

## REPORT ON

### *The participation of the European states' parliaments in interparliamentary forums,* based on the replies to the ECPRD Request n° 456 from September 2005

#### **I. Survey on multilateral interparliamentary cooperation in Europe**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2005, the Polish Senate addressed request no. 456 to the ECPRD correspondents for responses to two questions:

- To what interparliamentary assemblies, conferences, associations, organisations, etc. does your parliament presently belong (as a member, associated member, observer, etc.)?
- Which interparliamentary assemblies, conferences, associations, organisations, etc. is your parliament planning to join (as a member, associated member, observer, etc.) in the foreseeable future?

These questions were posed in view of a perspective to organise a seminar in Warsaw under the patronage of ECPRD between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May 2006 on: „*Supranational parliamentary and inter-parliamentary assemblies in 21<sup>st</sup> century Europe*”.

#### **II. Survey respondents**

**35** out of **58** correspondents of the Centre<sup>1</sup> replied to the above-mentioned two questions on interparliamentary cooperation in Europe directed at ECPRD. **Two** replies out of the said **35** replies have been sent by the non-European parliaments: Israel (the Knesset) and the USA (the Congress).

Thus, as regards the European states<sup>2</sup> **33** out of **56** European ECPRD correspondents provided their responses [approx. **59%**] and **23** correspondents failed to respond.

Out of the said **33** responses from ECPRD correspondents originating from the European states, **3** have been received from two-chamber parliaments – separately (from Belgian, Slovenia and Great Britain) and **3** – jointly (from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Switzerland).

Thus, responses from **30** European states have been received out of **46** Member States of the Council of Europe<sup>3</sup> [over **65%**].

Responses from the following **16** Member States of the Council have not been delivered: Albania, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Spain (two chambers), Ireland (two chambers), Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldavia, Monaco, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkey, the Ukraine and Hungary.

Moreover, responses from **8** chambers of two-chamber parliaments of the of Member States of the Council of Europe have not been delivered: the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic, French Senate, German Bundestag, Italian Senate, Dutch Senate, Polish *Sejm*, Romanian Senate and the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

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<sup>1</sup> **58** chambers of national parliaments and **3** interparliamentary assemblies belong to ECPRD.

<sup>2</sup> In this text, the „*European*” criterion of a given country means its membership in the Council of Europe in the character of a full member.

<sup>3</sup> Parliamentarians from **46** Member States of the Council and **3** non-European countries as observers are delegated to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. Out of the said **46** Member States, **30** have one-chamber parliaments and **16** two-chamber parliaments. Thus, the Assembly hosts parliamentarians from **62** chambers of Member States of the Council. Only Belarusian parliamentarians do not belong to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

To summarise, **36** out of **60** parliamentary chambers of the Member States of the Council of Europe provided their responses [over **60%**] and **24** chambers failed to provide any.

### **III. *Classification of respondents responses: political dimension of the interparliamentary relations in Europe***

Responses to the question on interparliamentary cooperation which involves parliaments of the European states have been categorised on the basis of a two-dimensional classification adopted and based upon two criteria: **legal and organisational and geopolitical**.

#### **A. *Legal and organisational framework of interparliamentary cooperation***

The first dimension of that classification categorises the information on interparliamentary cooperation received according to the **legal and organisational** frameworks of that cooperation.

Six categories of that classification have been distinguished:

1. conferences or meetings of speakers or presidents of parliaments;
2. interparliamentary unions, councils, assemblies, joint committees, associations, conferences or forums;
3. conferences or meetings of chairpersons or representatives of corresponding parliamentary standing committees;
4. interparliamentary or parliamentary organizations, associations, conferences, meetings, networks [for MPs];
5. associations or meetings of Secretaries General of parliamentary chancelleries;
6. meetings or networks of civil servants of parliamentary chancelleries.

The political aspect of the interparliamentary cooperation is encompassed by the first four categories, whilst the administrative aspect – by the last two. We shall now focus on the political aspect and will discuss the administrative aspect separately.

Re. 1 Conferences or meetings of speakers of the parliaments are autonomous or superior to other forms of interparliamentary relations. They often constitute a forum of the debate<sup>4</sup> on development directions of such relations. Sometimes they take initiatives in this respect<sup>5</sup>. Formally, conclusions from their meetings have no binding force but are significant due to their political value. Meetings of speakers of parliaments are in principle autonomous of intergovernmental relations. Such meetings may be restricted for the speakers only but may also allow for the speakers to be represented by their deputies or other authorised members of parliaments.

The Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers Conference (“CSPOC”) has the longest history dating back to 1969<sup>6</sup>. It is held once every two years. However, a non-European parlia-

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<sup>4</sup> Such a political role is disputable (speakers of parliaments are often above the political divisions in their parliaments) and so is the decision-making force of these bodies (it is not totally clear who their potential decisions should be directed at).

<sup>5</sup> For example, the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) was created at the Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments held in Madrid between 19 and 20 May 1989.

<sup>6</sup> It consists of 19 two-chamber parliaments and 36 one-chamber parliaments which gives 74 members from 55 states. In Europe (the British Isles and the Mediterranean region) four members from three countries (Great Britain, Cyprus and Malta) participate in the Conference.

ment, i.e. the Canadian parliament was the initiator of the CSPOC which presently comprises parliaments of Commonwealth Member States which include only three European states.

In Europe, regular meetings of speakers of parliaments have been held since the first half of 1980's. Since then until the end of 1990's, every year (alternately) the European Conference of Speakers of Parliaments and the Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments have been held. The role of the Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments has formalised<sup>7</sup> gradually and increased<sup>8</sup> in 2000's and presently the Conference is held once a year and its work is coordinated by the parliaments of the three presidencies of the Conference. The European Conference of Speakers of Parliaments is still held once every two years; it has also made attempts to formalise its role<sup>9</sup>.

Re. 2 The distinguishing feature of that category of international parliamentary institutions grouping interparliamentary unions, councils, assemblies, joint committees, associations, conferences and forums is the fact that they consist of the delegations - the most often selected and permanent during the term of office of particular member parliaments. The composition of the delegations usually reflects political parities. The political representativeness of delegations is the consequence of increased formalisation of the organisation and procedures of work of the institution belonging to that category: their operations are based upon multilateral or bilateral international treaties or agreements or interparliamentary as well as internal work regulations. Such institutions are most often created as the instruments of supranational integration around particular interests or values. Some of them constitute parliamentary dimension of international governmental institutions and scrutinise their work.

The oldest international parliamentary institutions in this category in Europe include the Inter-Parliamentary Union (formed in 1889<sup>10</sup>) and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (formed in 1911<sup>11</sup>). However, both these institutions are non-European institutions within our meaning of this word. The first is of a global dimension and thus includes all national parliaments of the old continent, whilst the second includes the Commonwealth countries (see footnote no. 6).

The oldest European parliamentary institutions of that category began to emerge in connection with the integration pursuits on that continent after the Second World War. The Consultative Assembly<sup>12</sup> (at present Parliamentary Assembly) of the Council of Europe formed in 1949 is regarded as their forerunner, which also gave rise to the European Parliament.

In the international parliamentary institutions of that category in the area of EU external relations, the EU is sometimes exclusively represented by the European Parliament, for example in the

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<sup>7</sup> In September 2000 in Rome, the Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments adopted guidelines (Regulations) determining the rules and procedures of its work. In July 2004 in The Hague the Conference adopted the Guidelines on the interparliamentary cooperation in the European Union.

<sup>8</sup> According to the above mentioned guidelines on the interparliamentary cooperation in the European Union adopted by the Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments: "The Conference is responsible for supervising the coordination of EU interparliamentary activity".

<sup>9</sup> In 2004 the Conference has prepared the draft regulations of its activity.

<sup>10</sup> At the beginning the organisation was open to individual parliamentarians, however in time it turned into an international organisation of parliaments of sovereign states. At the beginning, arbitration in the event of international conflicts was the IPU goal. In time its mission was to promote democracy and agreement between parliaments.

<sup>11</sup> The Imperial Parliamentary Association was formed in 1911. Its current name was adopted in 1948.

<sup>12</sup> At the beginning, the members of the Assembly included representatives of governments of the twelve states – founders of the Council. However, since 1951 to date it consists of representatives of national parliaments of the Member States of the Council.

Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue ("TLD")<sup>13</sup> or Joint Parliamentary Committees ("JPCs")<sup>14</sup>: EU – Bulgaria, EU – Croatia, EU – Macedonia.

Re. 3 This form of interparliamentary cooperation comprises conferences or meetings of speakers or corresponding parliamentary representatives of standing committees. It has been developed over the last twenty or thirty years due to the fact that the integration process within the European Communities and then European Union deepened and extended.

The Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (*Conférence des organes spécialisés dans les affaires communautaires* / *Conference of the Community and European Affairs Committees* "COSAC") formed at the Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments held in Madrid in May 1989 in Madrid is the oldest forum of interparliamentary cooperation at the committee level. The first meeting of COSAC was held in November 1989 in Paris.

Soon after, in January 1993 in Paris, the first meeting of the Conference of Chairpersons of Foreign Affairs Committees of EU Parliaments<sup>15</sup> was held upon the invitation of André Bellon, socialist deputy of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly.

Both above-mentioned forums of cooperation of EU parliamentary committees commenced meetings of further standing committees in the parliaments of the presiding states (presidency) of the EU.

The cooperation of the EU Parliamentary committees with parliamentary committees of the EU Member States has developed over the past few years, in particular due to the work of the European Convention. It is currently functioning in the EU Parliament in two forms: Joint Parliamentary Meetings (JPMs) and Joint Committee Meetings (JCMs). Since the second half of 2005, the concept of Corresponding Committee Network (CCN) of EU Parliaments has been developed within the EU Parliament.

Moreover, cooperation is often undertaken by parliamentary committees of the Member States or EU (or NATO) candidate countries - most frequently committees for European integration, at the sub-regional level of, for example, Central Europe (the Visegrad Group or Regional Partnership) or the Balkans region.

Re. 4 The distinguishing feature of that category of international parliamentary (or quasi-parliamentary) institutions grouping interparliamentary or parliamentary organisations, associations, conferences, meetings networks [for members of parliament] is the fact that individual parliamentarians take part in their sessions, appointed not on the basis of political parity but on individual features, interests or qualifications. It is characteristic for these institutions that they have less established legal basis of their operations and less formalised organisation and procedures of work and it is often difficult to access any information regarding them. In the event of such institutions it is often difficult to talk about parliamentary scrutiny of the executive due to the fact that there is no political representativeness.

Such type of international parliamentary (or quasi-parliamentary) institutions have emerged over the last decade. Their appearance and increase in number is related to a large degree with the globalisation process, technological revolution and crystallisation of post-industrial or post-

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<sup>13</sup> Members of the European Parliament and the Congress of the United States of America meet within TLD.

<sup>14</sup> These Commissions constitute parliamentary dimension of relations between the EU and the EU candidate countries.

<sup>15</sup> At the beginning it was called the Meeting of Chairpersons of Foreign Affairs Committees of Parliamentary Assemblies of the Twelve States.

modernistic model of society. Such institutions include: Parliamentarians for Global Action ("PGA"), International Parliamentarians' Association for Information Technology ("IPAIT"), etc.

Some forms of parliamentary cooperation of that type are also created in Europe in areas of tension and international conflict in order to stabilise the political situation and build foundations for further social and economic development. They often take the character of cooperation frameworks comprising various types of interparliamentary meetings at the level of speakers of parliaments, committees, etc. Such forms of cooperation include, for example: the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum or the Parliamentary dimension of the South-East European Cooperation Process ("SEECP"). Such forms of cooperation may be transitional and concern the transformation period only; they may also strengthen, as for example in the event of the parliamentary dimension of the Visegrad Group<sup>16</sup>.

## **B. Geopolitical frameworks of interparliamentary cooperation**

The second dimension of classification adopted categorises the information on interparliamentary cooperation delivered according to the **geopolitical** frameworks of that cooperation.

Ten levels have been distinguished upon which interparliamentary relations of European states develop depending on geopolitical frameworks of such relations:

1. global relations;
2. North-Atlantic or Transatlantic relations;
3. pan-European relations;
4. sub-regional cooperation within Europe (as a continent);
5. European state or groupings of states external relations;
6. European Union internal relations or governance<sup>17</sup>;
7. sub-regional cooperation within the European Union;
8. European Union external relations;
9. Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) internal relations; and
10. non-European states or groupings of states relations with European states.

The above classification reflects international relations *Anno Domini* 2006. Generally, such relations are historically conditioned and are of a dynamic character from their very nature. Before the end of the Cold War (1989) the interparliamentary relations in Europe developed mainly in its western part: European Communities or European Free Trade Association (EFTA). After 1989 there was a global *expansion* of parliamentary democracy from the west to the east and south, both in the national and supranational dimension of interparliamentary relations. The logics of the *expansion* in Europe in the supranational dimension reflected a natural dominance of governments in the international relations, therefore the interparliamentary cooperation was often secondary to the intergovernmental cooperation often creating the parliamentary dimension of the lat-

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<sup>16</sup> Interparliamentary cooperation at the committee level has been commenced within the Visegrad Group when its Member States were candidates to the NATO and the EU and continues to date when they belong to those integration groups.

<sup>17</sup> The European Commission developed its own concept of governance in the White Paper on the European governance where the term „European governance” refers to the principles, processes and behaviour which influence the way of governing at the European level, in particular as regards the openness, participation, democratic responsibility, efficiency and coherence. The said five rules of „good governance” strengthen the idea of helpfulness and proportionality. In general, the White Paper provides how the EU should use the power provided to it by the citizens. [See: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/governance/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/governance/index_en.htm)]

ter. Sometimes it served resolution of conflicts by way of mediation or management of conflicts, for example in the Balkans region.

The above-mentioned geopolitical frameworks of interparliamentary relations in Europe presently correspond to the European integration regions, the driving force of which are the European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The interparliamentary relations reached the highest degree of intensity within the European Union, partly due to the fact that the national parliaments lost significant part of their competencies in national matters. At present their activity on the EU level may be perceived as a search of a new place within the new EU architecture or the new European governance (see footnote no. 14).

The list of responses to the question regarding the share of European national parliaments in the interparliamentary cooperation delivered by the ECPRD correspondents and attached hereto was based on the intersection of the two classifications discussed above: according to the **legal and organisational** and **geopolitical** framework of such cooperation.

#### **IV. *Statistics of respondent responses***<sup>18</sup>

The replies delivered by the ECPRD correspondents provide that the parliaments of the Member States of the Council of Europe are engaged in total in approx. **76** of more or less formalised forms of interparliamentary relations in the political dimension and approx. **9** in the sphere of parliamentary administration.

The analysis below regards the interparliamentary political relations.

Table 1. Number of forms of interparliamentary relations of European states of political character according to the geographical range or geopolitical framework of such relations

No.	Interparliamentary dimension of political relations	Number of forms of interparliamentary relations
1.	Global relations	<b>13</b>
2.	North-Atlantic or Transatlantic relations	<b>3</b>
3.	Pan-European relations	<b>4</b>
4.	Sub-regional cooperation within Europe (as a continent)	<b>16</b>
5.	European state or groupings of states external relations	<b>14</b>
6.	European Union internal relations or governance	<b>8</b>
7.	Sub-regional cooperation within the European Union	<b>7</b>
8.	European Union external relations	<b>7</b>
9.	Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) internal relations	<b>2</b>
10.	Non-European states or groupings of states relations with European states	<b>2</b>

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<sup>18</sup> Statistics are based on the responses received from the parliaments to date. They will be verified once the missing responses are delivered.

As regards the geographical or geopolitical structure, the number of forms of interparliamentary political relations of European states was the highest:

- i. at the sub-regional level within Europe (as a continent);
- ii. at the dimension of European state or groupings of states external relations;
- iii. at the dimension of global relations;
- iv. at the sub-regional level within the European Union;
- v. at the dimension of the European Union external relations.

Table 2. Number of forms of interparliamentary relations of European states of political character according to the **legal and organisational** frameworks of such relations

No.	Interparliamentary political relations according to the legal and organisational frameworks of such relations	No. of forms of interparliamentary relations
1.	Conferences or meetings of speakers or presidents of parliaments	<b>12</b>
2.	Interparliamentary unions, councils, assemblies, joint committees, associations, conferences or forums	<b>24</b>
3.	Conferences or meetings of chairpersons or representatives of corresponding parliamentary standing committees	<b>8</b>
4.	Interparliamentary or parliamentary organizations, associations, conferences, meetings or networks [for MPs]	<b>32</b>

As regards the legal and organisational structure, the number of forms of interparliamentary political relations of European states was the highest in the following areas:

- i. Interparliamentary or parliamentary organizations, associations, conferences, meetings, networks [for MPs];
- ii. interparliamentary unions, councils, assemblies, joint committees, associations, conferences or forums.

There were almost three times less conferences or forums of meetings among speakers of parliaments than the first above-mentioned form of interparliamentary relations of European states and two times less than the second one. There were four times less conferences or forums of meetings among speakers or corresponding parliamentary representatives of standing committees than the first above-mentioned form and three times less than the second one.

The list of responses to the question regarding the share of European national parliaments in interparliamentary cooperation delivered by the ECPRD correspondents and attached hereto, based on the intersection of the two classifications discussed above, the number of forms of interparliamentary relations of European states of political character was the highest in the regions at the intersection of the following categories:

- i. *interparliamentary or parliamentary organizations, associations, conferences, meetings or networks [for MPs] **and** European state or groupings of states external relations [11 relations];*
- ii. *interparliamentary unions, councils, assemblies, joint committees, associations, conferences, forums **and** sub-regional cooperation within Europe (as a continent) [10 relations];*
- iii. *interparliamentary or parliamentary organizations, associations, conferences, meetings or networks [for MPs] **and** global relations [10 relations].*

## ***V. Administrative dimension of interparliamentary relations in Europe.***

The administrative dimension of interparliamentary relations is significant, but is secondary to the political dimension. Nevertheless, over the last decade it is becoming more and more autonomous. A certain degree of autonomisation is necessary due to the following determinants:

- need to ensure HR (human resources), IT (information technology) and technical support to the political interparliamentary relations at the dynamic intensification thereof;
- need to ensure continuous communication in the political dimension of interparliamentary relations within the period exceeding one parliamentary term of office;
- need to rationalise and functionalise political interparliamentary relations at a longer period in the context of international environment which is undergoing dynamic changes;
- need to follow up technical progress, in the consequence of which the information society emerges;
- in the event of the European Union, need to exchange information and coordinate within the EU decision-making process as well as standardise the procedures of inspecting governments of the EU Member States on European matters.

On the pan-European scale, the administrative dimension of interparliamentary relations is related to the political dimension by the European Conference of Speakers of Parliaments. Along with the meetings of the Conference, meetings of Secretaries General of the member Parliaments of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and ECPRD are also held. During the meetings, reports on the previous work of ECPRD are adopted as well as plans for the future.

During the last few years, meetings of Secretaries General of parliaments of the EU Members States started to institutionalise. They are organically related to the meetings of the Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments.

Numerous networks of the communication officers constitute a significant phenomenon in the interparliamentary relations, ensuring communication within various forms of interparliamentary cooperation: with the European Parliament, COSAC, Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments, ECPRD, etc.

## ***VI. Problems when preparing the responses delivered***

Whilst preparing the synthesis of responses to the question posed in the survey on multilateral interparliamentary cooperation in Europe, the following problems emerged:

- translation of names of some forms of interparliamentary cooperation (for example from Russian into English) was sometimes imprecise which made it difficult to identify and verify the same;
- problems with the terminology:
  - lack of uniform nomenclature,
  - names of some forms of interparliamentary cooperation distorted (sometimes the same forms of cooperation were named differently),
  - similar names for various forms of interparliamentary cooperation (e.g. with respect to the Mediterranean cooperation);
- provisional character of the interparliamentary structures created;



- unclear status of some forms of interparliamentary cooperation (even if a given form of interparliamentary cooperation has been developed over a number of years, it may expire quickly if it is not institutionalised at least to a small degree);
- lack of strict valuation criteria as to what can and what cannot be regarded as a permanent form of interparliamentary cooperation;
- unclear mandate of certain forms of interparliamentary cooperation: who or what is represented – what type of legitimacy they have (determining it as “democratic” legitimacy is sometimes difficult to operationalise);
- loose forms of membership in certain forms of interparliamentary cooperation (loose assembly of parliamentarians, treated lightly by national parliaments);
- negligible effects of activity within certain forms of interparliamentary cooperation;
- one common name being used to cover several different forms of interparliamentary cooperation (including meetings of speakers of parliaments, commissions, female parliamentarians, etc.). This concerns in particular the Southern and Eastern Europe, for example the *Cetinje Parliamentary Forum* or the *Parliamentary dimension of the South-East European Cooperation Process*.

## VII. Conclusions

The following conclusions can be drawn on the basis of responses to the questionnaire on multi-lateral interparliamentary relations in Europe:

- In line with the stated multiplicity and diversity of interparliamentary relations involving European national parliaments – particularly in the category of international parliamentary (or quasi-parliamentary) institutions that operate less officially or formally and are thus difficult to pinpoint – the questionnaire confirmed the need to elaborate a compendium of such institutions and a catalogue of their activities as a starting point to a subsequent assessment of the rationality or functionality of interparliamentary relations<sup>19</sup>; this task should be performed at the parliamentary administration or expert level;
- As illustrated by terminological difficulties that have occurred during the processing of questionnaire responses, there is an urgent need for a common nomenclature covering all current forms of interparliamentary cooperation<sup>20</sup>; it would also make sense if every form of interparliamentary relations had a standard English designation, from which all other language versions would be translated;
- As illustrated by difficulties associated with accessing information occurred during the processing of questionnaire responses, it would make sense if all international parliamentary institutions in Europe provided on their websites, as a matter of standard procedure, information about the legal basis of their activities (including their objectives and mission), operating regulations, membership procedures, history (when and how they were established) and achievements – that would increase the transparency of their functioning;
- In the context of the mentioned multiplicity and diversity of interparliamentary relations involving European national parliaments, it is essential to select appropriate cataloguing crite-

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<sup>19</sup> Such compendium and cataloguing is particularly important from the perspective of an assessment of the intensity of parliamentarians' involvement in interparliamentary cooperation (an attempt at this assessment has been made by the Folketing).

<sup>20</sup> Past reports dealing with this issue – on relations between national parliaments and international parliamentary assemblies, presented in 1980 by the Clerk of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly John Priestman, and its updated 1990 version presented by the Clerk of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Heinrich Klebes – used the term “international parliamentary institutions”;

ria with a view to allocate proper weight to each form of interparliamentary relations<sup>21</sup>; these criteria should be adapted to the new international and geopolitical situation in Europe and take into account new interparliamentary structures established after 1989<sup>22</sup>;

- Furthermore, there is a need to elaborate the standards of supranational parliamentary democracy modelled on those often formulated with reference to national states; the debate on the European democracy took place within the European Convention<sup>23</sup> and is taking place on the forums of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly<sup>24</sup>, Conference of the Speakers of European Union Parliaments and in academic circles, but it usually circumvents national parliaments; moreover, conclusions of this debate are not forged into documents that serve as recommendations or directives<sup>25</sup>, and it is not entirely clear which parliamentary body should be endorsing such documents;
- At the political level, there is a need to decide which European interparliamentary assembly should play a coordinating role with respect to all other structures of interparliamentary cooperation; since July 2004, pursuant to the Guidelines for Interparliamentary Cooperation in the European Union, the “responsibility for supervising the coordination of interparliamentary EU activities” rests with the Conference of Speakers of the European Union<sup>26</sup>; it would make sense to decide whether a similar coordination is necessary as concerns interparliamentary relations at the pan-European scale and which parliamentary institution should play such coordinating role.

### ***VIII. Outstanding issues – supplemental questions to ECPRD correspondents and certain international parliamentary institutions***

The following issues concerning multilateral interparliamentary cooperation require further clarification:

- In order to get a full picture of cooperation between European national parliaments, information must be received from parliaments which have not yet responded to the questionnaire;
- Respondents must verify if their responses to the questionnaire were properly catalogued;
- With reference to conferences or meetings of parliament speakers, there is a need for information as to the status of parliament speakers in national parliaments: in which parliaments do they still function as political leaders and in which are they placed above political divisions?
- The issue of the flow of information from interparliamentary forums to national parliaments and the impact of such information on the parliamentary work and decisions;
- The issue of selection of parliamentary representatives to interparliamentary meetings;

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<sup>21</sup> In Priestman and Klebes reports, principal criteria of cataloguing international parliamentary institutions were: legal operating basis (does the institution function pursuant to international law or not) and geographical location.

<sup>22</sup> In particular, it relates to cooperation between parliamentary committees.

<sup>23</sup> The debate in the Convention covered only the European Union and proceeded in the context of the work on the draft of the Constitutional Treaty for Europe.

<sup>24</sup> In 2004, the Assembly heard the Report and Recommendations on the crisis of democracy in Europe. The issue was also raised at the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments in 2004 in Strasbourg.

<sup>25</sup> Among the terms that seem to need systematizing in particular are “democratic legitimacy”, “delegation of powers”, or “accountability of the executive branch to the parliamentary assembly” in the context of the existing forms of interparliamentary relations in Europe.

<sup>26</sup> However, even with respect to parliamentary relations in the European Union it seems that these coordination competencies of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments do not encompass activities of the European Parliament. Generally speaking, it is difficult for the Conference to coordinate interparliamentary relations as meetings usually take place once a year and the Conference can neither count on administrative support equal to that of the European Parliament nor has any EU legislative powers. Maybe that is why Copenhagen Guidelines refer to “overseeing coordination” rather than to unqualified coordination.

- The issue of legal foundations and regulations governing interparliamentary forums.

Consequently, we have further requests and questions for ECPRD correspondents:

- A request to forward responses to ECPRD Questionnaire no. 456 of 2 September 2005 from parliaments which have not yet responded;
- A request to verify responses already received: have they been properly catalogued?;
- A question concerning the status of parliamentary speakers: in which parliaments do they continue to be political leaders and in which have they been placed above political divisions?;
- A question concerning the flow of information from interparliamentary forums to national parliaments and its impact on the parliamentary work and decisions: are reports prepared from all such meetings and what role do they play?;
- A question about the method of selecting parliamentary representatives to meetings of interparliamentary organisations: is it based on political parity, substantive qualifications or on other criteria?;

We also have supplemental questions to some international parliamentary institutions:

- What are the legal foundations of the activities of each interparliamentary forum?
- What are the regulations governing the functioning of these forums?

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By Stanislaw Puzyna

**SUMMARY OF THE  
REPLIES TO THE ECPRD REQUEST N° 456 ON  
“Participation of the European states’ parliaments in interparliamentary forums**

- A. To what interparliamentary assemblies, conferences, associations, organisations ... does your parliament or chamber belong, as a participant, member, associate member, observer, ..., currently?

**1. CONFERENCES / MEETINGS OF SPEAKERS / PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENTS**

✂ **GLOBAL RELATIONS**

- [World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments](#)

Replies from: Poland (Senate) [member]

- Conference of the Speakers of the Lower Chambers of G8 Countries [G8 Speakers’ Conference]

Replies from: Italy (Chamber of Deputies), United Kingdom (House of Commons) [members]

✂ **PAN-EUROPEAN RELATIONS<sup>27</sup>**

- [European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments](#)

Replies from: Austria, Belgium (Chamber of Representatives), Belgium (Senate), Germany (Bundesrat), Poland (Senate) [members]

- [Association of European Senates](#)

Replies from: Poland (Senate) [member]

✂ **SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN EUROPE (AS A CONTINENT)**

- Meetings of the Presidents of the Parliaments participating in the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative  
Replies from: Croatia, Greece, Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Slovenia (National Assembly) [participants]

- Meetings of the Presidents of the Parliaments participating in the “high” Quadrilateral Initiative

Replies from: Croatia, Hungary, Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Slovenia (National Assembly) [participants]

- Meetings of the Presidents of the Parliaments participating in the “low” Quadrilateral Initiative

Replies from: Albania, Bulgaria, Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Macedonia / FYROM [participants]

✂ **EUROPEAN STATE OR GROUPINGS OF STATES EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

- [Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers Conference \(CSPOC\)](#)

Replies from: United Kingdom (House of Commons, House of Lords) [member]

<sup>27</sup> Pan-European Relations, it means potentially encompassing all member states of the Council of Europe.

✂ **EUROPEAN UNION INTERNAL RELATIONS / GOVERNANCE**

• [Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU](#)

Replies from: Belgium (Chamber of Representatives), Belgium (Senate), Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France (National Assembly), Germany (Bundesrat), Greece, Hungary, Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands (House of Representatives), Poland (Senate), Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia (National Council), Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom (House of Commons, House of Lords) [members]; Bulgaria, Romania (Chamber of Deputies) [candidates]; Croatia, Turkey [observers]

✂ **SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN EUROPEAN UNION**

• Meetings of the Presidents of the Parliaments of the [Visegrad Group](#) (V4) States

Replies from: Poland (Senate) [participant]

• Meetings of the Presidents of the [Regional Partnership](#) Parliaments of the Republic of Austria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland, the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Slovenia

Replies from: Poland (Senate), Slovenia (National Council) [participants]

✂ **EUROPEAN UNION EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

• [Conference of Speakers of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliaments](#)

Replies from: Belgium (Senate), Cyprus, Germany (Bundesrat), Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Poland (Senate) [members]

**2. INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNIONS / COUNCILS / ASSEMBLIES / JOINT COMMITTEES / ASSOCIATIONS / CONFERENCES / FORUMS<sup>28</sup>**

✂ **GLOBAL RELATIONS**

• Interparliamentary Union ([IPU](#))

Replies from: Armenia, Austria (Federal Council, National Council), Belgium (Chamber of Representatives), Belgium (Senate), Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic (Chamber of Deputies), Czech Republic (Senate), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France (National Assembly), Georgia, Germany (Bundestag), Israel, Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia / FYROM, Netherlands (House of Representatives), Norway, Portugal, Poland (Senate), Russia (State Duma), Slovenia (National Assembly and National Council), Sweden, Switzerland (Federal Assembly), United Kingdom (House of Commons, House of Lords) [members]

✂ **NORTH-ATLANTIC OR TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS**

• [NATO Parliamentary Assembly](#) ([NATO PA](#))

Replies from: Belgium (Chamber of Representatives), Belgium (Senate), Bulgaria, Czech Republic (Chamber of Deputies), Czech Republic (Senate), Denmark, Estonia, France (National Assembly), Germany (Bundestag, Bundesrat), Greece, Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands (House of Representatives), Norway, Poland (Senate), Portugal, Romania (Chamber of Deputies), Slovakia, Slovenia (National Assembly), United Kingdom (House of Commons, House of Lords), United States (House of Representatives, Senate) [members]; Armenia, Austria (Federal Council, National Council), Croatia, Finland, Macedonia / FYROM, Georgia, Israel, Russia (State Duma), Sweden, Switzerland (Federal Assembly) [associate members]; Bosnia-Herzegovina [observer]

• Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly ([OSCE PA](#))

Replies from: Armenia, Austria (Federal Council, National Council), Belgium (Chamber of Representatives), Belgium (Senate), Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech

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<sup>28</sup> Delegations formally nominated by member parliaments of the unions / assemblies / conferences / forums.

Republic (Chamber of Deputies), Czech Republic (Senate), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France (National Assembly), Georgia, Germany (Bundestag), Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia / FYROM, Netherlands (House of Representatives), Norway, Poland (Senate), Portugal, Romania (Chamber of Deputies), Russia (State Duma), Slovakia, Slovenia (National Assembly), Sweden, Switzerland (Federal Assembly), United Kingdom (House of Commons, House of Lords) [members]; Israel [observer]

- Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue  
Replies from: U.S. House of Representatives

✂ **PAN-EUROPEAN RELATIONS**

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe ([PACE](#))  
Replies from: Armenia, Austria (Federal Council, National Council), Belgium (Chamber of Representatives), Belgium (Senate), Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic (Chamber of Deputies), Czech Republic (Senate), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France (National Assembly), Georgia, Germany (Bundestag, Bundesrat), Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia / FYROM, Netherlands (House of Representatives), Norway, Poland (Senate), Portugal, Romania (Chamber of Deputies), Russia (State Duma), Slovakia, Slovenia (National Assembly), Sweden, Switzerland (Federal Assembly), Italy (Chamber of Deputies), United Kingdom (House of Commons, House of Lords)] [members]; Israel [observer]

✂ **SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN EUROPE (AS A CONTINENT)**

- Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference ([BSPC](#))  
Replies from: Germany (Bundestag), Norway, Poland (Senate), Russia (State Duma), Sweden [members]
- Central European Initiative ([CEI](#)) - Parliamentary Dimension  
Replies from: Austria (Federal Council, National Council), Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic (Chamber of Deputies), Czech Republic (Senate), Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Macedonia / FYROM, Poland (Senate), Romania (Chamber of Deputies), Slovakia, Slovenia (National Assembly) [members]
- [Assembly of WEU](#) - Interparliamentary European Security and Defence Assembly  
Replies from: Belgium (Chamber of Representatives), Belgium (Senate), France (National Assembly), Germany (Bundestag), Greece, Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Netherlands (House of Representatives), Portugal, United Kingdom (House of Commons, House of Lords) [full members]; Czech Republic (Chamber of Deputies), Czech Republic (Senate), Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland (Senate), Slovakia, Slovenia (National Assembly), [affiliate members]; Norway [associate member]; Bulgaria, Romania (Chamber of Deputies) [affiliate associate members]; Austria (Federal Council, National Council), Denmark, Finland, Sweden [permanent observers]; Cyprus [affiliate permanent observer]; Croatia [affiliate associate partner]; Russia (State Duma) [permanent guest]; Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia / FYROM, [special guests]
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation ([PABSEC](#))  
Replies from: Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Romania (Chamber of Deputies), Russia (State Duma), Slovakia [members]; Germany (Bundestag), Israel, France (National Assembly) [observers]
- [Nordic Council](#)  
Replies from: Denmark, Norway, Sweden [members]; Greece [guest]
- Ukrainian - Polish Interparliamentary Assembly  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [member]
- Assembly of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine  
Replies from: Lithuania [member]

- GUAM [Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova] Parliamentary Assembly  
Replies from: ... [member]
- Forum of Parliamentarians of the Group for Interparliamentary Relations with the Russian Federation of the Seimas of the Lithuania and of the Kaliningrad Oblast Duma  
Replies from: Lithuania [participant]
- South Caucasus Parliamentary Initiative (SCPI)  
Replies from: Georgia [participant]
- ✂ **EUROPEAN STATE OR GROUPINGS OF STATES EXTERNAL RELATIONS**
- European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Parliamentary Committee<sup>29</sup>  
Replies from: Norway [member]
- [Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region](#)  
Replies from: Finland, Russia (State Duma), Sweden [members]; Poland (Senate) [participant]
- ✂ **SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN EUROPEAN UNION**
- [Interparliamentary Consultative Benelux Council \(Benelux Parliament\)](#)  
Replies from: Belgium, Netherlands (House of Representatives), Luxembourg [members]
- [Baltic Assembly](#)  
Replies from: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania (Seimas), Finland [members]
- ✂ **EUROPEAN UNION EXTERNAL RELATIONS**
- [Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly \(EMPA\)](#)  
Replies from: Czech Republic, Austria (Federal Council, National Council), Belgium (Chamber of Representatives), Belgium (Senate), Cyprus, Czech Republic (Senate), France (National Assembly), Germany (Bundestag), Greece, Israel, Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands (House of Representatives), Poland (Senate), Slovakia, Slovenia (National Assembly), Sweden [members]; Germany (Bundesrat), Romania (Chamber of Deputies); Czech Republic (Chamber of Deputies) [observers]
- Joint Parliamentary Committees (JPCs): EU - Bulgaria, EU - Croatia, EU - Macedonia / FYROM  
Replies from: Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia / FYROM [members]
- European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)  
Replies from: Norway [member]
- ✂ **COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES INTERNAL RELATIONS**
- Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States ([IPA CIS](#))  
Replies from: Armenia, Russia (State Duma) [members]
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Belarus-Russia Union  
Replies from: Russia (State Duma) [member]

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<sup>29</sup> Since the entry into effect of the EEA Agreement, there have been two EFTA parliamentary Committees: the Committee of Members of Parliament of the EFTA States (MPS), which deals with EEA-related matters and forms the EFTA side of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), and the Committee of Members of Parliament of the EFTA countries (CMP), which deals with all other matters, including relations with third countries.

### 3. CONFERENCES / MEETINGS OF CHAIRPERSONS OR REPRESENTATIVES OF CORRESPONDING PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEES

#### ✂ SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN EUROPE (AS A CONTINENT)

- Meetings of committees of the Parliaments participating in the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative  
Replies from: Croatia, Greece, Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Slovenia (National Assembly) [participants]

#### ✂ EUROPEAN UNION INTERNAL RELATIONS / GOVERNANCE

- Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the EU ([COSAC](#)) organized and hosted by the Parliament of the state holding the EU Presidency  
Replies from: Austria (Federal Council, National Council), Belgium (Chamber of Representatives), Belgium (Senate), Cyprus, Denmark, Germany (Bundesrat), Lithuania, Poland (Senate), Slovenia (National Council), United Kingdom (House of Commons, House of Lords) [members]; Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania (Chamber of Deputies) [observers]
- Conference of the Chairpersons of Foreign Affairs Committees of the Parliaments of the Member States of the European Union, the European Parliament and the Parliaments of the Candidate States organized and hosted by the Parliament of the state holding the EU Presidency  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [member]
- Meetings of Chairpersons or representatives of corresponding standing committees of the Parliaments of the Member States of the European Union, the European Parliament and the Parliaments of the Candidate States organized and hosted by the Parliament of the state holding the EU Presidency  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [participant]
- Meetings of European Parliament standing committees with representatives of corresponding standing Committees from the EU Member and Candidate States' Parliaments  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [participant]

#### ✂ SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN EUROPEAN UNION

- Meetings of the Foreign Affairs, National Defence and EU Committees of the Parliaments of the Visegrad Group (V4) States  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [participant]
- Meetings of the EU Committees of the Parliaments of Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [participant]
- Meetings of committees [transport, finance] of the Regional Partnership Parliaments of the Republic of Austria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland, the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Slovenia  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [participant]

### 4. INTERPARLIAMENTARY / PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATIONS / ASSOCIATIONS / CONFERENCES / MEETINGS / NETWORKS [FOR MPs]

#### ✂ GLOBAL RELATIONS

- Parliamentarians for Global Action ([PGA](#))  
Replies from: Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Poland (Senate), Romania (Chamber of Deputies) [regular participation]



- Parliamentary Network on the World Bank ([PNoWB](#))  
Replies from: Romania (Chamber of Deputies) [member]; Finland, Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Poland (Senate) [occasional participation]
- [Parliamentary Conference on the WTO](#)  
Replies from: Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Poland (Senate) [regular participation]
- International Parliamentarians' Association for Information Technology ([IPAIT](#)) [Inaugural Convention, IPAIT 2002 (Seoul, Korea)]  
Replies from: Finland, Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Poland (Senate), Romania (Chamber of Deputies) [members]
- Global Parliamentarians on Habitat Forum  
Replies from: Croatia, Finland, Romania (Chamber of Deputies), Italy (Chamber of Deputies) [participants]
- [Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment \(GLOBE\)](#) [[US branch](#)]  
Replies from: Estonia, Russia (State Duma) [participants]
- Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC)  
Replies from: Romania (Chamber of Deputies) [participant]
- Inter-parliamentary Drug Control Conference  
Replies from: Italy (Chamber of Deputies) [participant]
- Interparliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom  
Replies from: Italy (Chamber of Deputies) [participant]
- International Parliamentarians' (or Parliamentary) Association for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (IPAAF)  
Replies from: Romania (Chamber of Deputies), Russia (State Duma) [participants]
- ✂ **PAN-EUROPEAN RELATIONS**
- Inter European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development ([IEPPFD](#))  
Replies from: Russia (State Duma) [participant]
- ✂ **SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN EUROPE (AS A CONTINENT)**
- Parliamentary dimension of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP)  
Replies from: Macedonia / FYROM, Greece, Romania (Chamber of Deputies) [participants]
- Cetinje Parliamentary Forum  
Replies from: Macedonia / FYROM, Romania (Chamber of Deputies), Greece, United Kingdom (House of Commons, House of Lords) [participants]
- ✂ **EUROPEAN STATE OR GROUPINGS OF STATES EXTERNAL RELATIONS**
- Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa ([AWEPA](#))  
Replies from: Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Romania (Chamber of Deputies) [participants]; Poland (Senate), United Kingdom (House of Commons, House of Lords) [occasional participation]
- Barents Parliamentary Conference  
Replies from: Russia (State Duma) [participant]

- Europe-Asia Conference of Young Parliamentarians<sup>30</sup>  
Replies from: Italy (Chamber of Deputies) [participant]
- Conference of Parliamentarians of Italian origin  
Replies from: Italy (Chamber of Deputies) [participant]
- Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM)<sup>31</sup>  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [observer]
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophone countries / [l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie](#)  
Replies from: Armenia, France (National Assembly), Macedonia / FYROM, Romania (Chamber of Deputies) [members]; Bulgaria, Poland (Senate), Switzerland (Federal Assembly) [associated members]; Lithuania [observers]
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)  
Replies from: Cyprus, United Kingdom (House of Commons, House of Lords) [members]
- World Hellenic Interparliamentary Union  
Replies from: Romania (Chamber of Deputies) [member]
- [Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy](#) (IAO)  
Replies from: Armenia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Romania (Chamber of Deputies), Poland (Senate), Russia (State Duma) [members]
- Parliamentary Forum of the Portuguese Speaking Countries  
Replies from: Portugal [participant]
- Interparliamentary Committee on the Union of the Dutch Language  
Replies from: Netherlands (House of Representatives) [member]
- ✂ **EUROPEAN UNION INTERNAL RELATIONS / GOVERNANCE**
- European Parliaments Research Initiative (EPRI)  
Replies from: Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Poland (Senate) [participation]
- Interparliamentary Conference [EUREKA](#)  
Replies from: Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Poland (Senate) [occasional participation]
- European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC)  
Replies from: Belgium (Senate), Italy (Chamber of Deputies) [participants]
- ✂ **EUROPEAN UNION EXTERNAL RELATIONS**
- [Parliamentary Conference of the Countries of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe / Stability Pact Parliamentary Conference](#) (SPPC)  
Replies from: Croatia, Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Macedonia / FYROM, Poland (Senate), Romania (Chamber of Deputies) [members]
- Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Women Parliamentarians  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [member]
- Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP)  
Replies from: Finland, Italy (Chamber of Deputies), Belgium (Senate) [participation]

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<sup>30</sup> Europe-Asia Conference of Young Parliamentarians is organised under the auspices of the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF). The fourth Europe-Asia Conference of Young Parliamentarians was held in Venice/Italy, November 17-20, 2002.

<sup>31</sup> It has transformed into Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) [[050626](#), [051213](#), [Malta](#), [WEU](#)]

✂ **NON-EUROPEAN STATES OR GROUPINGS OF STATES RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN STATES**

- Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace ([AAPP](#))  
Replies from: Cyprus, Russia (State Duma) [participation]
- Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum ([APPF](#))  
Replies from: Russia (State Duma) [participation]

**5. ASSOCIATIONS / MEETINGS OF SECRETARIES GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTARY CHANCELLERIES**

✂ **GLOBAL RELATIONS**

- Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments ([ASGP](#))  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [member]

✂ **PAN-EUROPEAN RELATIONS**

- Meetings of Secretaries General of PACE / ECPRD member Parliaments<sup>32</sup>  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [participant]

✂ **EUROPEAN UNION INTERNAL RELATIONS / GOVERNANCE**

- Meetings of Secretaries General of EU Parliaments<sup>33</sup>  
Replies from: Croatia, Germany (Bundestag), Poland (Senate) [participant]

**6. MEETINGS / NETWORKS OF CIVIL SERVANTS OF PARLIAMENTARY CHANCELLERIES**

✂ **GLOBAL RELATIONS**

- [Libraries and Research Services for Parliaments Section](#) of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions ([IFLA](#))  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [member]

✂ **PAN-EUROPEAN RELATIONS**

- Network of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation ([ECPRD](#))  
Replies from: Germany (Bundesrat), Poland (Senate) [members - correspondents]; Israel [observer]

✂ **EUROPEAN UNION INTERNAL RELATIONS / GOVERNANCE**

- Network of the EU member and candidate states parliaments liaison officers for contacts with the Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [liaison officer]
- Network of the EU member and candidate states parliaments liaison officers for contacts with the European Parliament  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [liaison officer]

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<sup>32</sup> The meetings are held simultaneously with the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments.

<sup>33</sup> The meetings are held in advance (to prepare) the Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU.

- Network of the [COSAC](#) (Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union) parliamentary delegations officers  
Replies from: Austria, Belgium (Chamber of Representatives), Belgium (Senate), Germany (Bundesrat), Cyprus, Poland (Senate), Slovenia (National Council), United Kingdom (House of Commons, House of Lords) [parliamentary delegations officers]
  - Network of the IPEX (Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange)  
Replies from: Poland (Senate) [correspondent]
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**B.** What interparliamentary assemblies / conferences / associations / organisations ... does your parliament / chamber envisage joining, as a member, associate member, observer, ..., in a foreseeable future?

✂ **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

- NATO
- European Union

✂ **CROATIA**

- European Union
- NATO

✂ **CYPRUS**

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

✂ **FRANCE (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY)**

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

✂ **GERMANY (BUNDESRAT)**

- [Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly \(EMPA\)](#) [change of the status from the current *observer* to a *member*]

✂ **LITHUANIA**

- Lithuanian - Polish - Ukrainian Interparliamentary Assembly

✂ **MACEDONIA / FYROM**

- COSAC
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC)

✂ **POLAND (SENATE)**

- Assembly of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and the Sejm of the Republic of Poland
- Meetings of the EU Committees of the Parliaments of the Visegrad Group (V4) States
- Lithuanian - Polish - Ukrainian Interparliamentary Assembly
- Network of Permanent Representatives of the EU member and candidate states parliaments to the European Parliament

✂ **PORTUGAL**

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (probably)

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By Stanislaw Puzyna