



## **Written report on the work of IPEX in 2011**

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### **1. Launch of the new IPEX 2.0 website**

Based on the IPEX Board's priorities for 2010, preparatory work for the launch of the new IPEX 2.0 website continued and was completed as planned.

On 1 July 2011, the new IPEX website was launched. On the basis of the design drawn up by a working group established by the IPEX Board, the European Parliament's IT department developed the site and tested the beta version together with the Central Support and selected IPEX Correspondents.

The new technical platform offers an optimal framework for the national Parliaments to rapidly and reliably upload and retrieve information about European legislative proposals and Commission consultation documents. In addition, IPEX 2.0 offers the national Parliaments and the European Parliament the added value of a calendar and a News section where they can provide further information on EU matters which are being examined in the national Parliaments. Password-protected forums allow informal information to be shared. A section devoted entirely to the national Parliaments enables them to describe the legal, institutional and organisational framework of their work on European affairs. Finally, the IPEX 2.0 website also hosts the site of the Conference of Speakers of European Union Parliaments. Another important new feature is that the site can be navigated not only in the two IPEX languages, English and French, but also in all of the official languages of the European Union.

All IPEX Correspondents were given the opportunity to get to know the new website at three training courses in Berlin (5 and 6 May 2011) and Copenhagen (16 and 17 June 2011). At the annual meeting of the IPEX Correspondents, held in Ljubljana on 25 November 2011, the Correspondents discussed their initial experiences with the new website. Further training was offered on 24 November 2011 in Ljubljana and on 28 November, 1 December and 16 December 2011 in Brussels.

Since its launch, the website has been continuously improved and updated. This has involved:

- (1) Further securing access to the site by installing a dedicated security certificate
- (2) Improving the presentation of the scrutiny process in the national Parliaments with a special view to exchanges taking place under Protocol 1 and Protocol 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon
- (3) Extending features for online discussions in restricted groups
- (4) Improving the possibilities for national Parliaments to upload and retrieve information by electronic transmissions
- (5) Ensuring increased control for the Information Officer to manage content on the site
- (6) Providing statistics on legislative proposals published on IPEX and the related scrutiny process in national Parliaments.

## **2. Employment of a new IPEX Information Officer**

At the end of 2010, the contract of the then IPEX Information Officer expired. The position was advertised online Europe-wide by the IPEX Board. A total of 62 candidates applied from 19 EU Member States, one candidate country, and a further five non-EU states. Following a written selection process, eight women and six men from 10 EU Member States were invited to attend interviews in Brussels conducted by the IPEX Board.

The interviews took place on 14 and 15 February 2012. The successful applicant, Mr Calin Racoti, a Romanian citizen, received an employment contract based on German law from the Chair of the Board, the German Bundestag. The German Bundestag also obtained the necessary permits for his employment in Brussels. The position of the IPEX Information Officer is financed by the annual contributions from the national Parliaments, topped up by the German Bundestag to allow payment of an appropriate salary commensurate with the required qualifications. All of the national Parliaments expressed their willingness to contribute to the financing of the position of the IPEX Information Officer and paid the share determined by the Secretaries-General in 2009. The Italian and Hungarian parliaments expressed a willingness to voluntarily pay a higher contribution.

### 3. IPEX FACTS AND FIGURES 2011

The year 2011 can be considered a turning-point for IPEX, not just because of the launch of the new platform in June, but also because of a reversal of trend.

The old system was obviously not fulfilling its initial purpose and the users were falling sharply: in the second half of 2010, there were 99,392 visits on 1,893,377 pages, only to fall in the first half of 2011 to 53,953 visits and 679,892 pages.

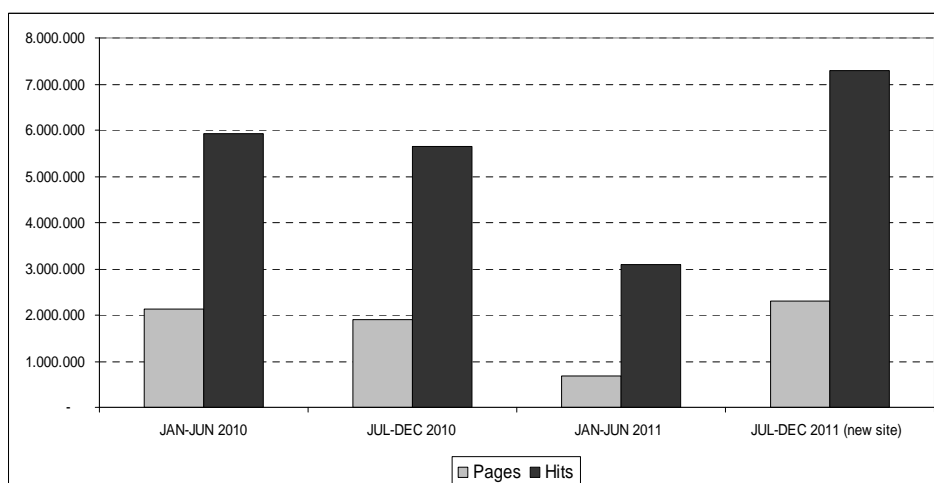


Fig. 1 - Number of visits and visited pages on IPEX (six-month periods), 2010 and 2011

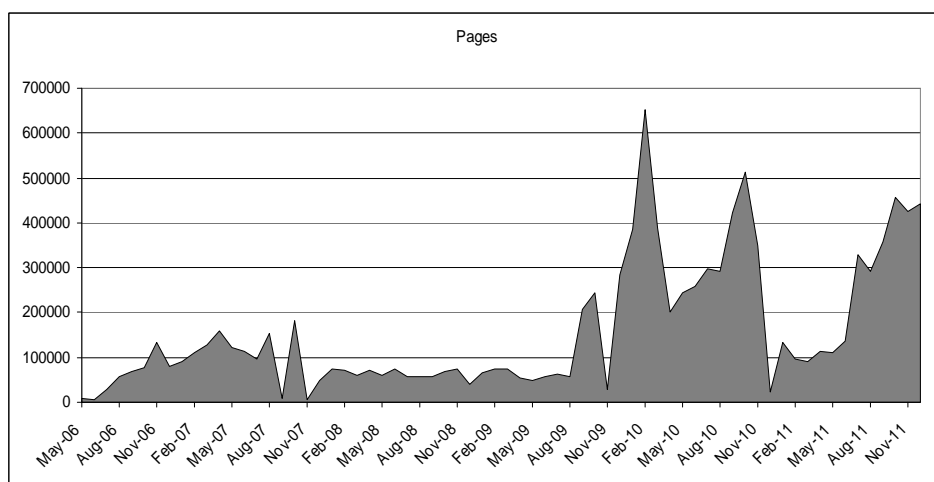


Fig. 2 - Number of visits, May 2008 - November 2011

The launch of the new IPEX not only redressed the situation, but also increased the overall number of visits and visited pages.

#### Documents and scrutiny updates from national Parliaments

The IPEX database is hosting an increased number of documents - out of a total of 44,926 entries in the database, 6,757 are Commission and Council documents (a 21% increase from last year) and 32,968 scrutiny updates by national Parliaments (16% increase). There are also 5,201 dossiers.

The number of documents from national Parliaments has also witnessed strong growth with a total of 32,968 documents. Comparing this to 2010 (28,439), we note that there is a substantial growth in documents. On average, this translates to more than 865 documents per chamber. However, due to the varying types of scrutiny systems employed by national Parliaments, the number of scrutiny updates from participating parliaments varies greatly.

### **The XML project**

The 'XML feed' project, launched at the beginning of 2009, aims to automate the transmission of information relating to the scrutiny process from national Parliaments to IPEX using structured electronic messages.

Since April 2009 the possibility of allowing the IPEX server to receive and process such structured messages has been in place, and when the new website was developed special attention was paid to continuing this service while limiting changes for the increasing number of chambers that have opted to use this means of transmission.

With the extended structure of information on the new website, the 'XML feed' project was adapted to allow for the upload of extra information under the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty. At the same time, national Parliaments were given the possibility to retrieve some information from IPEX by the same means, in order to make it available for their websites.

### **Reasoned opinions**

With the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, a variety of new documents and procedures have been incorporated into IPEX. The 8-week subsidiarity check carried out by the national Parliaments has shown again how important the exchange of information between the national Parliaments is. Currently, IPEX contains about 60 reasoned opinions.

### **Commission documents**

As of December 2011, 710 Commission documents (COM docs) have been uploaded to IPEX, while SEC documents increased by 57% to 476.

### **Meetings**

In 2011, the IPEX Board met two times, on 28.03.2011 and 11.10.2011. The Central Support held five meetings, namely on 10.01, 28.03, 20.06, 19.09 and 08.11.2011. A special Working Group appointed by the Board on modification of the IPEX Guidelines met in Warsaw on 20 June 2011.

**ANNEX 1 – Documents and scrutiny updates from national parliaments –  
Dec. 2011**

| <b>Chambers</b>  | <b>Number of pages added</b> |
|--|------------------------------|
| Austria - Bundesrat :  | 74                           |
| Austria - Nationalrat :  | 90                           |
| Belgium - Chambre des Représentants<br>Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers : | /<br>198                     |
| Belgium - Sénat / Senaat :   | 743                          |
| Bulgaria - Narodno Sobranie :  | 80                           |
| Cyprus - Vouli Antiprosopon :  | 4                            |
| Czech Republic - Poslanecká Sněmovna :                                     | 1948                         |
| Czech Republic - Senát :   | 441                          |
| Denmark - Folketinget :  | 753                          |
| Estonia - Riigikogu :  | 250                          |
| Finland - Eduskunta :  | 705                          |
| France - Assemblée Nationale :   | 1131                         |
| France - Sénat :   | 281                          |
| Germany - Bundesrat :  | 893                          |
| Germany - Bundestag :  | 2839                         |
| Greece - Vouli Ton Ellinon :   | 32                           |
| Hungary - Országgyűlés :   | 75                           |
| Ireland - Tithe an Oireachtais - Dáil Éireann / Seanad Éireann :           | 1527                         |
| Italy - Camera dei Deputati :  | 2424                         |
| Italy - Senato della Repubblica :  | 225                          |
| Latvia - Saeima :  | 10                           |
| Lithuania - Seimas :   | 157                          |
| Luxembourg - Chambre des Députés :   | 345                          |
| Malta - Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati :  | 678                          |
| Poland - Sejm :  | 2383                         |
| Poland - Senat :   | 1618                         |
| Portugal - Assembleia da República :                                       | 581                          |
| Romania - Camera Deputatilor :   | 134                          |
| Romania - Senatul :  | 38                           |
| Slovakia - Národná Rada Slovenskej Republiky :                             | 697                          |
| Slovenia - Državni Zbor Republike Slovenije :                              | 200                          |
| Spain - Cortes Generales   | 793                          |
| Sweden - Riksdagen :   | 4055                         |
| The Netherlands - Eerste Kamer :   | 354                          |
| The Netherlands - Tweede Kamer :   | 334                          |
| United Kingdom - House of Commons :  | 3813                         |
| United Kingdom - House of Lords :  | 2065                         |
| <b>Total : 38 chambers</b>   | <b>32968</b>                 |

## Annex 2 - Documents added in 2011

| Chambers                                       | Number of pages added |
|--|-----------------------|
| Austria - Bundesrat :                          | 24                    |
| Austria - Nationalrat :                        | 23                    |
| Belgium - Chambre des Représentants            | /                     |
| Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers :            | 82                    |
| Belgium - Sénat / Senaat :                     | 225                   |
| Bulgaria - Narodno Sobranie :                  | 39                    |
| Cyprus - Vouli Antiprosopon :                  | 1                     |
| Czech Republic - Poslanecká Sněmovna :         | 85                    |
| Czech Republic - Senát :                       | 121                   |
| Denmark - Folketinget :                        | 16                    |
| Estonia - Riigikogu :                          | 8                     |
| Finland - Eduskunta :                          | 220                   |
| France - Assemblée Nationale :                 | 20                    |
| France - Sénat :                               | 19                    |
| Germany - Bundesrat :                          | 237                   |
| Germany - Bundestag :                          | 429                   |
| Greece - Vouli Ton Ellinon :                   | 4                     |
| Hungary - Országgyűlés :                       | 13                    |
| Ireland - Tithe an Oireachtais :               | /                     |
| Dáil Éireann / Seanad Éireann :                | 25                    |
| Italy - Camera dei Deputati :                  | 50                    |
| Italy - Senato della Repubblica :              | 55                    |
| Latvia - Saeima :                              | 1                     |
| Lithuania - Seimas :                           | 82                    |
| Luxembourg - Chambre des Députés :             | 11                    |
| Malta - Il-Kamra Tad-Deputati :                | 20                    |
| Poland - Sejm :                                | 531                   |
| Poland - Senat :                               | 213                   |
| Portugal - Assembleia da República :           | 167                   |
| Romania - Camera Deputatilor :                 | 128                   |
| Romania - Senatul :                            | 23                    |
| Slovakia - Národná Rada Slovenskej Republiky : | 93                    |
| Slovenia - Državni Zbor Republike Slovenije :  | 23                    |
| Spain - Cortes Generales                       | 66                    |
| Sweden - Riksdagen :                           | 708                   |
| The Netherlands - Eerste Kamer :               | 59                    |
| The Netherlands - Tweede Kamer :               | 35                    |
| United Kingdom - House of Commons :            | 536                   |
| United Kingdom - House of Lords :              | 109                   |