

STATISTICS CONCERNING DOCUMENTS OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS IN THE EC, EP, IPEX DATABASES AND IN SOME REPORTS

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I. Introduction

The paper includes information on the possibilities of making statistics about documents of national parliaments (NPs) adopted in the process of EU documents scrutiny, both under the Lisbon Treaty as well as by way of established practice, and submitted to the EC, EP and Council. Therefore, the databases of 3 institutions: National Parliament opinion and Commission replies (NPO), Connect, Council Register as well as IPEX will be discussed, together with possibilities of searching for the aforementioned NPs' documents. In case of the European Commission also statistical reports as main source of data will be presented.

The goal of the submitted paper is a description of the state of play with regard to statistics of NPs' documents in the European databases/reports, an attempt to identify vectors influencing them, such as: scope of databases, categories of documents, terminology used, especially concerning political dialogue (PD), and search possibilities.

When categories of documents are concerned, we should take into account:

- documents of reasoned opinions (RO), political dialogue (opinions, contributions, statements, own initiative opinions); in the EU institutions databases there are documents received, in IPEX – documents sent/adopted,
- information concerning early warning mechanism (yellow card),
- replies of EU institutions concerned to NPS' submissions.

It is worth underlining that – independently from different categories used by each institution – in the academic literature and in interparliamentary cooperation the dichotomous division is used for describing NPs' documents, that is a division into:

- a) reasoned opinions concerning incompliance of the EU draft legislative act with subsidiarity principle,
- b) documents of the political dialogue (initiated by the Commission in 2006¹), which includes all other than ROs documents submitted by NPs to EU institutions.

The description starts with the databases/statistics of the Commission and the EP as main addresses of NPS' documents in question, and against this backdrop IPEX database its search possibilities and statistics are presented.

¹ European Commission, 'A Citizens' Agenda: Delivering Results for Europe', COM(2006) 211, p. 9.
Letter from J.M. Barroso, M. Wallstrom, 01.12.2009:
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/relations/relations_other/npo/docs/letter_en.pdf

II. European Commission - information on NPs documents received

1. Database “National Parliaments opinions and Commission replies” (NPO)

It provides access to the opinions of EU countries' National Parliaments on Commission proposals, and the Commission's replies.

Document No	Title	Opinion of the national Parliament	Reply from the Commission
COM/2018/0051	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on health technology assessment and amending Directive 2011/24/EU	Statement from the Sejm of the Republic of Poland [138KB] Statement from the Senate of the Republic of Poland [215KB]	Reply from the Commission [136KB] Reply from the Commission [212KB]
COM/2018/0131	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing a European Labour Authority	Statement from the Senate of the Republic of Poland [119KB] Statement from the Sejm of the Republic of Poland [288KB]	Reply from the Commission [138KB]

1) Scope of the database

Database “National Parliaments opinions and Commission replies” contains documents of national parliaments concerning Commission legislative proposals, consultation documents and other Commission documents sent to the NPs. It is in operation on the EC website since May 2009, and contains NPs’ documents sent since 2006. It gathers:

- national parliaments’ reasoned opinions on subsidiarity sent to EC in accordance with Protocol no. 2,
- opinions on the substance or any other aspect of the draft legal acts or EC consultation documents sent to the EC,
- own initiative opinions of national parliaments sent to the EC,
- Commission replies to above opinions (EC usually does not give detailed replies to positive opinions).

2) Presentation of documents

Documents (in pdf format) collected in the database are grouped by Member States and on the sub-sites of individual Member States - by years. Year relates to the date of the adoption of EC document and not to the date of adoption/transmission of an opinion by national parliament.

All documents of NP (both chambers in case of bicameral parliaments) are listed in one column: „Opinion of the national parliament”, in chronological order of COM documents to which they relate.

Every NP' document is entitled "Statement from + name of the parliament/chamber". Hence, in order to distinguish reasoned opinion from other documents sent by national parliament the file should be opened and analysed.

The title of the file indicates which chamber is the author in the case of bicameral parliaments.

"Own initiative opinions" constitute a separate category (within each member state) without a subdivision on years. They relate not to a specific consultation document or legislative proposal but to EU policy or general problems.

3) Search

There is no search engine.

Statistics of ROs and PD can be made only manually, after opening each NP document and checking its content.

2. EC reports as a source of statistical data

1) Terminology used in the reports

The Commission discusses documents received from NPs and presents their statistics in 2 yearly reports that are published in July/August:

- *Annual Report on relations between the European Commission and National Parliaments*
- *Annual report on subsidiarity and proportionality*

The EC regards all submissions of NPs, including reasoned opinions, as a political dialogue (PD)²: it underlines that ROs include remarks concerning other than 'incompliance with subsidiarity' aspects of EU documents. The consequence of such an approach is terminology used in the reports: all submissions of NPs are called "opinions" and are divided into 'opinions' and reasoned opinions.

The term of "political dialogue" is – depending on the context – referred to:

- a) "opinions" (all) - political dialogue understood as a process (including also documents of reasoned opinions)
or – rarely – to
- b) only that part of all "opinions" that doesn't include reasoned opinions (see COM(2017) 601, 3rd paragraph on p. 2³, and the title of Annex 3 to this COM document).

However, the Commission doesn't present directly statistics concerning the category of "political dialogue" in the narrower (b) or generally used meaning of the word.

² **Political dialogue** is a process initiated by the Barroso Commission in May 2006 when the Commission decided *to transmit directly all new proposals and consultation papers to national parliaments, inviting them to react so as to improve the process of policy formulation*. The initiative was welcomed by the European Council, 15-16 June 2006, and on 17 July 2006 a letter was sent by J.M. Barroso and M. Wallstrom to national parliaments with a formal invitation. The process was called "Barroso initiative" or "political dialogue". It has no legal basis, and is an informal, non-binding commitment of the Commission. The initiative was backed by the European Parliament in May 2009 (the details in the EP section).

The Treaty of Lisbon strengthened the national parliaments' right to receive information, inter alia by expanding the list of documents and types of information transmitted directly to them (Protocol no 1). At the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the Commission addressed the national parliaments with the practical arrangements for the operation of the subsidiarity control mechanism, underlining at the same time that this mechanism is a part of a wider political relationship between the Commission and national parliaments, and should be applied alongside the political dialogue.

³ "...the Commission maintained an active written exchange with national Parliaments through the political dialogue and subsidiarity control mechanism."

2) Information contained in 2 reports of the EC – on the example of COM(2017) 600 and COM(2017) 601

- *Annex to the Annual Report 2017 on relations between the European Commission and National Parliaments COM(2017) 601*

List of:

- number of opinions (opinions + ROs) received split per parliament/Chamber
- number of ROs per Parliament/Chamber,
- the EC documents generating the highest (at least 8) number of opinions PDs and ROs
- number of opinions received (PD plus ROs) split by Commission services

- *Annex to the Annual report 2017 on subsidiarity and proportionality COM(2017) 600*

List of:

- number of ROs per NP/Chamber^x,
- number of votes per EC document,

split by Commission document

^x “To calculate the total number of reasoned opinions, the Commission counts by number of reasoned opinions received. Reasoned opinions jointly concerning more than one Commission document therefore only count as one reasoned opinion.”- see the footnote 30 in the Annex.

3. Summary of the Commission information

As it was demonstrated above, the way of presentation of NPs’ submissions and the lack of search engine in NPO database don’t allow to prepare any statistics. It includes documents since 2006 (available since 2009) but only those Commission documents to which submissions of NPs were received.

All submissions are called in the database “opinions” (also “own initiative opinions”) and are grouped by year of the adoption of EU document, split by country, in chronological order of COM concerned. The database contains also replies to NPs opinions from the Commission.

The Commission presents all NPs submissions (considering them as obtained in political dialogue) and their statistics in 2 yearly reports that were usually published in July/August:

- on relations between the EC and National Parliaments,
- on subsidiarity and proportionality.

In the reports the term of political dialogue is referred, depending on the context, to all opinions or – rarely – to that part of all opinions which are not reasoned opinions.

The Commission:

- presents statistics on ROs received in a given year and total number of opinions received in a given year (opinions are divided into ‘opinions’ and ‘reasoned opinions’;)
- doesn’t present statistics concerning directly political dialogue in generally used meaning of this term (all other than ROs documents submitted by NPs to EU institutions as a result of EU documents scrutiny). PD submissions to the Commission can be calculated by deducting ROs from all opinions.

II. European Parliament – information on NPs documents received

The EP, besides participation, since December 2009, in subsidiarity control provided for in the Protocol no 2, committed itself earlier to participate in the political dialogue initiated by the Commission, emphasising its importance for pre-legislative stage. In its resolution of 7 May 2009, the EP envisaged more systematic monitoring of the **pre-legislative dialogue between the national parliaments and the Commission (the so-called "Barroso initiative")**, and called on the national parliaments to make their opinions issued in this context available to it at the same time as to the Commission.⁴

The EP gathers national parliaments reasoned opinions and contributions in: database CONNECT, EP Public Register of Documents and Statistics on subsidiarity check. Only Connect database will be discussed below as the most efficient tool.

1. CONNECT database



The screenshot displays the website header for 'European Parliament Relations with National Parliaments'. The navigation menu includes 'News', 'About', 'Meetings', 'Conferences', and 'CONNECT'. Below the menu, there are three links: 'Welcome', 'Subsidiarity check', 'Informal Political Dialogue', and 'European Parliament Initiatives'. The 'Informal Political Dialogue' link is circled in red. The main content area shows search filters for Proposal, Year, Country, Chamber, Document Type, and Committee. Below the filters, a summary table shows the number of submissions received from National Parliaments since 2009 in the framework of the Informal Political Dialogue. The table indicates a total of 2134 contributions received. Below the table, the search results are displayed as 'Result(s) : 1273' for the query 'C(2015)8000', which is identified as a 'Commission Decision establishing an independent advisory European Fiscal Board'. The number of contributions for this specific result is 1.

Number of submissions received from National Parliaments since 2009 in the framework of the Informal Political Dialogue	
Total of contributions received	2134

Result(s) : 1273

C(2015)8000
Commission Decision establishing an independent advisory European Fiscal Board
Contributions: 1

⁴ The EP resolution of 7 May 2009 on the development of the relations between the European Parliament and national parliaments under the Treaty of Lisbon ([2008/2120\(INI\)](#)), point 16.

1) Scope of the database

The database is publicly available since May 2017 on *EP relations with National Parliaments* – the website of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments.

Connect gathers EU-related NPs' documents forwarded by the national parliaments to the EP since 2009.

It includes 3 main sections: *Subsidiarity check*, *Informal Political Dialogue* and *European Parliament Initiatives* (the last not available yet).

a) *Subsidiarity check* is divided into reasoned opinions and contributions

The section contains submissions which concern legislative proposals subject to subsidiarity check under Protocol no 2, both raising subsidiarity concern (reasoned opinions) or not (contributions).

b) *Informal Political Dialogue* (IPD) includes only contributions

The section contains submissions concerning EU proposals in areas of exclusive EU competence or non-legislative documents.

2) Search

Documents (in pdf or word format) collected in the database can be searched through:

- EC document number,
- year of reception of a RO/contribution
(when for example choosing 2018 in search form, on a result list we receive all EC proposals to which reasoned opinions or contributions were submitted in 2018 and a default presentation of number of submissions alongside the document types proper to a given section),
- Member State and/or parliamentary chamber,
- document type (RO or contribution),
- EP committee.

3) Subsidiarity check – search by document type

Welcome | **Subsidiarity check** | Informal Political Dialogue | European Parliament Initiatives

Proposal
[Text input field]

Country
All countries

Document Type
All types
Contribution
Reasoned Opinion

Year
All years

Chamber
All chambers

Committee
All committees

since 2009 in the framework of the Protocol 2 subsidiarity checks

Number of reasoned opinions received	467
Number of contributions received	2625
Total of reasoned opinions and contributions received	3092

Result(s) : 830

COM(2010)0012
Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning European Union

1 In every section there is a default presentation of global number of submissions alongside the categories proper to a given section.

2 Number of EU documents to which the reasoned opinions received by the EP were submitted.

4) Display of the record in “Subsidiarity check” containing both ROs and contributions

The texts of all submissions of national parliaments to a given EU document are presented on the subpage of this document at a time.

Welcome Subsidiarity check Informal Political Dialogue European Parliament Initiatives

COM(2015)0593
Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment

Procedure(s) 2015/0272(COD)

Committees **ENVI** Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Rapporteur(s) Simona Bonafè

Reasoned opinions

French Senate
BG ES CS DE EL EN FR HR IT LV LT HU PL NL RO PT SI SK SV FI

Contributions

Italian Senate
IT

Czech Senate
CS EN

Italian Chamber of Deputies
IT

Reception Date *: 28-02-2017

Own initiative opinions

Welcome Subsidiarity check Informal Political Dialogue European Parliament Initiatives

Proposal: [input] Year: 2018

Country: Republic of Poland Chamber: All chambers

Document Type: All types Committee: All committees

Number of submissions received from National Parliaments in the year 2018 in the framework of the Informal Political Dialogue

Total of contributions received: 159

Result(s) : 3

COM(2017)0650
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Commission Work Programme 2018 An agenda for a more united, stronger and more democratic Europe
Contributions: 8

COM(2018)0321
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A Modern Budget for a Union that Protects, Empowers and Defends The Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027
Contributions: 5

OWN(2018)0094
RESOLUTION OF THE SEJM OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND ADOPTED ON 07/06/2018 ON THE FUTURE SHAPE OF THE COHESION POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION
Contributions: 1

Own initiative opinions are treated as a separate category within IPD and appear on the result list together with EU documents under a special <OWN + number> reference (searchable by ref. number or only 'own' kod).

2. Summary of the CONNECT information

In Connect database the EP divides all documents obtained from NPs on:

- submissions which concern legislative proposals subject to subsidiarity check, both raising subsidiarity concern (reasoned opinions) or not (contributions).
- contributions in Informal Political Dialogue (IPD) which concern EU proposals in areas of exclusive EU competence or non-legislative documents.

So, the Connect categories corresponding to PD in the generally used meaning of the term would be the sum of contributions in subsidiarity check and all contributions in Informal Political Dialogue.

It is worth underlining that own initiative opinions constitute a subcategory of Informal Political Dialogue.

Some of the advantages of the Connect are:

- information on number of NPs documents received - split by document type in 2 sections - and the list of EC proposals to which ROs or contributions were submitted,
- a layout allowing for access to all NPs' documents concerning a given EU document at a time, with ROs translated in principle into all official languages.

IV.IPEX – information on NPs documents' uploaded

1. Documents database

1) Scope of the database

The scope of documents sent to NPs is provided for in Protocols no. 1 and 2 annexed to the TEU and TFEU under the Treaty of Lisbon, as well as in technical documents from EU institutions, i.e. letters to NPs from the EC Presidents of July 2006 and of December 2009, as well as in the letter from the EU Council of March 2010.

IPEX database includes:

- legislative proposals, amended legislative proposals and European Commission consultative documents,
- legislative proposals and amended legislative proposals from the Member States, the Court of Justice, the European Central Bank, and the European Investment Bank transmitted by the Council,
- legislative proposals and amended legislative proposals from EP and
- RO or opinions (in PD) related to the above documents, sent by NPs to EU institutions.

Each national parliament (each chamber of a national parliament) is a host of its respective part of the IPEX database. It feeds the database with documents, information and links related to the scrutiny of an EU document. Replies of the Commission, both to the ROs and PDs, are uploaded to database by NPs that received the replies.

In IPEX database, NPs have also the possibility to upload their documents relating to EU scrutiny, even if they don't send them to EU institutions.




2) IPEX – possibilities of search

A record in IPEX database allows access to the information on a document divided in two parts:

- a) EU document *dossier*,
- b) list of parliaments/chambers with links to records presenting scrutiny of an EU document in each of national parliaments.

a) Explanation of search terms

On a results list we can receive three types of IPEX records (search types)⁵:

-  **Document** – refers to a single document regardless of whether it is part of an interinstitutional procedure
-  **Dossier** – may contain a single document which is not subject to any procedure or multiple documents, including in procedures with more than one legislative proposal
-  **Scrutiny page** – contains information on NP scrutiny results uploaded by NP for a given *dossier*. Every *scrutiny page* is connected to a *dossier* (not to a *document*).

⁵ Definitions agreed by the WG on IPEX website improvement, see the Final Report (p.14) annexed to the Board conclusions, 02.10.2015: <http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/dossier/files/download/082dbcc550caa5880150cc7f46af00d8.do>

Advanced search

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced search' interface with the following elements highlighted by red boxes:

- 1**: Year dropdown menu.
- 2**: 'Subject to deadline' checkbox.
- 3**: 'Reasoned opinion' checkbox.
- 4**: 'Political Dialogue' checkbox.
- 5**: 'Important information to exchange' checkbox.
- 6**: 'Transmitted by NP from' date field.

- 1** Year of procedure and/or year of document within a procedure. Results list will show all scrutiny pages, dossiers and documents including at least 1 documents from a chosen year.
- 2** Search term allowing for retrieval of *dossiers* with a deadline expiring during a chosen time span. Regardless of number of documents subject to deadline in the multi-COM *dossiers*, only the deadline for the last document in a *dossier* is kept (previous deadlines are deleted from the database).
- 3** Reasoned opinion (RO) allows for retrieving national *scrutiny* pages with RO(s) ascribed by NP to a document and linked to a *dossier*. Statistics on ROs in *dossier* containing more than one legislative proposal need additional checking, as it is not clear from the results list to which document (from which year) in a *dossier* relates RO.
- According to IPEX Board decision of 20.09.2013⁶, the R symbol should be applied to RO sent. Earlier it was not specified which date should be taken into consideration (adoption or transmission).

⁶ „IPEX draft Board Conclusions”, 20.09.2013, p.3: <http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/dossier/files/download/082dbcc5420d8f4801426b835f736b9c.do>

European Commission replies to reasoned opinions can also be found under RO symbol.

4 According to IPEX Board decision of 20.09.2013, the flag (🇪🇺) became a symbol of political dialogue opinions (PD) from national Parliaments sent to the EC and the EC replies⁷. It allows for retrieving - instead of „European Commission answers to ROs - national *scrutiny* pages with opinion in PD, ascribed by NP to a document and linked to a *dossier*. Statistics on PDs in *dossier* containing more than one legislative proposal need additional checking, as it is not clear from the results list to which document (from which year) in a *dossier* relates PD.

However, in case of some parliaments the symbol is still used as before 20.09.2013 – which means for Commission replies to reasoned opinions (examples for year 2016:

<http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/scrutiny/COD20160070/skrad.do>

<http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/scrutiny/COD20160070/czsen.do>).

5 Important information to exchange – defined by every NP. Rarely used to signal a separate document, very often applied together with RO/PD/arrows symbols

(examples: <http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/scrutiny/COD20170332/czpos.do>,

<http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/scrutiny/COD20170332/czsen.do>).

6 Allows for retrieving national *scrutiny* pages with documents with a symbol and a transmission (adoption?) date of national parliament document in a given time span.

In case of some records of national parliaments it is still not clear what date is uploaded in „Lisbon Treaty procedures” section: of adoption or of transmission of a RO. This has impact on search results

(examples: <http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/scrutiny/COD20160398/frass.do>

<http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/scrutiny/COD20180138/czsen.do>).

NOTE: As of 22nd June 2012 arrows symbol is no longer used. However it is still present in records uploaded before that date

(for example: <http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/scrutiny/COD20100004/itsen.do>;

<http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/scrutiny/COD20110276/itcam.do>) and, in some cases, was used

after 22 June 2012 (examples: year 2017: [\[WEB/scrutiny/COD20160360/serik.do\]\(http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/scrutiny/COD20160360/serik.do\) - see Status history\).](http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

b) Methods of search for ROs

The most intuitive search for ROs consists in clicking on year and R symbol. When applying this method, one should remember that every indicator (deadline, R, PD) is connected in the database to the procedure – not to the document, although under the Treaty, deadline and reasoned opinion relate to the document, not to the procedure. Search by R and year results in scrutiny pages which are connected to procedures. Since some procedures are multi-COM procedures, it is impossible to obtain an exact number of documents from a given year with ROs. The result of search needs a verification – see the example below.

⁷ Correspondents were asked to check documents uploaded as reasoned opinions or political dialogue as well as the correct use of the symbols marking those uploads in the period July 2011 – September 2013. See Memorandum on the proper upload of documents and use of IPEX symbols:

http://oide.sejm.gov.pl/oide/images/files/international/IPEX/ipex_symbols_overhaul_2013.pdf

Search 1: Year 2012 + RO

Advanced search

Keyword: Search Clear all

Limit text search to specified language: Any language

Reference Code: All Year: 2012 Number:

Subject to deadline from: to:

NP threshold reached for card: None

Scrutiny information: All Parliament/chamber All types

Reasoned opinion
 Political Dialogue
 Veto
 Important information to exchange

Transmitted by NP from: to:

Less options

Selected items: No items selected

Found 74 Result(s) **E = 67**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

A = 62 COD/2008/0183 > Swedish Parliament
 COM/2008/0563FIN - COM/2011/0634 - COM/2010/0486FIN - COM/2012/0034 - SEC/2008/2437FIN

B = 5 COD/2008/0255 > Polish Senate
 SEC/2008/2667FIN - COM/2012/0049 - COM/2011/0632 - COM/2008/0662FIN

C = 0 COD/2008/0255 > Swedish Parliament
 SEC/2008/2667FIN - COM/2012/0049 - COM/2011/0632 - COM/2008/0662FIN

D = 0

Refine your search

- Search type
- Reference code
- Reference year
 - 2012 (63)
 - 2008 (6)
 - 2011 (4)
 - 2010 (1)
- Institution

The filtering criterion of “year” in the left menu is for the year of the start of a procedure.

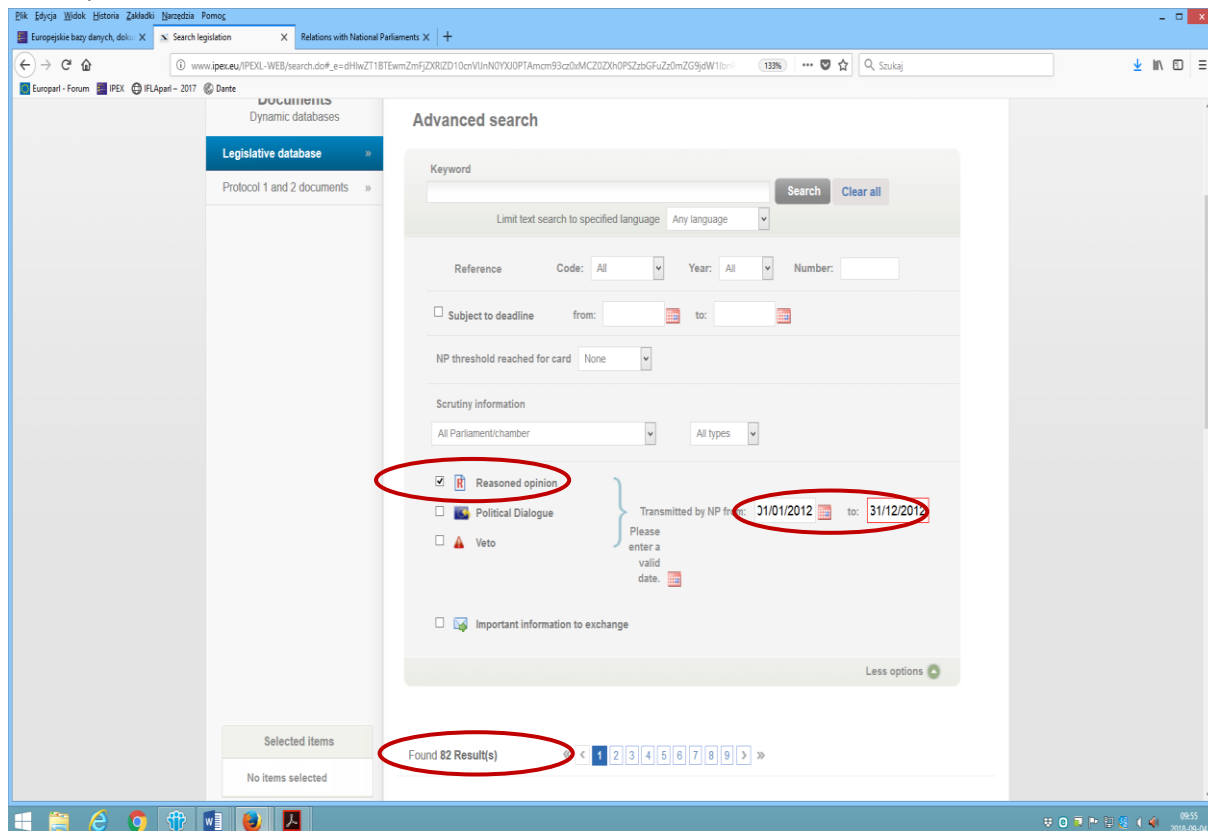
A In 63 scrutiny pages to procedures started in 2012 there are **62 ROs to documents from 2012**. 1 RO relates to document from 2013, but, since document from 2012 is in the multi-COM procedure, this procedure (=scrutiny page) is included in the search result.

B In 6 scrutiny pages to multi-COM procedures started in 2008 there are **5 ROs to documents from 2012** - COM(2012) 48 (3 ROs) and COM(2012) 49 (2 ROs). 1 RO relates to document from 2010 – see the explanation above.

- C** In 4 scrutiny pages to multi-COM procedures started in 2011 there is no RO to document from 2012 (4 ROs relate to documents from 2011 – see the explanation above)
- D** In 1 scrutiny page to multi-COM procedure started in 2010 there is no RO to document from 2012 (RO relates to document from 2010 – see the explanation above)
- E** Summing up the result of manual verification: we obtain the actual number of RO to documents from 2012 - there are 67 ROs relating to documents from 2012 (not 74)

Search 2

Time span: 01.01.2012 - 31.12.2012 + RO



Result - 82 national scrutiny pages with documents with a symbol and a transmission (adoption?) date of national parliament document in a given time span.

c) Comparison of Search 1 and 2: ROs for 2012

Search method	Result	Explanation
Search 1 Year + RO + filtering + manual verification	67 scrutiny pages with 67 documents from 2012 with ROs	number of <u>ROs relating to EU documents from 2012</u>
Search 2 by timespan	82 scrutiny pages with ROs and a transmission/adoption date in 2012	number of <u>ROs sent/adopted in 2012</u>

2. IPEX Statistical Reports

National Parliament	Chamber	Reasoned opinions received in 2017	
		Uploaded	COM number
Austria	Bundesrat	6	COM/2016/0822 COM/2016/0823 COM/2016/0824 COM/2016/0861 COM/2016/0864 COM/2017/0275
Austria	Nationalrat		
Belgium	Chambre des Représentants		
Belgium	Sénat		
Bulgaria	Narodno Sabranie		
Cyprus	Vouli ton Antiprosopon		
Czech Republic	Sénat		
Czech Republic	Poslanecká sněmovna	1	COM/2016/0861
Croatia	Sabor		
Denmark	Folketinget		
Estonia	Riigikogu		
Finland	Eduskunta		
France	Sénat	8	COM/2016/0815 COM/2016/0821 COM/2016/0822 COM/2016/0861 COM/2016/0863 COM/2017/0477 COM/2017/0495 COM/2017/0660
France	Assemblée nationale	2	COM/2016/0821 COM/2016/0822
Germany	Bundesrat		COM/2016/0821

IPEX statistical reports are published every year for the Secretaries General meeting (January/February). They present ROs uploaded/received in a given year, together with EU documents concerned. They are verified by IPEX correspondents.

IPEX doesn't publish figures concerning political dialogue in its annual reports.

3. Summary of IPEX information

IPEX gathers NPs' documents adopted in the process of EU documents scrutiny, including those sent to EU institutions with regard to subsidiarity issue (R symbol) and in the framework of political dialogue (PD symbol 🇪🇺 since September 2013).

IPEX allows for searching both, number of ROs sent/adopted in a given year (search by time span) or number of ROs relating to EU documents from a given year (search by R symbol and year, which – due the structure of the database – needs manual checking). All figures concern documents “uploaded on IPEX”.

It is worth underlining that search and statistics in IPEX are based on symbols (like PD) and data (date of RO) which changed their meaning since 2011 (arrows symbol was withdrawn), although they were corrected by national Correspondents in order to obtain a uniform application in the database – see the information in “IPEX – possibilities of search”.

On the other hand, IPEX can gather also those documents of NPs that are not sent to EU institutions. IPEX is also a unique database allowing for search of the documents which obtained yellow (possibly orange) cards.

Annual statistical reports published by IPEX concern ROs and not PD submissions.

VI. SUMMARY

The 3 databases presented in this paper (Commission's, EP's and IPEX) are built to gather documents from NPs: reasoned opinions and documents of the political dialogue (that is all other than ROs documents submitted by NPs to EU institutions as a result of EU documents scrutiny). A brief comparison of these databases⁸ includes their main features, like scope, type of information, terminology and methods of search.

The National Parliament opinions and Commission replies (NPO) database (since 2006), due to the way of presentation of NPs' submissions and lack of search engine, doesn't allow to prepare any statistics. It includes only those Commission documents to which submissions of NPs were received. All submissions are called in the database "opinions". It contains also "own initiative opinions" and replies from the Commission.

The Commission presents **statistics on NPs submissions in 2 annual reports** that were normally published in July/August (on relations between the EC and National Parliaments and on subsidiarity and proportionality).

In these reports the Commission:

- presents **statistics on ROs** received in a given year and **on total number of opinions** received in a given year (opinions include 'reasoned opinions'), but
- doesn't present statistics concerning directly political dialogue in generally used meaning of this term (indicated in the first paragraph above). PD submissions to the Commission can be calculated by deducting ROs from all opinions.

The Connect (EP) database gathers, since 2009, in principle those Commission documents to which submissions of NPs were received ("EP initiatives" is in preparation). All documents obtained from NPs are clearly divided between "Subsidiarity check" and "Informal Political Dialogue". **We can easily make statistics on ROs and PD received by the EP** (PD in generally used meaning of the term). There is a user friendly layout allowing for access to all NPs' documents concerning a given EU document at a time, with ROs translated in principle into all official languages.

The "own initiative opinions" are searchable in the database.

IPEX (existing since 2006) gathers the largest - in comparison to two EU institutions' databases - set of EU documents (draft legislative acts not only from the Commission but also EP, group of member states or other entitled institutions, and EC consultation or policy documents). It contains also NPs' documents adopted in the process of EU documents scrutiny, including ROs, political dialogue, and also those documents that are not sent to EU institutions. IPEX is also a unique database allowing for search of the documents which obtained yellow (possibly orange) cards.

IPEX allows for searching not only:

- number of ROs sent/adopted in a given year (search by time span)
but also

⁸ For more details – Annex 1

- number of ROs relating to EU documents from a given year (search by R symbol and year, with drawbacks resulting from the structure of the database and linking the symbols to the procedure – not to documents).

There is no “own initiative” category and the replies from the Commission are published by NPs.

When comparing IPEX to 2 databases one should remember that all figures concern documents “uploaded on IPEX”, and there are 41 Chambers uploading information which may cause imprecisions. Moreover, search and statistics in IPEX are based on symbols that changed their meaning and are still not used coherently.

IPEX, analysed in the context of 2 EU institutions’ databases, shows a potential that could be developed under the condition of eliminating some handicaps. The necessary element of the debate is a reflection on improving search possibilities in IPEX, making them user friendly and giving to users precise search tools as well as clear information.

To sum up, none of the existing sources provides comprehensive, complete and easily searchable information/statistics on all NPs’ documents adopted in the process of EU documents scrutiny. Databases of the EP (Connect) and the Commission (NPO) are built to satisfy the demands and priorities of these institutions, IPEX is mainly a tool for national parliaments. Each database has its advantages and constraints.

The paper intends to provide information allowing to understand discrepancies between databases, their structures and search methods, which result in different statistics. These differences are unavoidable, all the more because of a human vector involved in uploading data. The only possibility we have is to improve the IPEX database and its search. We could also use for this purpose a regular comparative review of statistics.

The detailed data are presented in 3 Annexes attached to this paper:

Annex 1

Comparison of the information on NPs’ documents and search possibilities in 3 databases: IPEX, Connect, NPO, Commission and reports.

Annex 2

Statistics about reasoned opinions in 4 databases (IPEX, NPO, Connect, Council Register) and in statistical reports, as at 03.09.2018

Annex 3

Statistics about political dialogue documents in 4 databases (IPEX, NPO, Connect, Council Register) and in statistical reports, as at 03.09.2018