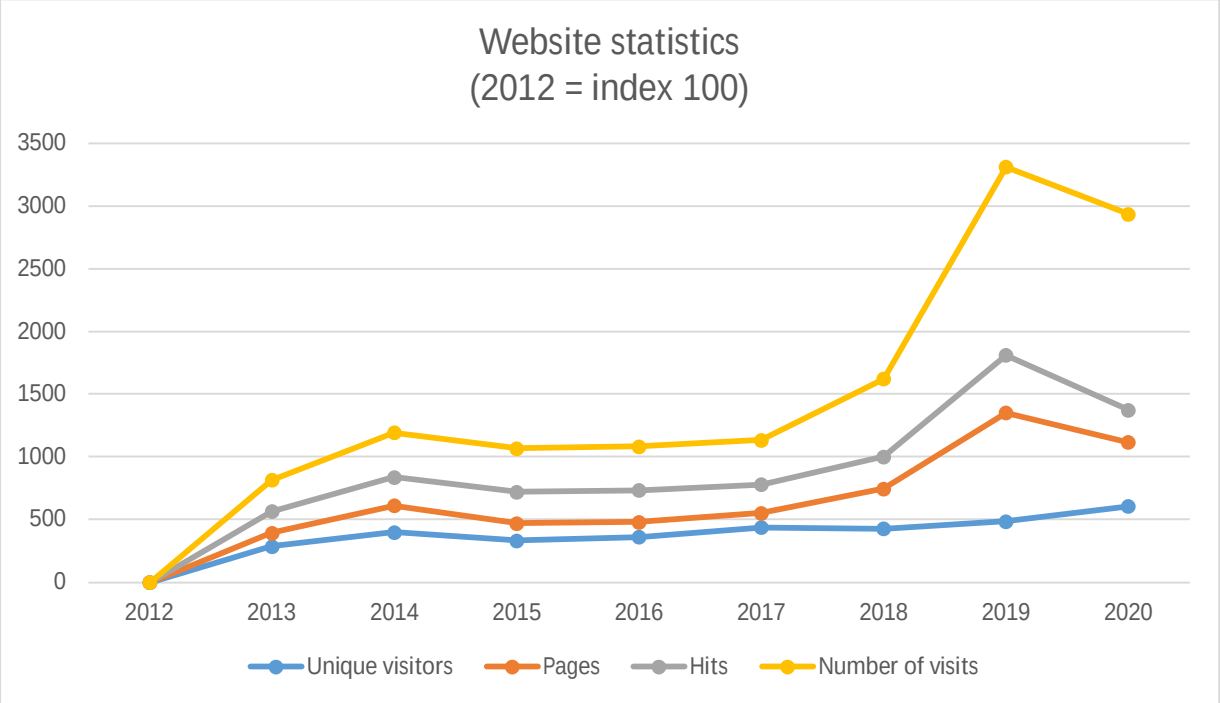
The platform for EU Interparliamentary Exchange

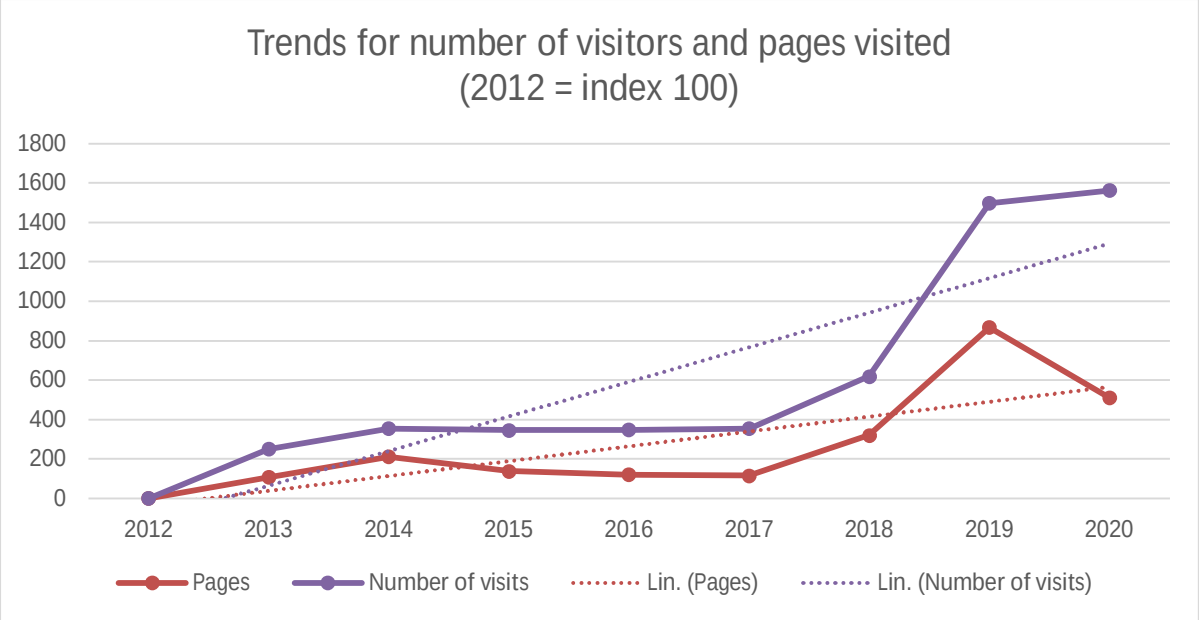
Written report of the IPEX Information Officer on the work of IPEX in 2020

Two landmark events have shaped the work of IPEX in 2020: first, the global COVID-19 pandemic has brought parliamentary and inter-parliamentary activities to an abrupt standstill, in the first semester of 2020, and then has deeply reshaped their tools and formats. The aftermath of these changes will surely be felt for some years to come. The second major event was the development and (planned) launch of the next generation of the IPEX platform, in its 3rd version. As with anything else around the world, the pandemic has brought out a number of challenges in the planned project calendar.

1. Website statistics

In 2020, 426.136 unique visitors have called up the IPEX platform, following the general progressive trend of previous years (2019: 342.355; 2018: 305.000; 2017: 307.737). The number of pages viewed – 25.383.775 million – is lower than the record of 2019 (the highest registered so far), but still far above the previous years (2109: 43.097.236; 2018: 15.939.723; 2017: 5.736.506).





Relative to the full deployment and establishment of IPEX V2 in late 2011/2012, the number of visitors and pages visited is seeing an upward trend over time, even when taking into account the challenges and disruptions of 2020: at a lower number of pages visited in 2020, the number of visitors has grown year-on-year with almost 20%.

The addition of dedicated subpages for established and newer inter-parliamentary conferences (IPCs) - COSAC, Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP), Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union, Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG) on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and the first Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the Evaluation of EUROJUST's Activities - have augmented the traffic and brought more interest in inter-parliamentary cooperation and its formats in the EU.

Upload of documents and dossiers

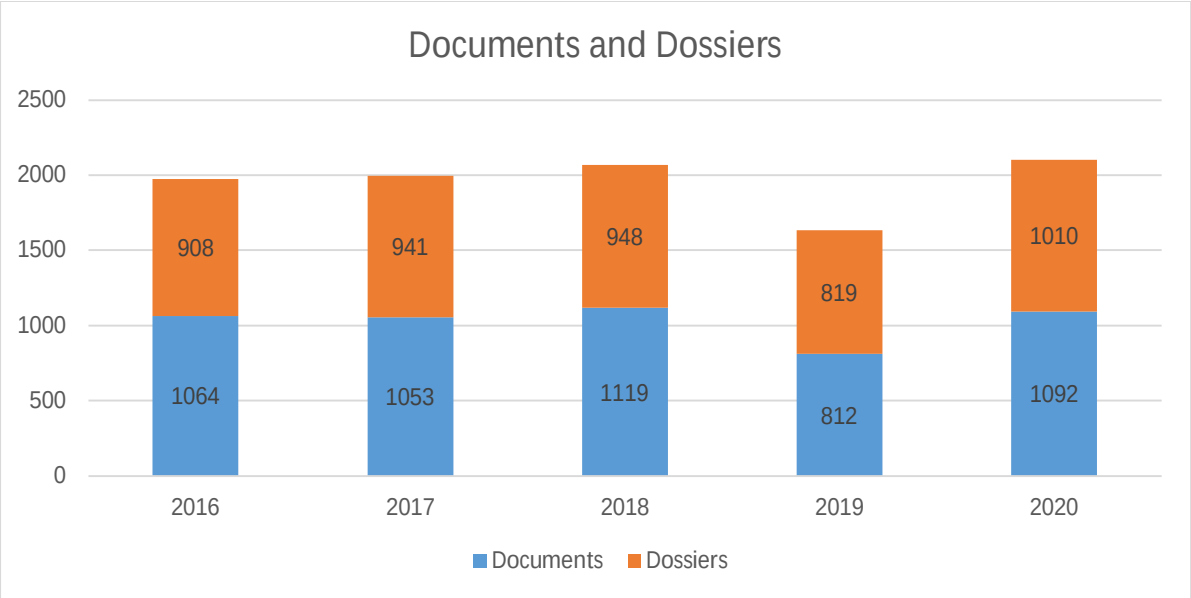
IPEX publishes currently over 112.000 pages from national parliaments and the European Union institutions, holding scrutiny related information in over 84.000 documents produced by national Parliaments and linked to some 12.000 dossiers[1]. In 2020, the total number of legislative and non-legislative documents recorded in IPEX, was 1092 (2019: 812; 2018: 1053; 2017: 1064; 2016: 805).

Documents and scrutiny updates from national Parliaments

Related to the legislative proposals in 2020, national parliaments uploaded 5.168 scrutiny related pages[2] (2019: 3.784; 2018: 5.799: 2017: 3.588; 2016: 6.624).

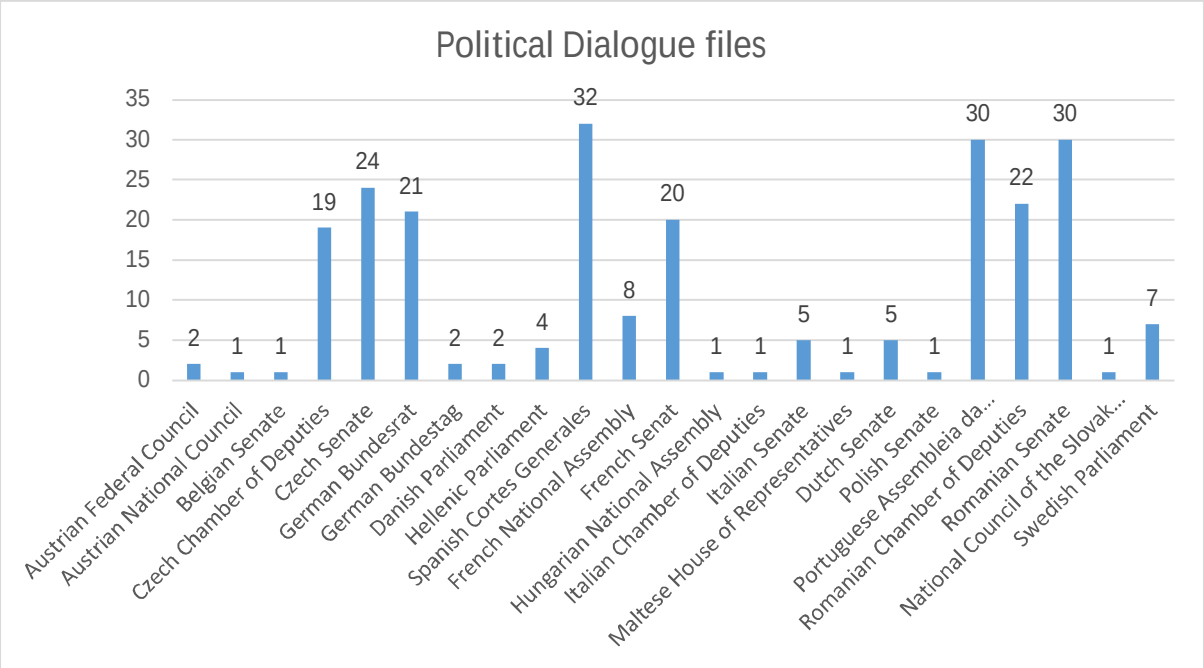
[1] As of 15 January 2021 (n.a.)
[2] Idem

Number of dossiers added to the IPEX database[3]



The volume of documents and dossiers added to the database by national Parliaments has seen a rise in comparison to 2019, but following the patter of scrutiny activities performed in the national assemblies over the past years, despite the exceptional circumstances.

Political dialogue files uploaded by national Parliaments into the IPEX database in 2020[4]



[3] Idem

[4] The result is expressing all documents uploaded on IPEX by national Parliaments and labelled as Political dialogue files, with a transmission date attributed between 1 January - 31 December 2020, including for procedures started in 2019 (data centralized and verified by the Information Officer and the national Correspondents, 15 February 2021)

Reasoned opinions uploaded by national Parliaments into the IPEX database in 2020[5]

Commission documents	Titles	Number of reasoned opinions (Protocol No 2)	National chamber submitting reasoned opinions
COM(2020) 80	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 (European Climate Law)	3	AT *Bundesrat* (1 vote) FR *Sénat* (1 vote) NL *Eerste Kamer* (1 vote)
COM(2020) 682	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on adequate minimum wages in the European Union	2	DK *Folketing* (2 votes) SE *Riksdag* (2 votes)
COM(2020) 445	Amended proposal for a Council Decision on the system of Own Resources of the European Union	1	SE *Riksdag* (2 votes)
COM(2020) 579	Amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the implementation of the Single European Sky (recast)	1	MT *Kamra tad-Deputati* (2 votes)
COM(2020) 610	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on asylum and migration management and amending Council Directive (EC) 2003/109 and the proposed Regulation (EU) XXX/XXX [Asylum and Migration Fund];	1	HU *Országgyűlés* (2 votes)
COM(2020) 611	Amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU;	1	HU *Országgyűlés* (2 votes)
COM(2020) 612	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the	1	HU *Országgyűlés* (2 votes)

[5] Idem

	Council introducing a screening of third country nationals at the external borders and amending Regulations (EC) No 767/2008, (EU) 2017/2226, (EU) 2018/1240 and (EU) 2019/817;		
COM(2020) 613	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council addressing situations of crisis and force majeure in the field of migration and asylum;	1	HU *Országgyűlés* (2 votes)
COM(2020) 614	Amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of biometric data for the effective application of Regulation (EU) XXX/XXX [Regulation on Asylum and Migration Management] and of Regulation (EU) XXX/XXX [Resettlement Regulation], for identifying an illegally staying third-country national or stateless person and on requests for the comparison with Eurodac data by Member States' law enforcement authorities and Europol for law enforcement purposes and amending Regulations (EU) 2018/1240 and (EU) 2019/818	1	HU *Országgyűlés* (2 votes)
COM(2020) 22	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Just Transition Fund	1	CZ *Poslanecká sněmovna* (1 vote)
TOTAL number of reasoned opinions uploaded		12	

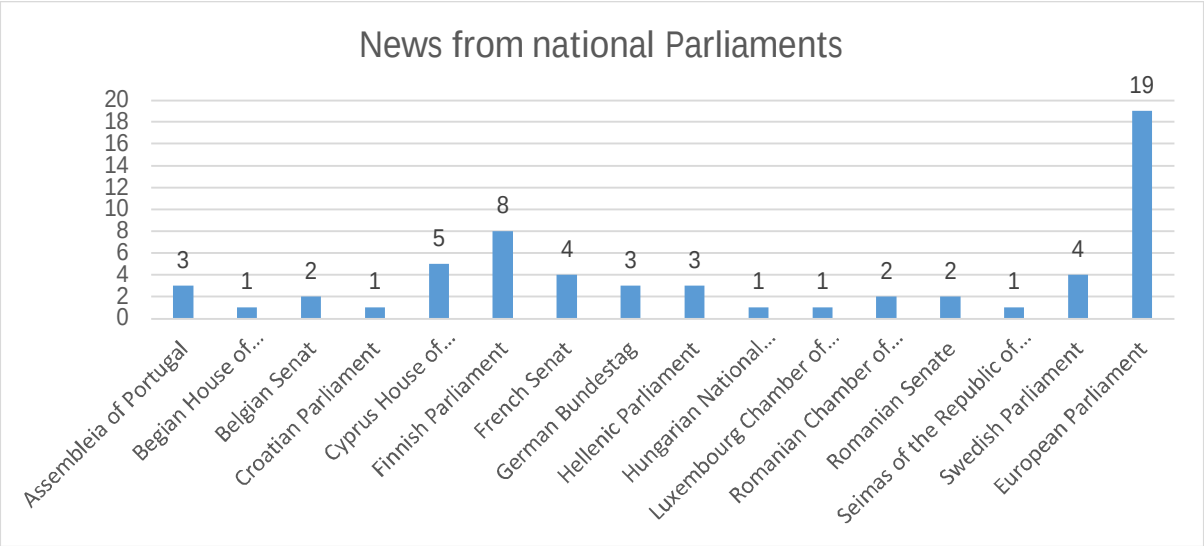
Number of scrutiny pages added by national Parliaments[6]

	Scrutiny pages on IPEX				
ALL CHAMBERS (Sorted alphabetically)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Assembleia da Republica of Portugal	61	27	93	7	29
Austrian Federal Council	38	20	33	11	31
Austrian National Council	23	2	16	6	16
Belgian House of Representatives	88	56	73	2	98
Belgian Senate	6	4	1	1	1
Bulgarian National Assembly	6	N/A		N/A	1
Cortes Generales of Spain	30	57	129	7	91
Croatian Parliament	7	15	29	1	28
Cyprus House of Representatives	7	N/A	1	2	4
Czech Chamber of Deputies	370	111	123	28	96
Czech Senate	74	58	86	15	64
Danish Parliament	5	2	13	N/A	127
Dutch House of Representatives	18	27	17	2	8
Dutch Senate	43	41	31	7	27
Estonian Parliament	3	3	102	12	2
Finnish Parliament	188	119	212	58	187
French National Assembly	26	6	17	1	4
French Senat	10	10	24	N/A	98
Bundesrat of Germany	145	112	154	31	95
German Bundestag	563	237	596	457	633
Hellenic Parliament	91	3	8	N/A	6
Hungarian National Assembly	12	11	18	6	18
Irish Houses of Oireachtas	243	235	325	185	227
Italian Chamber of Deputies	26	31	23	6	17
Italian Senate	100	53	25	12	10
Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies	160	96	131	30	2
Maltese House of Representatives	8	3	148	66	99
National Council of the Slovak Republic	611	571	710	523	619
Polish Sejm	595	521	580	469	667
Polish Senate	330	300	400	177	221
Romanian Chamber of Deputies	62	39	49	15	34
Romanian Senate	62	80	91	39	155
Saeima Parliament of Latvia	1	N/A		N/A	N/A
Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania	84	106	185	52	138
Slovenian National Assembly	57	40	88	18	1
Swedish Parliament	688	522	453	454	656
UK House of Commons	457	131	484	314	284
UK House of Lords	159	N/A	396	348	384

[6] Idem

3. News from Parliaments on IPEX

In 2020, 60 news articles on European Affairs-related issues were submitted for publication in the News from Parliaments section, with materials coming from 16 contributors (mono- and bicameral):



In 2019, the IPEX Twitter account #IPEXEU was launched during the Annual IPEX National Correspondents Meeting in Vienna (November). After a year of #IPEXEU being part of the Social Media Strategy of IPEX, the hashtag has established its role in the future social media and communication activities of IPEX, for example running a teaser campaign for the upcoming launch of IPEX V3 or disseminating information about activities of the parliamentary dimension of EU presidencies.

(Drafted and revised: CMR, 4 March 2021)