliamentarians were also undertaken by the ECPRD.

The opening-up of the Centre to States in Central and Eastern Europe States was discussed at the **Strasbourg Conference of Speakers of 1992**. Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia had all joined the Council of Europe, thus becoming members of the ECPRD. In addition, Bulgaria and Romania had appointed liaison representatives to cooperate with the Centre. Despite the positive prospects for the ECPRD in this democratisation process, the Centre's rapid enlargement also caused a few worries. It

was feared that too rapid an expansion of the ECPRD might create serious management problems, jeopardising the Centre's activities.

By the **1994 Conference of Speakers**, however, all worries were put aside as some new democracies in Europe were facing tremendous difficulties. ECPRD members strongly urged stepping up cooperation with Central and Eastern European countries. Particular emphasis was put on the introduction and development of information technology, involving training courses in the use of computers and increased contacts between parliamentary officials. Throughout the nineties an increasing number of seminars and conferences took place in Central and Eastern European locations, such as Budapest, Prague, Warsaw, Pułtusk and Tallinn, demonstrating growing enthusiasm for the activities sponsored by the ECPRD.

Under the auspices of the ECPRD, work began in 1995 to gather information and to list the various training activities undertaken by parliaments in the Central and Eastern European countries. Using this data, the International Institute for Democracy organised a Conference in Berlin in May 1997 to evaluate the usefulness of these parliamentary development programmes. The activities of the ECPRD were widely acclaimed at that gathering, it being acknowledged as one of the most dynamic organisations operating in this area.

### **Towards European Union**

The fall of communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe coincided with an intensification of integration in the West. The signing of the Maastricht Treaty in 1992 marked a major turning point in European relations as the Union's area of activity was significantly expanded. Through the introduction by the Treaty on European Union (TEU) of a common foreign and security policy (the 'second pillar', Title V of the TEU) and of cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs (the 'third pillar', Title VI of the TEU), the Union's area of activity was extended well beyond that of the European Communities.

The most fundamental expansion of the European Union, however, was to be found in the provisions laying down the stages of Economic and Monetary Union. The ECPRD followed this process closely, incessantly documenting all new developments and promoting information-sharing. Jointly with national parliaments and the European Parliament, it aimed at facilitating the ongoing negotiation processes. The Committee of Correspondents, in particular, was responsible for encouraging research and comparative studies carried out at national and international level.

At the **1996 Conference of Speakers in Budapest**, 'Parliamentary Government, Democracy and Economic Development' were discussed within the framework of European integration as laid down at the Intergovernmental Conference.

Towards the end of the decade the concerns of East and West came together under the broad heading of parliamentary management and democratisation, with seminars being held on regional upper chambers, the simplification of legislation, electoral law systems and a code of conduct for parliamentary officials.

As the prospect of monetary union created increasing social and political tensions in Member States required to meet the 'Maastricht criteria', the ECPRD Macroeconomic Research Working Group proved to be a valuable source of information for the secretariats of national parliaments. As well as the launch of the Euro, the working group also discussed privatisation, the Employment Pact and possible scenarios for the EU after wide-scale enlargement.

### **A legal status for the ECPRD**

The pressure placed upon the ECPRD by the consolidation of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe, and the intensification of cooperation within the European Union, occasionally reached a critical level. As early as 1992, the rapid expansion of the Centre was regarded with apprehension by those who feared it would lead to an administrative and organisational overload. The ECPRD risked turning into a 'giant with feet of clay' as it lacked an independent budget and had no statutes to govern its structure and activities (**Conference of Speakers, Strasbourg 1992**).

The Centre nevertheless underwent significant structural changes throughout the nineties. At the **1993 meeting of correspondents in Bonn** it was decided to disband all working groups (except Macroeconomic Research and Information and Communication Technology) by the following January. The groups would be replaced by targeted seminars or workshops on specific issues. At the same meeting, a seven-member Standing Committee of Correspondents was appointed up to draft statutes, revise action programmes and sort out budget matters. The Committee of Correspondents, proved short-lived, however, since it was decided at the **1995 Strasbourg meeting of correspondents** that it would be replaced by an Executive Committee (consisting of three correspondents) in 1996. The Executive Committee would cooperate closely with the Centre's Co-Directors on preparing the statutes, as well as devising new means for improving ECPRD members' awareness of the Centre's activities and facilitating two-way communication.

The increasing involvement of the ECPRD in Central and Eastern Europe sparked off a debate on the Centre's nature and function at the **1994 Conference of Speakers in The Hague**. In the absence of statutes and a clear strategy for involvement, it was felt that the ECPRD was treading on dangerous ground and was prone to trespassing into the political domain. However, despite strenuous efforts by the correspondents to reach some agreement on statutes (the issue was on the agenda at every correspondents' meeting from 1991 until 1996), it was not until the **1996 Budapest Conference of Speakers** that a text covering the aims, composition, governing bodies, working methods and financing of the ECPRD was finally agreed upon and officially adopted.

The Statutes defined and clarified the role of the main actors in the organisation. Member parliaments were given a more active role through their correspondents who would appoint three of their number to an Executive Committee, which would be the body responsible for implementing the decisions of the Conference of Correspondents. The new organisation has proved successful in improving communication and cooperation between member parliaments.



## **E. ECPRD IN THE DECADE 1997-2007**

Due to the adoption of the Statutes the Centre could take a new direction on a solid legal basis, although still with pragmatic working methods. It has to be admitted however, that proposals made during the preparatory work for the Statutes, to give the Centre some political tasks, such as the elaboration of studies for COSAC and a suggestion of the Secretary General of the EP to change the name of ECPRD into Centre for Parliamentary Co-operation in Europe did not materialize.

Ten years ago the political juncture was quite favourable for a body such as the ECPRD with a genuine pan-European vocation and potential. After having integrated the European neutral States in 1995 the EP could focus its enlargement policy on the Central and Eastern European States. For its part the Assembly of the Council of Europe which because of the accession of Russia (1996) had become a truly pan-European Organisation was interested to conclude its enlargement. The Centre had every incentive to maintain a network of contacts between the officials of almost fifty national parliaments in the wider Europe. It has regularly received acknowledgements from accession countries on training seminars organised by the ECPRD for parliamentary staff (such as net-fellows), for its assistance to adjust national automation processes and for having promoted a unitary conception for the use of ICT in legislative activity. The subject of the Council of Europe Speakers Conference of 1998 “Challenges for national parliaments in an enlarging democratic Europe” expresses well the priority but also the concerns of the ECPRD in those days.

### **Initiatives taken in 1997/1998 to make the events of the ECPRD more efficient**

Because of the very full programme of ECPRD events in 1997 and 1998 it was considered useful to draw up ECPRD guidelines on the organisational and logistical aspects related to meetings of working groups and seminars. The guidelines were agreed by the conference of correspondents in Strasbourg in October 1998. Since then seminars have started in most cases with a general session introducing the main themes which is followed by discussion in smaller groups. This format has allowed more time for the issues to be debated and allowed more people to be actively involved. As a result, participants have been better prepared, the quality of the discussions has improved and the follow-up to the seminars has been better targeted to the needs of those taking part.

As some major member chambers of the Centre had not sponsored ECPRD events for a long time the Co-Directors used the forum of the 1998 meeting of Secretaries General to submit six proposals for seminars which found host parliaments and were efficiently implemented.

Since 1998 the annual meetings of the conferences of correspondents have had two parts: one deals with the general business of the ECPRD and the other consists of a seminar. Already in 1996 and 1997 information seminars on respectively the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the EP (including parliamentary staff regulations) had taken place during the conferences of correspondents. The 1998 seminar dealt with the European Court of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. In 1999 when meeting for the first

time elsewhere than in Brussels or Strasbourg, namely in Berne, by courtesy of the Swiss Federal Assembly, the correspondents discussed direct democracy.

### **More awareness for the ECPRD and 20th anniversary**

A number of innovations were introduced to broaden the Centre's reach and improve communication with member chambers. The Executive Committee promoted several activities and initiatives as part of an ECPRD awareness campaign. A general information brochure on the structure and activities of the ECPRD was prepared. The Centre's newsletter published since late 1977 was, at the end of 1996, revamped for the circulation of up-to-date information, becoming ECPRD NEWS, with currently two issues per year. Members of the Centre were encouraged to participate in the publication by contributing their own articles and information.

The 20th anniversary of the ECPRD was celebrated at the **correspondents' meeting in Brussels in October 1997** and was marked by the publication of a commemorative brochure and a philatelic first-day cover.

### **The impact of new technology on the ECPRD**

The ever-increasing impact of the IT revolution was naturally reflected in the work of the ECPRD. One of the main themes of the seminars was how parliaments should respond to technological developments, with regard to both the needs of users and the concerns of IT professionals.

Beginning in 1996 the **Parli@ments on the Net** seminar became a regular event, allowing parliamentary users and technicians to share their views on how the Internet could be harnessed to improve parliaments' communication with the general public.

In the course of 1998 two seminars were held on library automation. The first at the European Parliament in June 1998 heard how different parliaments were developing systems for managing data, while the second in Prague in November examined various approaches to the digitisation of documentation and archives, and the problems of compiling catalogues and systems for searching.

The Information and Communication Technology Working Group for its part considered using audio and video Internet streaming, the much-feared 'millennium bug' and the feasibility of an integrated approach to document handling, with a special emphasis on the opportunities opened up by the use of XML (extended mark-up language).

### **The new millennium, the ECPRD 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 2004 EU enlargement**

Although measures were taken, following careful consideration, to improve the Centre's working after 1990, there was no room for complacency. The issues of participation, continuity and greater professionalism continued to be addressed by the bodies responsible for the Centre's management.

The emphasis for topics for ECPRD events in 2000 was laid on the EUROVOC thesaurus, the development of new technologies, the impact of IT on the work of parliaments and on parliamentary management and democratisation. Furthermore, due to the progress of European integration, improved information exchanges on European (EU) but also national legislation was a priority. The 2000 Council of Europe Speakers' Conference discussed the implementation of European norms and the role of parliaments in the fight against organised crime and corruption. For its part the Conference of Speakers of EU parliaments held in Rome in 2000 dealt inter alia with the national implementation of EU legislation and underlined the need for better electronic exchange of EU related information between the parliaments and with the European institutions.

In 2002 the ECPRD celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the conference of correspondents in Athens. The Secretaries General of the EP and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe had sent messages, underlining the achievements of the ECPRD. The Secretaries General expressed both their conviction that the Centre would remain an important tool for parliamentary cooperation and that it made an important contribution to Europe. The conference paid tribute to the spirit of cooperation which prevailed in the Centre and welcomed that there was no discrimination between old and new member chambers of the ECPRD be they large or small. The Centre was a cooperative and as strong as its members allowed it to be. The Athens conference also discussed a "community of parliamentary knowledge" also. Inter alia as a sign of solidarity with the USA, following the attacks on 11 September 2001, the Council of Europe 2002 Speakers' Conference debated the subject "democracies facing terrorism – national strategies".

### **Two years later, in 2004, the ECPRD witnessed a historic occasion.**

Eight Central and Eastern European countries as well as Malta and Cyprus became EU members. Many parliamentary officials of these new EU member States underlined on this occasion how useful the activities of the ECPRD and its network had been for preparing their parliament's accession to the EU. From 9 member States in 1977 the EU had moved up to 25. In 2007, with 27 member States more than half of the ECPRD member countries were part of the EU. It was observed that this new set-up would affect the ECPRD activities. But it was not yet known how.

### **Promoting the electronic exchange of information between parliaments**

This issue was discussed at the afore-mentioned **Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments held in Rome in September 2000** who set up a Working Party with the following mandate:

- establishing common or coordinated criteria for structuring the most significant information of the activities of each parliament on their respective websites;
- making the information available through the use of a common search language and method;
- giving priority to activities related to the national implementation of EU legislation;
- organising an e-mail directory of MPs and officials;

- promoting search instruments capable of connecting the databases of EU legislation and domestic legislation in various countries.

The Working Party's recommendations were endorsed by the Secretaries General at their meeting in Stockholm in November 2001. After further work and discussions at the level of the Secretaries General and Speakers of the EU parliaments they resulted in the IPEX (Inter-parliamentary EU Information Exchange) project. Its objective is to support inter-parliamentary cooperation in the EU by providing a platform for the electronic exchange of EU related information between parliaments. Furthermore, it provides fora for the exchange of views on scrutiny of draft EU legislation including subsidiarity aspects and maintains a calendar of inter-parliamentary meetings in Europe.

For the first time IPEX allows national parliaments to publish their documents on a pan-European website. IPEX has been operational since 30 June 2006 and it is open to all national parliaments in the EU member states, acceding and candidate countries as well as the European Parliament. COSAC and the ECPRD participate in IPEX on an associate basis. At the 2006 ECPRD London conference of correspondents the relationship between IPEX and ECPRD was discussed. On that occasion it was underlined that both systems were complementary. IPEX has methods and objectives which are different from those of the ECPRD since it concentrates on EU legislative matters. Moreover, it addresses itself to a different group of partner countries.

Both the 2000 Speakers Conference of EU parliaments and the working party set up by them also dealt with the ECPRD. Several Speakers expressed the view that the role of the ECPRD should be revitalised and that new knowledge management techniques should be introduced to further cooperation, particularly on the subject of European legislation. The working party recommended that the ECPRD should widen its cooperation activities by embracing more parliamentary services in its network. It also called for the ECPRD to be given the necessary tools to act as a proper digital parliamentary exchange centre, acknowledging that the Centre's website would provide an ideal platform for cooperation and coordination purposes.

### **ECPRD work on legislative matters**

In the last years seminars have been held on the approximation of laws and the transposition of European law into national legislation. These have investigated the very different models which exist in the member parliaments and relations between the legislative authorities and the executive.

Close attention has also been given to the legal and regulatory impact assessment of legislation. Assessment methods may vary from the consultation of interest groups to costly and complex empirical cost-benefit, risk-risk analysis. Debates have focused on the minimum criteria to be respected, the constitutional relationships between governments and parliaments and the role parliaments can exercise in establishing assessment criteria.



## The development of the ECPRD website

From the end of 1996 an embryonic website of the ECPRD was operational as a further means of stimulating inter-parliamentary discussion and information-sharing. At the beginning, the site contained notices of forthcoming events, a list of ECPRD publications, a list of member parliaments with their addresses, telephone numbers and Internet sites and a directory of officials in national parliaments.

It was decided to protect the site with a password for two reasons. First, the information contained in the site would not be of interest to the general public. If there was a wish to distribute any of the information more widely, this could be done via other servers designed for this purpose. Secondly, some elements of the site, e.g. the online *Directory*, had to remain restricted. The site is managed by the secretariat of the ECPRD at the European Parliament and is financed from a European Parliament budget line.

After monitoring the site for a year, the Executive Committee decided that the site could be improved by the making the following modifications, though a series of technical and staffing problems were to hamper their introduction:

- improved links with other sites (e.g. IPU, IFLA, EUROPA);
- a revised structure to facilitate navigation;
- a strengthened 'News' section, with automatic e-mail alerts for important announcements;
- the incorporation of 'open-files' to permit continuous updating of topics of general interest;
- online ordering of studies from national parliaments;
- online registration for ECPRD seminars;
- inclusion of the programme of the International Institute for Democracy.

In view of the pace of change both in terms of the Centre's role and the technologies involved, the structure, layout and content of the Centre's website are naturally subject to continuous reassessment. A clear desire to see the development of a more user-friendly and powerful website for the ECPRD had been expressed at the meeting of Secretaries General held in Strasbourg in March 2000. A new site was presented at the Conference of Correspondents in Berlin in the October of that year, and considerable changes were made subsequently to take account of the findings of a survey conducted amongst its members.

Work continued to create a genuine working tool for parliaments which would enable them to enter a full set of comprehensive information and exchange forums and platforms through a single access point.

Perhaps the most important change during that redesign process was the creation of a *Legislative Box* dealing with EU legislation and offering a comprehensive overview of all relevant procedural stages in the adoption of particular EU-legislative proposals, in the form of either hyperlinks or authentic new products. The Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments decided to create IPEX, a network

with the objective of supporting inter-parliamentary cooperation in the European Union by providing a platform for the electronic exchange of EU-related legislative information between parliaments in the Union. A link to IPEX has obviously been added to the ECPRD website.

Secondly, national parliaments would use of a simplified system for registering their parliamentary studies and background notes of international relevance. These, together with pertinent studies produced elsewhere (e.g. EU-institutions, other international forums and think tanks), constitute the *Studies Box*. Other suggestions received have focused on the strengthening of cooperation amongst parliamentary libraries and documentation services, so links to parliamentary libraries' websites and access to professional networks, were also added to the website.

Following of the transfer of the ECPRD Secretariat to the newly created Directorate for Relations with national Parliaments in the European Parliament (January 2006), the creation of the new website has encountered a whole range of technical problems and only in mid 2007 was it possible to create a new website with some new tools. Meanwhile, the ECPRD server had been re-hosted and installed outside the firewalls of the European Parliament in order to facilitate the use of the site.

A more important revision of the website is foreseen for 2008 with a more extended search engine for the whole site.

### **The ECPRD Net-Fellow project**

Following a suggestion made at the **Conference of Correspondents held in Berlin in October 2000**, an opportunity had been created for young officials working in the parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe to visit the European Parliament in Brussels and to participate in the work of the Centre, joining the ECPRD Secretariat for a period from 4 to 6 weeks.

From January 2001 to July 2003, 22 'ECPRD net-fellows', assisted with the management of the Centre's website, ensuring its updating and contributing to the content of the site by writing original pieces, referring to articles of interest to parliamentary officials or highlighting recent developments in their national parliaments.

The Net-Fellows were given a first-hand opportunity to acquaint themselves with the working methods of the European Parliament and were helped to establish contacts in other EU-institutions. They continued to receive their salary and other benefits from their national parliament, but, in order to cover additional expenses, they received a stipend from the European Parliament and their travel and accommodation expenses were defrayed.

After their return to their national parliaments, a consistent number of our net-fellows remained actively involved in ECPRD activities.

## Knowledge management - organisation of ECPRD seminars

Every parliament shares the need to organise information in such a way that it will be both accessible and understandable. It is therefore not surprising that many of the ECPRD events in recent times should have been dedicated to the discipline of acquiring, processing, selecting and distributing information in an integrated manner known as 'knowledge management'.

Between 1996 and now (including the seminars to be held in November 2007), 44 seminars were organised. Furthermore, 74 other meetings took place in that period including the following:

- Secretaries General of parliaments participating in the ECPRD (6 meetings);
- Correspondents (12);
- Executive Committee (24);
- two working groups of the Centre ( ICT: 14; Macroeconomic Research (15);
- ad-hoc working group on the revision of the ECPRD Statutes (3).



(Bucharest, 14 October 2005 - Conference of Correspondents)

Between 2004 and 2006 fewer seminars were organised namely 10. This was mainly due to a fewer number of proposals from national parliaments and because of organisational changes in the ECPRD.

Thanks to efforts made at all levels, the seminars as a whole in recent years have been less fragmentary and more focused on subjects of common interest for national parliaments. The evaluation of the results of seminars has been improved. When filling out the evaluation forms participants indicate proposals for subjects to be followed up by the ECPRD.

Further progress is expected when the revised Guidelines for the organisation of ECPRD seminars are adopted at the Conference of Correspondents in October 2007. One of the changes proposed is that when the subject of a proposed seminar falls within the field of activity of an ECPRD coordinator, he/she will be consulted and involved in the preparations for the seminar.

The subjects of the seminars in the period 1996-2007 have been, as in the more remote past, quite diverse. About 60% of the seminars dealt with subjects relating mainly to parliamentary administration. These seminars frequently aimed at finding ways to improve the professional and non-partisan services supplied to Members of parliaments. They dealt in particular with various aspects of parliamentary research and library services (including the electronic library), parliamentary archives, selection of databases for parliaments, EUROVOC, staff matters, including codes of conduct and appraisal of parliamentary staff, features of specific parliamentary services, legislative services, budget-departments and procedural issues (voting on amendments, quorum, members' presence). Such seminars also offer specialists a good opportunity for benchmarking and technical discussions on such issues as the skills required to manage the transition between traditional print-based services and electronic information transfer services, the principles for the subject searching of full-text parliamentary databases and the compatibility and security of parliamentary information systems.

Particular attention has been given to the XML family of standards which is expected to greatly facilitate the production and management of parliamentary documents, and hence be of enormous benefit to the exchange of relevant papers between national parliaments.

About 40% of the subjects of seminars organised in the last decade present a clear interest not only for the parliamentary administration but also for other circles. Examples are:

- role of European Affairs Committees in parliament;
- law-making and parliamentary control of the Executive;
- bicameralism in Europe, coordination of interests and positions;
- approximation of laws and parliamentary support to PECO parliaments;
- security in parliaments;
- supranational and international parliamentary Assemblies in Europe;
- electoral law;
- parliaments and central banks;
- press and parliamentary openness and accountability;
- keeping parliament informed: the challenge of the Intergovernmental Conference; and
- simplification of legislation

By means of further seminars the ECPRD has encouraged the debate on how new technologies may modify the system of parliamentary democracy, the role of parliaments and their relations with citizens.

## Comparative requests

In its first years the ECPRD acted as a kind of Clearing House for exchanging of information about studies prepared by the research departments of parliaments. Later a database “studies“ was created. After the mid 90s comparative requests became slowly but surely the most important means of action of the ECPRD.

The number of requests is steadily growing: 10 in the year 2000, 32 in 2001, 58 in 2002, almost 100 in 2003, about 140 in 2004, 160 in 2005, 174 in 2006 and 153 in the first eight months of 2007 (of which 118 in the first semester).

<b>YEAR-Semester</b>	<b>Requests</b>	<b>Replies</b>
<b>2000-1</b>	4	
<b>2000-2</b>	6	
<b>2001-1</b>	13	197
<b>2001-2</b>	19	311
<b>2002-1</b>	25	416
<b>2002-2</b>	33	431
<b>2003-1</b>	51	809
<b>2003-2</b>	45	728
<b>2004-1</b>	77	1221
<b>2004-2</b>	60	1073
<b>2005-1</b>	98	1855
<b>2005-2</b>	62	1039
<b>2006-1</b>	98	1863
<b>2006-2</b>	76	1496
<b>2007-1</b>	118	2474

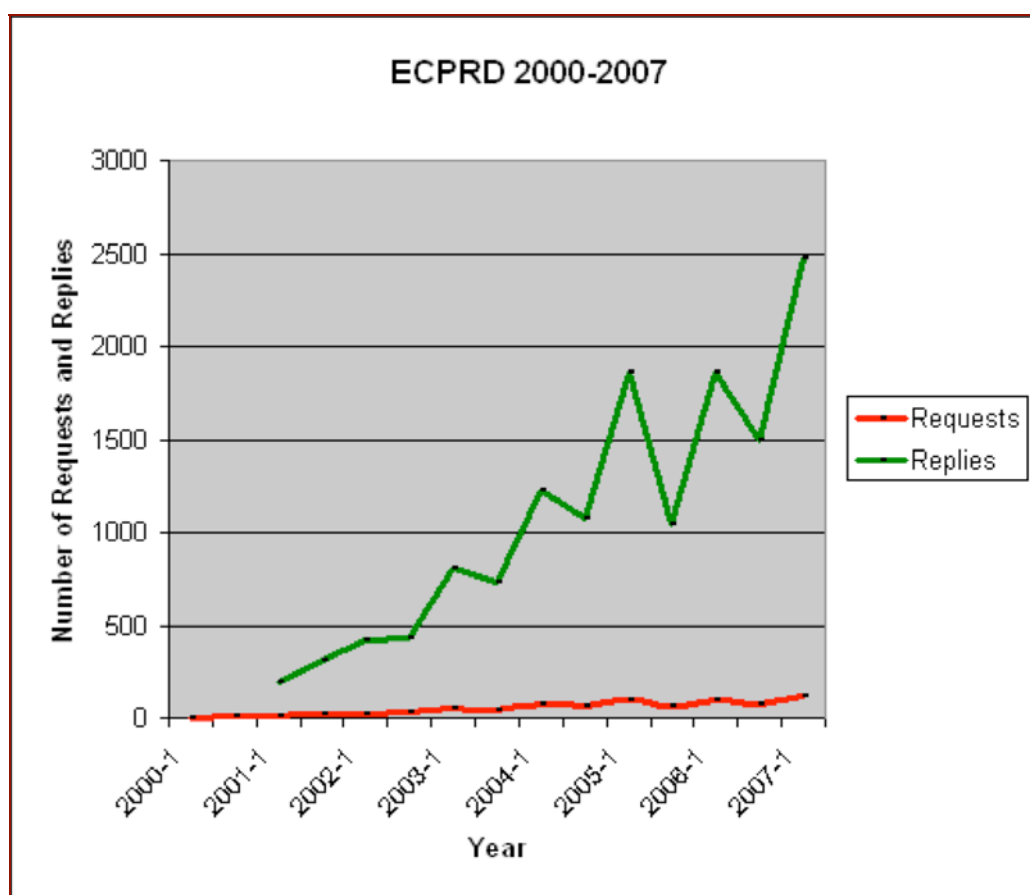
(Table Number of Requests and Replies, 2000-Mid 2007)

An analysis of 50 comparative requests dating from late 2006 suggests that on average about eighteen replies were received on requests addressed only to the EU parliaments. Requests addressed to all participating parliaments were answered on average by 27 chambers. More generally, 2294 replies were given in 2004 and 2894 in 2005; 3359 in 2006 and 2474 replies were received following the 118 requests made in the first semester of 2007 (2856 for the first eight months), which gives an average of 21 compared with 14 in 2002. All these replies are available on the website and are often used by all parliamentary documentation services.

However, even though the Guidelines for Comparative Requests make a clear reference to the need for the preparation of a final analysis, only about 15% of comparative requests result in a summary been provided by the chamber which originally put the request. The ECPRD Secretariat encourages the drafting of such final summaries and it also accepts those drafted in a non official language of the Centre as long as a summary in English, French or German is included.

Another analysis of 80 requests prepared in 2005 by the Slovenian ECPRD correspondent, shows that more than half of all questions/requests relate to parliamentary issues and more than one third refer to national legal systems. Less than one fifth of questionnaires include issues not relating to parliament or national legislation.

In 2006 the ECPRD guidelines for comparative studies of 2003 were revised with a view to simplifying them so that they were more likely to be observed. It was considered in particular that the 2003 classification of different types of requests served little useful purpose and was largely ignored.



Graphic Requests and Replies 2000 - Mid-2007

## Eurovoc

One project which has established itself as an essential tool in the midst of the information explosion is the Eurovoc thesaurus. Every year thousands of items are added to the documentation generated about the activities of the European Union which makes the individual pieces of information that people actually require, increasingly difficult to locate. Eurovoc acts as a common denominator between all the documentation systems involved in handling this vast amount of information by providing a structured and controlled multilingual vocabulary which covers all fields of EU activity. Eurovoc has enabled libraries, documentation services and documentary databases to manage their holdings and to process information with far greater efficiency and has proved an invaluable aid to the clients of these services by rationalising the work involved in making a documentary search. Moreover, Eurovoc's strategic importance has grown in as much as many parliaments outside the

EU have committed significant budgetary and human resources to translating it into their own languages, and they have found the thesaurus to be an excellent tool in working with the *acquis communautaire*.

However, it was not long before the edition of Eurovoc published in 1995 (version 3.0) was found wanting on a whole string of topics emerging in the political, scientific and other spheres. Urgent work was set in hand on an intermediate version (3.1) entailing the creation of new concepts (e.g. 'Treaty of Amsterdam', 'BSE', 'Internet'), changes in the wording of some descriptors, corrections to translations; as well as the addition of non-descriptors; and structural modifications (e.g. economic and political geography).

This work was completed in November 2000. However, it had always been recognised that what was needed was a thorough revision of the terminology and structure of the thesaurus. A new maintenance system was announced at the ECPRD seminar in Madrid in October 1999 in the form of a protected Internet site on the *Europa* server with an Oracle database which participants could consult and use to register their proposed modifications completely electronically.

The project was to be run by a steering committee and a maintenance committee, with the European Parliament being represented on both. Three distinct user groups were identified – EU institutions, looked after by the European Commission; national parliaments, looked after by the European Parliament; and other users, who have been the responsibility of EUR-OP (the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities).

As part of the ECPRD programme of seminars, the European Parliament has, since November 2000, hosted several meetings of parliamentary users in Brussels to permit a pooling of experience and an exchange of ideas about the future of Eurovoc.

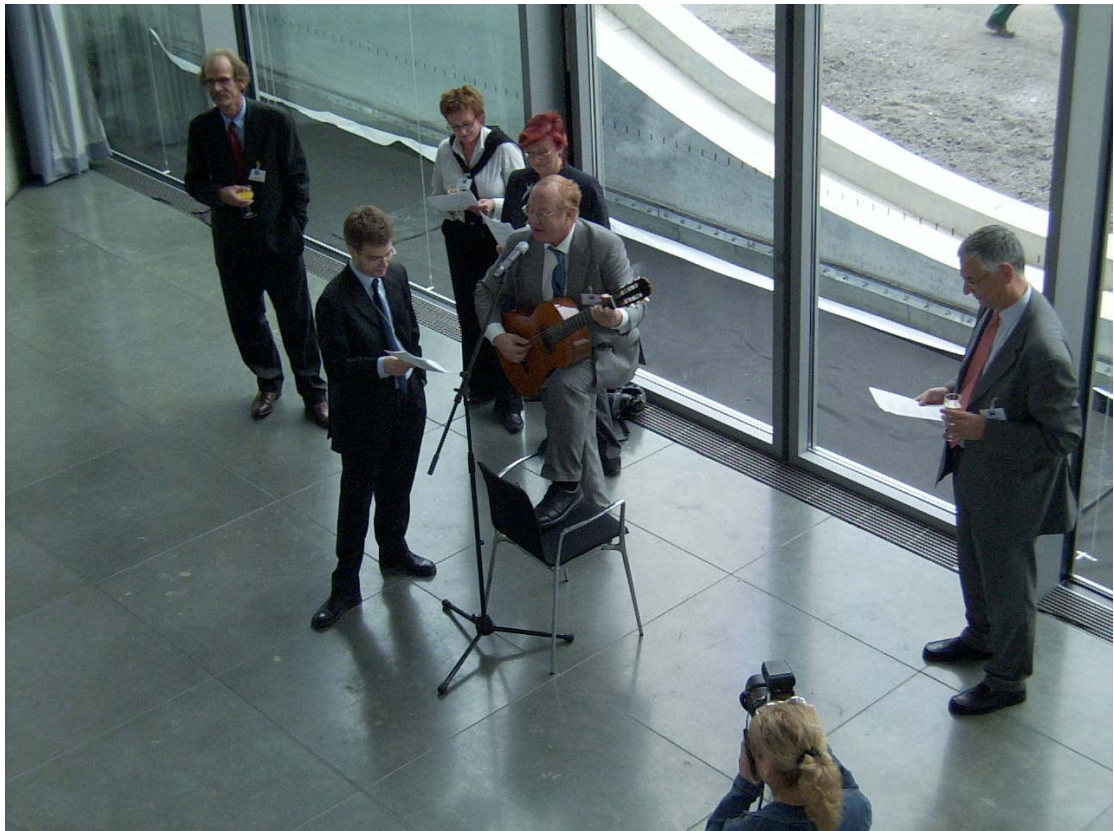
At present, the Eurovoc Thesaurus version 4.2. exists in 21 official languages of the European Union and in one other language (Croatian). In addition to these versions, it has been translated by the Parliaments of a number of countries: Albania, Russia and Ukraine (site: <http://www.eurovoc.europa.eu>).

### **Highlights of ECPRD activities 2004 -2007**

In addition to its ordinary business the 2004 Conference of Correspondents in Berlin said good bye to Mr Toornstra who after almost 10 years had left the post of EP Co-Director of the ECPRD. Correspondents also had a debate with a German expert on cooperation and coordination between national and regional parliaments.



(Berlin, 14-15 October 2004 - Conference of Correspondents)



(Berlin, 14-15 October 2004 - Conference of Correspondents)  
"Tribute to Maître D"  
(Song also available on website - go to Reports Berlin 2004)



Several of the seminars organised in 2004 had special features. The Slovak parliament was the host of a seminar on parliamentary public relations. It included an exhibition of materials used by different national parliaments for public relation purposes. Since 1990 this issue has been regularly debated within the ECPRD.

In May 2004 ECPRD chambers discussed for the first time security issues at a seminar in Ljubljana. The host parliament had prepared a very complete analysis of the replies of 22 parliaments to a questionnaire on security in parliaments. In the centre of the discussions was the dilemma of finding the right balance between the need for openness of parliaments as symbols of democracy and that for improving security of parliamentary premises.

A further 2004 seminar in London dealt with “Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services, meeting users changing needs”. One main aim was to identify examples of best practice. Participants included representatives from Canada, Israel, the USA and delegates from the Scottish Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

In 2005 only one seminar was held, in Madrid on "Technical aspects of relations between the EP and national parliaments of EU States". Special attention was given to the role and tasks performed by the correspondents of national parliaments in the EP.

In 2006 the Polish Senate organised for the first time in the history of the ECPRD a seminar on “Supranational Parliamentary and Inter-parliamentary Assemblies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. The discussions of the seminar were reproduced in a book published by the Polish Senate. A complete list of those supranational and inter-parliamentary forums in which the national (and supranational) parliaments of European countries are involved was also published.

### **2006 was a year where the ECPRD was particularly productive.**

In December 2006 a new ECPRD Co-Director for the EP was appointed (Mr Nowina-Konopka). Revised ECPRD Statutes were adopted at the meeting of Secretaries General in Tallinn in May 2006. They provide for:

- an enlarged Executive Committee (two additional members were elected);
- the appointment of Coordinators for four ECPRD areas of interest requiring continuous action (see below),
- the establishment of an ECPRD programme and priorities for the coming two years to be submitted to the meeting of Secretaries General of parliaments.

Additionally revised Guidelines for studies and comparative requests were adopted and revised Guidelines on seminars were prepared.

Furthermore, preparations were made to launch a new ECPRD website in 2007. For the first time draft priorities of the Centre’s work for two years were submitted to the Tallinn meeting (2006) of Secretaries General.

In 2007 four seminars will take place. The most “innovative” will be the one on “Parliaments and Judiciary: judicial control of parliamentary acts” to be held in Brussels by the Belgian Federal Parliament in November 2007.

## **Proposals for ECPRD action from the Conferences of Presidents/Speakers of Parliaments**

In the past both the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments and the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament of the Parliamentary Assembly or the meetings of Secretaries General of Parliament have occasionally given mandates to the ECPRD or referred to its work. More recently, the Guidelines on inter-parliamentary cooperation adopted by the 2004 EU Speakers' Conference of Speakers mention the ECPRD, in addition to IPEX, as a tool for inter-parliamentary cooperation in the EU. In 2006 the Speakers of EU Parliaments noted the work carried out by the Polish Senate in cooperation with the ECPRD on the rationalisation of inter-parliamentary cooperation.

In 2007 after having examined a report of a task force on assistance to parliaments of new or emerging democracies (NEDs) the Speakers of EU-parliaments took inter alia two decisions concerning improved information exchange on assistance programmes. The first was to implement a database on assistance to NEDs within the IPEX website including information from EU-parliaments and the European Commission. Secondly, the Speakers agreed to expand the coordination and exchange of information on NEDs Europe-wide by using the ECPRD. They suggested that the incoming Presidency could ask the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament to assess the possibility of using the ECPRD for setting up a project- in cooperation with IPEX - with the purpose of ensuring the exchange of information on NEDs Europe-wide.

### **External relations of the ECPRD**

Under the revised Statutes the Centre may cooperate with non European parliamentary chambers. Some interest in the ECPRD has already been expressed by the Secretariat of the Pan-African Parliament of the African Union. It is recalled that the Israeli Knesset which is a member of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament and the US Congress have participated actively since 2005 in the comparative requests exercise. The issue of relations between the Centre and parliaments of non-European parliaments is on the agenda. It is hoped that one of the next Conferences of Correspondents will adopt conclusions in this area.

### **Cooperation with other networks for inter-parliamentary information exchange in Europe**

According to its revised Statutes the Centre shall cooperate with other networks dealing with the exchange of information among parliaments in Europe. One of the ECPRD priorities for 2007 is to cooperate with such networks with a view to avoiding duplication of activities. The Centre participates in IPEX on an associate basis.

At several ECPRD events the need of regular relations with COSAC was raised. Furthermore renewed contacts with the ASGP (Association of Secretaries General of Parliament) are envisaged.

## **Publications**

The usefulness of conventional publications has always been taken into account by the ECPRD. In 2000 the Centre began a new series of publications on issues of parliamentary practice. These studies provide an easy-to-consult and accessible introduction for both public service practitioners and members of the public to the major issues of parliamentary activity. The booklets are the result of comparative studies produced in close cooperation with the correspondents and are often based on a request for documentation. The following publications have been produced so far: *Electoral Systems in Europe*, *Parliamentary Codes of Conduct in Europe, an Overview and Rules on Parliamentary Immunity*, *European Affairs Committees - the Influence of National Parliaments on European Politics, an Overview*; *Knowledge and Power - the essential Connection between Research and the Work of the Legislator, a European Overview*; *Election and Mandate of Members of the EP*. All these publications are available via the website in full text.

The ECPRD published a book in 2001 on *Parliamentary Library, Research and Information Services of Western Europe* in cooperation with the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments.

The Centre has revised and updated its presentation brochure and the guide on practical rules for the organisation of seminars. The revised Statutes of the ECPRD are available in 5 languages. A new, expanded *Directory* has been produced which now includes additional sectors and relevant addresses in national parliaments and an updated paper version is published every second year.

During the first semester of 2006, M. Jeffrey C. Griffith, Former Chief Legislative Information Officer and ECPRD Correspondent in the Congressional Service (USA) was hosted by the ECPRD Secretariat in the European Parliament in Brussels and during this period he drafted the ECPRD publication *Beyond Transparency: New standards for Legislative Information Services*.

Finally, in close cooperation with the national parliaments which have hosted ECPRD seminars, some topical publications have been produced on the debates and conclusions of these conferences, e.g. *Independent Parliamentary Research Services* with the Ukrainian Rada, *Legal and Regulatory Impact Assessment of Legislation* with the Estonian parliament, *Supranational Parliamentary and Inter-parliamentary Assemblies in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Europe* with the Polish Senate, *The Role of Legislative Services in the Legislative Process*, with the Polish Sejm, and finally *Legislative Observatory: Transparency of Legislative Process in Parliament*, also with the Polish Sejm.

-A complete list of ECPRD publications is to be found in annex 3-.

## **Revision of the Statutes**

In May 2004 the Secretaries General of Parliament meeting in connection with the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments decided to set up a small Working Group of Secretaries General to propose some modifications of the ECPRD's Statutes.

During that meeting several participants had observed that the 1996 Statutes in a way limited the Centre's activities to parliamentary information, research and documentation, whereas the real work of the ECPRD included also administrative and legislative questions of parliament. Another SG said that he would like to see more staff from the parliamentary committee offices as participants in ECPRD activities. A further question referred to the ad hoc group was the possibility for the Centre to work directly with regional Parliaments. The ad hoc group (with the official title Working Group on the Revision of the ECPRD Statutes) started its activities at the end of October 2004, held three meetings and agreed that there was no need for a general revision of the Statutes but only for their adaptation. Furthermore, it was agreed that it would be inappropriate for the Centre to admit regional parliaments as partners of the ECPRD at the same level as national parliaments.

Among the most important changes of the Statutes proposed by the Working Group were the following:

- the description of the Centre's task was widened to include all fields of the functioning of parliamentary administration; moreover, the word "legislation" was added as a separate item to the Centre's duties, it being understood that the Centre only exchanged information on legislation (article 1 of the Statutes);
- promotion by the Centre of the use of information and communication technology methods and projects in the exchange of information (article 1);
- a new heading and a new article in the Statutes were devoted to the meeting of the Secretaries General as the supreme body of the ECPRD taking the basic decisions (article 4);
- the composition of the Executive Committee was enlarged to include five Correspondents, taking account of the ECPRD's increased membership (article 7);
- the respective roles of the Executive Committee and the Conference of Correspondents were better defined (articles 5 to 7);
- the appointment of coordinators in areas requiring continuous activity, already proposed in 1993 and existing de facto since 2001 was written into the Statutes (article 9.3);
- the possibility of creating working groups (of which two had survived efforts since 1993 to abolish them), was deleted in the Statutes; however the conference of correspondents kept the possibility of setting up project-oriented ad hoc working groups for a maximum duration of three years (article 9.4).

After having been examined by the ad hoc group at two meetings the new draft Statutes were circulated to the ECPRD correspondents for possible comments and consideration at the Conference of Correspondents held in Bucharest in October 2005. Afterwards they were reviewed and adopted by the ad hoc group in January 2006. Subsequently they were sent to the Secretaries General of member chambers for amendments in time for the meeting of Secretaries General in Tallinn in May 2006 on the occasion of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments. Finally, the draft new Statutes were adopted with some amendments in Tallinn in May 2006.

While the current Statutes have not been any obstacle for the Centre's activities their new version clarifies the Centre's institutional set-up up and achieves a better balance between its main actors. They also express the Centre's determination

to constantly adapt itself to new situations and needs. Some of the new provisions have already been applied.

### **The appointment of coordinators**

The Conference of Correspondents held in London on 12 and 13 October 2006 decided on the appointment of coordinators for four areas of interest:

- ICT in parliaments
- Macroeconomic research
- Parliamentary practice and procedure
- Parliamentary libraries, research and archives.

In November 2006 the Executive Committee of the ECPRD appointed the coordinators who have already participated in meetings of the Executive Committee; their input, inspired by practical needs, was much appreciated.

In the meantime lists with the tasks and duties of coordinators have been prepared by the ECPRD. It is expected in particular that coordinators will:

- promote close cooperation with the ECPRD member chambers in the area he/she is responsible for following new developments, inform the ECPRD organs thereof and transform information obtained into new ideas and proposals for ECPRD projects;
- liaise with correspondents and officials in national chambers and international parliamentary institutions who are active within his/her area of responsibility with a view to rapid information exchange, to discuss with representatives of these chambers possibilities of organising ECPRD events and assisting them in organising such event;
- contribute to the establishment of a detailed programme of activities organised by member chambers.

For each area of ECPRD activities followed by coordinators, lists of subjects coming under these areas have been established. It will be important for the ECPRD soon to give to coordinators the ability to have their own section in the website where they may add information directly.



Annual Conference of Correspondents, London (14 October 2006)



## F. OUTLOOK

Thirty years ago the Conference of Speakers of European Parliamentary Assemblies concluded in Vienna that efforts to gather information from documents, research and proposals should be sustained, coordinated and as extensive as possible. These words have lost nothing of their significance. In view of the complexity of the world and due to globalisation, inter-parliamentary relations are more necessary than ever. As the end-users of the ECPRD comparative studies and replies to comparative requests are parliamentarians, an efficient ECPRD will strengthen the role of national parliaments in the political process. Strong parliaments are an essential counterweight in the growing dominance of executive agencies in an ever more international and institutionalised world.

In the context of the ongoing enlargement of the European Union and the debate on its governance, the ECPRD has every incentive to continue to provide a network for contacts between parliamentary officials throughout the region. Indeed, particularly as regards the issue of EU enlargement, the Centre has considerable first-hand experience to contribute to the EU in the light of its own expansion and the knowledge it has acquired of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The Centre is always responsive to suggestions coming from parliaments. Most of the changes which have occurred over the years have begun in this way.

The ECPRD will contribute to the creation of a genuine community of parliamentary knowledge in which all European Parliaments can benefit and play a role. To this end it will aim at continuous improvement, making full use of emerging technologies for parliamentary work. One may predict that, in the years ahead, the Centre will concentrate on ICT in parliaments, macroeconomic research, parliamentary practice and procedure and finally, parliamentary libraries and research. It will, at the same time, remain sufficiently flexible to deal with all issues concerning parliamentary administration however unexpected, as and when they arise. Furthermore, the website of the ECPRD should become a one-stop shop for national parliaments wanting to share their information with other parliaments, tracking EU legislation, making best use of common practices and keeping abreast of current and topical issues.





## **G - CONTRIBUTIONS:**

1- Klaus Pöhle

2- Maria Rosa Ripollés Serrano

3- Nataša Glavnik

4- Dick Toornstra

5- Robert Clements

6- Jeffrey Griffith



## A FACE-SAVER TURNS 25!\*

*Klaus Pöhle* († 2007)

*First co-director of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation from 1977 to 1994.*

The success of the Centre owes its origins to the inattentiveness of a European Parliament President, the smouldering animosities between the European Parliament (EP) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and an unwelcome proposal by a president of the French National Assembly. It also serves as an object lesson on the reluctance of national parliaments to venture into the international arena and so encroach upon the preserve of governments.

The European Parliament wanted to set up a conference of the Speakers of the European Union's parliaments as a permanent institution. The idea was that this would enable the EP to cooperate closely with the parliaments of the Member States and form a counterweight to government dominance. But Cornelis Berkhouwer, President of the EP, sprang a surprise by sending invitations to the Council of Europe, which resulted in all parliamentary Speakers from the Council of Europe being invited to attend the next conference, to be held in Rome in 1975.

The new EP President, Georges Spénale attended anyway, although this greatly enlarged conference could hardly serve the EP's original purpose. Secretary-General Hans Nord and I had been selected to act as advisers to the President for this conference. The plans for Rome provided for lavish hospitality but little of substance, and the degree of rivalry between the two transnational parliaments had been underestimated. But, in any case, the conference wanted to adopt at least one constructive resolution.

Edgar Faure, President of the French National Assembly, eased the tension by proposing that an institute of academic standing should be set up to study and evaluate contemporary parliamentarianism. The speakers welcomed Faure's idea, though with some misgivings on the budget. And so, after lunch on a hillside outside Rome, an unprepared and therefore chaotic 'drafting conference' took place, resembling an over-excited stock exchange, with no seats or interpreters and no chairmanship. Anyone who wanted to make a point had to speak French and have a sufficiently loud voice.

So far as it was compatible with the interests of the EP, I was also supposed to be representing those of the two houses of the German Parliament, the Bundestag and Bundesrat, their secretaries-general having besought me to do so. I constantly found myself catching the sorrowful eye of a secretary-general who was unable to make any sense of the general melee. The Speakers waited with unaccustomed patience for some three hours for the results of the drafting conference. My schedule was thrown into disarray: I had booked the only direct flight after 8 p.m. that would take me back to my pregnant wife in Luxembourg. As a special concession, President Spénale allowed me to go.

## **The search for a way out**

Back in Luxembourg, we immediately embarked on a thorough analysis of the passages of the final communiqué that related to the institute, searching for a solution that would suit the majority of parliaments.

As we saw it, what Faure meant by an 'institute' would involve a building, academic and non-academic staff and other ongoing expenditure on equipment, official travel, publications, etc. Yet most of the parliamentary representatives already had problems getting the annual membership fee to the Inter-parliamentary Union allotted. President Spénale, of course, was unable to volunteer complete or substantial payment of these costs by the EP.

We began with the money. The creation of a new budget item for each parliament had to be avoided. However, traditional budget items - library, documentation, publications, etc. - could easily be increased if necessary without much expense. Our second line of attack was directed against the actual concept of the institute. Rather than creating a European institute for the study of contemporary parliamentarianism and its future in Europe, a subject for which abundant professorial chairs and institutes already existed in all Member States, several Speakers at the Rome conference had already expressed a preference for practical cooperation rather than purely theoretical analysis.

## **The final design takes shape**

To insiders, it was clear from the outset that even the specific plan, and certainly the subsequent centre, would have to be designed by the EP and not by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which would be unable to provide either human or financial resources for that purpose.

The study drafted by the EP and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe helped to calm the general atmosphere regarding the centre, and enabled the final decision in Vienna in 1977 to move still further away from the idea of an institute. The Conference of Speakers of European Parliamentary Assemblies became the supreme authority, to which the Presidents of the EP and of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe would submit regular reports.

So we hunted through fields in which the parliaments were already active where cooperation might prove useful and generate synergistic effects. Cooperation between the academic staffs with a view to making better reciprocal use of previous studies is always an obvious option. Today, rather than allowing many weeks to elapse, information can be procured much more quickly by way of direct contact between parliaments. The same principle applies to parliamentary archives and databases.

The budgets of the individual houses of parliament already include items for these services. Where these had to be increased, we ventured to assert that there would be compensatory savings, or at least improvements in quality. Thus the exchange of learned journals could be facilitated. When implementing EU directives, parliaments often have problems with the precise meaning of European terminology. Glossaries and the assistance of Eurovoc specialists can be helpful here.

All that remained to be done was to find a generally acceptable name for the proposed network. Nord, Bieber and I agreed on the title 'European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation'. The name 'Centre' allows the institution both to put forward ideas and to coordinate the various activities. Only a modest

degree of institutionalisation was aimed at, to avoid petty jealousies. The Centre was to be based at the EP and run by two co-directors - one supplied by the EP and the other by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

In the EP, being accustomed to international activities every day, we underestimated the lack of confidence that would be felt by speakers and officials of national parliaments venturing into the transnational arena. Working contacts with national authorities were a matter of course, but those with foreign parliaments were not. Parliamentary chambers and impressive reception areas were proudly displayed to foreign visitors, but insights into internal procedures were avoided wherever possible. The impression was that this would be too close to an unpatriotic exposure of the soul of the parliament. There was also resistance to the very idea of any attempt to change established administrative practices in order to facilitate transnational cooperation. It was only after relatively frequent meetings that the atmosphere became more relaxed. From parliaments, too, European integration requires a great deal of patience, increasing insight and the objective weighing of advantages and disadvantages.

Work on the establishment of the Centre began in Luxembourg in September 1977. If only to avoid adding to the costs of travel, I held regular meetings of the Executive Committee in Strasbourg during the monthly part-session of the EP, to enable specialist officials of the EP and of the Parliamentary Assembly to attend. The Centre still serves as a link between the EP and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, although only at secretariat level.

The parliaments sometimes had problems finding the most suitable correspondents for their houses. The person suggested by order of precedence did not always have the expertise in matters relating to the Centre, and frequently had no authority at all. Established national hierarchies regarded the Centre as a foreign body. Like an oil tanker, it had to make a lumbering change of course towards inter-parliamentary cooperation.

### **A retrospective balance sheet**

All parliaments have their weaknesses, and are therefore shy of transparency, to avoid any damage to their prestige. The national parliaments have been (and still are?) particularly poor at monitoring EU legislation adequately and transposing it into national law. The Conference of Speakers believes that its child, the ECPRD, has helped cooperation between parliaments, but it is beneath its elevated dignity to concern itself in detail with such 'minor technical issues'. Faint praise and 'Carry on as before' have to suffice.

One welcome exception followed the collapse of the Soviet empire. At a Conference of Speakers held in Brussels in June 1990, the Speakers enthusiastically adopted a proposal by the Centre that a contribution should be made to the democratic transformation of the Eastern Bloc parliaments by arranging seminars, exchanges between officials, etc. The parliaments concerned took a keen interest and were soon issuing invitations to attend meetings in their capital cities. The overall effect of this was to spread the Centre's load widely and relieve the burden on the EP.

My distinctly functional thought processes often neglected national or personal sensitivities. For example, towards the end of my period of office, we introduced a structure for the Centre that was comparable to that of the UN, though we were not aware of the resemblance. Leaving aside the Conference of Speakers,

which takes little interest, the correspondents form the equivalent of the General Assembly, and there are two co-directors rather than a Secretary-General.

The Centre was my baby, and I soon presented it to the community of theoretical and practical parliamentarians. This was not to everyone's liking that I continued to introduce new ideas and ventured into the political arena. Dealing with the role of the parliaments in the creation of EU legislation at a seminar after the Maastricht Treaty had drawn attention to it was one thing, but for an official to have the final word was quite another. So it was as well that I stepped down in 1994. The Statutes for the Centre could then be adopted without major changes.

At all events, the Centre has been something more than a face-saver and has done good work in an inconspicuous way. I wish it continuing success in the future.

*\* Shortened version of an article written in 2001.*

## MY EXPERIENCE WITHIN THE ECPRD

*María Rosa Ripollés-Serrano*

*ECPRD Correspondent from the Congress of Deputies, Spain*

I would like to thank the ECPRD for allowing me to write a short text of my experience at the Centre, on the occasion of its anniversary.

Since 1989 I have been a correspondent from the Spanish Parliament, first from the Senate, and now from the Congress of Deputies, and member of its Executive Committee from 2000 to 2002.

My first memory of the ECPRD was June 1989 in Berlin, where I attended a Seminar organized by the ECPRD and the German Parliament. If I remember correctly, it was about Parliament and Public Relations and the Media. Looking back I have just some impressions of the time, but I remember clearly Mr Poehle, the General Director of the European Parliament, who sadly passed away a few months ago, a very discerning and hard working man who was very kind to all the new correspondents.

Since then I have attended all the meetings of correspondents and I either myself or representatives of the Spanish Parliament have attended seminars and meetings of the working groups. It has been a privilege to be part of the changing scene of Europe to see how different countries of the Union, my own included, and their Parliaments have changed in the last twenty years. Even more importantly, I have met some wonderful people: Lisbeth, Anna, Karol, María-José, Alda, Jennifer, François, Marc, Wojciech, Hanneke, Dick, Francesco, Antonis, Dorne, Joern, to name just a few. It has been a pleasure to know and work with them and so many other admirable people.

But, if people are the most important aspect of the Institutions, we must also take into consideration the way the Centre works.

The annual conference of correspondents, the seminars, the areas of interest (formerly working groups), and the daily exchange of information between colleagues is helping to create a common European parliamentary culture or, as Dick Toornstra said, “a parliamentary community of knowledge”. We are definitely at our level as parliamentary civil servants, helping to build Europe.

The Spanish Parliament has organized several seminars and contributes to the common cooperation, by sending delegates to the meetings of the Centre and receiving colleagues in our meetings. But even on a day to day basis we find ourselves in constant contact with our European colleagues which reaffirms the feeling of “parliamentary community”.

We hope that the ECPRD will continue in this direction, which is undoubtedly the best way to build a European parliamentary culture. Today, officially, we are more people in Europe which adds obvious difficulties to our work, but it also increases the idea of European community, and it is towards this goal that we work.





## ACHIEVING THE ECPRD GOAL: EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION THROUGH REQUESTS AND COMPARATIVE STUDIES

*Nataša Glavnik,*

*ECPRD Correspondent. Slovenian National Assembly*

In 1977, the Presidents of national parliaments met in Vienna and decided to establish the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation, primarily intended for the exchange of information among parliaments. The ECPRD has carried out this fundamental task successfully ever since. Its objective remained unchanged even after 2000 when certain correspondents expected the increased offer of information at the world wide web to reduce the number of requests sent via the ECPRD network of correspondents. Practice, however, showed quite the opposite.

Since 2003, in fact, requests have been on a steady increase: on 1 October 2003, the ECPRD website featured Request No. 103 while on 20 June 2007, the number 793 was reached. This means that the number of requests grows by approximately 150 per year.

The growing number of requests was discussed by the ECPRD Executive Committee and by the Conference of Correspondents. A thorough analysis of 80 requests for 2005 indicated that:

- more than a half of all questions relate to parliamentary questions;
- more than a third of all questions relate to national legal systems;
- less than a fifth of all requests contains questions not relating to the parliament or the national legislation.

Based on the above, the ECPRD Executive Committee and the Conference of Correspondents have not reacted in the sense of an administrative reduction of the number of requests, but rather added to the content of the ECPRD base by revising the Guidelines for Comparative Requests and Studies - whereby when posing a certain question to other parliaments, the questioning parliament must reply to the question first - and by discussing the obligation to prepare a comparative study upon receiving the replies from other parliaments.

Furthermore, it was suggested that the Yerevan conference would discuss a possible organisation of the preparation of replies in the parliaments, considering that 150 requests per year indeed represent a considerable burden for parliamentary services.

Today, as we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of ECPRD's successful operations, we may find that the manner of obtaining **relevant information** through the ECPRD network remains topical and has actually gained weight. Such possibility is indeed of great value for parliamentary services, as despite the mass of information available on the Internet there is still some information relating to the legislative branch of power which is difficult or impossible to obtain, since:

- questions often relate to internal acts of parliaments not published on the Internet;

- questions relate to complex legal systems, not easily understandable to foreign nationals due to differences in content and language, making the assistance of our colleagues very valuable or even indispensable.

By a constant exchange of questions and replies relating to parliamentary work and national legal systems, the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation with its network of correspondents provides a strong link among the parliamentary administrations of EU Member States and members of the Council of Europe, leading to a very positive cooperation of parliamentary services across 21st century Europe.

## A TRIBUTE TO PARTNERSHIP

***Dick Fokke Toornstra***

*ECPRD Co-director from 1996 to end 2004*

The first time I heard someone speak about the ECPRD must have been 25 years ago. I had no idea what ECPRD stood for or represented, nor did I know the gentleman who spoke to me about it very well.

Yet, Klaus Pöhle, the person who explained with so much persuasion and enthusiasm the origins and goals of *his* organisation, had made it his personal ambition to convince me that the ECPRD was an indispensable tool to further parliamentary progress in Europe.

At the time - the early eighties - I was Chief of Staff for the President of the European Parliament and Klaus Pöhle felt that President Piet Dankert should not only support his ideas, but should also ensure full financing and staffing of the Centre and be present at the five-year celebration to give a keynote speech on why the Centre was so essential.

I must confess to have given Klaus a hard time, as none of us could really share his enthusiasm and we felt that the President had more important business to attend to.

However, we were intrigued by the concept of bringing together parliamentary staff from the wider Europe, as we then referred to it.

The European Community at the time only counted ten member states and relations with colleagues from Communist dictatorships in Central and Eastern Europe were sparse. The Centre, as a joint exercise of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, thus potentially represented a very interesting conduit through which better parliamentary understanding could be fostered.

So, we gave our support to Klaus, but without involving the President's office too much... and anyone who knew Klaus Pöhle and his capacity to focus on what he felt was necessary will understand why that decision was taken!

For more than ten years the ECPRD did not come to my attention again until the end of 1995, when Alfredo Di Stefano mentioned to me that he would retire from the European Parliament and that it was expected that I would take over his co-directorship of the ECPRD.

I had no idea what this responsibility would entail and asked John Wittenberg, who was then the EP co-Secretary together with Mario Heinrich for the PACE, what this was all about. According to John it would not absorb much of my time, I just had to attend a few meetings, sign off a newsletter and occasionally speak to the other co-Director, Gian-Paolo Castenetto. So, I accepted and didn't think much more about it.

The fact that John worked from an office in Luxembourg where all the ECPRD documents were also produced and the archives kept, whereas I was in Brussels, did not help my familiarisation with the Centre.

It was then that my relationship took off! Little did I know how important the ECPRD would become to me.

As we quickly realised that in 1997 the organisation would celebrate its 20 years of existence, we felt that this would be a good moment to look at the archives to see whether we could not produce something on the history of this initiative. My ignorance of the ECPRD and what it had done was shared by many other people. It was thus decided that we should also produce a presentation brochure of the Centre explaining to a larger public its origins and objectives.

The search for interesting documents proved to be a rewarding one and together with a number of colleagues, including John Wittenberg and Marie-José Marchetti, we managed to produce a nice-looking brochure on *The ECPRD: 20 years of activity*. This publication, together with an article from Klaus Pöhle, shed an interesting light on the early considerations which led to the creation of the Centre in 1977.

The early days of the Centre were notably based on cooperation between the various parliamentary libraries and documentation centres. The nineties showed that the ECPRD, through the provision of administrative support and know-how to the emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe on a variety of parliamentary services, could develop into a broader organisation covering all aspects of parliamentary life.

Throughout its history, the Centre has demonstrated an admirable capacity to adapt to changing circumstances and to modify its structure whenever appropriate. Great flexibility without too much control has created an environment in which small and large parliaments, old and emerging democracies, parliaments inside the EU or outside could work together and exchange their best practices.

Clearly, we all listened to discussions about the future of the Centre and whether it had not gone too far in accommodating the needs and particularities of the EU member parliaments, but the bottom line has always been *together we can do more*.

An important element of this constructive atmosphere has been that the ECPRD is run by co-directors, representing two different organisations (the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe) but who, as colleagues, fully respected individual priorities and prerogatives.

Obviously, the functional requirements of well developed and equipped parliaments belonging to EU countries are different from former republics of the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, the essence of the ECPRD has always been to recognise that all parliaments are equal, even if they are different and that consequently there is no common rule or model which can be imposed.

The ECPRD is a cooperative, it is as strong as its members allow it to be, with a strong emphasis on collegial solidarity and support. Genuine partners is what we are.

This spirit and attitude has enabled the Centre to initiate conferences ranging from parliamentary concepts (bicameral systems) to e-parliament debates

(parli@ments on the net) which have all helped to better understand and appreciate different parliamentary backgrounds and opportunities.

The awareness that parliaments need to collaborate if they want to offset the ever increasing role of the executive and to face the challenges of globalisation has accelerated requests for comparative data and studies and has strengthened the Centre.

In 2002 we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Centre at a memorable conference in Athens and started the discussion on *a community of parliamentary knowledge*.

I am convinced that the future of the Centre lies in furthering that debate, creating a genuine community of parliamentary knowledge in which all European parliaments can benefit and play a role.

I think it is fair to say that the ECPRD has made a difference to parliamentary cooperation in Europe. I know that for me, having been at its helm for nearly ten years, it was a most gratifying experience.

My ECPRD story ended in Berlin at the annual conference in 2004. It was a moving experience when all the Correspondents sang about their *maître d'* who had stepped in and *grabbed hold of the rudder*. It made me realise that what I had tried to achieve during my stint at the Centre, to create an inter-parliamentary environment in which professional knowledge sharing would go hand in hand with collegiality, trust and even friendship, might not have been in vain.

All of this would have been impossible without the constant support of Dorne Jackson who unfailingly paid attention to logistics, our finances and all the other practical details. A confidant of all colleagues new to the Centre!

I am convinced that our Centre, with all its history, has still a great future ahead!



## AHEAD OF ITS TIME ON KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

**Rob Clements**

*House of Commons Library, United Kingdom*<sup>13</sup>

*An investment in knowledge pays the best interest (Benjamin Franklin)*

‘Knowledge management’, ‘information exchange’, ‘knowledge sharing’ and similar phrases have, in recent years, become increasingly used in many organisations. Advances in technology have been hugely important in underpinning the work of almost every individual and organisation but, at the same time, there has been an increasing need to find ways of identifying what is important and what is not, from among the vast amount of information now available, and in looking at how that knowledge can be best applied in practice.

The ECPRD has been in the business of knowledge management and information exchange in a parliamentary context for thirty years, oiling the wheels of European democracy in a small but nonetheless important way, yet remaining relatively modest in its demands. In some ways it has been ahead of its time. This is not surprising since the origins of the ECPRD were in parliamentary libraries, research services and archives, the key repositories of parliamentary knowledge. Over those thirty years ECPRD has expanded its areas of activity to reflect the ever-closer connections that there are between different types of parliamentary work, and the need for those working in parliaments to understand better the wider world of which they form part. But fundamentally, I think, it has remained true to its origins which recognised the benefits of simply sharing information and understanding.

Many benefits of sharing knowledge and good practice can be identified, and some of these are listed below.<sup>14</sup> Many of these benefits are precisely what ECPRD has been doing more and more of over its thirty years – some more than others - and which will remain its main drivers in the years to come.

- Learn new skills / techniques
- Increase opportunities for collaboration
- Cross-fertilize and/or share ideas
- Help people adapt to change
- Enable people to input to strategy
- Build better relationships with suppliers
- Jointly lobby / share power and influence
- Save money / support faster problem solving
- Avoid reinventing the wheel and making common mistakes
- Provide a sense of community

For me, ECPRD has been particularly effective in creating the last three of these benefits. Thirty years ago, when I started working in the House of Commons, it took a long time to obtain even the simplest comparative information from other parliaments. Today, we can solve some of our problems very quickly and often

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<sup>13</sup> With acknowledgements to Thomas H Davenport and Laurence Prusak, from whose book *Working Knowledge* (Harvard Business School Press, 2000) the quotations used are taken.

<sup>14</sup> This list was compiled by a Knowledge Sharing Project Group within the Human Resources Division of the BBC.

informally through the ECPRD network by email. Secondly, however new an idea or a problem may seem, there is almost always someone else who has some experience of it within the ECPRD network, so we can learn from them. And thirdly, there is a strong sense of community in the ECPRD, encouraged especially by its seminars, which itself promotes further sharing of knowledge.

*There is the world of ideas and the world of practice (Matthew Arnold)*

A great strength of ECPRD is that it is based on practice, not theory. Its seminars, studies and enquiry network, all accessible through the ECPRD website, enable all of its members to learn from the practical experience of colleagues elsewhere, whether in old or young Parliaments. Sometimes, when facing a challenge, we can think that we are the first chamber ever to have had that problem, or that our own national circumstances are unique. Most of us have come to realise that that is rarely the case, and that we can find help, advice and ideas from colleagues who have been there previously. Even when a problem is new, the opportunity to discuss it with colleagues from similar backgrounds but different perspectives can help us move forward.

This very practical basis of the network will, I think, become even more important in future. Parliamentary services – especially those that provide information and research for Members - face new challenges, especially increasing competition in the Internet-dominated world, against a background of limited resources in many cases. We can therefore all benefit from the practical experience of other chambers in providing high-quality services which are easy to find and to use, which are relevant to the issues that matter to our Parliaments and to their Members, which are impartial, and which adapt to changing expectations and needs. These issues were at the core of the ECPRD seminar hosted by the House of Commons and House of Lords in November 2004, on *Meeting users' changing needs*, from which it was clear that these were important questions for almost all parliaments in Europe. That remains the case, perhaps even more so, today.

*The great end of knowledge is not knowledge but action (Thomas Henry Huxley).*

In his important study for the ECPRD, published when it was marking its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (*Knowledge and Power – the essential connection between research and the work of the legislature*), Bill Robinson enumerated various ways in which legislative research and information help create sound decision-making and a more vibrant democracy. These included that good research and information can contribute to a better understanding of problems and more realistic and effective solutions to those problems; can improve the institutional dynamics within a legislature; can add to the perceived legitimacy of actions by a legislature; and can position a Parliament to play a more active role in the policy process of its nation, especially as their Executives become more powerful.

Five years on these points remain true, probably even more so in 2007 than in 2002. They show that the role of the ECPRD remains an important one in providing a Europe-wide network that will continue to underpin domestic action to continue to improve the effectiveness of our Parliaments. In the same study, Bill went on to hazard some forecasts of what might be in store for parliamentary libraries and research services in the future. He expressed caution in doing so, but I think that those



forecasts are still valid today. They were that the role of parliamentary information providers is increasing; they must be more strategic and efficient than they were in the past; regional organisations of parliamentary information providers are becoming increasingly important; automation and advances in communications have profound effects on our work, but present equally profound challenges; and those providing information to parliaments must make their services more relevant to and immediately useable by their users.

ECPRD will therefore continue to have an important role in helping its member chambers act to meet these challenges. The new ECPRD statutes, adopted in May 2006, strengthen that role, based as they are on the involvement of correspondents in taking forward the network's activity and on the role of co-ordinators for major topic areas of common interest. The co-ordinators will be effective only if they are actively supported by colleagues in member chambers, working together to share ideas, understanding and especially practical actions to solve problems. There will, no doubt, be new areas that require particular attention. These may include the marketing of our services, since there is little point in providing good services if Members of Parliament and other users do not understand and use them. Another rapidly developing area is the connection between our Parliaments and the public, already a subject of concern to many, as there is an increasing sense in many countries that Parliaments do not make sufficient effort to engage with their electorates and, as a result, their legitimacy is being challenged. This should be an issue of concern to all those who work in Parliaments, not just the few who are Public Relations specialists. And the effective and efficient use of ICT will remain a crucial concern for everyone.

In all these areas, and no doubt in many more - some of which will not yet have been thought of - the ECPRD will, I hope, continue as a modest but nonetheless important and effective network that supports Parliaments throughout Europe in their work.

London  
June 2007



## **A NOTE ABOUT THE ECPRD – A VERY SPECIAL ORGANIZATION**

***Jeffrey C. Griffith***

*Former Chief Legislative Information Officer,  
Congressional Research Service, United States Congress  
And Former ECPRD Correspondent*

To some Americans, such as me, the ECPRD is almost magical. It is difficult for many of us on this side of the Atlantic Ocean to understand how so many different countries, many of whom have been enemies at different times over several centuries, could have come together as a group voluntarily to share knowledge and experiences, in so many different languages, in meetings that are both professionally, culturally, and personally enjoyable.

I have only been able to participate in ECPRD activities since 2000, but it has been one of the high points of my professional life. In that year, I attended my first meeting of the Working Group on ICT in Dublin. It was, for me, a delightful and stimulating meeting, as I listened to colleagues from dozens of countries share their experiences, their lessons learned, and their good practices. It was the first time I had been able to exchange ideas with staff from such a diverse group of parliaments, and it influenced my thinking a number of important ways.

First, I came to realize that many of the challenges of implementing ICT in parliaments are the same regardless of the size of the parliament or its resources. For example, all of us faced questions such as deciding what makes a good web page, how to program a search engine to provide the best results, how to get all the key stakeholders to agree on a common approach to data document creation and sharing, or how to establish a single strategic vision for the use of ICT in parliament. None of us had found the single best answer to questions such as these, but almost everyone had something to share about their experiences in trying to answer them.

Second, I came to understand that the practices and customs of many parliaments were the same regardless of differences in their constitutional nature and authority. Legislative bodies have a great deal in common with each other, and despite important differences in their legal role and in their specific procedures in carrying out their responsibilities, many of the challenges they face are sometimes surprisingly similar: how to exercise proper oversight of the government, how to balance the needs of different constituents, how to be both transparent and effective, how to be efficient and still respect the procedures of legislative bodies that are designed to encourage compromise among diverse points of view.

Third, my experience with the ECPRD helped me to better understand the special challenge of employing ICT, which is my area of professional interest, in a legislative body. As I listened to my colleagues report on their problems, their solutions, and sometimes their failures (at least over a glass of wine, if not at an official presentation) I came to appreciate more fully that parliaments are not businesses, they cannot be judged by the efficiency of their practices, and they are not run by a single executive with total authority. They are ‘messy’ organizations and they are purposefully designed to be that way. This makes the implementation of ICT all the more difficult because it cannot be completely measured by a “return on

investment” or an increase in efficiency as a business might measure it. This can be frustrating to colleagues with experience in the private sector who come to work in parliaments and want to provide all the benefits and improvements that ICT can bring to the practices of organizations. As I listened to my colleagues, it became clear to me that the most successful among them understood – and even came to enjoy this basic tension between the potential of ICT for achieving greater efficiency and effectiveness and the inherent nature of parliaments to reject efficiency and effectiveness in favour of political processes that required patience, the accommodation of diverse points of view, and ultimately compromise.

This insight provided the context for what I regard as my own most important personal “lesson learned” from my time with the ECPRD. I came to realize that almost every country, regardless of its size, its resources, or the length of time it had had a parliament, had some experience, some good practice, some success in an area of ICT that was important for others to know about. The examples are numerous: the way an archive of paper was converted to digital format, the design of a feature on a web site to make it easier to find key legislation, the way that debate was recorded and transcribed to text, the way in which ICT was managed. The list could go on, but the key point is that at every ECPRD meeting I learned something new and useful from listening as my colleagues shared their practices and their ideas.

The “failures” or the “ongoing challenges”, as they were sometimes called more formally, were as important to hear about as the successes. Not everything works and it can be very useful to know that something tried had not worked as hoped. It takes a special courage to report on this kind of thing, and not everyone is willing to do it, but when it occurs, it can be invaluable and often evokes stories and reports from others who may have experienced something similar. The resulting shared knowledge can be most helpful to others.

In 2004 I expanded my role and became a Correspondent. This broadened my view, my understanding, and my appreciation of ECPRD even further. When I worked for the U.S. Congress, I was a member of the Congressional Research Service (CRS). This organization is possibly the largest research arm of a legislative body in the world. Its role is to provide objective, non partisan, expert research and analysis to members and committees of the U.S. House and Senate. It conducts hundreds of analyses every year in its effort to provide Congress with timely evaluations of proposed legislation.

One of the most difficult research tasks for CRS is what is referred to as the 50-state comparison. These are arduous and often time consuming efforts to determine how each of the 50 states in the U.S. handle, either through legislation or regulation, a particular policy issue. It is often not possible to complete such analyses because of the lack of time or lack of access to adequate knowledge and expertise in each state.

In this context, the sharing of information and knowledge among ECPRD Correspondents is clearly one of its most important assets. Given the often limited resources available in each parliament for responding to ECRDP requests, it is extraordinary that it is as successful as it is. The opportunity to learn how other nations are handling (or not handling) a particular issue can be invaluable to law makers as they try to formulate effective policies in their own country. Even with

good internal research support, the access to external knowledge and experience is critical to ensuring a robust debate of the options.

Without doubt one of the most important benefits of participating in the work of the ECPRD has been the colleagues I have had the privilege of meeting. They are dedicated, hardworking, thoughtful, insightful, and committed to sharing their experiences and knowledge with others. They were always personally gracious to this visitor, regardless of any disagreements they may have had with the policies of my government. We had many fruitful discussions and even some energetic debates, but they were always based on the same critical values – honesty, integrity, and a desire to learn from others. Many of them have become good personal friends as well as professional colleagues, and it is these relationships that will remain with me long after the memories of our work together have faded.

I must also say a word of appreciation to the leadership of the ECPRD. In 2006 I spent five months in Brussels on a Fulbright Fellowship studying the legislative information systems of the European Parliament and comparing them to those of the U.S. Congress. Dick Toornstra and Wojciech Sawicki, who were the Co-Directors of the ECPRD at the time I made my application for the Fulbright grant very kindly and enthusiastically supported my proposed research project and agreed that the ECPRD could serve as the host organization. Dick was succeeded by Bo Manderup Jensen and then by Alain Barrau as the Co-Director of the ECPRD appointed by the European Parliament. Both of these Co-Directors continued to support my research during the period I was in Brussels, for which I am deeply grateful. The study resulted in a report published by the ECPRD in 2006 entitled *Beyond Transparency: New Standards for Legislative Information Systems*.

Finally, a special word about the importance of Johanna (Hanneke) Coppolecchia-Somers to the ECPRD.

She represents the heart and soul of the organization. She knows everyone in the group, she cares deeply about its work, and is committed to its success, much of which is a direct result of her energy and dedication. She is a greatly valued colleague and to so many a very special friend. Hanneke is the embodiment of the ECPRD.



## **H - ANNEXES**

Annex 1 - Composition of the ECPRD Secretariat since 1977

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**Annex 1 - Composition of the ECPRD Secretariat since 1977  
(from the very beginning until date...)**

**European Parliament**

**Parliamentary Assembly  
of the Council of Europe**

**Co- Director**

**Co-Director**

- From 1977 to 1994  
Klaus POEHLE

From 1977 to 1981  
Jean SABATIER

- In 1995  
Alfredo DI STEFANO

From 1982 to May 1990  
Georges CHARITONS

- From 1996 to January 2005  
Dick TOORNSTRA

From June 1990 to 1996  
Gian Paolo CASTENETTO

- 2005  
Bo Manderup JENSEN

Since 1997  
Wojciech SAWICKI

- January to December 2006  
Alain BARRAU

- Since January 2007  
Piotr NOWINA-KONOPKA

**Co- Secretary**

**Co-Secretary**

- From 1977 to 1987  
Gérard KIEFFER

From 1984 to 1996  
Mario HEINRICH

- 1988  
David DEWAR

From 1997 to October 2003  
Joern STEGEN

- From 1989 to 1994  
Franco PERRONI

Since October 2003  
Mario HEINRICH

- From 1995 to 1997  
John WITTENBERG

- From 1998 to June 1999  
Niels KRISTOFFERSEN

- From July 1999 to November 2000  
Adam ISAACS

- Since December 2000  
Hanneke COPPOLECCHIA



## Annex 2 - List of ECPRD Seminars and Meetings from 1978 to 2007

1978 5 17-18	Strasbourg-PACE	Meeting: Correspondents and Round table on Data Processing
1978 11 23-24	Bonn	Meeting: Informatics Working Group
1979 1 11	Paris	Meeting: Research Working Group
1979 2 2	London	Meeting: Libraries Working Group
1979 2 23	Paris	Meeting: Microforms/ Archives Working Group
1979 5 3	Copenhagen	Meeting: Thesaurus Working Group
1979 5 14-15	Luxembourg -EP	Meeting: Correspondents
1979 9 17-19	Munich	Meeting: Microforms/ Archives Working Group
1979 9 21	Strasbourg-PACE	Meeting: Research Working Group
1980 1 25-26	Stockholm	Meeting: Libraries Working Group
1980 2 4-5	Paris	Meeting: Informatics Working Group
1980 2 25-26	Bonn	Meeting: Correspondents
1980 10 17	Strasbourg-PACE	Meeting: Working Group Chairmen
1981 5 8-9	Strasbourg-PACE	Meeting: Microforms/ Archives Working Group
1981 5 19-20	Rome	Meeting: Informatics Working Group
1981 10 15	Rome	Meeting: Libraries Working Group
1981 10 16-17	Rome	Meeting: Correspondents
1982 5 27-28	Brussels	Meeting: Libraries Working Group
1982 9 24	Luxembourg-EP	Meeting: Terminology Working Group
1982 10 15	Strasbourg-PACE	Meeting: Working Group Chairmen
1983 3 21-23	Luxembourg-EP	Meeting: Informatics Working Group
1983 3 24-25	Paris	Meeting: Correspondents
1983 10 27-28	The Hague	Meeting: Libraries Working Group
1984 1 20	Strasbourg-PACE	Meeting: Working Group Chairmen
1984 2 27-28	Bonn	Meeting: Informatics Working Group
1984 6 21-22	Luxembourg-EP	Meeting: Correspondents
1984 10 29-31	London	Meeting: Informatics Working Group
1985 4 2-3	Lisbon	Meeting: Libraries Working Group
1985 4 19	Bonn	Meeting: Terminology Working Group
1985 7 1-2	Berne	Meeting: Thesaurus Working Group
1985 10 29-31	Rome	Meeting: Informatics Working Group
1985 11 25-26	Madrid	Meeting: Correspondents
1986 1 17	Strasbourg-PACE	Meeting: Working Group Chairmen
1986 6 16-17	Oslo	Meeting: Thesaurus Working Group
1986 9 29-30	Bonn	Meeting: Libraries Working Group
1986 10 28-30	Strasbourg	Meeting: Informatics Working Group
1987 9 10-11	Luxembourg-EP	Meeting: Correspondents - 10th Anniversary
1987 10 1-2	Ankara	Meeting: Libraries Working Group
1987 11 27-28	Paris	Meeting: Informatics Working Group
1988 1 22	Strasbourg-PACE	Meeting: Working Group Chairmen
1988 4 22	Rome	Meeting: Research Working Group
1988 5 5-6	Brussels	Meeting: Thesaurus Working Group

1988 9 16	Paris	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1988 9 29-30	Madrid	Meeting: Informatics Working Group
1988 11 14-15	Bonn	Meeting: Microforms/ Archives Working Group
1989 1 20	Strasbourg-PACE	Meeting: Working Group Chairmen
1989 3 28-29	Copenhagen	Meeting: Libraries Working Group
1989 5 19	Paris	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1989 5 19-20	Madrid	Conference of the Presidents of the Parliaments of the Member States of the Community and of the European Parliament
1989 5 29-30	Luxembourg-EP	Seminar: "The use of the Eurovoc Thesaurus in the European Community and outside"
1989 5 31	Luxembourg-EP	Meeting: Thesaurus Working Group
1989 6 15-16	London	Meeting: Correspondents
1989 6 19-20	Luxembourg-EP	Meeting: Informatics Working Group
1989 9 28	Brussels	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1990 1 19	Strasbourg-PACE	Meeting: Steering Committee and the Chairmen of the Working Groups
1990 5 17-18	Paris-Senate	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1990 5 22	Paris	Meeting: Founding of the Studies Working Group of the ECPRD
1990 5 30	Berlin	Seminar: "The activity of parliaments with regard to public relations"
1990 9 24-25	London	Meeting: Informatics Working Group
1990 9 28	Brussels	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1990 10 12-13	Rome	Meeting: Libraries Working Group
1991 1	Berlin	Meeting: Correspondents
1991 5 23	Bonn	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1991 9 9-10	Helsinki	Meeting: Informatics Working Group
1991 9 20	Brussels	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1991 10 2-4	Maastricht	Meeting: "Archives in Europe"
1991 10 17-18	Lisbon	Meeting: Thesaurus Working Group
1992 1 20	Strasbourg-PACE	Meeting: Steering Committee and the Chairmen of the Working Groups
1992 2 14	Budapest	Meeting: Research Working Group
1992 4 14-15	Vienna	Meeting: Libraries Working Group
1992 5 20	Munich	Meeting: Parliamentary archivists
1992 5 22	Madrid	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1992 9 21-22	Luxembourg-EP	15th Anniversary of the ECPRD
1992 9 25	Brussels	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1992 11 9-10	Athens	Meeting: Information Technology and Communications Working Group
1993 4 28-29	Bonn	Meeting: Correspondents
1993 5 17	Luxembourg-EP	Meeting: Research Working Group
1993 5 17	Luxembourg-EP	Meeting: Permanent Committee of Correspondents (Executive Committee)
1993 6 4	Rome	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1993 9 17	Brussels	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1993 9 24	Stockholm	Meeting: Permanent Committee of Correspondents (Executive Committee)
1993 10 11-13	Warsaw	Meeting: Information Technology and Communications Working Group
1993 10 14-15	Warsaw	Meeting: Libraries Working Group
1994 2 3-4	Warsaw	Meeting: Permanent Committee of Correspondents (Executive Committee)

1994 3 3-4	Berlin	Seminar: "The Role of the national parliaments in the transition from Community Law to national law"
1994 3 10	Strasbourg-PACE	Meeting: Permanent Committee of Correspondents (Executive Committee)
1994 5 8-10	Warsaw	Seminar: "The role of procedure in the International Parliamentary Assemblies"
1994 6 3	London	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1994 6 20-22	Pultusk	Meeting: Information Technology and Communications Working Group
1994 9 21-23	Budapest	Workshop: Parliamentary Libraries organised by the Congressional Research Service
1994 9 30	Brussels	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1994 10 5-7	Luxembourg-EP	Meeting: Thesaurus Working Group
1994 10 17	Rome	Meeting: Permanent Committee of Correspondents (Executive Committee)
1994 10 17-18	Rome	Seminar: The Activities of International Relations Departments and European Affairs Departments in national parliaments
1995 2 3	Strasbourg-PACEg	Meeting: Working Group of the Secretaries General on "ECPRD Statutes"
1995 3 6-8	Luxembourg-EP	Seminar: for the Libraries of the parliaments of the Central and Eastern European Countries
1995 6 15-16	Stockholm	Seminar: Macroeconomic Research Group on "The Swedish Economy" and "Recent developments concerning the 3rd phase of the Economic and Monetary Union"
1995 6 27-28	Prague	Seminar: for the Users of EUROVOC in the parliaments of the Central and Eastern European Countries
1995 7 10-14	Strasbourg-PACE	Training Seminar for Central and Eastern European Countries officials
1995 10 16-18	Berne	Seminar: "Information technology and cooperation between parliaments in the area of informatics"
1995 10 26	Strasbourg-PACE	Meeting: Executive Committee
1995 10 27	Strasbourg-PACE	ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS
1995 11 6-7	Brussels	Conference: Training, transition and implementation of Community legislation and forms of cooperation between the parliaments of the Union
1996 2 1-2	Tallinn	Workshop: Baltic libraries and documentation archivists
1996 2 8	Luxembourg-EP	Meeting: Executive Committee
1996 3 15-17	Vienna	Seminar: "The Role of national parliaments in European integration and in the expansion of Europe"
1996 3 25	Paris	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1996 5 2-3	Paris	Seminar: "Parliaments on the Net" (WEU)
1996 6 14	London	Meeting: Executive Committee
1996 9 12-13	Copenhagen	Seminar on methods to inform school children of the work of national Parliaments
1996 9 27	Brussels	Meeting: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1996 9 30	Rome	Meeting: Executive Committee
1996 10 7-9	Prague	Seminar: "Information and communications technology"
1996 10 24	Strasbourg-PACE	Seminar for Correspondents on the activities of the Council of Europe
1996 10 25	Strasbourg-PACE	ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS
1996 10 28-29	Warsaw	Seminar: "EUROVOC in the Computer Environment"
1996 11 4-5	London	Seminar: "Keeping parliaments informed: the challenge of the IGC"
1997 03 13-14	The Hague -	SEMINAR Parli@ments on the Net, II
1997 03 21	Warsaw - Senate	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1997 04 14	Prague - Sejm	MEETING: Macroeconomic Research Working Group
1997 05 12-13	Stockholm -	SEMINAR Press and Parliaments - Openness and Accountability

1997 06 23-25	Krakow - Sejm	SEMINAR Role of Parliamentary Services in Processing State Budgets
1997 9 8	Brussels, EP	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1997 9 19	Brussels - Commission EU	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
1997 10 6-8	Roma - Camera Deputati	MEETING Information and Communication Technology Working Group
1997 10 9-10	Roma - Camera Deputati	SEMINAR "Simplification of legislation"
1997 10 16-17	Brussels, EP	ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS
1997 11 21	Brussels - Federal Parliament	MEETING Information and Communication Technology Working Group
1998 3 26-27	Helsinki - Eduskunta	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
1998 4 17	Lisbon - Assembleia	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1998 4 23-25	Bucharest - Senate	SEMINAR on Electoral Law
1998 5 7-8	Brussels, EP	SEMINAR Parli@ments on the Net, III
1998 5 21-22	Madrid - Senado	SEMINAR on Territorial Upper Houses
1998 6 12	Stockholm	MEETING SECRETARIES GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTS
1998 6 25-26	Roma - Camera Deputati	SEMINAR Simplification of Legislation
1998 7 9-10	Brussels, EP	SEMINAR on Library management Software, Use of Thesauri including EUROVOC
1998 9 15	Strasbourg - PACE	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1998 9 25	Brussels - Commission EU	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
1998 10 14-16	Budapest	MEETING Information and Communication Technology Working Group
1998 10 22-23	Strasbourg - PACE	ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS
1998 11 6	Prague - Sejm	SEMINAR Digitalization of Historical Archives
1999 5 27-28	Vienna -	SEMINAR Public Relations of Parliaments
1999 5 27-28	Bratislava	MEETING Macro-Economic W.G.: Role Parliaments in Legal Support Process of Transformation CEE Countries
1999 6 7-8	Sofia -	SEMINAR Code of Conduct and Appraisal of Parliament Staff
1999 9 10	Brussels, EP	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1999 10 8	Brussels - Commission EU	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
1999 10 13-15	Stockholm -	MEETING ICT- W.G.: Towards Integrated Information Handling
1999 10 21-22	Bern	ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS
1999 10 28-29	Madrid - Senado	SEMINAR on the Use of EUROVOC
2000 1 27-28	Oslo - Stortinget	SEMINAR Parli@ments on the Net, IV
2000 3 30	The Hague - Tweede Kamer	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2000 5 6	Strasbourg - PACE	MEETING SECRETARIES GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTS
2000 5 25-26	Kiev - Verkhovna Rada	SEMINAR Independence of Parliamentary Research
2000 6 15-16	Warsaw - Sejm	SEMINAR Approximation of Laws and Parliamentary Support to CEEC-Parliaments
2000 6 16	Lisbon -	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
2000 9 7-8	Vilnius - Seimas	SEMINAR Criteria for Selection of Info and Databases relevant for Parliamentary Activities
2000 9 11	Strasbourg - PACE	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2000 9 21-23	Paris - Ass. Nat.	MEETING Information and Communication Technology Working Group
2000 10 5-6	Berlin - Reichstag	ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS

2000 11 2-3	London - House of Commons	SEMINAR Electronic Libraries
2000 11 10	Luxembourg - EP	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
2000 11 9-10	Brussels - EP	SEMINAR on EUROVOC
2001 3 30	Madrid - Senado	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2001 5 18	Bucharest - Senate	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
2001 5 21-22	Tallinn - Riigikogu	SEMINAR Legal and Regulatory Impact of Legislation
2001 9 10	Brussels, EP	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2001 9 28-29	Riga - Saeima	SEMINAR Role of European Affairs Committees in National Parliaments
2001 10 4-5	Ljubljana -	ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS
2001 10 25-25	Dublin - Oireachtas	MEETING Information and Communication Technology Working Group
2001 11 9	Brussels - Commission EU	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
2001 11 23	Brussels, EP	SEMINAR on EUROVOC
2002 3 18	Copenhagen -	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2002 3 25-26	Helsinki -	SEMINAR Parli@ments on the Net, V
2002 4 5	Prague - Senate	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
2002 5 10	Zagreb	MEETING SECRETARIES GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTS
2002 5 30-31	Brussels - Chamber Deputies	SEMINAR Digital Archives I: Digitisation of Parliamentary Information and Archives
2002 9 4-6	The Hague - Tweede Kamer	MEETING Information and Communication Technology Working Group: ICT as Instrument between Politics and Citizen
2002 9 5-6	Skopje - Assembly	SEMINAR on Parliamentary Procedures: Law Making and Parliamentary Control over the Executive
2002 9 10	Strasbourg - PACE	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2002 10 3-4	Athens -	ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS
2002 10 10-11	Strasbourg - PACE	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
2003 3 7	Bratislava -	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2003 3 7	Brussels, EP	SEMINAR on EUROVOC
2003 4 11	Vilnius - Seimas	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
2003 5 22-23	Moscow, Federation Council	SEMINAR Bicameralism in Europe: Co-ordination of Interests and Positions
2003 5 22-23	The Hague - Tweede Kamer	SEMINAR Digital Archives II: Digital Longevity of Parliamentary Archives
2003 6 12-13	Bucharest, Senate	SEMINAR Parli@ments on the Net, VI: E-Parli@ments
2003 9 5	Brussels, EP	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2003 10 9-11	Strasbourg - PACE -	ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS
2003 10 24	Brussels, EP	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
2003 10 30-31	Roma - Camera Dep.	SEMINAR Parliamentary Administrations and Legislative Cooperation
2003 11 5-7	Nicosia	MEETING Information and Communication Technology Working Group
2004 3 5	Brussels, EP	SEMINAR on EUROVOC
2004 3 12	Roma - Camera Deputati	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2004 3 25-26	Warsaw - Sejm	SEMINAR Role of Legislative Services in the Legislative Process
2004 4 16-17	Sofia	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
2004 4 22-23	Bratislava - National Council	SEMINAR Parliamentary Public Relations
2004 5 27-28	Ljubljana-Drzavni Zbor	SEMINAR Security in Parliaments

2004 5 19	Strasbourg - PACE	MEETING SECRETARIES GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTS
2004 9 16	Strasbourg - PACE	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2004 10 14-15	Berlin - Bundestag	ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS
2004 10 22-23	Strasbourg - PACE	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
2004 10 26	Strasbourg - PACE	MEETING Working Group on ECPRD Statutes
2004 11 4-5	London - House of Commons	SEMINAR Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services - Meetings Users Changing Needs
2004 11 17-19	Lisbon -	MEETING Information and Communication Technology Working Group
2005 3 4	London - House of Commons	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2005 5 20	Roma - Camera Deputati	MEETING Working Group on ECPRD Statutes
2005 6 3-4	Yerevan	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
2005 9 9	Brussels, EP	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2005 10 13-16	Bucharest	ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS
2005 10 27-28	Madrid - Congreso	SEMINAR Technical Aspects derived from Relations between the E.P. and the EU-Member States national Parliaments
2006 1 13	Oslo - Stortinget	MEETING Working Group on ECPRD Statutes
2006 3 10	Ljubljana - National Assembly	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2006 3 10	Brussels, EP	Seminar on EUROVOC
2006 5 31	Tallinn -	MEETING SECRETARIES GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTS
2006 5 8-9	Warsaw - Senate	SEMINAR Supranational and Inter-Parliamentary Assemblies in Europe in the 21st Century
2006 6 9-10	Sarajevo	MEETING Macro-Economic Research Working Group
2006 9 8	Strasbourg - PACE	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2006 10 5-6	Vilnius - Seimas	MEETING Information and Communication Technology Working Group
2006 10 12-14	London - Parliament	ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS
2006 11 10	Paris - Ass.Nat.	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2007 3 30	Kiev	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2007 4 26-27	Warsaw - Sejm	SEMINAR Legislative Observatory: Transparency of Legislative Process in Parliament
2007 6 7-8	Paris - Assemblée Nationale	SEMINAR on Specific Characteristics of Parliamentary Administration (Parliamentary Work Periods and Rhythms)
2007 6 8-9	Stockholm - Riksdag	Macro-Economic MEETING - Parliaments and Central Banks
2007 9 14	Brussels, EP	MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2007 9 21	Prague - Chamber	SEMINAR Parliamentary Transparency
2007 10 11-12	Yerevan	ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS
2007 10 18-19	Ljubljana - National Assembly	MEETING Information and Communication Technology in Parliaments
2007 11 8-9	Brussels - Federal Parliament	SEMINAR Parliaments and Judiciary: Judicial Control of Parliamentary Acts



### **Annex 3 - List of ECPRD-Publications, June 1997 - June 2007**

The ECPRD: 20 Years of Activity. Anniversary Publication with summary of Events and Achievements _____	1997/06/01
Le CERDP: 20 and d'Activités. Brochure anniversaire avec un résumé des Evènements et des réalisations _____	1997/06/01
Das EZPWD: 20 Jaehriges Wirken. Jubilaeums Broschure mit Zusammenfassung der wichtigsten Ereignisse und Erfolge _____	1997/06/01
Documentary Support for the Transposition of Community Directives into National Law; Soutien documentaire pour la transposition des directives communautaires en droit national; Dokumentarische Unterstuetzung der Umsetzung der Gemeinschaftsrichtlinien in einzelstaatliches Recht. Proceedings ECPRD Seminar, Bruxelles, Parlement Belge, 21 November 1997 ____	1997/11/21
ECPRD Activity Report June 1996 to March 1998 _____	1998/03/15
CERDP Rapport d'Activité juin 1996 à mars 1998 _____	1998/03/15
EZPWD Tätigkeitsbericht von Juni 1996 bis März 1998 _____	1998/03/15
ECPRD Seminar and Working Group Guidelines; Manuel d organisation pour seminaires et groupes de travail du CERDP; EZPWD Seminar-und Arbeitsgruppenrichtlinien _____	1998/04/17
Statutes of the ECPRD, adopted on 7 June 1996 _____	2000/01/01
Statuts du CERDP adoptés le 7 juin 1996 _____	2000/01/01
Satzung des EZPWD, angenommen 7. Juni 1996 _____	2000/01/01
Independent Parliamentary Research. Proceedings of the ECPRD Seminar, Kyiv, Verkhovna Rada, 25-26 May 2000 ____	2000/05/26
Parliamentary Library, Research and Information Services of Western Europe. Ed: Jennifer Tanfield (also available in FR) _____	2000/09/01
Bibliothèques et Services de Recherche et d'Information parlementaire de l'Europe Occidentale; Ed. Jennifer Tanfield. (aussi disponible en EN) _____	2000/09/01
Criteria for the Selection of Parliamentary Information and Databases. Proceedings of the ECPRD Seminar (on CD-Rom), Vilnius 7-8 September 2000 __	2000/09/10
Electoral Systems in Europe; an Overview. Electoral Systems in European Countries and in the European Parliament _____	2000/10/01

Comparison of Organisational and Administrative Arrangements in EU national Parliaments. Working Paper based on an ECPRD comparative request _____	2001/12/01
Brochure: The ECPRD; le CERDP Bilingual brochure FR-EN, January 2001 _____	2001/01/01
Legal and Regulatory Impact Assessment of Legislation. Proceedings of the ECPRD Seminar, Tallinn, Riigikogu, 21-22 May 2001 _____	2001/05/22
Rules on Parliamentary Immunity in the European Parliament and the Member States of the European Union; Concept and Rules of Immunity. Paper prepared by Simon McGee _____	2001/06/01
Parliamentary Codes of Conduct in Europe, an Overview Ethical Standards and Deontological Rules; Paper by Veronica Williams _____	2001/11/01
ECPRD Activity Report from March 2000 to March 2002; Rapport d'Activité du CERDP, mars 2000 à mars 2002; Tätigkeitsbericht des EZPWD, März 2000 bis März 2002 _____	2002/04/01
ECPRD Activity Report, March 2002-March 2004; Rapport d'Activité du CERDP, mars 2002 à mars 2004; Tätigkeitsbericht des EZPWD, März 2002 bis März 2004 _____	2004/04/01
Knowledge and Power; the essential Connection between Research and the Work of the Legislative; a European Overview, edited by William H. Robinson _____	2002/09/15
ECPRD Seminar and Working Group Guidelines; Manuel d'organisation pour séminaires et groupes de travail du CERDP; EZPWD Seminar-und Arbeitsgruppenrichtlinien, revised edition. With Sample Evaluation Form; avec Formulaire d'Évaluation type; mit Beispiel eines Bewertungsbogens. 2002 _____	2002/09/30
European Affairs Committees; the Influence of National Parliaments on European Politics, an Overview. Study prepared by David Travers _____	2003/03/04
ECPRD Guidelines for comparative Requests and Studies, January 2004 _____	2004/01/12
Lignes directrices du CERDP sur les questionnaires et les études comparatives. Janvier 2004 _____	2004/01/12
EZPWD-Leitlinien fuer Studien und Anfragen nach vergleichenden Studien. Januar 2004 _____	2004/01/12
ECPRD Activity Report, March 2002-March 2004; Rapport d'Activité du CERDP, mars 2002 à mars 2004; Tätigkeitsbericht des EZPWD, März 2002 bis März 2004 _____	2004/04/01
ECPRD Activity Report, March 2004-March 2006 _____	2006/04/01
CERDP Rapport d'Activité, mars 2004-mars 2006 _____	2006/04/01

Tätigkeitsbericht des EZPWD, März 2004 bis März 2006 _____	2006/04/01
Supranational Parliamentary and Inter-parliamentary Assemblies in 21st Century Europe; Proceedings ECPRD Seminar, Warsaw Senate, 8-9 May 2006 (EN) _____	2006/06/01
Statutes of the ECPRD adopted on 31 May 2006 _____	2006/06/19
Statuts du CERDP adoptes le 31 mai 2006 _____	2006/06/19
Satzung des EZPWD angenommen 31. Mai 2006 _____	2006/06/19
Statuto del CERDP adottato il 31 maggio 2006 _____	2006/06/19
Beyond Transparency : New Standards for Legislative Information Systems; ECPRD Research Study, red. by Jeffrey C. Griffith. June 2006 _____	2006/07/21
ECPRD Guidelines for Comparative Requests and Studies Revised edition, 13th November 2006 _____	2006/11/13
Lignes directives révisées du CERDP sur les questionnaires et les études comparatives Edition française révisée le 13 Novembre 2006 _____	2006/11/13
EZPWD Leitlinien fuer Studien und Anfragen nach vergleichenden Studien Erneute Fassung, 13. November 2006 _____	2006/11/13
The Role of Legislative Services in the Legislative Process Proceedings ECPRD Seminar, Polish Sejm, Warsaw, 25-26 March 2004 _____	2006/11/21
ECPRD Coordinator Tasks and Duties _____	2007/01/11
Rôle et missions des coordinateurs du CERDP _____	2007/01/11
Aufgaben und Pflichten eines Koordinators/Koordinatorin des EZPWD _____	2007/01/11
Legislative Observatory: Transparency of Legislative Process in Parliament Proceedings of the ECPRD Seminar, Warsaw-Sejm, 26-27 April 2007 (EN) _____	2007/05/01
Election and Mandate of MEPs (25 EU- countries) Publication based on an ECPRD comparative request, by Denis Batta _____	2007/06/11
Election et Mandat des Députés européens (25 pays-UE) Publication basée sur un questionnaire du CERDP, red. Denis Batta _____	2007/06/11



## Annex 4 - List of Titles of Comparative Requests, 2000 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 2007

NUMBER	TITLE	DATE
833	<a href="#">Environmental Management Schemes at national Parliaments</a>	2007/08/30
832	<a href="#">Spin-Off Company - Own Resources of Universities</a>	2007/08/30
831	<a href="#">Parliamentary Control over EU-Policy</a>	2007/08/30
830	<a href="#">Medical Education Costs and Practices (sent out directly)</a>	2007/08/10
824	<a href="#">Indication of Addresses of Election Candidates on Ballot Paper (sent out directly)</a>	2007/08/22
823	<a href="#">Reading out Documents to the Plenary (sent out directly)</a>	2007/08/22
827	<a href="#">Mental Health Services (sent out directly)</a>	2007/08/10
826	<a href="#">Conspiracy (sent out directly)</a>	2007/08/09
825	<a href="#">Regulations for MPs to be Released (sent out directly)</a>	2007/08/22
822	<a href="#">Family Therapists in Schools (sent out directly)</a>	2007/08/08
828	<a href="#">Fiscalisation of the Green Markets (sent out directly)</a>	2007/08/01
821	<a href="#">Lobbying (sent out directly)</a>	2007/08/01
829	<a href="#">Road Safety Regulations: Trees along the Roads (sent out directly)</a>	2007/08/01
820	<a href="#">Experiments on Animals (sent out directly)</a>	2007/07/30
819	<a href="#">Legal Protection of Human Remains (sent out directly)</a>	2007/07/30
818	<a href="#">Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights</a>	2007/07/25
817	<a href="#">Compensation for Former Political Prisoners</a>	2007/07/24
816	<a href="#">Support Staff for the Speaker</a>	2007/07/23
815	<a href="#">Foreign Investment</a>	2007/07/20
814	<a href="#">Tax Relief for Investments in Equipment for Economic Operators in Border Regions</a>	2007/07/20
813	<a href="#">Caravan Holiday Homes</a>	2007/07/18
812	<a href="#">Ratification Procedure for the EU Reform Treaty</a>	2007/07/16
811	<a href="#">Climate Change: National Legislation and National Initiatives (since 2004)</a>	2007/07/13
810	<a href="#">Collective Disputes and Right to Strike in the Passenger Transport Sector</a>	2007/07/12
808	<a href="#">Cost of the Parliament per Citizen</a>	2007/07/12
809	<a href="#">Duty of Juvenile not to consume Alcohol</a>	2007/07/12
806	<a href="#">Liaison Person in charge of Coordinating the Work of the Government and the Parliament</a>	2007/07/12
807	<a href="#">Support for families with chronically ill and disabled children</a>	2007/07/12
804	<a href="#">Democracy Museums/Exhibitions in or outside the Parliaments</a>	2007/07/06
803	<a href="#">Taxes and Subsidies for Film Production/Industry</a>	2007/07/06
805	<a href="#">Update: Pension Schemes for PMs</a>	2007/07/06
802	<a href="#">Personal Data Protection during Parliamentary Debates</a>	2007/07/05

800	<a href="#">Legal Protection of the Designation of the Ombudsman</a>	2007/07/03
801	<a href="#">Legislation conc. Public Nudity/Undressing in Public</a>	2007/07/03
799	<a href="#">Budget of National Audit Offices</a>	2007/07/02
798	<a href="#">Defence of the Prerogatives of Parliaments before National Courts</a>	2007/07/02
797	<a href="#">Participation of the Press Representatives in the Plenary Sessions</a>	2007/06/29
796	<a href="#">Real-Estate Credits</a>	2007/06/28
795	<a href="#">Elite Student Sport and Universiades</a>	2007/06/25
794	<a href="#">Criminal Justice for Juvenile Offenders</a>	2007/06/22
793	<a href="#">Fees and payments, which are paid by Prisoners (A- in prison B- during electronic monitoring)</a>	2007/06/20
791	<a href="#">Legal Responsibility of Officers of Former Communist Security Agencies</a>	2007/06/20
792	<a href="#">Procedure and Responsibility for Drafting the State Closing Account</a>	2007/06/20
789	<a href="#">Social Housing</a>	2007/06/15
790	<a href="#">Suspension/Forced Resignation of Police Officers</a>	2007/06/15
788	<a href="#">Law on Registration of Vehicles</a>	2007/06/14
787	<a href="#">Who has to Pay the Fine applied to a Minor (juvenile) charged in criminal offence</a>	2007/06/13
786	<a href="#">Parliamentary (Standing) Committee on Defence: Title, functions...</a>	2007/06/12
785	<a href="#">Making Licences “Dynamic” and General Conditions for Voluntary Commitments by Businesses</a>	2007/06/11
784	<a href="#">Ranks (Titles) of Officials of the Main Controlling Body of the State Budget Implementation</a>	2007/06/11
783	<a href="#">The Use of Tender in the Child Welfare Sector</a>	2007/06/11
782	<a href="#">Parliamentary Services provided to Members and their Staff</a>	2007/06/04
780	<a href="#">Court Decisions relating to Discrimination against Homosexuals (sent out directly)</a>	2007/05/31
781	<a href="#">Democratic and Civic Education in Parliaments: targeted age group 8-14 year olds (sent out directly)</a>	2007/05/31
777	<a href="#">Civilian (Voluntary) Service</a>	2007/05/30
778	<a href="#">Euthanasia</a>	2007/05/30
779	<a href="#">Minimum Service in Public Services</a>	2007/05/30
774	<a href="#">Preventive Constitutional Control (sent out directly)</a>	2007/05/29
773	<a href="#">Statistics relating to the Crime of Rape (sent out directly)</a>	2007/05/25
772	<a href="#">Legal Aspects of Transsexualism (sent out directly)</a>	2007/05/24
771	<a href="#">Act regardinging Museum (sent out directly)</a>	2007/05/22
775	<a href="#">Opinion Polls (sent out directly)</a>	2007/05/22
776	<a href="#">Security Concept for Visitors Area of Parliaments (sent out directly)</a>	2007/05/22
770	<a href="#">Legal Provisions concerning Defamation (sent out directly)</a>	2007/05/21
769	<a href="#">Relations between national Parliaments and Civil Society: Foundations, NGOs, other (sent out directly)</a>	2007/05/17
768	<a href="#">Parliamentarians Rights to Ask Questions and to Obtain Information (sent out directly)</a>	2007/05/16

767	<a href="#">ICT-Equipment provided to Members in Legislative Committees (sent out directly)</a>	2007/05/15
766	<a href="#">Staffing of Parliaments - update (sent out directly)</a>	2007/05/10
765	<a href="#">Principles of Financing MPs Operations : Remuneration and other (sent out directly)</a>	2007/05/09
763	<a href="#">Number of Dismissed Supreme Court Judges</a>	2007/05/08
764	<a href="#">Political Supervision Body of the Parliamentary Research Service</a>	2007/05/08
761	<a href="#">National Ratification Procedures in the EU Member States</a>	2007/04/30
762	<a href="#">Parliamentary Control of Budget Implementation</a>	2007/04/30
760	<a href="#">Rights of Opposition Parliamentary Groups in Parliament</a>	2007/04/25
759	<a href="#">The Right to Silence of MPs and Government Ministers</a>	2007/04/25
757	<a href="#">Parliamentary Minority Rights</a>	2007/04/24
758	<a href="#">Road Traffic Act - Competence for Removing Vehicles</a>	2007/04/24
756	<a href="#">Bioengineering and Vivisection</a>	2007/04/23
755	<a href="#">Christian Democratic Ideology in Textbooks for Compulsory Secondary and Upper-Secondary School</a>	2007/04/23
753	<a href="#">Parliamentary Recesses, Evening Sessions and Meeting Schedules</a>	2007/04/20
754	<a href="#">Relation between Parliament and Judiciary</a>	2007/04/20
751	<a href="#">Laws on Official Languages</a>	2007/04/17
750	<a href="#">Legal Status of Professionals in Real-Estate Business</a>	2007/04/17
749	<a href="#">Funding of Fire Brigades (Functioning and Equipment)</a>	2007/04/12
748	<a href="#">Parliamentary Bodies dealing with the subjects of Globalisation and Foreign Trade</a>	2007/04/12
747	<a href="#">Data Protection Audits</a>	2007/04/11
746	<a href="#">Private Judicial Execution Service</a>	2007/04/04
745	<a href="#">Ear-Marking Revenue from Fines for Charitable Organisations that assist Victims (law on penalties for crime)</a>	2007/04/02
744	<a href="#">Use of Esperanto in Parliamentary Websites</a>	2007/04/02
743	<a href="#">Parliaments and Central Banks, a Vital Relationship</a>	2007/03/27
742	<a href="#">Specific Characteristics of the Parliamentary Administration (Parliamentary Work Periods and Rhythms)</a>	2007/03/27
741	<a href="#">Bibliographic References Titles conc. the European and National Parliaments</a>	2007/03/26
740	<a href="#">Green Parliaments (Environmentally friendly Measures in Parliaments)</a>	2007/03/21
739	<a href="#">Drafting of Parliamentary Budget</a>	2007/03/20
738	<a href="#">Working Hours of Parliamentary Staff and Parliamentary Assistants</a>	2007/03/19
737	<a href="#">Role of Internet in in the Trafficking of Human Beings in Europe</a>	2007/03/16
736	<a href="#">Voting of Amendments and Allocation of Speaking Time</a>	2007/03/14
734	<a href="#">Enforcement of a Warrant of Execution by Bailiff on Small Agricultural Farms</a>	2007/03/13
735	<a href="#">Marriage and Immigration (Forced Marriage)</a>	2007/03/13
733	<a href="#">North European Gas Pipeline - Nord Stream Pipeline</a>	2007/03/13

732	<a href="#"><u>Reporting Crimes via Internet</u></a>	2007/03/09
731	<a href="#"><u>Custody Awaiting Deportation</u></a>	2007/03/08
730	<a href="#"><u>Central Electoral Commission or Board</u></a>	2007/03/07
729	<a href="#"><u>Transport Services in Parliamentary Administration</u></a>	2007/03/07
728	<a href="#"><u>Quorum at Plenary Sitings and Voting Dates</u></a>	2007/03/06
727	<a href="#"><u>Municipal Elections</u></a>	2007/03/02
726	<a href="#"><u>Diplomatic Passports for Senators</u></a>	2007/03/01
725	<a href="#"><u>Court Fees for Divorces and Marital Separations</u></a>	2007/02/28
724	<a href="#"><u>Extra Allowances for Interparliamentary Activities on Saturdays and Sundays</u></a>	2007/02/28
723	<a href="#"><u>Prosecutors Office</u></a>	2007/02/27
722	<a href="#"><u>Citizen-Deputy Relationship</u></a>	2007/02/26
721	<a href="#"><u>Rules of Banking Confidentiality</u></a>	2007/02/26
720	<a href="#"><u>Educational Units inside Parliaments</u></a>	2007/02/22
719	<a href="#"><u>Transparency of Legislative Process and Role of Parliamentary Web Sites</u></a>	2007/02/21
718	<a href="#"><u>Household Waste Management</u></a>	2007/02/20
717	<a href="#"><u>Killer Games - Computer Games glorifying Violence</u></a>	2007/02/20
716	<a href="#"><u>Character Description of Parliamentary Staff Members</u></a>	2007/02/19
715	<a href="#"><u>Deaf Children Education</u></a>	2007/02/19
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64	<a href="#">National electoral studies</a>	2002/06/03
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50	<a href="#">Help Desk and PC Services</a>	2002/02/28
53	<a href="#">Appointment Auditor General</a>	2002/02/25
51	<a href="#">Pre-election Polls</a>	2002/02/25
54	<a href="#">Taxation of Bank Interest</a>	2002/02/19
56	<a href="#">Alien Employment</a>	2002/02/13
48	<a href="#">Law electroconvulsive therapy</a>	2002/02/05
47	<a href="#">Assessment performance parliamentary staff</a>	2002/02/04
46	<a href="#">Allowances and Expenses MPs</a>	2002/01/29
45	<a href="#">MP Code Ethics for Acts outside Parliament</a>	2002/01/24
44	<a href="#">Brochures on Parliament for Kids</a>	2002/01/23
84	<a href="#">IT Equipments for MPs</a>	2002/01/17
43	<a href="#">Oath</a>	2002/01/10
42	<a href="#">Legal Deposit</a>	2001/12/19
40	<a href="#">Fight Corruption</a>	2001/12/13
41	<a href="#">Security Regulations</a>	2001/12/13
38	<a href="#">Questions on Delegated Legislation</a>	2001/12/12
39	<a href="#">White Papers</a>	2001/12/12
37	<a href="#">Financing and legal status of political parties</a>	2001/12/04
36	<a href="#">Situation of members of local authorities</a>	2001/12/04
35	<a href="#">Taxation Artists</a>	2001/11/21
34	<a href="#">Identity-Cards in Parliaments</a>	2001/11/06
32	<a href="#">Health Services</a>	2001/10/26
33	<a href="#">Incompatibility of holding public offices</a>	2001/10/26
31	<a href="#">Use of official Christmas cards</a>	2001/10/08
30	<a href="#">Constitutional amendments for EU accession</a>	2001/09/20

29	<a href="#"><u>Comparative study on the departure allowances for MPs</u></a>	2001/09/06
28	<a href="#"><u>Parliamentary control of Budget Implementation, Rev. 2001</u></a>	2001/08/13
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3	<a href="#"><u>Justification of legislative amendments</u></a>	2000/04/01
2	<a href="#"><u>Administrative structures of parliaments</u></a>	2000/03/01
1	<a href="#"><u>Right of non-EU citizens to vote in local elections</u></a>	2000/02/01



Annex 5 - ECPRD Co-ordinators of Areas of Interest

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## Annex 6 - Glossary of Terms

ASGP	Association of Secretaries General of Parliament
CELEX	The Inter-institutional Legal Data Base
COSAC	Conférence des Organes Spécialisées dans les Affaires Communautaires (Conference of Bodies Specialising in Community Affairs)
CRONOS	The European Commission's Statistical Data Base
ECPRD	European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation
EMU	European Monetary Union
EUROVOC	Multilingual Parliamentary Thesaurus
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IGC	Inter-governmental Conference
INSIS	Inter-institutional Information System
IPEX	Inter-parliamentary EU Information Exchange
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
NED-programme	Assistance-programme to Parliaments of New or Emerging Democracies
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PICP	Pan-European Inter-parliamentary Cooperation Programme
TEU	Treaty on European Union





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