

Centre Européen de Recherches
et de Documentation Parlementaires



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8 July 2021

ECPRD

ACTIVITY REPORT

DRAFT

October 2019 - June 2021

This document is available in English, French and German.

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1. Introduction by the Co-Director¹

During these times of pandemic, when most parliamentary assemblies' activities were slowing down, and given the impossibility for their members to meet together due to the imposed confinement, the ECPRD network flow of requests and replies has demonstrated its usefulness.

The exceptional health context and its effect on the work of parliaments has indeed given rise to many comparative requests and an increase of exchange of information. The exceptional nature of the health situation made it necessary to act quickly and to take urgent decisions in order to ensure the continuity of parliamentary work and the democratic process. Therefore, there was a need to know how other Chambers were reacting and to exchange best practices: How to ensure the functioning of parliaments during this pandemic? Did parliaments set up remote meetings and voting procedures and with which technical modalities? What was the reality of parliamentary work during the pandemic? Did Parliaments set up telework schemes for their staff?

ECPRD seminars initially were quite affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. However, after a short break, when many seminars were cancelled due to the impossibility of meeting and travelling, the ECPRD showed its adaptability by continuing to work virtually and proving to be a successful vehicle for exchange of best practice between parliamentary administrations.

Webinars have been organised with great success and they allowed for a greater number of participants than would normally have been able to attend. However, the lack of interpersonal exchanges, essential to the network, was felt as a disadvantage of this meeting format which should therefore be considered as a complement, not as a substitute for in person meetings.

Consequently, more than ever, this activity report shows that the ECPRD has become an even more essential tool for the member parliaments, and in particular for their research and library services, in order to meet the information needs of their respective Members.

The ECPRD provides responses to real needs which stem directly from questions asked by MPs and those providing services in parliaments. Furthermore, it is based on the strong commitment of people, the ECPRD correspondents, who exchange information with a minimum of red tape. Contributing to the ECPRD constitutes a win-win situation for the member parliaments providing mutual support to each other. Close co-operation between the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, acting as facilitators and providing support ensures the sustainability of the network.

Much has changed since the early days of the ECPRD. It took years of experimenting to find the best way for parliaments to manage an exchange of information on a regular, demand-driven basis. The comparative requests and the annual seminars on topical issues have proven to be efficient formats that work well. However, nothing would work without the Internet. The ECPRD website has become central to the network and a growing source of parliamentary knowledge.

Comparative requests

In 2020, correspondents dealt with 325 requests compared to 306 requests in the previous year. Since 2017 the number of requests is more than 300 per year, indicating the high expectations parliaments have in the ECPRD network. Replies to requests also increased, from 7310 in 2019 to 8517 in 2020, which

¹ Following the retirement of Horst Schade on 1 September 2020, the position of Co-Director for the Parliamentary Assembly has remained vacant until now

underlines the commitment of the network to provide colleagues with the information they need. Information obtained through the ECPRD informs parliamentary debates and fosters the effectiveness of parliaments.

ECPRD seminars

Normally, 4-6 ECPRD seminars are organised per year. They are hosted by member parliaments under the guidance of the responsible ECPRD Coordinators. Seminars have been organised since the early days of the ECPRD and even before the launch of comparative requests in their present form. They offer a unique opportunity for staff in parliaments to meet and exchange with their counterparts. Every year, over 300 experts take part in ECPRD seminars allowing for the exchange of views, ideas and experiences with colleagues from parliaments across Europe and which they can take back to their work and parliamentary administration. The ECPRD seminars help to widen the approach to parliamentary work by learning from each other. It is not only the exchange of information and best practices which matter in this context but also the experience of being part of a wider 'European' family. The events underline the nature of the ECPRD as a network of people and colleagues. The ECPRD expresses its gratitude to the Secretaries General of Parliaments for releasing the necessary resources for these events and to the correspondents and other colleagues for their continued commitment and enthusiasm.

In 2020, webinars have become a standard feature replacing the seminars that needed to be cancelled. It is likely, that the two formats of meetings will co-exist in the future. This allows effective networking and wider participation.

The ECPRD website

With the support and contribution of the European Parliament, it is possible to regularly update the ECPRD website in order to meet expectations and improve the ECPRD's efficiency.

The ECPRD Secretariat and the website are both crucial to the network. The sustainable success of the network relies on the continuous support and engagement of the ECPRD member parliaments, in particular their Correspondents, the four ECPRD Coordinators and the ECPRD.

The Secretaries General are thus kindly called upon:

1. to endorse the present activity report as well as the priorities and programme for the coming years;
2. to maintain their support for the ECPRD and in particular to strengthen the position of their respective correspondent in their own House as a vital condition for the functioning of the network;
3. to implement measures in their Parliaments which stimulate the publication of final summary notes to comparative requests;
4. to ensure that parliamentary factsheets are regularly updated;
5. to maintain their high level of commitment as hosts, also for future ECPRD statutory meetings and seminars, and to allow their staff to participate in these events.

Katrin Ruhrmann
ECPRD Co-Director
European Parliament

2. Organisation

Co-Directors

Katrin Ruhrmann, European Parliament (since May 2018)

Horst Schade, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (until July 2020)

Co-Secretaries

Ulrich Hüschen, European Parliament (until January 2020)

Christine Detourbet, European Parliament (since January 2020)

Yann de Buyer, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Executive Committee

Zlatko Atanasov, Sobranie, North Macedonia (since October 2018)

Charlotte Cousins, Houses of the Oireachtas, Ireland (since October 2018)

Richard Cracknell, House of Commons, United Kingdom (since October 2017)

Claus Koggel, Bundesrat, Germany (until October 2019)

Blanca Hernandez, Congreso de Los Diputados, Spain (since October 2019)

Jan-Henrik Pursiainen, Eduskunta, Finland (from October 2018 to June 2021)

ECPRD Coordinators of Areas of Interest

Economic and Budgetary Affairs

Paola Bonacci, Camera dei Deputati, Italy

ICT in Parliaments

Jerry Hilbert, European Parliament

Libraries, Research Services and Archives

Ida Kelemen, National Assembly, Hungary

Parliamentary Practice and Procedure

Christoph Konrath, Parliament, Austria

ECPRD Website

IT Project Manager: Jerry Hilbert, European Parliament

In June 2021 the Executive Committee deplored the sudden death of one of its members, Jan-Henrik Pursiainen, who had been an immensely respected member of the Committee. He had organised a very successful Annual Conference of Correspondents at the Eduskunta in Helsinki in October 2018. His support and advice, his kind personality will be hugely missed in the Executive Committee and by all colleagues in the ECPRD.

3. What is the ECPRD?

The ECPRD was created in 1977 in Vienna by the Conference of Speakers of European Parliamentary Assemblies, which delegated to the Presidents of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe its formation and management.

The objectives of the ECPRD are to promote the exchange of information, ideas, experience and good practice among the administrations of parliaments in Europe on subjects of common interest; to strengthen close co-operation among parliamentary services in all fields of parliamentary administration, legislation, information, research and documentation; and to collect, exchange and publicise studies produced by parliamentary services (Article 1 of the Statutes).

ECPRD should be seen as a network of experts in parliaments rather than a physical centre. Its strength lies in the un-bureaucratic exchange of information based very much on the voluntary commitment of people. This exchange materializes in the form of comparative requests and expert seminars.

Who are the members?

According to Article 2 of the ECPRD Statutes members are the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and parliamentary chambers where the President is a member of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament. Furthermore, some parliaments have observer and Partners for Democracy status.

At present the Centre consists of 66 parliamentary chambers (including 41 in EU Member States) from 54 countries and European institutions. 114 Correspondents and Deputy Correspondents represent their respective parliaments in the network and contribute to main ECPRD activities.

How is the ECPRD organised?

Each member assembly appoints a senior official to act as the *correspondent* for the assembly. The Correspondent is the privileged point of contact for the assembly and should thus have access to the Secretary General and must be in a position to coordinate the contribution of the officials of his or her chamber to the work of the Centre. The success of the centre largely depends on the input provided by the Correspondents.

The European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments, consisting of the Presidents or Speakers of Parliamentary assemblies of members and special guests of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, is the supreme authority for the ECPRD and meets every second year.

The ECPRD operates under the authority of the Secretaries General of member chambers. At their meetings held every two years on the occasions of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament they approve the activity report and action programme of the ECPRD and establish priorities for its functioning. The two Co-Directors and the two Co-Secretaries - representing the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe - are appointed by the respective Secretaries General of the two institutions. The Co-Directors and Co-Secretaries, who carry out their functions for the Centre in addition to their normal duties, are responsible for the day-to-day running of the ECPRD. The Conference of Correspondents is the annual meeting of Correspondents, at which the activities of the ECPRD are discussed and broader policy decisions are taken.

The Executive Committee is composed of the Co-Directors and five Correspondents (appointed by the Conference of Correspondents). It ensures the continuity of work between the annual meetings. The Executive Committee meets at least twice a year. The Secretariat of the Centre, including the staff responsible for the Centre's website, is provided by an official of the European Parliament.

In 2006 four Areas of Interest were established: Economic and Budgetary Affairs (EBA), Information and communication Technologies in Parliaments (ICT) Libraries, Research Services and Archives (LRA), Parliamentary Practice and Procedure (PPP). The objective of these Areas of Interest is to foster the exchange of information and best practice mainly in form of specific seminars on topical issues hosted by an ECPRD member parliament. Four ECPRD Coordinators are appointed by the Executive Committee to promote close cooperation between member chambers in the respective area.

The success of the network is dependent on excellent cooperation between people and also the implementation of modern IT technologies. The activities of the ECPRD are supported by a dedicated website. Its private section, only accessible to the members of the network, hosts a powerful electronic workflow for requests and replies, a growing number of specific seminar mini-sites and parliamentary factsheets on each Chamber providing data and contacts.

How is it financed?

The ECPRD does not have its own budget or receive financial contributions from the member Parliaments. The operating costs for staff, secretariat and IT expenses are covered by the budgets of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

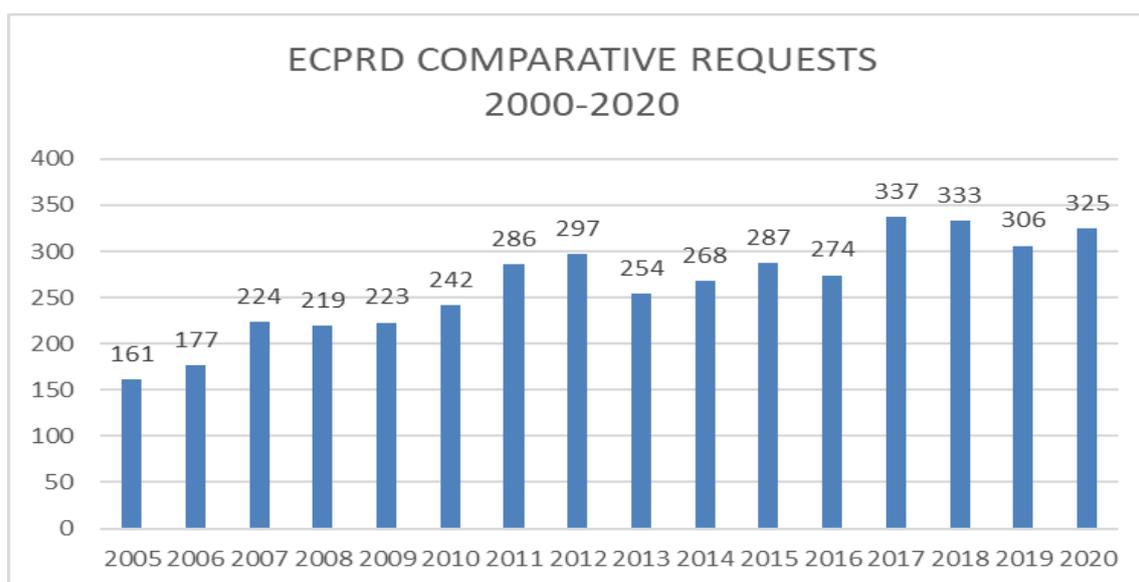
Member chambers bear the costs when they are hosting seminars and meetings of the ECPRD such as providing meeting rooms and interpreters. All Parliaments pay the travel and subsistence costs of their own officials attending seminars and meetings. A number of Parliaments of countries in Central and Eastern Europe benefit from financial support from the European Parliament to ensure participation in seminars and meetings.

4. ECPRD Activities January 2019 - June 2021

4.1 The evolution of comparative requests

Requests

In total, correspondents sent 631 requests to the ECPRD network between 2019 and 2020. 306 requests were made in 2019, which is 29 requests fewer than in 2018, but the rising trend that started in 2017 resumed in 2020 with 325 requests.

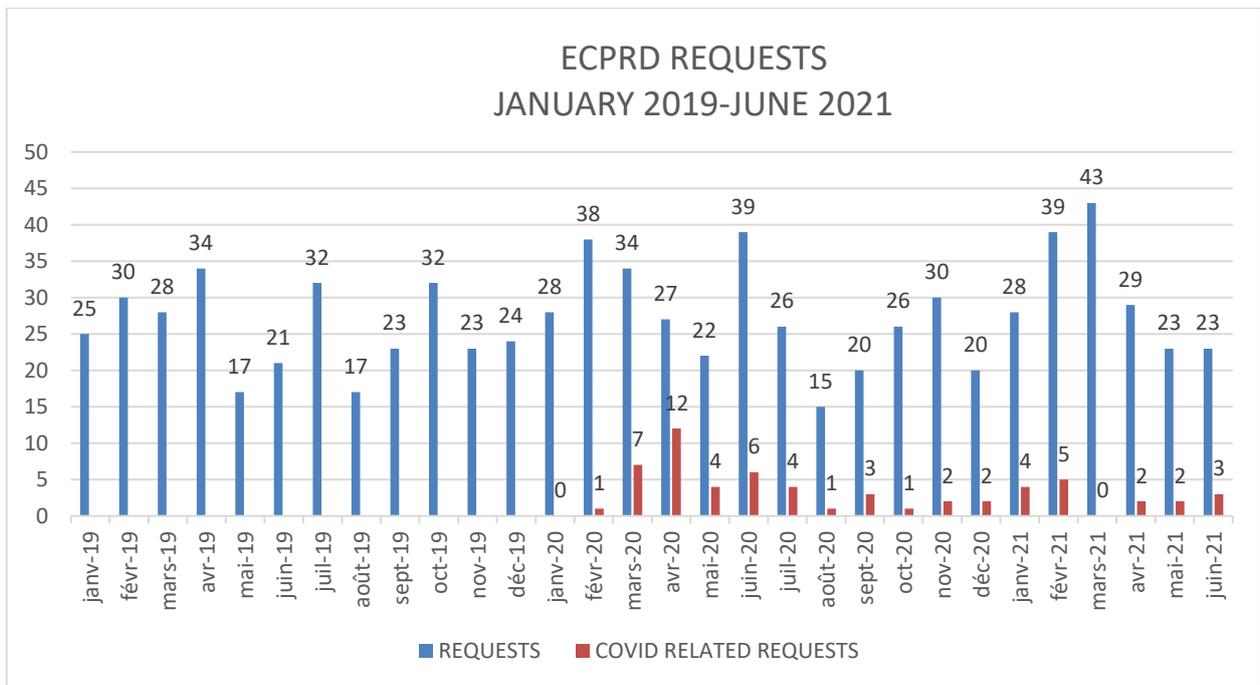


Unsurprisingly, from March 2020 the ECPRD network received many requests related to COVID-19: almost one third of all requests and replies in March and April. There was obviously a need to exchange information on how other parliaments reacted and to learn from each other's experiences on 3 main issues:

1. Meeting hygiene and sanitary standards for MPs and staff
2. How to ensure the continuity of parliamentary work in pandemic times
3. Legislating in various sectors to cope with the new situation (transport, tourism, health situation in prisons, refugee camps etc.).

Considering the growing flow of requests and answers related to COVID issues, in April the ECPRD secretariat decided to create a special COVID-19 page on the ECPRD website in order to compile:

- Requests/replies related to COVID
- Final summaries that were made out of it;
- Links to where to find information
- Regular updates from Chambers.



This rising trend of requests confirms the ECPRD as a success story for the information exchange between parliaments. However, each request also represents an expectation to obtain the information needed. They also constitute a growing workload for correspondents and other experts in parliaments to provide quality replies on complex topics.

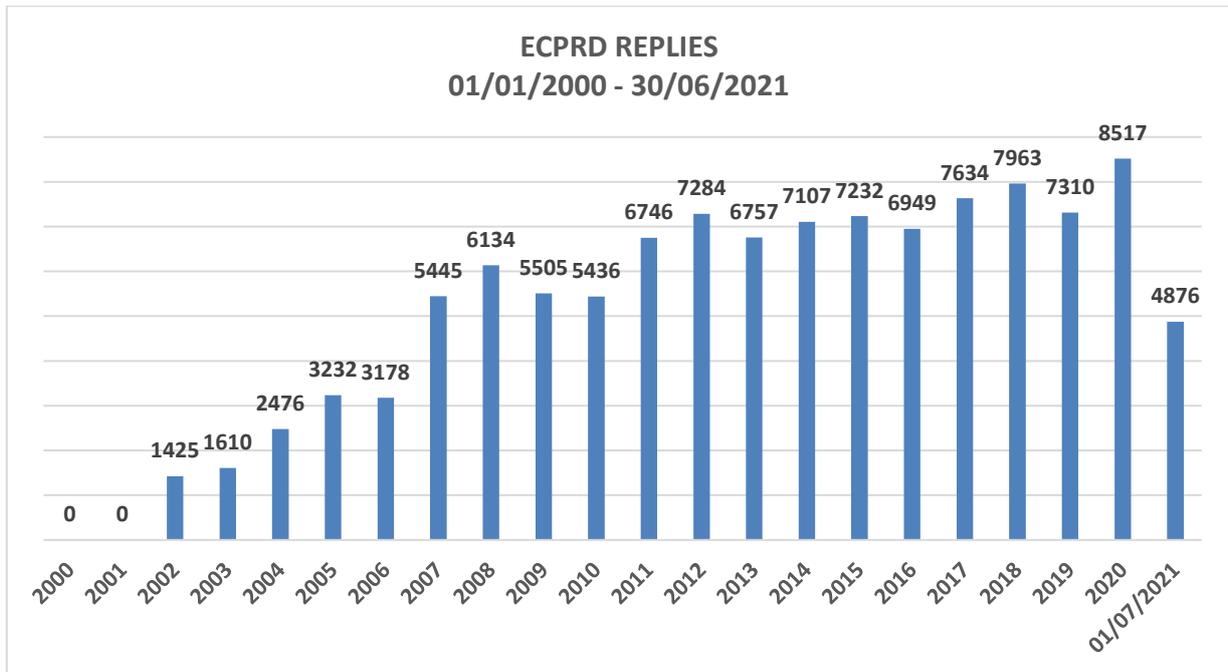
In addition, the requests submitted via the ECPRD website represent only the tip of the iceberg. ECPRD member parliaments are also engaged in bilateral contacts on specific topics.

Replies to requests

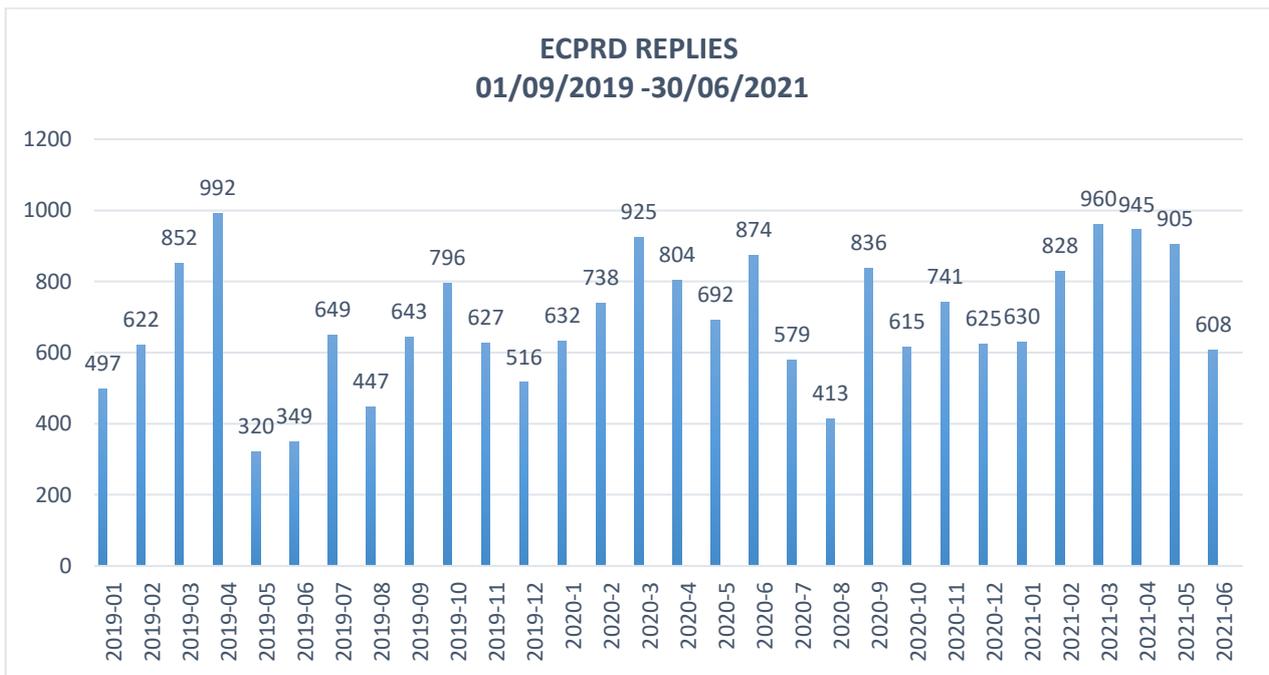
Parliaments provided 15784 contributions between 2019 and 2020. The evolution of the replies follows the trend indicated by the requests. The year 2019 ended with 7310 replies made by parliaments, which is a slight decrease compared to the previous year (7965 replies in 2018), to be put in parallel with the decrease in the number of requests in 2019.

However, in 2020, responses increased spectacularly to over 8400, the peak being reached in March, with 925 responses mostly related to pandemic management issues.

This highlights the strong commitment of the ECPRD correspondents who organise an impressive exchange of material to meet the information needs of their respective Chambers. This was particularly the case during the COVID-19 outbreak where the ECPRD network was particularly active exchanging information on the parliamentary response to the pandemic and mutually supporting each other .



The diagram by months below follows more or less the same rhythm as the monthly requests.



NB :The figures have to be seen in the context of the request itself. Not all requests go to all parliaments. To opt for a selected target group in order to avoid unnecessary work has been the key message repeated at successive ECP RD conferences. It means that some parliaments receive more requests to deal with than others. Furthermore, in bicameral parliaments requests on legislative issues are often “shared” among the Chambers in order to balance the workload. Furthermore, available resources in research services and the nature and complexity of topics may also limit the local capacity to deal with all incoming requests.

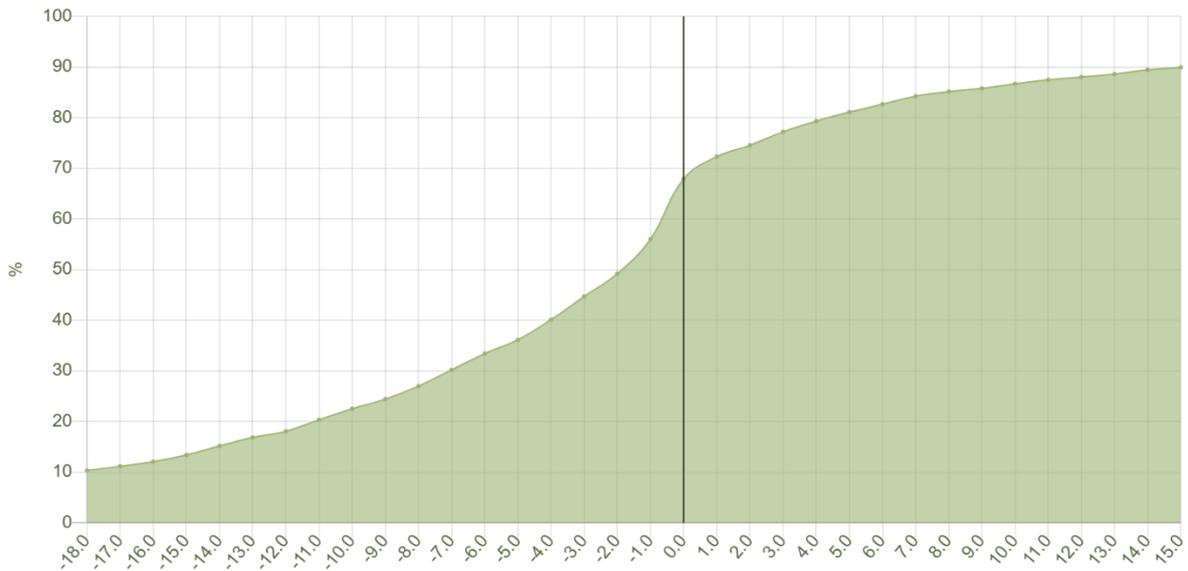
Reply rate

The reply rate to a request oscillates between 59% and 68% in the period under review. The median percentage is 64%, compared to 59% between 2016 and 2018. It is interesting to note that this median percentage remained fairly stable during the height of the COVID-19 health crisis and ensuing confinement, demonstrating the intensity of the network's activity at a time when many other parliamentary services were slowing down.



Meet the deadline

The statistics show that almost 68% of the replies arrive before the deadline fixed by the requesting parliament. This figure is important as it allows us to estimate the amount of information potentially available at the time when the note for the end client is to be produced. However, a more reassuring message is provided by the fact that 81% of the contributions arrive around five days after the deadline and hence are probably still useful for the final version (particularly when the five days include a weekend).



Subjects

The topics of ECPRD requests can roughly be divided into two main groups. In the period under review almost 40% deal with matters related to the functioning and management of parliaments, compared to 43% between 2016 and 2018. This group covers electoral issues, constitutional cases, competencies and scrutiny, political bodies and, significantly, everything linked to the Members. The biggest share within this main group, with 12,3% of all requests is related to the administration of parliament and covers issues such as staff, information and communication, ICT and visitors.

The figures underline the importance of the ECPRD network for the exchange of best practices between the administrations of parliaments and the creation of ad hoc or perhaps permanent networks of experts.

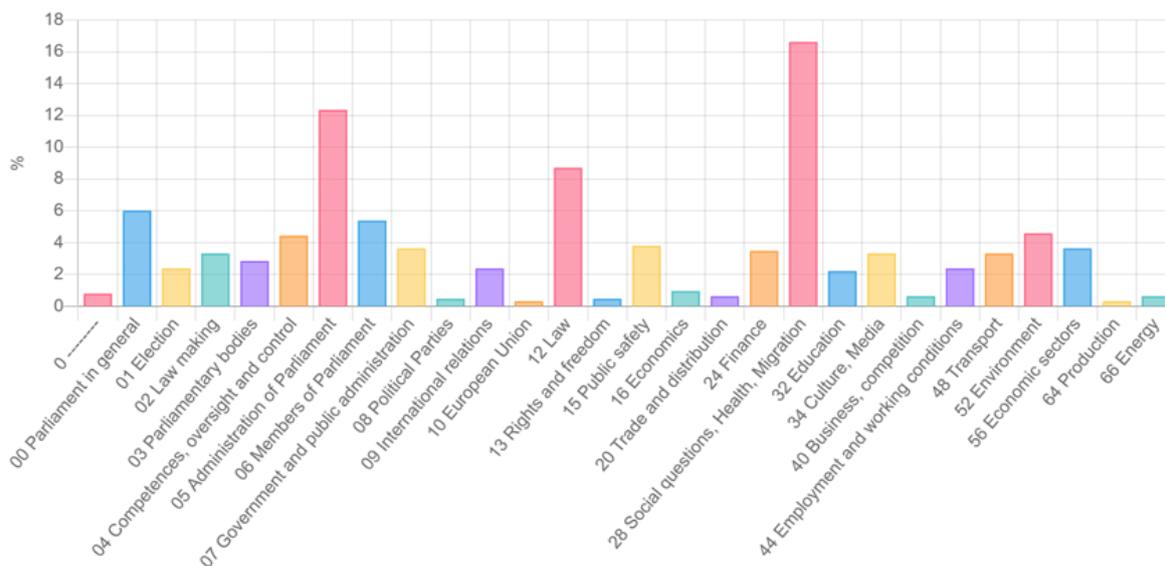
The other 58% of requests arise from the political agenda of the parliaments and their Members in particular. They reflect the legislative debate but possibly also specific personal interests and needs. In most of the cases the actual purpose is not mentioned for obvious reasons, although certain topics appear indirectly in the media. It shows that ECPRD requests are not academic exercises but part of the political controversies.

Social policies, health issues, migration, public safety and legal matters have maintained for many years their top position with more than 16%. It shows that ECPRD requests are closely linked to problems and initiatives which directly affect the citizen.

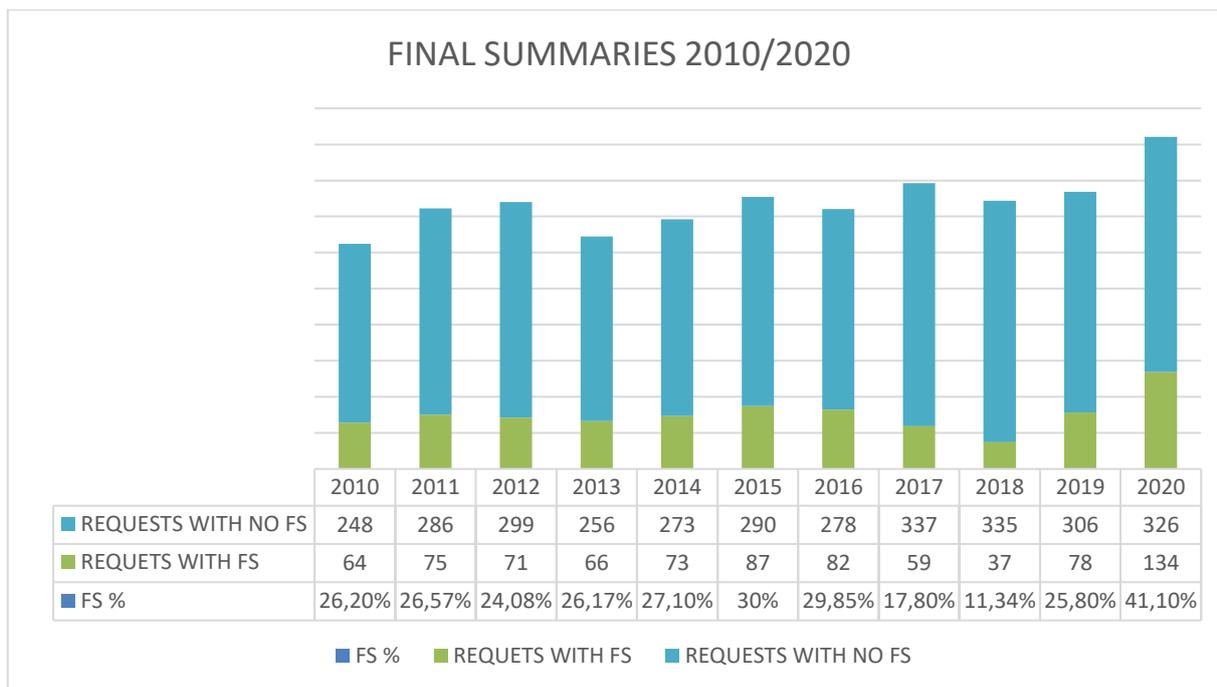
Logically due to the COVID-19 outbreak, as the pandemic was shutting or slowing down vast areas of economic and social activity, the ECPRD requests launched in 2020 were even more numerous in the field of health and social affairs (18.4%). There was also an understandable increase in requests related to the administration of parliament (8.5%), to find out how parliaments were facilitating the implementation of emergency health measures and adapting to counter the health risk while ensuring the continuity of parliamentary work.

The added value of the ECPRD network in sharing information and good practice has shown its relevance in this time of pandemic.

ECPRD REQUESTS BY SUBJECT AREAS - 2019/2020



Final summaries



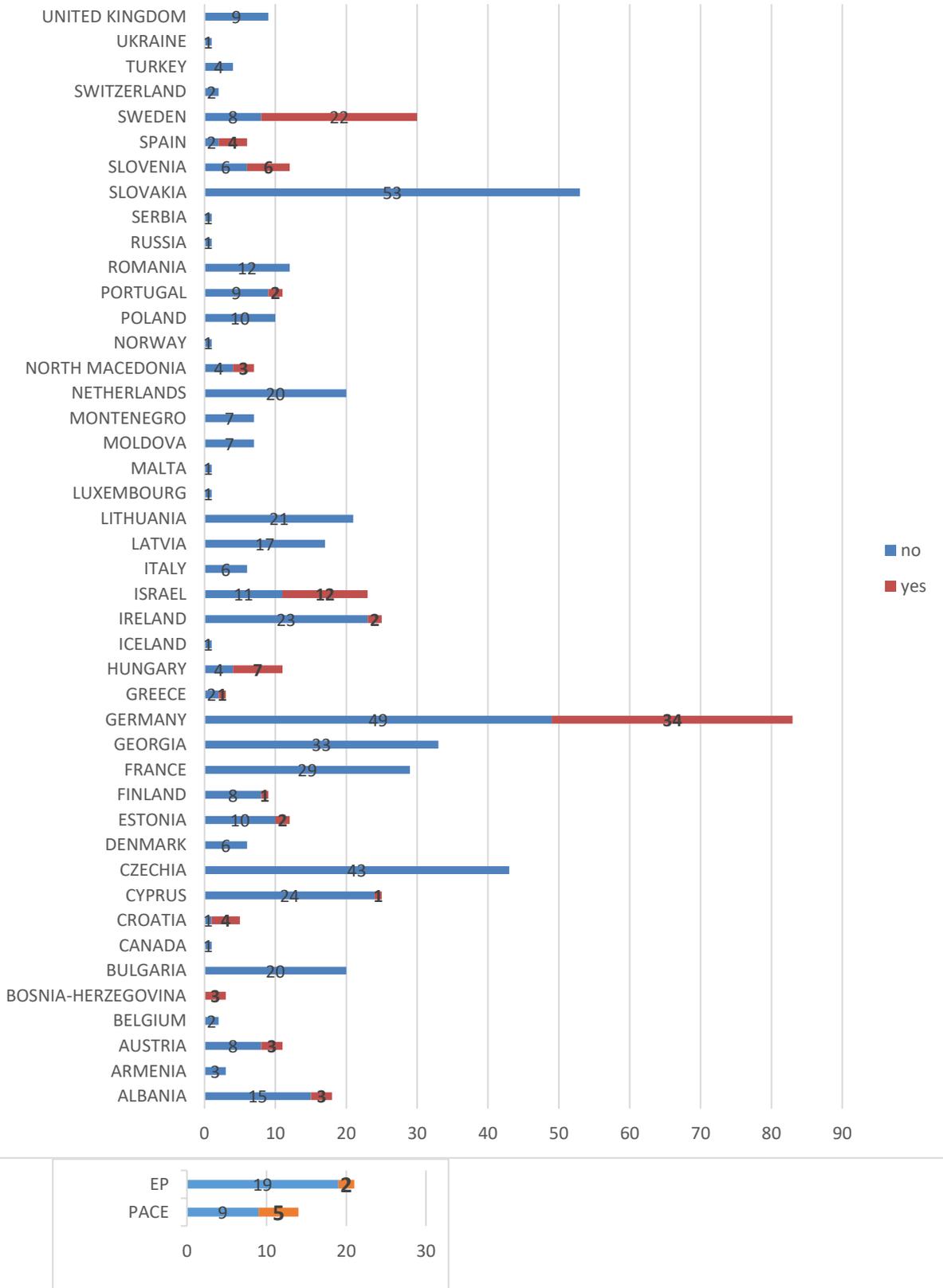
Final summaries are the best way to highlight the immense flow and usefulness of ECPRD requests and answers. Unfortunately, too few requests are finalised with a summary.

Solutions to encourage the drafting of final summaries have long been under consideration without a solution having been found. In August 2020, a large majority of correspondents' replies to request 4475 "on efficiency of the ECPRD network" confirmed the need to share final summaries more widely, to agree on a methodology and common guidelines to harmonise them and to improve their visibility.

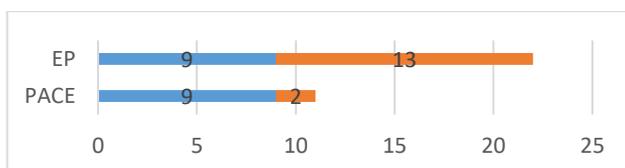
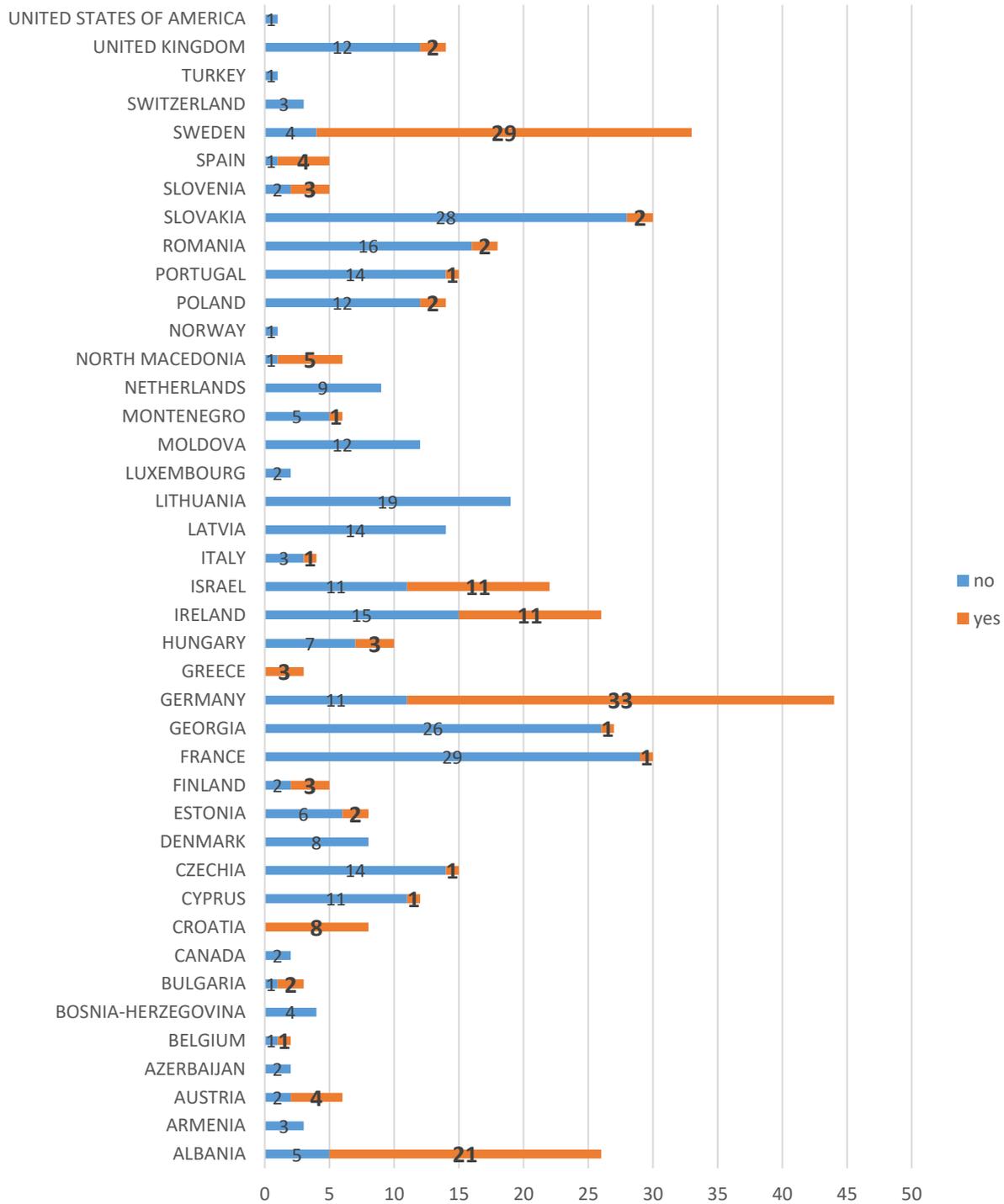
In this regard, the new version of the ECPRD website, put online in October 2020 with the support of the European Parliament's IT services, aimed to modify the correspondents' dashboard in order to invite them to submit their final summaries, and to give visibility to those uploaded on the ECPRD website.

Following this reflection, in 2020 the ECPRD final summary rate considerably increased, with 41,10% requests leading to the publication of a reply analysis (compared to 25,80% in 2019 and 11,3% in 2018).

SUMMARIES FINALISING ECPRD REQUESTS BY COUNTRIES 01/01/2018 - 30/12/2019



SUMMARIES FINALISING ECPRD REQUESTS BY COUNTRIES 01/01/2020-30/06/2021



4.2 ECPRD statutory meetings

- **Meeting of Secretaries General of Parliaments on the ECPRD on the occasion of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament**

Strasbourg, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 25 October 2019

The ECPRD Co-Directors presented the ECPRD Activity Report 2016-2018 and the programme and priorities for 2020 and 2021. The activity report covered a three-year period because the Conference of Presidents, and therefore the meeting of the Secretaries General, had been postponed for a year.

Secretaries General showed their high-level satisfaction with the work of the network and approved the activity report and the priorities and programme for the upcoming two years. Several intentions to host an ECPRD seminar were expressed during the debate.

- **Annual Conference of Correspondents**

Berlin, hosted by Bundestag and Bundesrat 10-12 October 2019

The pre-Conference focused on the topic of “Role-play games as a tool for political engagement by parliaments”. A short preparatory request was sent prior to the meeting. The meeting started with an introduction of the topic and a role-play game where all participants were invited to take part in a simulation of the decision-making process in the German Bundesrat.

The Annual Conference on Friday consisted of the usual exchange on the evolution of comparative requests. Subsequently, there was an opportunity to exchange views on the matter of bilateral requests outside the ECPRD procedures. The discussion groups before lunch dealt with the same topic on “Good practices regarding requests and replies: What works?”. Correspondents were presented case studies from the European Parliament, the UK Parliament and the German Bundestag on requests for ECPRD documents in the context of freedom of information legislation. The participants also heard the report on activities in Areas of interests provided by the ECPRD coordinators and adopted the Intermediary Activities reports for October 2018/September 2019 and the calendar events for 2020/2021. They were also informed about the progress made to develop a new website, and heard a report on IFLA activities.

Skopje (on the Web), hosted by Sobranie, 22 October 2020

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the 2020 ECPRD Annual Conference in Skopje took place remotely.

The pre-conference focused on the topic of “Representation in Modern Democracies” with a presentation of the Final Summary of ECPRD Questionnaire 4527 on “decision making in democracies - Power sharing models to accommodate diversities”. During the lunch break two social chat meetings were open concerning “Covid-19 and parliaments” and “Covid-19 and education”. A joint video by the Swiss Federal Parliament and the Assembly of North Macedonia on the legislative process “Parliament for Youth” was also broadcasted alongside a video “What you have missed seeing in Skopje” - virtual tour of most representative places.

The Annual Conference started in the afternoon. The agenda included a report concerning the meeting of the Secretaries-General of parliaments held during the European Conference of Speakers of Parliaments in Strasbourg on 24 and 25 October 2019; the adoption of the interim activity report October 2019/October 2020 and the calendar of events for 2020/2021; a

presentation of the report on the analysis of the ECPRD flow of requests and replies for 2010-2019; and a follow up to ideas and proposals raised in the discussion groups at the Annual Conference in Berlin in October 2019.

A report was presented on the ECPRD network in times of COVID-19 showing that during the pandemic period, the network has worked very well with an increase in the number of requests submitted, particularly concerning parliamentary responses to the pandemic and social policy and health issues. In addition, a special page dedicated to the Covid-19 pandemic has been set up on the ECPRD website

The Correspondents approved the Executive committee conclusions drawn from the analysis of the replies to the request on the “efficiency of the ECPRD network”, especially focusing on the importance of promoting the drafting and publication of summaries finalising the requests submitted to the network.

The Annual Conference discussed the ECPRD website - experiences and suggestions, and heard the reports from each Area of Interests provided by the ECPRD coordinators.

Finally, the correspondents approved by acclamation the re-election of Mr. Richard CRACKNELL as member of the ECPRD Executive committee.

• **Executive Committee**

Strasbourg, hosted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 20 March 2020

This Executive Committee was cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the resulting travel restrictions.

Strasbourg (on the Web), hosted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 26 May 2020

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak the Executive committee meeting took place remotely.

The Executive Committee heard an update about preparations for the Annual Conference of Correspondents in Skopje in October 2020 and had an exchange of views concerning the ECPRD activities in times of COVID-19 pandemic.

The Executive Committee heard a report on the meeting of Secretaries General of Parliament to consider ECPRD matters (in the framework of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament held in Strasbourg on 25 October 2019). Other topics of the meeting included the analysis of the ECPRD flow of requests and replies - 2010-2020; follow-up to ideas and proposals raised in the discussion groups at the Annual Conference in Berlin in October 2019; the reports of the ECPRD Coordinators on their respective Area of interest activities, and a report on the ECPRD website developments Update.

Strasbourg (on the Web), hosted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 1 July 2020

The Executive Committee discussed the modalities of the next Annual Conference of Correspondents. Due to the unstable sanitary situation, it was decided to host it remotely.

The participants exchanged on how to intensify ECPRD and IPU Parline cooperation. They heard about the new website development and the reports of each Area of Interest for 2021. All Areas of Interest reported that despite a first phase of adaptation to remote meetings, all seminars organised

remotely were a success. However, they expressed their intention to organise face-to face seminars as soon as possible.

The Executive committee launched a temporary Working Group on ECPRD efficiency tasked with examining possible measures for improving the impact of the ECPRD's workflow.

Helsinki (on the Web), hosted by Eduskunta, 25 September 2020

The Executive Committee heard an update on preparations for the Annual Conference of Correspondents to be held in Skopje in October 2020, in particular concerning the digital platform to be used, and gave its final green light to the pre-conference and Conference agendas.

Members of the Executive Committee prepared the remote procedure to elect a member of the ECPRD executive Committee, Mr Richard CRACKNELL's mandate ending on October 2020 and renewed Mrs Paola BONACCI's mandate as coordinator for the Area of interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs.

Brussels (on the Web), hosted by the European Parliament, 18 March 2021

The Executive Committee had a first exchange of views concerning the organisation of the next Annual Conference and set its date at Thursday 18 November 2021, after the next European Conference of Presidents of Parliament of the member states of the Council of Europe, to be held in Athens on 21-22 October 2021.

Taking into account the foreseeable evolution of the health situation, the question was raised whether the next Annual Conference of Correspondents should be held face-to-face or remotely again. Given the uncertainty of the sanitary situation, the decision was postponed until July. Should it be decided to hold it remotely, Richard Cracknell offered to have the Annual Conference hosted by the House of Commons, in London.

The Executive Committee considered the "lessons learned" concerning the impact of the pandemic on ECPRD working methods with special attention to the organisation of webinars which must not be a substitute for seminars, especially as regards the lack of personal contact and interactivity essential to any network, but which can allow many more participants to attend.

Following the conclusions on "ECPRD efficiency", adopted by the previous Annual Conference in Skopje, the Executive Committee decided to support the upward trend in the publication of Final summaries and decided to set up a working group to update the guidelines for launching ECPRD requests. These findings will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting before being presented at the Annual Conference.

Brussels (on the Web), hosted by the European Parliament, 1 July 2021

The Executive Committee had an exchange of view on the preparation of the next Annual Conference to be held on 18 November. Given the continuing uncertainty as to the likely health situation next November and the fact that the annual conference brings together correspondents from many countries where travel restrictions may still be in place, the Executive Committee agreed to hold the next Annual Conference remotely from London and agreed on Mr Richard Cracknell's proposals concerning the annual pre-conference, including a panel on "Parliaments and the pandemic", a virtual tour of the UK Parliament, a virtual coffee break to encourage more informal social exchanges and an introduction to the ECPRD for new Correspondents and Deputies.

The Executive Committee agreed to invite IPU Parline representative to the next ECPRD Annual Conference in order to intensify mutual exchanges and cooperation.

The Executive Committee agreed on the conclusions of the working group established last March in order to update the guidelines for launching the ECPRD requests. These updated guidelines will be submitted for approval to the next annual conference.

The ECPRD Coordinators reported on webinars they organised in their respective Areas of interest.

Emphasis was placed on the advantages of virtual meetings, particularly with regard to participation, and on the need to alternate virtual and face-to-face meetings and to consider the possibility of organising hybrid meetings that would allow those unable to attend to take part remotely.

Finally it was decided to bring forward to September 2021 the deadline for nominations of three members of the Executive Committee in order to prepare the election procedure, bearing in mind that the next Annual Conference would be held remotely.

4.3 ECPRD Seminars in the Areas of Interest

Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs

Webinar ‘Parliamentary involvement in the definition of the National Recovery plans’ - Rome (on the web), hosted by the Camera dei deputati, 23 April 2021

The aim of the webinar was to promote an exchange of information on the role played by Parliaments in the definition and approval of National Recovery plans, which represent extremely important tools not only to foster the post-pandemic recovery of the EEU economies, but also to promote their transition towards digital and more environmentally sustainable patterns. 67 participants from 25 chambers attended the event.

The webinar discussions were organised in the light of the results of an ECPRD questionnaire on the issue. Three sessions were organised. The first concerned post Covid-19 perspectives for the European economies and dealt with the Fiscal policy response and the role of “Next generation EU” programmes and Parliaments and decision-making for recovery, resilience and inclusive growth. The second session focused on the European Parliament and the debate on “Next Generation EU”. Finally the third debate aimed to discuss and share the role of the National Parliaments in the definition of the NRRP. During this session, participants were presented with an overview of the results of the questionnaire and several country case studies.

Webinar ‘How to strengthen parliamentary control over budget processes’ - Podgorica (on the web), hosted by the Parliament of Montenegro, 17 June 2021

64 participants from 28 chambers gathered online to discuss parliamentary control over budget processes.

The webinar consisted of 3 sessions. The first concerned independent technical advice at the service of fiscal policy choices. The second discussed the support of supreme audit institutions to parliamentary control activities and focused on the experience of the European Parliament. The third session focused on the relation between parliaments, fiscal councils and audit institutions in budget processes. It presented an overview of the results from the questionnaire and five case studies on Austria, France, Ireland, the Netherlands and United Kingdom.

Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments

Seminar ‘Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovations and Projects in the Parliaments’ Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments - Tallinn, hosted by Riigikogu, 03-04 October 2019

The seminar invited parliamentary officials to discuss the role of strategic planning in innovation processes in parliaments, and the role of plenary sessions and committees in this process. Another session focused on how Artificial Intelligence systems can support the work in parliaments; elections and e-voting; innovation in the public sector and finally structured data and cloud usage as a stimulating factor for new systems.

60 participants registered plus two special guests from the IPU and the former ECPRD coordinator from the Italian Camera dei Deputati. The participants came from 32 chambers.

Webinar ‘Electronic Signatures and Seals’ - Brussels (on the web), hosted by the European Parliament, 15 March 2021

60 participants, from 25 chambers took part in this webinar. Two special guests from the IPU and the former ECPRD coordinator and ICT manager at the Camera de Deputati also participated in the event.

As consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, the use of electronic signature has exploded. In light of this situation, the webinar aimed at providing participants with a clear definition of ‘digital signature’ and an overview of the security and legal aspects and the EU Trusted List.

Webinar ‘Online communications and adapting parliamentary communications during the pandemic’ - Helsinki (on the web), hosted by Eduskunta, 03 June 2021

The webinar organised by the Eduskunta gathered 92 participants from 40 chambers, including 5 special guests.

The webinar was composed of three sessions. The first concerned the adaptation of parliamentary communication during the pandemic. It started with a summary of the questionnaire sent in advance. The second session discussed the accessibility and usability of websites and digital services. Finally the third session consisted of a lecture about disinformation and deepfakes.

Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives

Seminar ‘The Changing Role of Parliamentary Research Services Over the Years’ Jerusalem, Knesset, 17-18 June 2020

This seminar was postponed due to the pandemic.

Webinar ‘Parliamentary Research in crisis Mode: Corona, Comeback, Change’ - Brussels, hosted by the European Parliament, 12 -13 November 2020

The Research Service of the European Parliament organised a remote seminar in the framework of the ECPRD which attracted 81 participants from 23 parliamentary chambers.

The opening session started with a welcome address from EP Vice-President Mrs Dita Charanzova, underlying that the corona crisis created unprecedented challenges not only in health and economic terms but also in relation to the functioning of the democratic institutions. She also highlighted the importance of the quick and effective response of the parliamentary research services to the crisis. Under different formats (virtual coffee breaks, collaborative online discussions, management forum and workshops) participants had the opportunity to discuss the future of parliamentary research after the pandemic.

Webinar ‘A year of Hope and Transition’ - Brussels (on the web), hosted by the European Parliament, 1 - 3 June 2021

Organised by the Research Services of the European Parliaments, the webinar attracted 85 participants from 30 chambers.

The webinar consisted of three days, with a total of 7 sessions and two virtual coffee breaks. The first day focused mostly on the future of work. The second provide an opportunity to discuss the effect of the crisis on several different policies. Participants had the occasion to discuss the effect of the pandemic on the work of parliamentary libraries and their responses.

Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure

Seminar “The Legal Status of MPs - Recent Developments”

Brussels, hosted by Chambre des representants and Senat, 24-25 October 2019

The seminar was attended by 54 participants from 29 different chambers.

The programme was divided into three topics. It started with a session on the financial and material status of MPs, the evolution of the financial and material status of MPs and their allowances and benefits. The second topic concerned the limitations of the mandate of MPs, the incompatibilities and privacy versus transparency. The Friday sessions focused on ethical principles.

Webinar ‘Parliamentary Privilege and the General Data Protection regulation’ - Vienna (On the Web), hosted by Parlament Nationalrat, 15 June 2020

For the third time, the ECPRD Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure and the Austrian Parliament hosted a webinar on data protection. This webinar focused on an exchange on recent developments and cases of recent developments by all participating DPOs, and gathered 25 participants.

Webinar ‘Parliaments and constitutional law - Parliaments and Constitutional Courts’ - Vienna (On the Web), hosted by Nationalrat, 12-13 November 2020

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Austrian Federal Constitutional Law and the establishment of the Austrian Constitutional Court, the Austrian Parliament organized a webinar on how parliaments in general and parliamentary administrations in particular debate constitutional matters. The seminar had a specific focus on the relationship between parliaments and constitutional jurisprudence (by constitutional courts or other courts). 75 participants registered, from 32 different chambers.

Four sessions were organised and touched upon the general perception of, the approach to, and the application of constitutional law in parliaments; parliaments and constitutional review of legislation; parliamentary intra- and inter-organ conflicts before a constitutional court, and parliaments and constitutional courts – the view of judges.

Webinar ‘Parliaments and the General Data Protection Regulation’

Vienna (On the Web), hosted by Nationalrat and Bundesrat, 18 January 2021

The seminar was attended by more than 65 participants from 26 parliamentary chambers. Participants were data protection officers, legal experts and ICT-experts.

The first session related to the use of cloud services in Parliaments and data protection. Session 2 concerned the ECJ’s decision on parliamentary petitions and GDPR and its implication for parliamentary practice and procedure.

**Webinar ‘Capitol Hill and security of parliaments’
Washington (On the Web), Congress and Austrian Nationalrat, 9 June 2021**
This webinar was cancelled

Webinar ‘Parliaments and the General Data Protection Regulation’ - Vienna (On the Web), hosted by Nationalrat, 14 June 2021

Following suggestions from previous webinars the focus was placed on the material scope of the GDPR in relation to parliaments and a case study of the Hellenic Parliament. The webinar was organised by the Austrian Parliament and brought together more than 25 participants from 17 parliaments. Participants were data protection officers and legal experts.

The seminar consisted of two sessions. The first session introduced the topic, and participants were presented with the results of request #4673 from the Austrian Parliament. The second session focused on the case study of the Hellenic Parliament. The good relations between the Parliament and the Hellenic Data Protection Authority (HDPA) were emphasized, and the idea that the Hellenic Parliament was confirmed as one of those parliaments which consider that core parliamentary activities fall indirectly within the GDPR’s scope.

4.4 The ECPRD website

The ECPRD website was fully redesigned in 2017, but new ideas further continued to emerge. During the period 2019-2020, the website therefore saw a number of improvements, aiming to facilitate the work of correspondents or make it more visible to colleagues in other parliaments.

Important new features are the personalized dashboards for correspondents and their deputies, giving them a comprehensive overview of the ongoing information exchange by requests and replies, as well as easing the process of contributions to the exchange of information.

In the same mind-set a second development supports them in uploading, increasing the visibility of and improving access to final summaries.

Annexes

Annex 1. Statutes ECPRD

STATUTES OF THE ECPRD [OCTOBER 2019]

The Statutes of the ECPRD were adopted by the ECPRD Secretaries General meeting at the Conference of Speakers in Budapest on 7 June 1996 and subsequently amended in Tallinn on 31 May 2006 and in Strasbourg on 21 September 2012 and 25 October 2019.

PREAMBLE

The European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) was created in 1977 at the request of the Conference of Speakers of European Parliamentary Assemblies (as from 2004: the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament).

I. AIMS

Article 1

1. The objectives of the ECPRD are to promote the exchange of information, ideas, experience and good practice among the administrations of parliaments in Europe on subjects of common interest; to strengthen close co-operation among parliamentary services in all fields of parliamentary administration, legislation, information, research and documentation; and to collect, exchange and publicise studies produced by parliamentary services.
2. In the exchange of information the ECPRD shall promote, wherever possible, the use and development of Information and Communication Technology.
3. The ECPRD shall co-operate with other networks dealing with the exchange of information among parliaments in Europe.

II. COMPOSITION OF THE ECPRD

Article 2

The ECPRDs members are: the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and parliamentary chambers where the President is a member of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament.

Article 3

1. A parliament possessing special guest or observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe may participate in the different activities of the ECPRD but may not vote in its bodies.
2. The ECPRD may co-operate with non-European parliamentary chambers.

III. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE ECPRD

i. THE MEETING OF THE SECRETARIES GENERAL

Article 4

The ECPRD operates under the authority of the Secretaries General of member chambers. At their meetings held every two years on the occasion of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, they approve the activity report and action programme of the ECPRD and establish priorities for its functioning.

ii. THE CONFERENCE OF CORRESPONDENTS

Article 5

1. The Secretary General of each parliamentary chamber appoints a senior official (Correspondent) to represent the chamber within the Conference of Correspondents of the ECPRD. Secretaries General may also appoint Deputy Correspondents.

2. The Correspondent is selected from officials whose activities bring them into close contact with the ECPRD and who have direct access to the Secretary General of the chamber. He/she can thereby co-ordinate the activities of those officials of his/her chamber who are asked to play an active role in the ECPRD.

Article 6

1. The Conference of Correspondents is responsible, in co-operation with the Co-Directors (see Article 8), for the organisation of the activities of the ECPRD. It examines and adopts the annual intermediate activity reports on the activities of the ECPRD, drafted and presented by the Co-Directors, and the action programme of the ECPRD for the following years.

2. Meetings of the Conference of Correspondents, chaired by the Co-Directors, take place at least every twelve months.

3. Decisions of the Conference of Correspondents are reached, in principle, by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, issues will be decided by a vote with a necessary majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast, representing a majority of members of the ECPRD (see Article 2).

iii. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 7

1. The Executive Committee is composed of the two Co-Directors and five Correspondents elected by the Conference of Correspondents. The Committee will meet as often as necessary, at the request of at least two of its members or five Correspondents.
2. The members of the Executive Committee, other than the Co-Directors, shall be elected for a period of three years. They may be re-elected once. Elections will take place at the Correspondents' annual meeting, with due consideration being paid to the need to maintain geographical balance in the membership of the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee may take decisions when a majority of its members is present.

Decisions shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast.

4. The Executive Committee prepares the biennial activity report which, together with the ECPRD Priorities for the upcoming two years, is then submitted for approval to the Secretaries General of Parliaments at their meeting during the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament.

iv. THE CO-DIRECTORS

Article 8

1. The Secretaries General of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe each nominate a senior official as a Co-Director of the ECPRD.
2. The two Co-Directors are responsible for the management of all activities of the ECPRD and are assisted by the two Co-Secretaries of the ECPRD and by other officials of their respective institutions.
3. The Co-Directors may at the same time be the Correspondents for their assemblies.

IV. WORKING METHODS

Article 9

1. The ECPRD promotes co-operation between member chambers through the exchange of information, compilation of documentation and studies and the organisation of seminars; and by the sharing of knowledge of parliamentary ICT applications. On a proposal from the Executive Committee, the Conference of Correspondents shall establish detailed guidelines for studies and comparative requests and for the organisation of ECPRD seminars.

2. The ECPRD may also participate in or initiate other activities organised within its fields of interest.

3. When it considers that a given area requires a continuity of activity, the Conference of Correspondents may decide on the appointment of a Co-ordinator responsible for promoting close co-operation between the member chambers in that area. The Co-ordinator shall be appointed by the Executive Committee from among the competent staff of member chambers, with the consent of the chamber concerned, for a renewable term of three years.

4. On a proposal from the Executive Committee, and to meet specific terms of reference, the Conference of Correspondents may also decide to set up ad hoc working groups composed of staff of member chambers. The Executive Committee shall determine their duration, which must not exceed three years.

V. FINANCING OF THE ECPRD

Article 10

1. Member chambers of the ECPRD meet the cost of participation of their officials in ECPRD activities as well as the costs of communication with the ECPRD.

2. Member chambers may organise activities of the ECPRD, such as meetings, seminars etc., and bear the costs of such events. They may also make voluntary financial contributions to the ECPRD.

3. The operating costs of the ECPRD are covered by the budgets of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in conformity with current practice.

4. The ECPRD may accept outside donations following a favourable opinion from the Conference of Correspondents.

VI. REVISION OF THE STATUTES

Article 11

The revision of these Statutes is the responsibility of the Secretaries General of the member chambers gathered at their meeting on the occasion of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament.

Annex 2: Comparative requests by Chambers (Situation of 30 June 2021)

Comparative Requests

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	01/07/2021	Total
	10	32	58	96	137	160	174	223	216	223	248	286	299	256	273	290	278	337	335	306	326		5242
- EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	3	11	7	9	10	13	5	8	5	3	9	10	16	8	5	13	13	5	5	16	12	10	196
- EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE ASSEMBLY / Assembly of Western European Union (ESDA/AWEU) (dissolved June 2011)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY COUNCIL OF EUROPE - ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	3	2	3	4	4	6	5	4	5	4	7	7	7	4	69
ALBANIA - KUVENDI	0	1	1	0	0	1	4	0	0	2	1	0	1	3	12	10	7	10	8	10	22	4	99
ANDORRA - CONSELL GENERAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ARMENIA - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	0	0	0	0	3	5	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	1	25
AUSTRIA - PARLAMENT - BUNDESRAT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AUSTRIA - PARLAMENT - NATIONALRAT	0	0	1	3	0	0	2	4	0	4	2	2	3	3	4	1	3	3	4	7	4	2	52
AZERBAIJAN - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	6
BELGIUM - BIBLIOTHEQUE DU PARLEMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BELGIUM - CHAMBRE DES REPRESENTANTS	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	25
BELGIUM - SENAT	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	5	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	17

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA - PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY - BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	3	7
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA - PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	0	0	0	2	3	3	2	5	1	3	4	2	2	2	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	37
BULGARIA - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	0	0	1	5	3	1	0	4	4	2	12	5	10	3	4	7	4	7	10	10	3	0	95
CANADA - HOUSE OF COMMONS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CANADA - LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	9
CROATIA - HRVATSKI SABOR	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	3	1	0	9	9	9	8	2	6	2	3	3	5	65
CYPRUS - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	2	1	1	3	5	6	4	4	2	3	13	12	9	3	75
CZECHIA - CHANCELLORY OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES	0	0	1	3	19	16	5	10	8	6	8	7	6	5	12	18	19	13	31	12	11	4	214
CZECHIA - SENAT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
DENMARK - FOLKETINGET	0	0	1	3	2	2	1	3	4	3	0	2	1	4	4	2	4	9	2	4	5	3	59
ESTONIA - RIIGIKOGU	0	0	3	1	8	4	5	3	8	4	2	5	4	2	1	1	3	8	9	3	5	3	82
FINLAND - EDUSKUNTA	0	0	1	3	0	5	2	2	4	3	3	4	2	4	4	3	4	4	6	3	2	3	62
FRANCE - ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE	0	0	0	1	3	5	7	10	11	12	17	13	8	8	11	4	8	16	10	11	19	9	183
FRANCE - SENAT	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	2	2	4	1	7	0	2	25
GEORGIA - PARLIAMENT	0	0	0	2	6	11	17	13	4	12	10	11	6	18	17	14	8	20	16	17	10	17	229
GERMANY - BUNDESRAT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
GERMANY - DEUTSCHER BUNDESTAG	2	1	3	11	4	5	22	28	29	29	52	52	49	24	39	53	41	28	43	40	28	16	599
GREECE - VOULI TON ELLINON	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	3	1	5	5	1	5	7	1	2	5	2	1	3	1	47
HUNGARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	0	0	1	0	2	4	1	5	12	11	6	10	10	9	11	5	7	12	6	5	8	2	127
ICELAND - ALTHINGI	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	7

IRELAND - HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	7	10	5	11	6	5	8	5	6	13	15	10	17	9	133
ISRAEL - KNESSET	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	9	10	9	11	10	11	10	6	7	5	8	11	12	18	4	153
ITALY - CAMERA DEI DEPUTATI	0	1	3	3	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	2	3	2	1	2	3	5	1	1	2	35
ITALY - SENATO DELLA REPUBBLICA	1	0	1	0	1	1	3	2	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	7	1	4	0	0	1	0	27
JORDAN - REPRESENTATIVES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LATVIA - LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS SAEIMA	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	2	4	1	0	1	5	3	2	3	2	3	5	12	8	6	62
LIECHTENSTEIN - LANDTAG DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LITHUANIA - SEIMAS	0	0	1	2	1	6	2	3	3	5	5	8	5	5	7	9	6	11	12	9	7	12	119
LUXEMBOURG - CHAMBRE DES DEPUTES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	5
MALTA - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
MOLDOVA - PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	1	3	0	5	9	9	3	4	7	7	2	4	3	9	3	73
MONTENEGRO - PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	3	8	4	3	9	5	2	4	2	48
MOROCCO - CHAMBRE DES REPRESENTANTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NETHERLANDS - EERSTE KAMER DER STATEN-GENERAAL	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
NETHERLANDS - TWEEDE KAMER DER STATEN-GENERAAL	0	0	1	4	9	10	9	6	7	8	5	4	8	7	4	1	9	4	11	9	7	2	125
NORTH MACEDONIA - SOBRANIE	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	5	4	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	2	4	3	4	2	44
NORWAY - STORTINGET	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	11	2	0	6	2	4	3	6	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	46
POLAND - SEJM	0	0	1	4	4	4	7	13	9	10	7	6	12	11	7	5	6	4	2	2	7	2	123
POLAND - SENAT	0	0	2	3	1	2	5	8	1	3	2	1	5	4	1	2	2	1	2	4	3	3	55
PORTUGAL - ASSEMBLEIA DA REPUBLICA	0	0	6	4	2	1	3	5	3	4	4	3	6	1	4	3	10	7	8	3	8	7	92

ROMANIA - CAMERA DEPUTATILOR	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	10	4	0	2	5	58
ROMANIA - CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROMANIA - SENAT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	6	8	2	4	1	9	6	15	3	5	3	8	74
RUSSIA - COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION	0	0	1	3	4	1	1	0	1	5	0	5	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	32
RUSSIA - DUMA	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
SAN MARINO - CONSIGLIO GRANDE E GENERALE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SERBIA - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	3	4	3	12	7	5	6	1	2	0	1	0	0	49
SLOVAKIA - NATIONAL COUNCIL	0	2	4	9	8	12	7	5	6	10	7	19	10	17	21	18	21	31	31	22	18	12	290
SLOVENIA - DRZAVNI SVET (NATIONAL COUNCIL)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	4	0	0	17
SLOVENIA - DRZAVNI ZBOR (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY)	0	2	5	1	1	5	1	3	1	8	5	4	2	4	2	5	6	5	2	5	4	1	78
SPAIN - CONGRESO DE LOS DIPUTADOS	0	3	0	0	1	2	1	1	3	1	0	2	4	4	0	1	1	1	4	0	2	1	32
SPAIN - SENADO	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	4	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	20
SWEDEN - RIKSDAG	0	2	3	8	17	11	10	13	16	18	10	18	19	16	5	20	15	21	12	18	23	10	285
SWITZERLAND - BUNDESVERSAMMLUNG	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	0	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	25
SWITZERLAND - STÄNDERAT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TURKEY - THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	0	0	1	2	4	4	7	5	6	5	4	7	7	5	6	0	2	0	2	2	1	0	70
UKRAINE - VERKHOVNA RADA	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
UNITED KINGDOM - UK PARLIAMENT - HOUSE OF COMMONS	0	4	4	0	3	2	4	5	5	6	5	9	5	2	9	5	7	13	5	4	9	2	108
UNITED KINGDOM - UK PARLIAMENT - HOUSE OF LORDS	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	2	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	3	0	23
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - CONGRESS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	5	3	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	15
Total	10	32	58	96	137	160	174	223	216	223	248	286	299	256	273	290	278	337	335	306	326	187	5242

Replies to comparative requests

To produce this table a new tool on the ECPRD website was used to provide charts and tables for the activity report. The current version of this tool is only able to collect reply data from 2002 onwards. Previous activity reports also provide data from 2000 and 2001. However, these reports with data from the first years were based on replies by the date of the corresponding request. From 2002 reply dates are based on the date of their publication. This means that data for the first two years of requests are not quite comparable to 2002 to the present day. Future website developments should bear this in mind.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	01/07/ 21	Total
Total	1425	1610	2476	3232	3178	5445	6134	5505	5436	6746	7284	6757	7107	7232	6949	7634	7963	7310	8517	4876	112980
- EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	13	12	14	15	26	49	71	48	31	41	40	39	23	22	34	36	31	29	117	53	743
- EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE ASSEMBLY / Assembly of Western European Union (ESDA/AWEU) (dissolved June 2011)	1	2	0	0	1	11	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
- PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY COUNCIL OF EUROPE - ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE	0	2	10	9	3	26	22	11	13	33	77	32	23	20	17	10	12	15	8	3	346
ALBANIA - KUVENDI	21	7	12	30	22	38	27	9	12	18	18	23	83	67	77	82	67	55	95	52	815
ANDORRA - CONSELL GENERAL	0	0	0	0	20	69	49	55	60	57	83	72	63	27	47	16	35	4	14	5	676
ARMENIA - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	4	5	18	36	25	36	22	4	0	0	2	4	1	0	0	0	31	1	12	15	216
AUSTRIA - PARLAMENT - BUNDESRAT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	212	224	262	249	253	217	136	1554
AUSTRIA - PARLAMENT - NATIONALRAT	48	62	97	112	128	206	204	165	139	254	235	225	223	229	223	270	297	239	261	165	3787
AZERBAIJAN - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	0	0	0	3	0	7	14	6	0	2	4	4	15	11	6	21	8	7	0	0	108
BELGIUM - BIBLIOTHEQUE DU PARLEMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
BELGIUM - CHAMBRE DES REPRESENTANTS	44	53	77	112	100	164	168	157	146	218	199	183	164	184	173	143	129	139	210	148	2913
BELGIUM - SENAT	74	60	69	104	100	143	177	169	153	189	197	186	190	184	152	125	112	102	163	128	2779
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA - PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY - BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	10	26	5	7	0	53

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA - PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY - HOUSE OF PEOPLES	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA - PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	6	25	10	51	50	58	53	51	6	15	41	25	36	25	81	81	0	0	0	0	614	
BULGARIA - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	14	43	50	56	8	78	98	124	92	67	37	45	39	18	32	34	12	92	187	125	1255	
CANADA - HOUSE OF COMMONS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	
CANADA - LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	86	105	93	108	83	96	99	97	101	130	64	1136	
CROATIA - HRVATSKI SABOR	45	29	56	65	58	101	80	91	84	91	105	125	182	182	175	207	232	198	212	121	2445	
CYPRUS - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	25	15	45	37	43	109	138	92	126	159	175	162	131	81	61	27	15	32	92	102	1670	
CZECHIA - CHANCELLORY OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES	24	27	57	79	46	136	128	130	117	123	149	143	142	165	162	199	212	176	213	124	2552	
CZECHIA - SENAT	13	16	35	41	33	50	48	40	37	40	36	45	11	25	51	28	9	7	2	1	568	
DENMARK - FOLKETINGET	46	57	80	120	125	219	224	174	171	219	221	194	197	236	184	203	180	100	109	32	3098	
ESTONIA - RIIGIKOGU	36	50	90	116	112	155	169	169	160	189	202	188	193	199	198	230	250	225	249	148	3334	
FINLAND - EDUSKUNTA	54	65	104	117	126	195	210	187	179	211	230	195	206	216	214	261	257	239	277	150	3699	
FRANCE - ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE	56	49	69	68	21	79	270	155	151	222	249	210	221	233	214	269	255	248	201	160	3408	
FRANCE - SENAT	11	9	10	18	12	32	20	14	17	14	18	55	37	50	54	35	32	42	96	129	716	
GEORGIA - PARLIAMENT	28	27	52	59	48	76	71	50	84	63	37	52	73	55	67	68	62	46	103	39	1161	
GERMANY - BUNDESRAT	36	34	44	68	47	63	185	160	147	174	183	203	218	211	214	274	286	253	272	160	3232	
GERMANY - DEUTSCHER BUNDESTAG	28	42	58	32	121	254	265	211	183	227	240	215	229	282	264	351	352	307	376	193	4232	
GREECE - VOULI TON ELLINON	28	42	56	89	75	114	140	149	161	192	204	185	198	195	185	234	242	212	240	130	3081	
HUNGARY - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	11	7	14	20	23	29	97	114	128	165	168	168	184	191	196	229	246	215	222	142	2574	
ICELAND - ALTHINGI	19	15	25	60	32	58	57	64	67	72	81	65	66	59	72	66	60	66	37	54	1096	
IRELAND - HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS	18	12	5	11	21	67	40	59	63	55	54	63	61	66	116	109	112	132	145	57	1272	

ISRAEL - KNESSET	0	0	0	48	46	38	48	52	36	64	64	67	56	46	56	66	69	93	120	55	1026
ITALY - CAMERA DEI DEPUTATI	38	31	63	91	107	182	187	186	190	228	215	184	154	144	71	23	94	109	90	64	2452
ITALY - SENATO DELLA REPUBBLICA	53	47	78	89	106	163	191	157	166	226	214	192	173	143	47	15	96	102	107	64	2429
JORDAN - REPRESENTATIVES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	11	7	0	32
LATVIA - LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS SAEIMA	24	43	71	94	79	87	98	89	115	138	156	158	151	145	141	169	252	197	233	139	2580
LIECHTENSTEIN - LANDTAG DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN	0	0	1	0	8	9	27	14	17	8	6	3	7	2	4	1	5	2	1	6	121
LITHUANIA - SEIMAS	17	29	63	86	87	101	153	141	150	172	194	180	192	179	179	211	227	200	237	133	2935
LUXEMBOURG - CHAMBRE DES DEPUTES	3	6	21	22	12	48	41	42	23	77	97	110	133	104	83	125	120	79	132	71	1354
MALTA - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	4	3	0	2	1	4	2	1	3	36
MOLDOVA - PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	7	4	17	2	15	16	14	4	44	71	40	12	33	54	26	16	9	33	36	32	486
MONTENEGRO - PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	39	78	72	77	77	77	97	68	58	42	19	707
MOROCCO - CHAMBRE DES REPRESENTANTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
NETHERLANDS - EERSTE KAMER DER STATEN-GENERAAL	3	32	14	15	7	40	79	73	55	48	138	149	189	210	164	0	8	8	17	2	1250
NETHERLANDS - TWEEDE KAMER DER STATEN-GENERAAL	37	45	27	50	81	170	198	121	135	191	189	160	165	166	176	185	156	152	167	97	2670
NORTH MACEDONIA - SOBRANIE	12	23	55	66	54	83	80	83	78	77	79	26	29	38	70	93	74	23	31	26	1103
NORWAY - STORTINGET	14	24	33	63	57	87	118	118	89	120	136	116	117	99	103	130	131	162	183	96	2001
POLAND - SEJM	25	46	86	114	114	150	174	161	155	187	191	179	189	195	183	226	259	231	155	93	3113
POLAND - SENAT	30	35	25	65	41	63	68	47	59	71	69	141	189	202	145	232	249	183	221	131	2272
PORTUGAL - ASSEMBLEIA DA REPUBLICA	31	53	83	93	87	141	143	162	146	187	201	186	203	193	182	217	237	208	236	138	3133
ROMANIA - CAMERA DEPUTATILOR	8	14	21	18	44	118	149	147	126	158	144	152	157	149	131	168	98	132	171	83	2191
ROMANIA - CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
ROMANIA - SENAT	3	3	1	0	10	63	45	7	17	30	30	29	43	60	66	36	24	37	113	39	657

RUSSIA - COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION	8	11	20	26	7	40	37	29	35	24	56	85	77	58	29	11	6	0	1	2	562
RUSSIA - DUMA	2	7	32	33	45	56	41	32	34	32	28	22	10	6	0	2	0	1	0	0	383
SAN MARINO - CONSIGLIO GRANDE E GENERALE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	38	36	45	11	147
SERBIA - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	0	0	0	0	27	85	76	53	66	42	58	71	88	76	88	84	46	47	24	11	942
SLOVAKIA - NATIONAL COUNCIL	25	39	89	105	104	141	162	150	140	171	179	162	175	193	180	213	216	190	222	127	2988
SLOVENIA - DRZAVNI SVET (NATIONAL COUNCIL)	17	3	15	15	8	12	5	10	11	24	7	16	8	18	83	53	68	160	254	70	863
SLOVENIA - DRZAVNI ZBOR (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY)	28	33	62	81	81	89	96	143	125	127	168	139	160	161	166	169	184	148	217	131	2512
SPAIN - CONGRESO DE LOS DIPUTADOS	26	18	50	49	56	94	66	103	114	190	221	185	204	201	176	242	272	245	256	134	2903
SPAIN - SENADO	56	56	89	56	42	68	64	75	91	110	61	77	78	79	56	83	67	67	29	21	1325
SWEDEN - RIKSDAG	76	63	89	109	119	172	195	158	175	210	222	202	213	218	206	267	271	239	253	152	3616
SWITZERLAND - BUNDESVERSAMMLUNG	31	29	52	73	69	97	90	101	84	83	100	97	100	85	85	82	81	115	130	61	1645
SWITZERLAND - STÄNDERAT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TURKEY - THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	11	27	5	11	36	40	53	62	61	56	52	58	59	41	62	81	82	76	96	37	1010
UKRAINE - VERKHOVNA RADA	25	25	15	15	7	24	14	5	8	21	26	10	14	13	17	0	2	0	0	0	241
UNITED KINGDOM - UK PARLIAMENT - HOUSE OF COMMONS	83	67	96	125	147	224	234	200	189	218	220	172	170	203	179	196	246	222	193	99	3485
UNITED KINGDOM - UK PARLIAMENT - HOUSE OF LORDS	29	30	43	45	17	51	50	15	25	71	177	98	164	136	124	140	268	198	150	77	1908
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - CONGRESS	0	0	1	45	32	71	86	64	53	79	63	43	7	9	3	4	14	4	80	16	674
Total	1425	1610	2476	3232	3178	5445	6134	5505	5436	6746	7284	6757	7107	7232	6949	7634	7963	7310	8517	4876	112980

Final summaries for comparative requests

The number of final summaries is produced manually and not using the new tool for activity reports. This explains the slightly different format. However, the new tool indicates the percentage of requests that were concluded with a final summary.

Country	Chamber	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
	PACE		1		1		1	1		2	2		2	3	1	2	4	1	2		23
	AWEU								1												1
	EP	1	5	7	3	4	3	3	7	5	9	2	2	4	4	2		2	8	5	76
Albania	Kuvendi													3				3	21	1	28
Andorra	Consell General																				
Armenia	National Assembly																				
Austria	Parlament	2			1	4		3	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	2	4		33
Azerbaijan	National Assembly																				
Belgium	Chambre	2	3	1	1		1		1	1	3	1	1		1				1		17
	Senat				1		1	1	1	3	1	1									9
Bosnia-Herzegovina	House of Represent,				1	1		3				1	1	1	2	4	2	1			17
Bulgaria	National Assembly					1													2		3
Canada	Parliament									1											1
Croatia	Hrvatski Sabor						1	3	1		7	2	6	10		8	2	2	3	5	48
Cyprus	House of Represent.													1			1		1		3
Czech Republic	Chamber			3			1		1	3		1		4	6	5				1	25
Czech Republic	Senate																			1	1
Denmark	Folketinget										1										1
Estonia	Riigikogu					1	5	2		3	2		1	1	1		1	1	2		20
Finland	Eduskunta	1				1	1	2	1			1	1			1		1	2	1	13
France	Assemblée nationale	2		1			1				1	1									6
	Senat													1		2				1	4

Georgia	Parliament							1		1		1	1	3	1			1		9
Germany	Bundesrat					1	2			1			1							5
	Bundestag			1	2	2	4	10	8	2	1	4	18	17	28	1	33	26	7	164
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon					1	1	1	3		4		2	2	1	1		3		19
Hungary	National Assembly			1	1	1						7	3	5	4	3	4	3		32
Iceland	Althingi																			
Ireland	Oireachtas						4	4	8	3	4	2	1		2		2	10	1	41
Israel	Knesset			1	3	3	1	4				2	1	3		3	9	10	1	41
Italy	Camera dei Deputati										1	1							1	3
	Senato			1	1	2	2				1									7
Latvia	Saeima	1		1							1	2	1							6
Liechtenstein	Landtag																			
Lithuania	Seimas					1			1											2
Luxembourg	Chambre							1						1						2
Malta	Parliament																			
Moldova	Assemblee nationale			1					7	1			4	5						18
Monaco	National Council																			
Montenegro	Parliament													1					1	2
Netherlands	Eerste Kamer							1						1						2
	Tweede Kamer	1			1					1		2								5
North Macedonia	Assembly							2	1			1		2		1	2	3	2	14
Norway	Stortinget			1			1		1											3
Poland	Sejm				3	2	5	6	1	1	8	1			1					28
	Senate				1		1	2	1		3	1	2	2				1	1	15
Portugal	Assembleia					2	2			2		1	1	1	1	2		1		13
Romania	Camera Deputailor			2	1	2		4	3	3	1	1						2		19
	Senat																			
Russia	Duma																			
	Federation Council								2	1	1	1	1	1						7
San Marino	Consiglio Grande																			
Serbia	National Assembly					1	2	1				1								5
Slovakia	National Council	1	1			2	2			4				1				2		13

Slovenia	National Council											1			1	1		1			4
	National Assembly			2	1	1		3	4	3	2	1	3	3	4	4	2	3	2	1	39
Spain	Congreso			1				1		2	1	5		1	1	1	4		3	1	21
	Senado					1	1							1					1		4
Sweden	Riksdag		1			3	3	11	5	12	10	9	5	12	8	14	10	12	20	9	144
Switzerland	Bundesversammlung				1		2	1	1		1		1		1						8
Turkey	National Assembly				2		1	2	2	1	1	1	4		2						16
Ukraine	Verkhovna Rada																				
United Kingdom	House of Commons			1	3	5	5	4	4	1		1			2				1	1	28
	House of Lords						1	1	1		1		1			1					6
United States of America	Congress					1		1		2		1				1					6
		9	13	20	26	38	51	70	61	80	71	47	55	82	80	86	39	79	134	40	1081

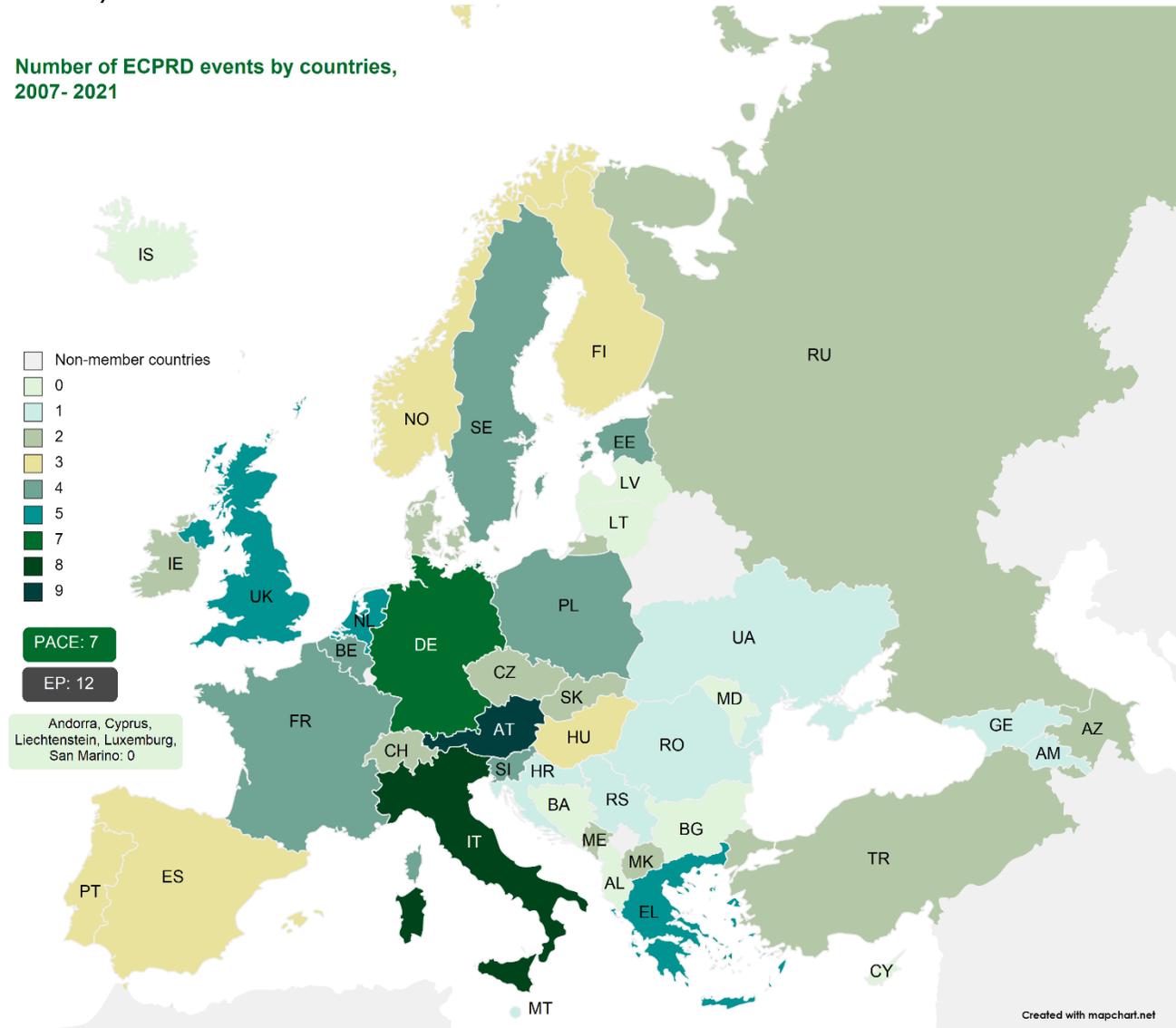
Annex 3 Attendance at ECPRD Seminars 2019 – June 2021

Seminar 'Parliamentary Privilege and the General Data Protection Regulation' Vienna (on the Web) - 28 January 2019	26
Seminar 'Parliamentary Budget control - Money and More' The Hague - 9-10 May 2019	56
Seminar 'Challenges in a digital age: Preservation, management and promotion of the Parliaments documentary output and bibliographical heritage' Madrid - 6-8 June 2019	58
Seminar 'From personal data to open data: constraints, challenges and disclosures' (Parliaments on the Net 2019) Ljubljana - 13-14 June 2019	67
Seminar 'Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovations and Projects in the Parliaments' Tallinn, Riigikogu - 3-4 October 2019	60
Seminar "The Legal Status of MPs - Recent Developments" Brussels, Chambre des representants et Senat - 24-25 October 2019	54
Seminar 'Parliamentary Privilege and the General Data Protection regulation' Vienna (On the Web), Parliament Nationalrat - 15 June 2020	25
Seminar 'Parliamentary Research in crisis Mode: Corona, Comeback, Change' Brussels(On the Web), European Parliament - 12-13 November 2020	81
Seminar 'Parliaments and constitutional law - Parliaments and Constitutional Courts' Vienna (On the Web), Parliament Nationalrat - 12-13 November 2020	75
Seminar 'Parliaments and the General Data Protection regulation' Vienna (On the Web), Nationalrat and Bundesrat - 18 January 2021	65
Seminar 'Electronic Signatures and Seals' Brussels (on the web), European Parliament - 15 March 2021	60
Webinar 'Parliamentary involvement in the definition of the National Recovery plans' Rome (on the web), Camera dei deputati - 23 April 2021	80

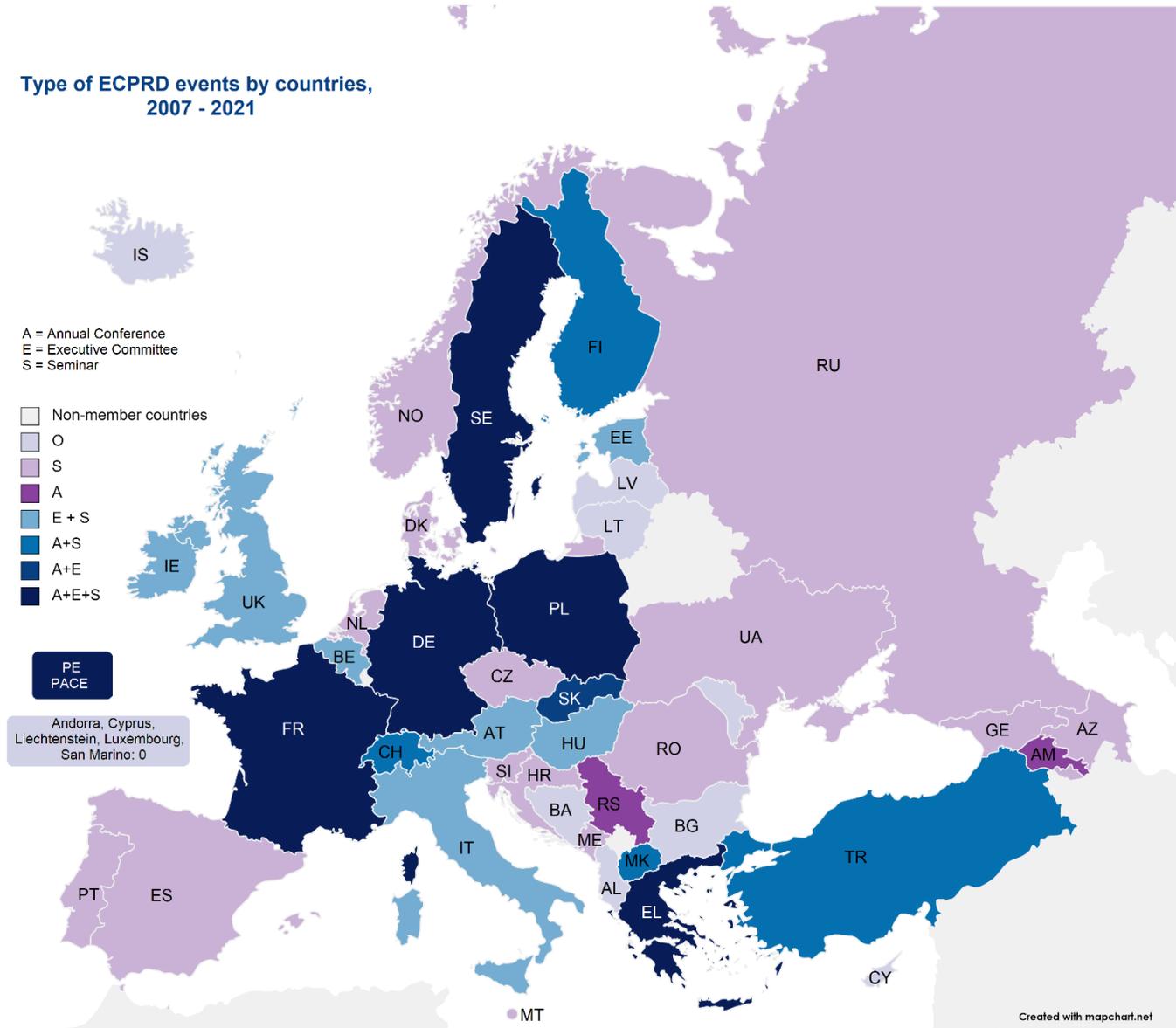
Seminar 'Online communications and adapting parliamentary communications during the pandemic' Helsinki, Eduskunta (On the Web) - 3 June 2021	92
Seminar 'A year of Hope and Transition' Brussels (on the web), European Parliament - 1 - 3 June 2021	85
Seminar 'Parliaments and the General Data Protection regulation' Vienna (On the Web), Nationalrat - 14 June 2021	30
Seminar 'How to strengthen parliamentary control over budget processes' Podgorica (on the web), Parliament of Montenegro -17 June 2021	64
Total	978

venues of ECPRD 2007-2021

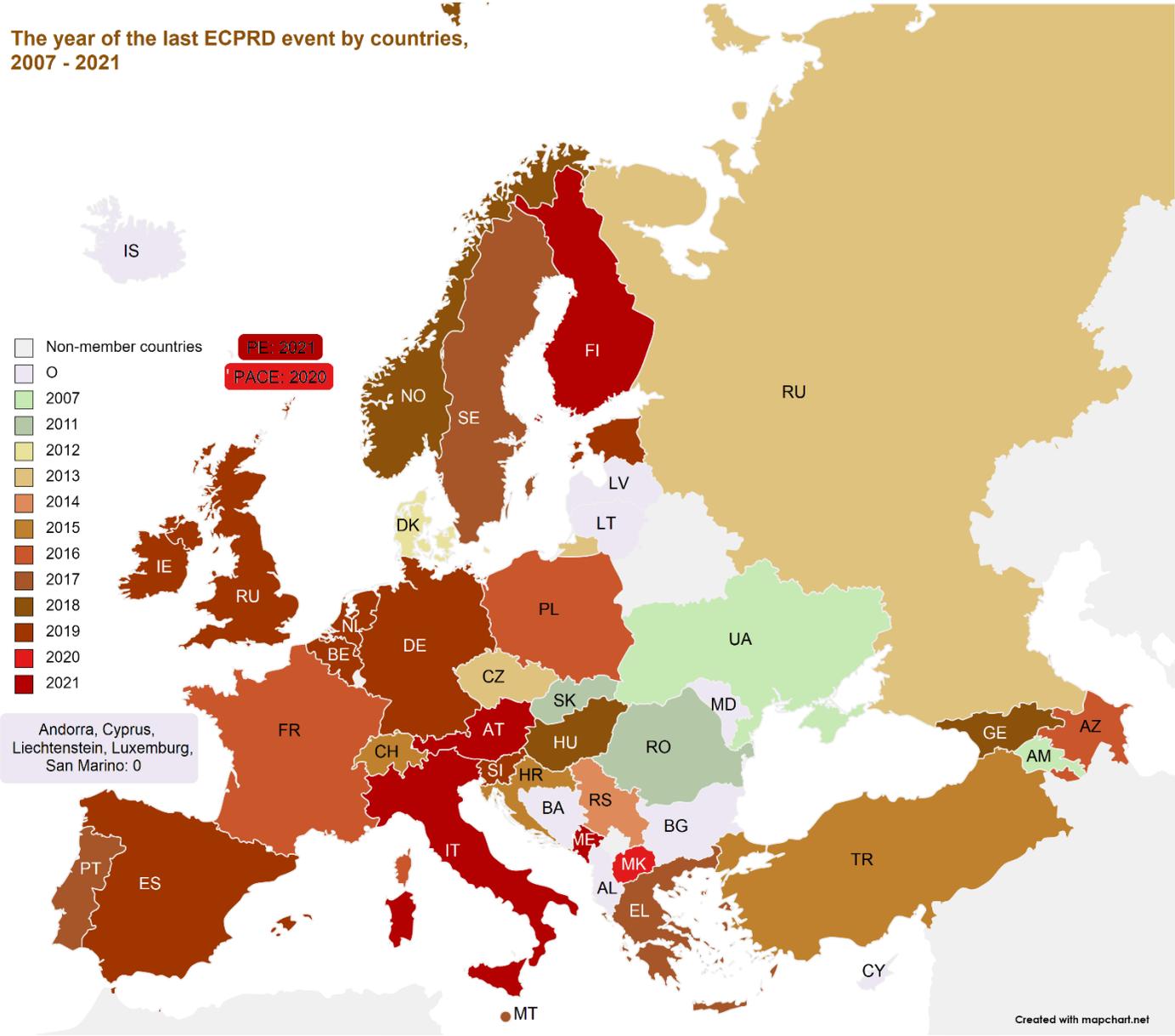
Number of ECPRD events by countries, 2007-2021



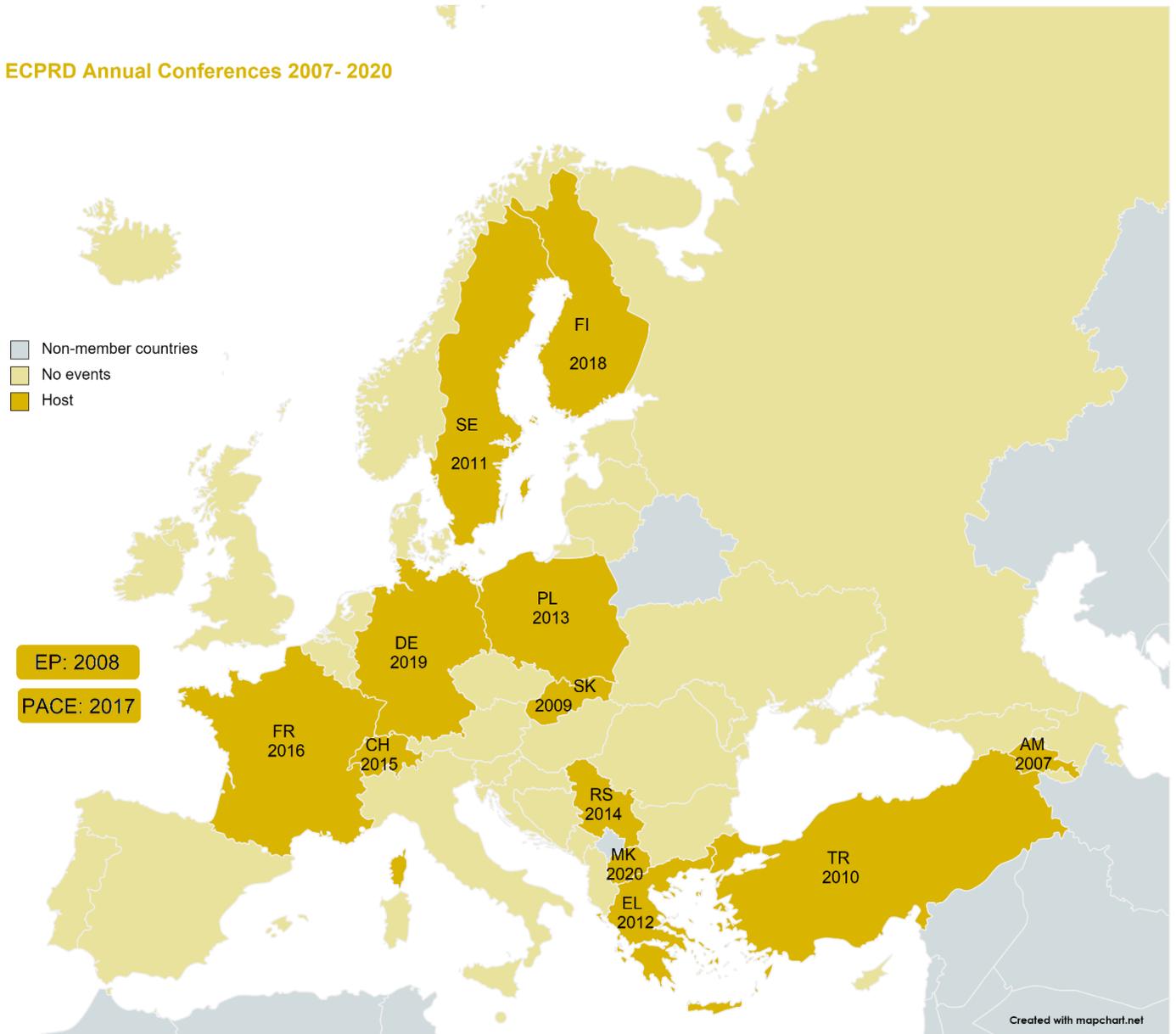
Type of ECPRD events by countries,
2007 - 2021



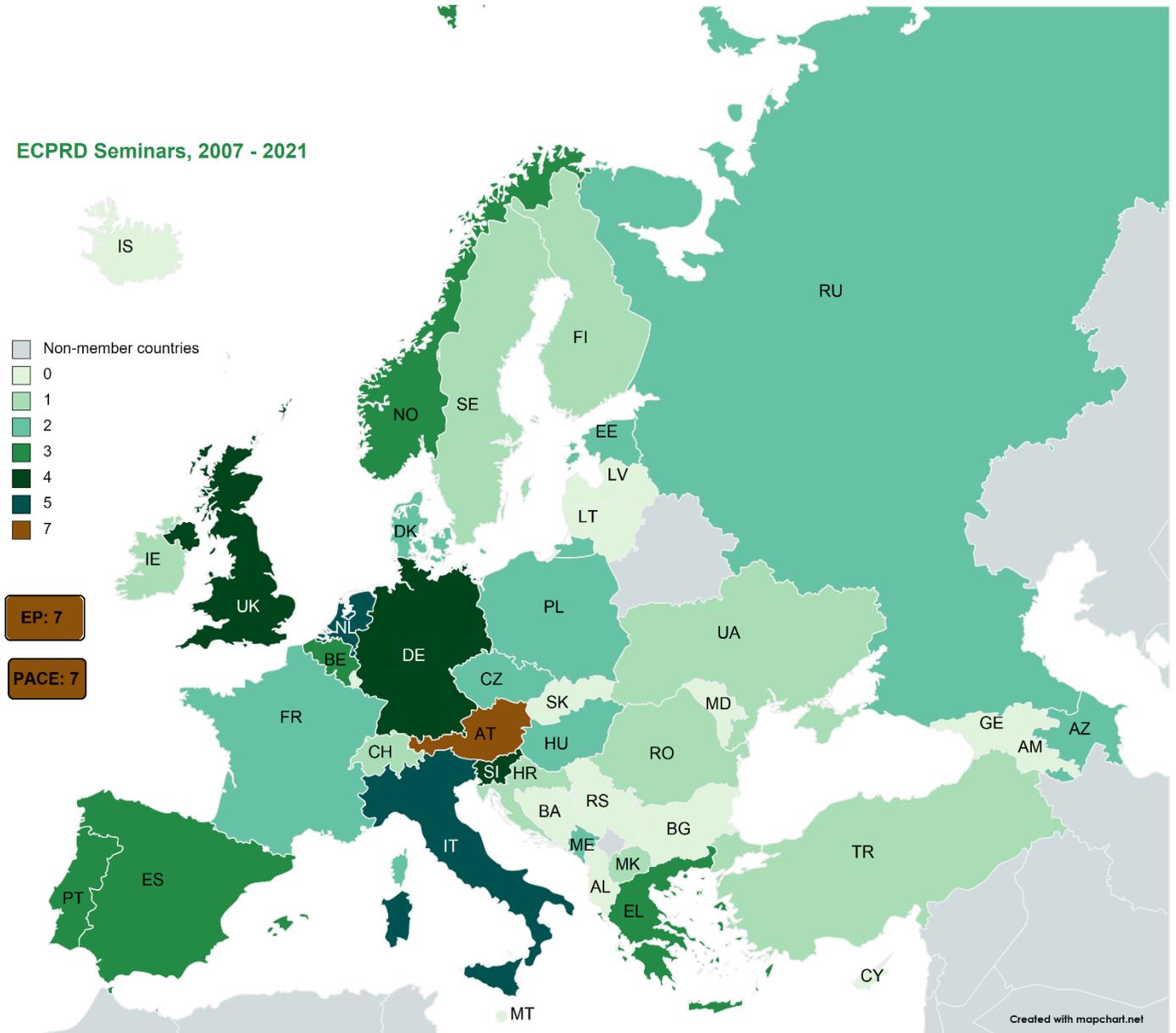
The year of the last ECPRD event by countries, 2007 - 2021



ECPRD Annual Conferences 2007- 2020



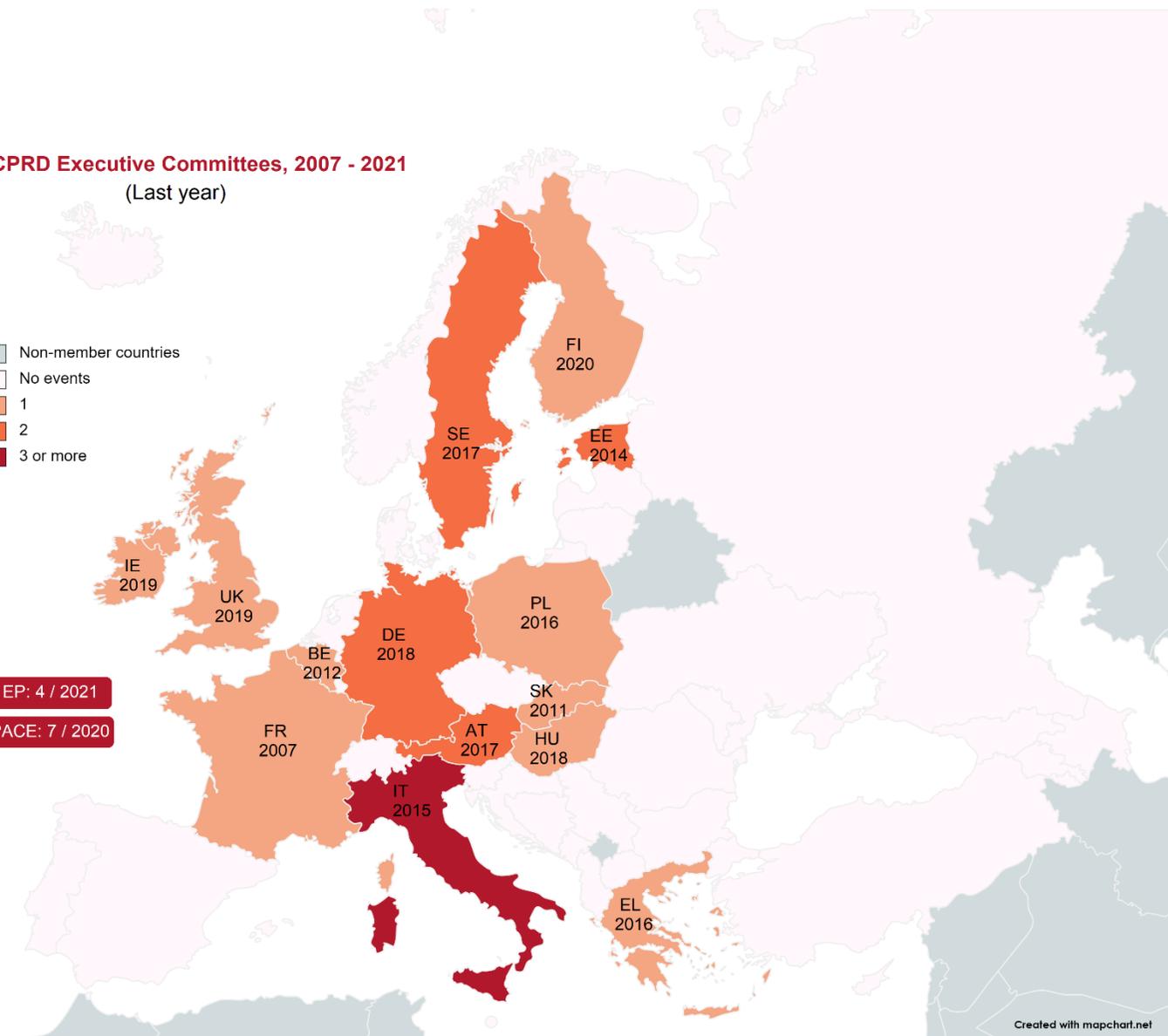
ECPRD Seminars, 2007 - 2021



ECPRD Executive Committees, 2007 - 2021 (Last year)

- Non-member countries
- No events
- 1
- 2
- 3 or more

EP: 4 / 2021
PACE: 7 / 2020



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