



CORTES GENERALES



Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments

February 9-10, 2025, Budapest

IPEX ANNUAL REPORT 2024

prepared by the Spanish Chairmanship of IPEX Board

Draft as of 5 February 2025

Foreword

IPEX is a digital system and a network of people and an important forum for sharing information and best practices. After the approval of the current IPEX Rolling Work Programme 2024-2026, the Spanish Chairmanship focused on the first phase of the implementation of this Work Programme.

The Spanish Chairmanship is looking forward to fulfilling the last third of its term in office before handing over the rotating Chairmanship to our Hungarian colleagues.

1. Meetings under the Spanish Chairmanship of the IPEX Board

The following meetings were held during the Spanish Chairmanship of the IPEX Board:

- Three IPEX Board meetings on 20 June 2024, 17-18 October 2024, and 23 January 2025, two as videoconference and one as an in-person meeting in Brussels.
- The Annual IPEX Correspondents' meeting on 7 and 8 November 2024 in Madrid.
- Working group meetings, held as videoconferences and in-person meetings.



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2. Composition of the IPEX Board

According to the IPEX Guidelines, the 2024/2025 composition of the IPEX Board was as follows:

“De jure” members

- *Spain (bi-cameral) – Board Chair*
- *Hungary*
- *Denmark*
- *Belgium (BE Senat)*
- *The European Parliament*
- *Contributors: the IPEX Information Officer, European Commission, European Council, COSAC permanent member and ECPRD)*

Volunteers

- *Austria (Bundesrat, Nationalrat)*
- *Bulgaria*
- *Cyprus*
- *Finland*
- *France (Senat, Assemblée nationale)*
- *Germany (Bundestag)*
- *Greece*
- *Ireland (Houses of the Oireachtas)*
- *Italy (Senato, Camera dei deputati)*
- *Luxemburg*
- *The Netherlands (Tweede Kamer)*
- *Poland (Senate)*
- *Portugal*
- *Romania (Senatul, Camera deputatilor)*
- *Slovenia*
- *Sweden*

According to the IPEX Guidelines, the IPEX Information Officer, COSAC, the ECPRD, the European Commission and the Council also participate in, and contribute to, IPEX Board meetings.



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The order of the presidencies foresees that Hungarian Parliament will take over the Chairmanship of IPEX from the Spanish Parliament at the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union Member States, which will take place in May 2025.

3. IPEX Rolling Work Programme 2024-2026 and its evaluation

The current IPEX Rolling Work Programme 2024-2026 was adopted by the IPEX Board on 19 January 2024.

To implement the Rolling Work Programme, the Board established 4 working groups, each with its own action plan. The following four working groups established in relation to the referred Work Programme have been active during the Spanish Chairmanship:

1. Working Group on the Update of IPEX v3 system, chaired by Ms Tuula Zetterman
2. Working Group on Content and IPEX Network, chaired by Mr Barry Comerford
3. Working Group on Training, chaired by Ms Livia Spada;
4. Working Group on Promotion and Social Media, chaired by Ms Tuula Zetterman and Mr Yiannis Tsagadopoulos.

Working Group on the Update of IPEX v3 system

The successful launch of IPEX V3 included a new website and a new document-based digital archiving system. However, further improvement or fine-tuning of IPEXv3 is an ongoing process. This Working Group, strived to ensure not only that the website is running properly and smoothly, including the resolution of any technical issues, but also that the IPEX v3 is further improved, reflecting the latest technological developments. More emphasis could also be placed on promoting of the use of automatic uploading of information to IPEX by national Parliaments which could help national Parliaments to reduce the workload associated with the uploading of information to IPEX.



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Working Group on Content and IPEX Network

The Working Group on Content and IPEX Networks' main purpose has been to review existing content and support the development of the new content. This includes exploring the use of IPEX by EU interparliamentary networks.

As foreseen in the Working Group's work programme for 2024-2026, it has focused on three main actions: the first, refining existing content on the IPEX website. The second main action has been evaluating new content proposals and working with the Working Group on 'Update of the IPEX V3 System' to implement them. The third and last main action has been the further development of the IPEX network, including evaluating the use of the IPEX website of the current Interparliamentary Network that uses it (the Democracy Support Network, exploring what other EU Interparliamentary Networks exist and if they could make use of the IPEX website and encouraging the development of the IPEX network, e.g. by 'IPEX Now' meetings (i.e. online meetings) and providing oversight of this initiative.

Working Group on Training

Dedicated and trained correspondents are a prerequisite for ensuring IPEX's core mission as a platform for the exchange of information between Parliaments. The launch of IPEX v3 led to the creation of completely new training materials reflecting the new functions of the platform. As the further development and fine-tuning of IPEX v3 is an ongoing process, the implementation of the Work Programme 2024-2026 for this Working Group focused on updating existing training materials and preparing completely new ones reflecting the needs of users/correspondents as well as the new methods for training delivery.

Working Group on Promotion and Social Media

The launch of IPEX v3 resulted in technical and visual improvements that had a positive impact on the activities of users who regularly use IPEX for their work. The Work Programme 2024-2026 focused in the framework of this Working Group, on further promotion and strengthening IPEX's search engine visibility and social media presence to broaden its audience. In parallel, the potential of engagement with the identified influencers (e.g. EU Institutions, Academics, Research Organizations, News Agencies) who can spread the word about IPEX was also explored. The production of promotional material should continue and, where possible, new types of promotional material should be considered.



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4. IPEX Users Conference in Rome

On March 28, 2025, the Italian Parliament will host the 4th IPEX Users Conference. In this Conference, officials from national Parliaments of the European Union, Parliaments of candidate countries and the European Parliament will attend two simultaneous workshops (one hosted in the Chamber and another in the Senate), followed by a plenary session.

5. Annual Correspondents Meeting in Madrid

The Annual Correspondents Meeting was organised by the Spanish Chairmanship and was held on November 7 and 8, 2024, in the Spanish Senate in Madrid. The first day of the meeting was dedicated to training workshops. Basic functionalities of the platform were presented to IPEX Correspondents (especially to new ones) by the IPEX Information Officer, who also described the latest major developments of IPEX and changes which these developments implemented.

The second day of the meeting was divided into two parts. After the opening session, the first session was devoted to the Promotion of IPEX and its Social Media Activities, followed by Session 2, on Content, the IPEX Network and its further development. The closing session included a Presentation on *“The Spanish Senate in Europe: an IPEX perspective”*, and the presentation of a technical questionnaire on the IPEX version 3 addressed to correspondents. The meeting ended with the reports from the workshops.

Annex:

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