

## **BILAG 2**

**Notat om IPEX-samarbejdet udearbejdet af Sveriges Riksdag**

### **General description of the organisation and the tasks of the IPEX-group**

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09 January 2003

#### **Interparliamentary EU-information exchange (IPEX)**

This memorandum gives a short background to the work of IPEX, the working group for InterParliamentary EU-Information eXchange. More detailed information can be found in the report from the group to the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments (including the European Parliament) of June 4, 2002.

#### **Background**

In a Memorandum adopted by the Conference of European Union Speakers in Rome, 22-24 September 2000, the Speakers proposed measures to promote the co-operation and exchange of information between institutions and parliaments in the Union. The Speakers requested that the administrations of their respective parliament should look closer into the matter. At a following meeting in Stockholm in March 2001 between the Secretaries General of these parliaments, a working group was set up by the Secretaries General and was given the task to look into ways to promote closer links between European Union parliaments.

#### **Task**

Among other things, the Rome-meeting agreed on the following<sup>2</sup>:

“The Speakers request that the administrations of their respective parliaments carry out a feasibility study with a view to achieving the following objectives:

1. Establishing common or co-ordinated criteria from the structuring of the most significant information on the activities of each parliament on their respective websites, to be accessed through the use of a common search language and method; this might concern as a priority the activities related to the definition and implementation of European policies.
2. Organising an e-mail directory of Members of Parliament and officials;
3. Promoting search instruments capable of connecting the databases on Community legislation and on the domestic legislation of the various countries (e.g. the EULEGIS project).”

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<sup>2</sup> Memorandum from the EU speaker's conference in Rome, 22-24 September, 2000, item e): Exchange of information among Parliaments through new technologies

The Speakers also pointed out the need for new relations between parliaments by way of promoting meetings and exchange of officials and revitalising the role of the ECPRD<sup>3</sup>.

## **The IPEX working group**

At the mentioned Stockholm meeting, a working group was established to work with these questions more concretely. At present, the group consists of representatives from the parliaments of Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden. The ECPRD was invited to the group as an additional member.

The group has taken on the name IPEX and is chaired by the Secretary General of the Swedish Parliament, Mr Anders Forsberg.

The group has met several times and twice reported its work to the Secretary Generals, the last time in June 2002 when the group presented its proposals for the future co-operation between EU-parliaments mainly in the field of electronic exchange of EU information. The Secretaries General have agreed that the work should be pursued according to the proposals in the report.

The group has now started with the first concrete step to make the ECPRD website a portal for the exchange of EU-information. Apart from what has already been done by ECPRD the group plans different measures to link EU-information from national parliaments to the website. The group has also established contacts with the EU-Commission. The proposed measures will be presented to the Secretaries General in Athens in February 2003.

It should be mentioned that in the spring of 2002, the working group sent out a questionnaire to all involved parliaments. The questionnaire dealt among other things with how the parliaments looked upon various aspects of the gathering and sharing of parliamentary information, such as the transposition of EU-legislation into national law, and also what the respective parliaments' views were on various technical solutions that could facilitate such gathering and sharing. The responses have been very positive.

## **The ECPRD**

### **The role of the ECPRD<sup>4</sup>**

The ECPRD was established by the Conference of European Speakers in 1977. Since its inception, the Centres' aims have been to

- a) promote the exchange of information among parliaments (by setting up a network of correspondents, advocating seminars etc),
- b) prevent duplication of work
- c) establish close co-operation for documentation purposes between parliamentary libraries and research departments.

The ECPRD has recently launched a new web site to facilitate the exchange of information between European parliaments.

The Secretaries General has supported the opinion of the working group that an increased and widened co-operation between parliaments through the ECPRD is important to promote the exchange of information between parliamentary services. A widened co-operation should aim at including more parliamentary services than today in a network. The Secretaries General has also supported the opinion that the ECPRD web site would be an ideal base for the co-operation and co-ordination of the electronic exchange of information between parliaments, seen both in a short- medium and long term perspective.

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<sup>3</sup> ECPRD – European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation. Please refer to the section "The ECPRD"

<sup>4</sup> As expressed in the preliminary report from the Working Group in September 2001, "Promoting the exchange of information between Parliaments"