

Meeting of the IPEX Correspondents, 2 – 3 November 2023, Prague

Summary of Workshop I - IPEX v3 and its user-friendliness from the IPEX Correspondents' and Users' perspective

During the Annual IPEX Correspondents' meeting on 3 November 2023, the participants were divided into two separate workshops. The first workshop was focused on the topic "IPEX v3 and its user-friendliness from the IPEX Correspondents' and Users' perspective". At the beginning of this workshop, the co-chairs briefly informed the participants about the results of the IPEX Users Survey 2023 study related to user-friendliness and reliability, the latest development of the IPEX platform, and a basic overview of future challenges and plans related to development of the platform. **Regarding the results of the IPEX User Survey study**, the co-chairs mentioned for example that in total 74 participants had taken part in the survey, out of this number 30% responded that they had a correspondent's account. An overwhelming majority of persons participating in the questionnaire indicated that the information was very easy (19%) or relatively easy to find (70%). A topic that has for a long time been under the attention of the IPEX Board is the (in)consistency in uploading information by National Parliaments on IPEX. Therefore, the survey specifically asked how the uploading of information by parliaments can be improved. An overwhelming majority of 83% considered IPEX to be the "one-stop-shop website". On the other hand, respondents also expressed some criticism, stressing that there was room for improvement, for example in terms of user-friendliness. Elements that need further work according to those surveyed were the reliability of uploading the data, the delay in uploading the data, or the need to supplement the information from other sources. Another issue raised by the respondents was the lack of translations of some documents. Co-chairs also presented to participants selected actions suggested in the study that could improve the user-friendliness and reliability of the IPEX, e.g., improvement of the Calendar section, upload of the responses of the European Commission to the reasoned opinions, encouraging the National Parliaments to translate the published text, encouraging the National Parliaments to use automated processes for uploading information at IPEX or question of compulsory upload of certain documents. **As for the latest development of the IPEX**, the IPEX Information Officer briefly summarized the latest versions of the IPEX and their scope while mentioning for example the version IPEX v3.16 which was focused mainly on update of search functionality. Regarding the future challenges and plans, the IPEX Information Officer mentioned that in the near future, the development team would like to focus for example on the improvement of the Administrator Interface (Back Office), translations (dynamic labels), expansion of the search functionalities (following the EurLex approach) or IT capabilities of the National Parliaments and possible expansion of the use of the automated process for uploading of information at IPEX.

During the ensuing debate, the participants discussed the possibility of uploading the responses of the European Commission or translation of some documents and the potential use of the eTranslation service of the European Commission as a plugin for translations which could help National Parliaments with the translation of the summary of documents. In this context, some participants mentioned that the resolutions of the National Parliaments are official documents that cannot be translated by the translations tool since they need to meet given

requirements. However, some participants also mentioned that it is possible to use “courtesy translations” of the documents or upload the resolution in the national language and attached only the short summary of the document in English. Participants also discussed the use of automated systems for uploading the information and how this system could facilitate the work of the IPEX Correspondents and reduce the manual workload. From all participants in the workshop, several correspondents stated that their Parliaments used automated processes (e. g. Denmark, Sweden, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic (Senate)). Several other Correspondents also expressed the interest of their Parliament to use the automated process in the future. Therefore, these participants were invited to contact colleagues from the Parliaments currently using the automated system or the IPEX Board to obtain information about the systems. In this context, the co-chairs of the workshop also mentioned the existence of the XML starting kit which could help the National Parliaments with the development of their own automated systems for uploading the information. The participants also discussed the possibility of improving the Calendar section. In this context, the IPEX Information Officer underlined that any modifications of this section would result in need to change the entire calendar database. Moreover, participants also stressed the need for timely upload of all documents related to the meetings in order to promote the IPEX as a "one-stop-shop website". Lastly, the participants also briefly discussed the improvements of the IPEX search engine and the possibility of making the search engine more user-friendly for the users who did not use IPEX on a daily basis (e. g. staff of political groups) since for them it is sometimes difficult to find required information/documents. IPEX Information Officer mentioned in this case that according to the IPEX Guidelines, the IPEX Correspondents should train staff in the National Parliaments, informing them about the use of the new search mechanism, and could also help with searching the documents/information.