

## Background Note for the Workshops organized by the WG on “Enhancing the IPEX Network” - Workshop 1: Enhancing the exchange of information between IPEX Correspondents

### 1. Background

The three-year IPEX Work Program, adopted on 19 May 2017, is focused on three priority objectives:

1. Enhancing the IPEX Network;
2. Promoting IPEX and
3. Improving the IPEX Digital System.

The Board has created three Working Groups (WG) corresponding to the three priority objectives. Common for each Working Group is that it must conduct its work through a user-based approach, where dialog with IPEX users must take place before the adoption and implementation of any new action.

At this year’s annual IPEX national Correspondent’s meeting, the WG on Enhancing the IPEX Network will host two different workshops, both focusing exclusively on the IPEX national Correspondents:

Workshop 1: Enhancing the exchange of information between IPEX Correspondents

Workshop 2: Promoting and supporting the work of IPEX Correspondents

### 2. The scope of the Working Group on Enhancing the IPEX Network

The Working Groups’ mandate is to improve internal and external networks, which actively use IPEX or work directly with interparliamentary cooperation.

Since its inception, IPEX has been more than a website or a database. It is also a network between parliaments, which seeks to improve the exchange of information and documentation between parliaments.

The core network of IPEX consists of the national IPEX Correspondents. The Correspondents already represent a significant network and play an effective role in inter-parliamentary cooperation. This network has untapped potential, which can be enhanced further.

Individual parliaments are encouraged to assess and develop internal networks, by involving, for example, other parliamentary staff, political group staff and political assistants. The Working Group is also looking into improving these networks.

The EU Speakers Conference created IPEX as a means to improve the flow of EU information and documentation between parliaments. Therefore, the Working Group is looking into improving cooperation between IPEX and existing interparliamentary websites. IPEX currently hosts the website of the EU Speakers Conference, the CFSP/CSDP Conference, the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU and since this year, the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol and COSAC.

The Working Group is also looking into how to improve cooperation with other external networks including but not limited to COSAC, the Representatives of National Parliaments in Brussels and the ECPRD.

### 3. Initiatives to be implemented before the end of the first IPEX Work Programme

1. Encourage more translations of important decisions published on IPEX
2. Increase access and awareness of internal information needs by the staff and committees of national parliaments
3. Encourage communication and exchange of information between correspondents
4. Improve the quality of work of IPEX Correspondents
5. Increase the use of internal IPEX networks in the national parliaments.

### 4. Topics for the workshop on 23 November 2018, Enhancing the exchange of information between IPEX Correspondents

- The IPEX Digital Strategy and the IPEX Work Programme 2017 - 2020;
- What do we talk about when we talk about IPEX? The information NCs are looking for and how to find/exchange it;
- The IPEX event of the year - the annual national Correspondents Meeting - how to make it better and more instructive?;
- Are we really using IPEX? The back-office tools that can make information “complete”;
- What do we want to do when we grow up? Where IPEX NCs see IPEX in the future.