

Written report of the IPEX Information Officer on the work of IPEX in 2024

In 2024, the activity of IPEX was focused on the adoption of the 3rd IPEX Work Programme (WP) and the work on the Action Plans (AP) of the 4 Working Groups (WGs) tasked with its implementation. The use of IPEX and its tools by national Parliaments has been influenced by the elections for the European Parliament, in June, and other national elections taking place at the same time. At the same time, the IPEX V3 platform has undergone the last major technical upgrade, with the roll-out of performant advanced search features, as well as an update of the tools available to the national Parliaments for the management of its networking activities.

1. The 3rd Work Programme 2024 - 2026

The 3rd WP was adopted on 19 January 2024 and it had as its focus the maturity phase of the IPEX V3 platform, covering Chairmanships up until early 2026; following this goal, its content is focusing on four main directions, with four WGs responsible of developing and implementing the necessary activities:

- **Improvement of IPEX v3 system;**
- **Content and IPEX Network;**
- **Training and**
- **Promotion and Social Media.**

WG1 Improvement of IPEX v3 system is focusing on identifying areas and functionalities that might benefit from further technical and functional improvements, prioritizing such needs for the use of the DG ITEC project team, as well as look at the issues reported by national Correspondents and other users and their positive solving.

WG2 Content and IPEX Network is looking at a wide range of activities, from the way the platform is being used, the content displayed in the various sections, update or creation of new content and the development of existing and future pages dedicated to hosting interparliamentary cooperation networks (e.g. the DSN).

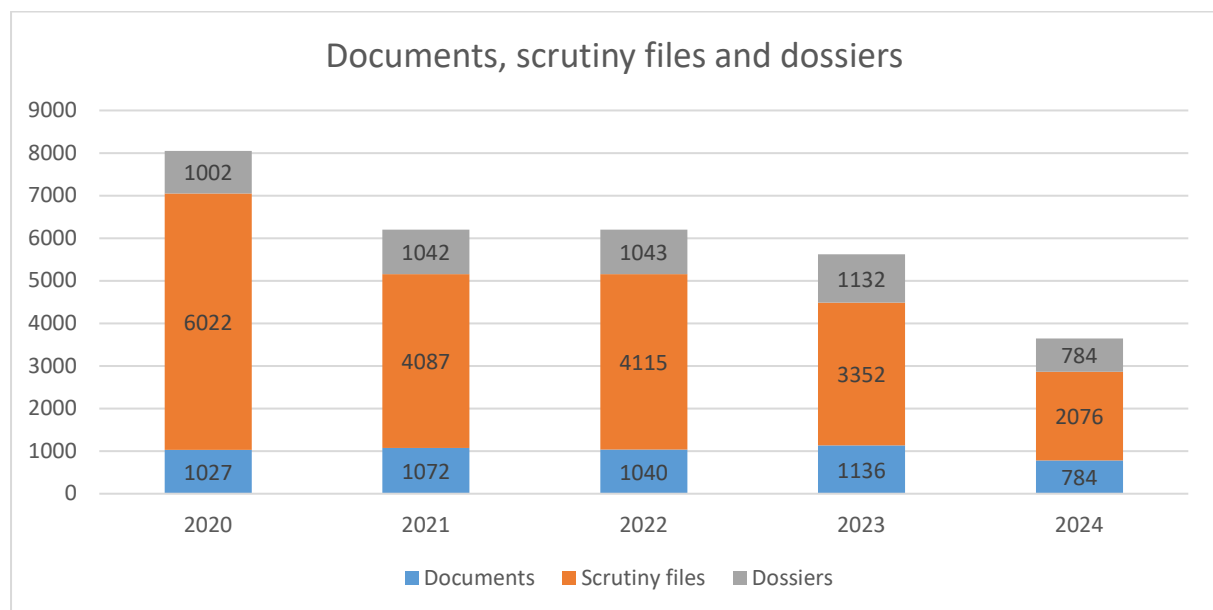
WG3 Training’s activity is exclusively focused on the training needs of national Correspondents, updating and preparing new training materials and organising training sessions. A new task for WG3 is the coordination of a calendar for all IPEX Now and other training activities across the four existing WGs.

Last, but not least, **WG4 Promotion and Social Media** is working on producing promotional materials and using these across multiple channels, cooperating with NPs on producing and sharing these, evaluating the impact of these materials on users and searching for new social media channels on which to establish the presence of IPEX.

2. The IPEX Legislative Database

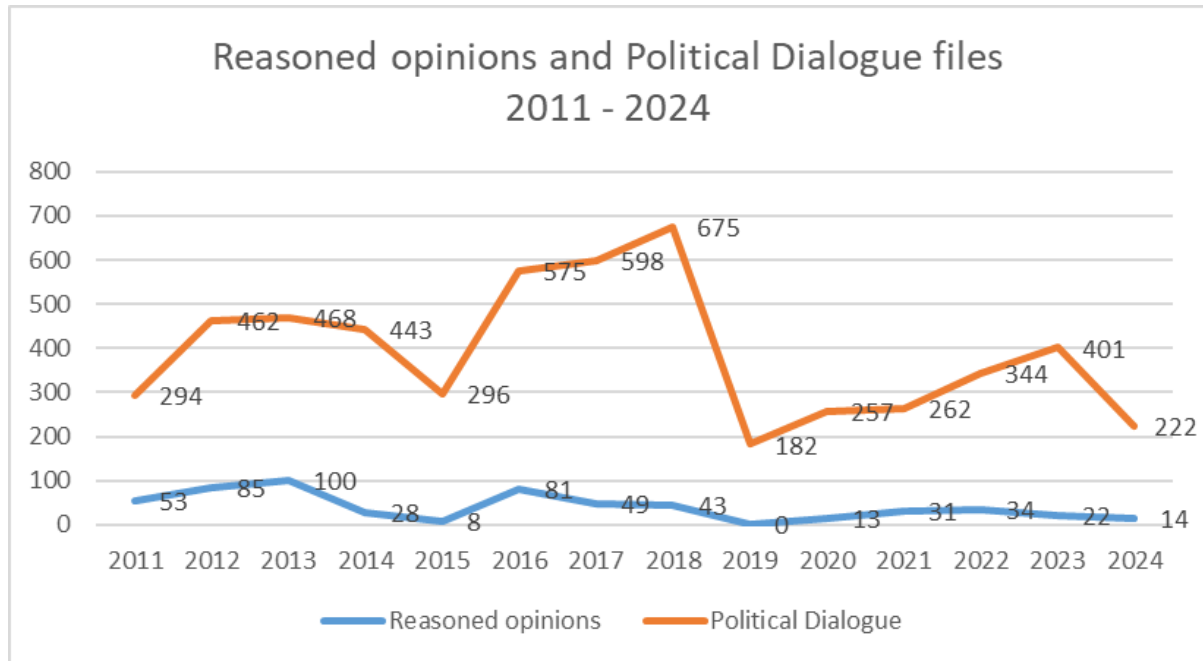
The Legislative Database and the scrutiny of documents by national Parliaments, is the core task of IPEX from its inception, with this role strengthened over time. In IPEX V3, **the scrutiny structure was simplified** and made more reliable by **shifting the scrutiny information at the level of individual proposals**, unlike the previous, more unreliable dossier level.

Currently, IPEX publishes **almost 130.000 pages (2025)** from national parliaments and the European Union institutions, holding **scrutiny-related information in over 101.000 files (2024)** produced by national Parliaments, linked to **19.473 documents (2024)**. In **2024**, a number of **784** legislative and non-legislative documents were recorded in IPEX, with **2076 scrutiny files**.



The use of IPEX of IPEX 2024 follows a **pattern typical by now for election years for the European Parliament**, compounded by a high number of national elections across the EU. In the graph below, we can see how in 2014, 2019 and 2024 the number of political dialogue files and reasoned opinions **drops sharply after a positive, increasing 4-year trend: 2014 (443 PD/28 RO), 2019 (182 PD/0 RO) and 2024 (222 PD/14).**

Another trend observed already for a long while in the activity of national Parliaments and, from that, in how they use IPEX, is the change in the interests, procedures or content the national Parliaments choose to work with. **A sharp decrease of Reasoned opinions issued, doubled by a steep increase of Political dialogue procedures (in some years, even to a magnitude of x10, as seen in the analysis below).**



In 2024, only 2 legislative proposals have drawn the attention of more than one national Parliament/Chamber:

- **COM/2023/0532, Proposal for a COUNCIL DIRECTIVE on Business in Europe: Framework for Income Taxation (BEFIT), with three RO (Irish Houses of Oireachtas, Maltese House of Representatives, Swedish Riksdag) and**
- **COM/2023/0637, Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing harmonised requirements in the internal market on transparency of interest representation carried out on behalf of third countries and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937, with two ROs (Hungarian National Assembly, Irish Houses of Oireachtas)**

with the other 9 ROs spread out singularly.

The Reasoned opinions and Political dialogue files uploaded by national Parliaments into the IPEX database in 2024¹ can be seen in the table below

¹ The result is expressing all documents uploaded on IPEX by national Parliaments and labelled as Reasoned Opinions and Political dialogue files, with a transmission date attributed between 1 January - 31 December 2024, including for procedures started in 2022 (data centralized and verified by the Information Officer and the national Correspondents, 28 January 2025)

Nr.crt	Chamber/national Parliament	Reasoned Opinions	Political Dialogue
1.	Austrian Federal Council (AT1)	0	0
2.	Austrian National Council (AT2)	0	0
3.	Belgian Senate (BE1)	0	<u>4(+3*)</u>
4.	Belgian House of Representatives (BE2)	0	0
5.	Bulgarian National Assembly (BG)	0	0
6.	Croatian Parliament (HR)	0	<u>1</u>
7.	Cyprus House of Representatives (CY)	0	0
8.	Czech Senate (CZ1)	0	<u>21</u>
9.	Czech Chamber of Deputies (CZ2)	<u>1</u>	<u>22</u>
10.	Danish Parliament (DK)	0	0
11.	Dutch Senate (NL1)	0	<u>7</u>
12.	Dutch House of Representatives (NL2)	0	0
13.	Estonian Parliament (EE)	0	0
14.	Finnish Parliament (FI)	0	0
15.	French Senat (FR1)	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
16.	French National Assembly (FR2)	0	<u>5</u>
17.	German Bundesrat (DE1)	0	<u>17</u>
18.	German Bundestag (DE2)	0	0
19.	Hellenic Parliament (EL)	0	<u>1</u>
20.	Hungarian National Assembly (HU)	<u>1</u>	0
21.	Irish Houses of Oireachtas (IE)	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>
22.	Italian Senate (IT1)	0	<u>12</u>
23.	Italian Chamber of Deputies (IT2)	<u>1</u>	<u>29</u>
24.	Latvian Saeima (LV)	0	0
25.	Lithuanian Seimas (LT)	0	<u>3</u>
26.	Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies (LU)	0	0
27.	Maltese House of Representatives (MT)	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
28.	Slovak Republic National Council (SK)	0	0
29.	Spanish Cortes Generales (ES)	0	<u>22</u>
30.	Polish Senate (PL1)	0	<u>1</u>
31.	Polish Sejm (PL2)	0	0
32.	Portuguese Assembleia da Republica (PT)	0	<u>8</u>
33.	Romanian Senate (RO1)	0	<u>14(+15**)</u>
34.	Romanian Chamber of Deputies (RO2)	0	<u>42</u>
35.	Slovenian National Assembly (SL2)	0	0
36.	Swedish Parliament (SE)	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
	TOTAL =	<u>14</u>	<u>222(+18*,**)</u>

*Including political dialogue files from parliaments of the federated entities (Regions and Communities) of Belgium transmitted by the Belgian Senate to the European Commission. Based on declaration 51 of Belgium to the Lisbon Treaty and in accordance to the internal constitutional order of Belgium, the parliamentary assemblies of the Communities and Regions act as chambers of the Belgian national Parliament and are thereby entitled to submit reasoned opinions and political dialogue files.

**Opinions issued by the Romanian Senate on C documents and submitted to the European institutions as part of the political dialogue, but unavailable on IPEX.

3. Technical upgrades and the use of the IPEX platform

Entering its maturity phase and with preparation for mid-life evaluation underway, only two updates were prepared and rolled-out in 2024, mostly focused on correcting bugs. Two new technical features were also introduced, with a view to improving the overall functioning and reliability of the platform, enhance the possible amount of information that can be transferred to IPEX by NPs and ease the workload of national Correspondents:

- introducing search with „wild cards“ , extending the possibilities to perform more extensive and focused searches and
- deployment of REST API (Application Programming Interface, a set of rules or protocols that enables software applications to communicate with each other) in IPEX;

Also, a general overhaul of all translations pertaining to the labels/navigation menu of IPEX has been finalized, with implementation following shortly.

All the technical upgrades were doubled by the development of training materials, procedures for their use and trainings, as part of the activity of the Working Group (WG) on Training. The WG is constantly focusing on creating new training materials, improving existing ones and exploring new methods for delivering training and advice in the use of IPEX V3 to the IPEX national Correspondents.

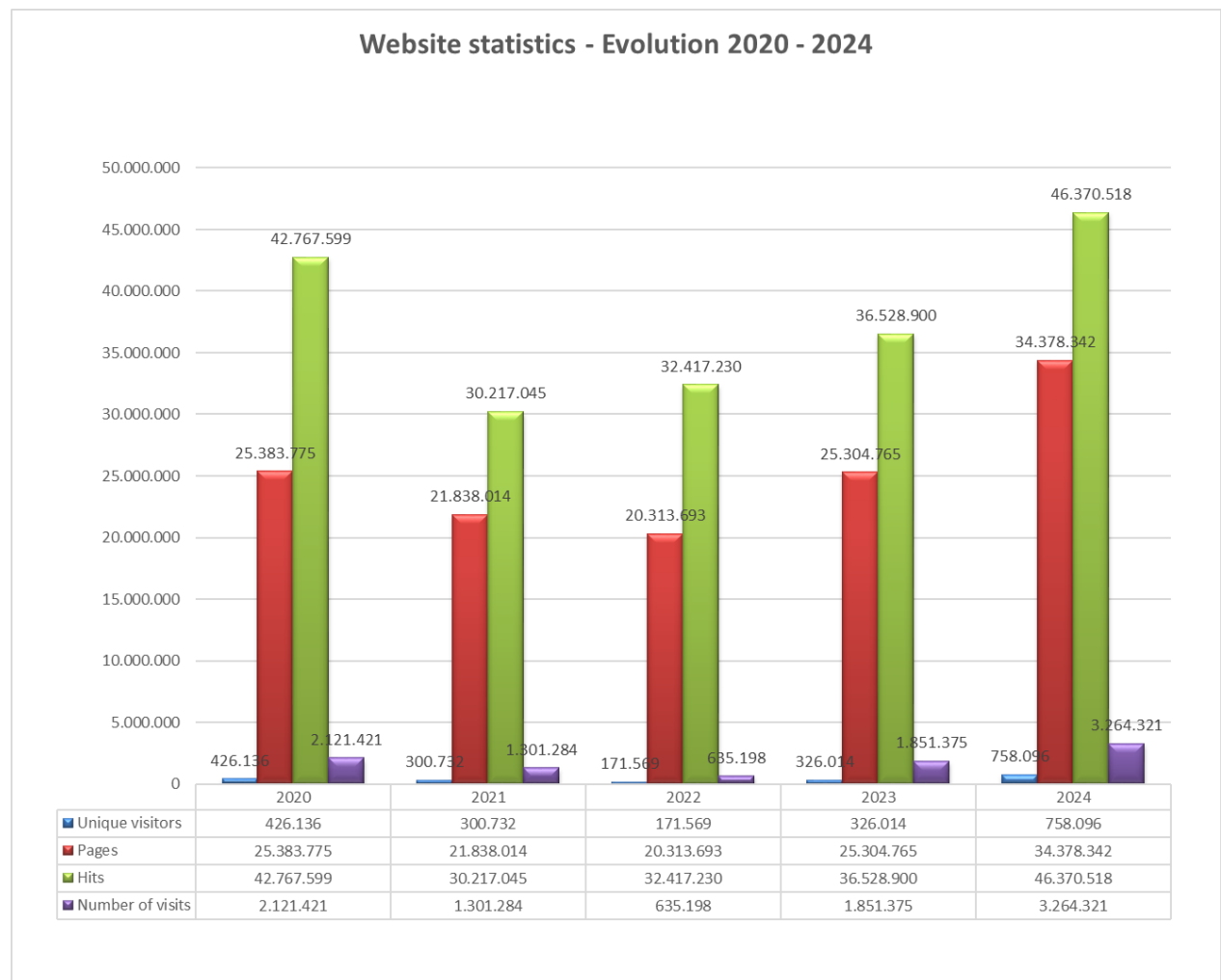
To this end, the WG has developed a first list of materials (“How to” guides) detailing in a visual, step-by-step manner, the most usual operations a NC has to perform in order to fulfil its professional duties. These guides come to complement their tasks and duties, as described in the IPEX Guidelines.

While these **guides cover an extensive range of operations** - from setting up an IPEX account to managing contacts, performing scrutiny operations and uploading News and OWN content - we are also looking into new areas of interest for the NCs. In addition, taking into account new iterations of IPEX V3 and technical improvements and upgrades deployed by DG ITEC colleagues, as well as empirical resources (internal exchanges with NCs and Users, surveys, documents etc), the existing guides are being improved and updated.

The existing **guides are available on an external Dropbox account**, available via a link shared with the NCs, focusing on:

- How to ACCOUNT;
- How to SCRUTINY;
- How to Double Dossiers;
- How to CONTACTS MANAGEMENT;
- How to National Parliaments section;
- How to NEWS;
- How to OWN/New Content;
- A list of all available guides, their individual links and the general link to the Dropbox account;
- Under development - new **how-to guide for the users of DSN** network sections.

Beside already delivering on-request training and IPEX presentations - as requests from national Parliaments (e.g. Ireland, Estonia, Spain) or as part of the EP's Presidency Parliament Support Programme (in 2024 with Belgium and Poland) - short on-line sessions, focused on specific topics or operations (e.g. new versions releases, explaining new functionalities etc) , are taken into account as a way to improve communication and professional training among IPEX NCs and a programmed activity for the 3rd WP Action Plan. Regular training sessions and presentations were delivered during the IPEX Users and IPEX national Correspondents meetings.



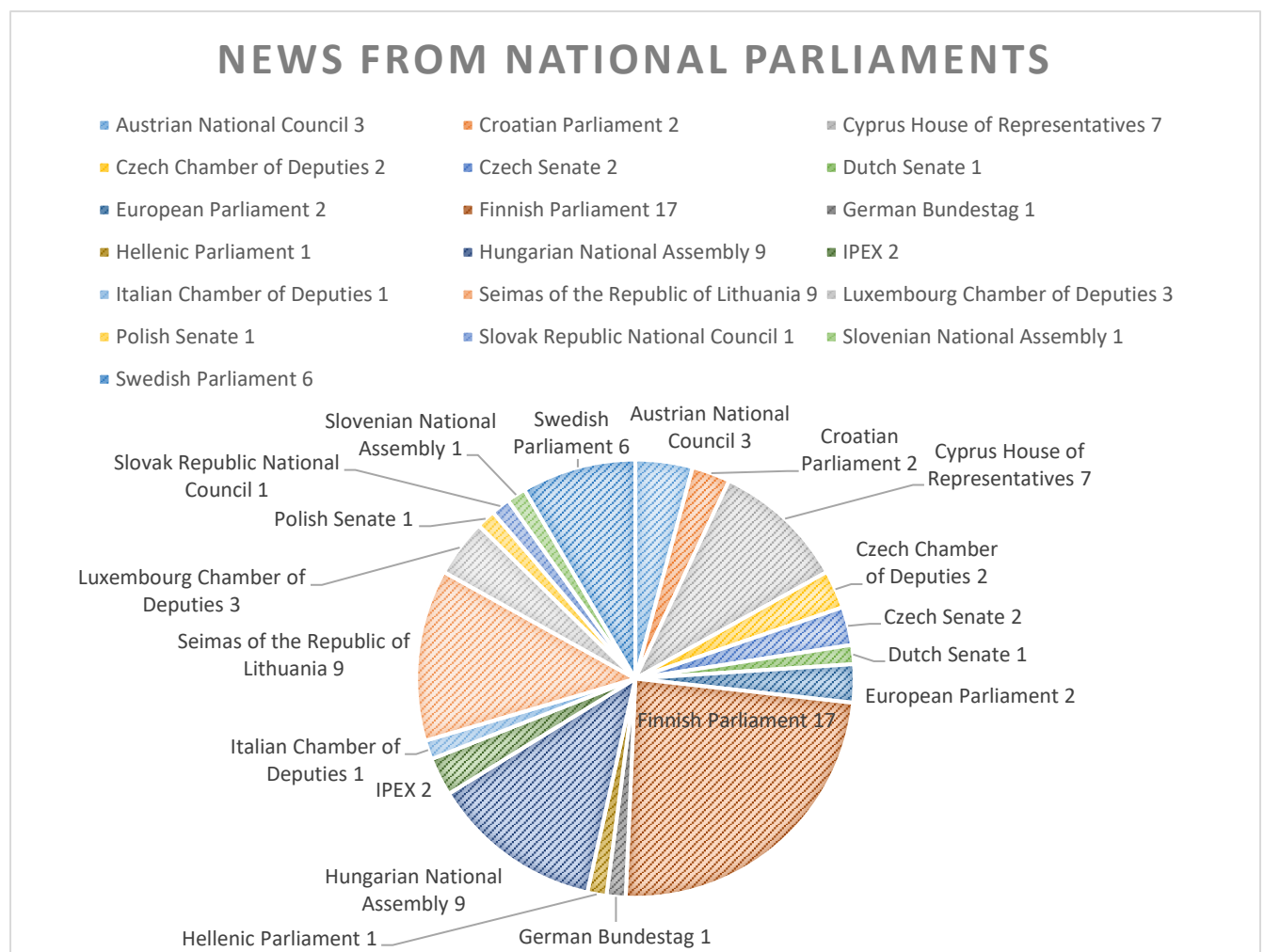
4. News from Parliaments on IPEX

The whole structure of how news from national Parliaments look like and can be used was redesigned:

- national Parliaments have full control on the when and how they upload news;
- visual elements can be uploaded into the body of the news, like pictures or graphs;
- the news can be shared on social media platforms or be linked to content on outside websites and platforms

- the news can be linked to new content files uploaded in other sections across the website
- keywords can be inserted in the description of the news items, making them visible immediately on the “important issues” section on the Homer page and make them searchable by keyword.

In **2024**, **74 news articles** on European Affairs-related issues were published in the News from Parliaments section, with materials coming from **21 contributors from mono- and bicameral parliaments, the European Parliament and IPEX** (in 2023, also 22 contributors uploaded 113 items).



The IPEX X/Twitter account #IPEXEU was launched during the Annual IPEX National Correspondents Meeting in Vienna, in 2019, and **still is the main social media channel in use**. #IPEXEU is part of the Social Media Strategy of IPEX and it is focusing on accessing new communication areas and on raising the visibility profile of IPEX and national Parliaments in EU affairs.

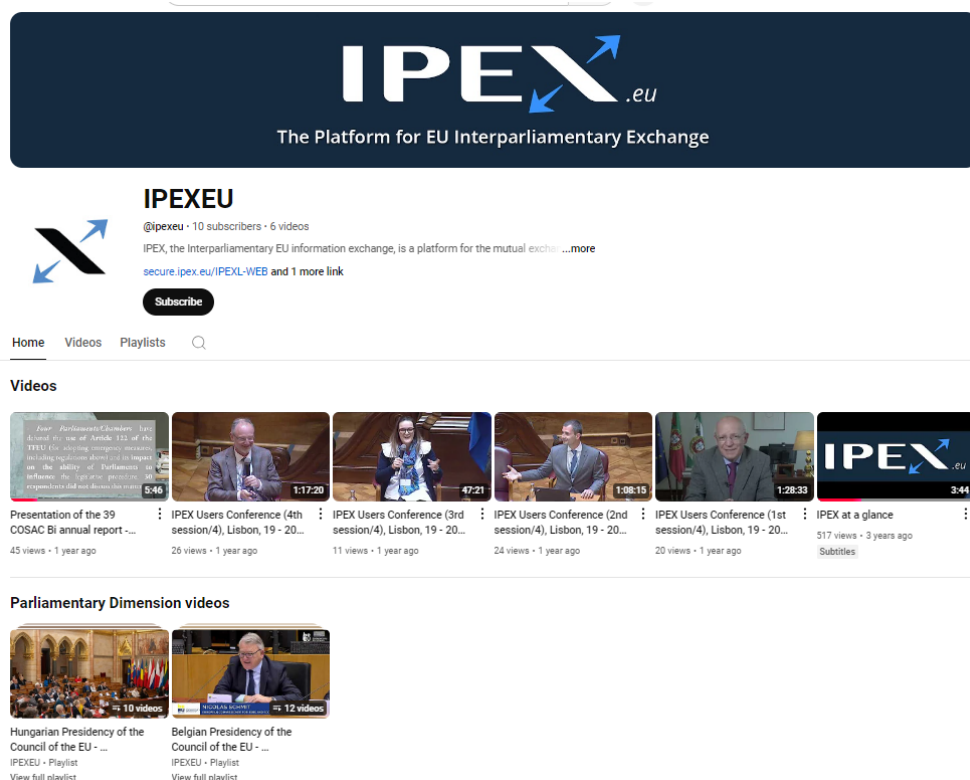
With the new IPEX V3 tools, the #IPEXEU can be used to share content uploaded on the website, but also be **linked to keywords created and added to files and events**. The list of

keywords is continuously expanding and improving with suggestions coming from the core users, with 103 in use today (ranging from events to institutions to policy areas meeting formats). An example of such keywords could be the ones setup for the **events of the parliamentary dimension of the EU Council Presidency, the latest being - #PARLEU2024HU and #PARLEU2025PL.**

The **X/Twitter #IPEXEU channel is following 161 other channels** belonging to EU national Parliaments/chambers, European institutions, as well as leaders, personalities and influencers from the European Affairs sphere, while having some 200 followers. Exploring and using new social media platforms is ongoing and following general technical evolutions, as well as trends in usage.

Most of the X/Twitter posts **focus on interparliamentary events, such as COSAC, Inter-Parliamentary Conferences and the Parliamentary Dimension of the EU Presidency**, but also on the **positions of national Parliaments/chambers on certain events** (e.g. the war in Ukraine, State of the Union address, visits of EU officials to capitals, etc).

The **IPEX YouTube channel** was first used as a repository of IPEX-related introductory videos or IPEX events (like the IPEX Users Conference in Lisbon, in 2023), **now hosting also videos from the Parliamentary Dimension of the EU Presidency, with dedicated folders for each hosted edition (starting with the latest ones, Hungary and Belgium)**



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