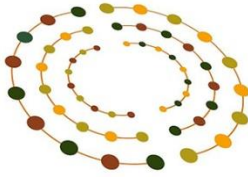




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INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership *EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments*

Parliamentary Monitoring Organisations: Partners in Parliamentary Strengthening **DRAFT AGENDA**

17 January 2020

Concept note

“Today more than ever, Parliaments are working harder to develop their capacity to better respond to the increased scrutiny and growing expectations from people for more efficient and effective service from their representatives.”

[Common Principles for Support to Parliaments](#)

Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2014

Introduction

One of the priority themes of INTER PARES, the EU’s Global Programme to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments, is support to enhanced engagement of citizens and civil society in partner Parliaments. Effective Parliaments operate in constructive collaboration with citizens and civil society to fulfil their core functions of law-making, representation and oversight of government. In both form and function, effective Parliaments strive to be transparent, responsive, and accountable to the citizens they represent and serve.

The [2012 Declaration on Parliamentary Openness](#) recognizes the value of partnerships and to the importance of working with, and not just for, citizens:

“The Declaration is intended not only as a call to action, but also as a basis for dialogue between Parliaments and PMOs to advance government and Parliamentary openness, and to ensure that this openness leads to greater citizen engagement, more responsive representative institutions and, ultimately, a more democratic society.”

Today, those norms and principles have found firm footing. A growing number of Parliaments in Europe and around the world is actively engaging with civil society organisations to better inform, include and involve citizens.

Exploring their experiences can provide invaluable insights and guidance for Parliamentary development, enabling Parliaments and PMOs to work together to strengthen representative



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democracy around the world. The INTER PARES project will foster Parliament-PMO collaboration as part of the partnerships it is establishing between EU Member State Parliaments and partner Parliaments around the world.

This workshop will bring together EU Member State Parliaments and PMOs to explore these issues in greater detail. Questions to be explored include:

- What should citizens know about Parliament, and how should that information be shared?
- What are meaningful indicators of integrity, transparency, and Parliamentary performance, and can Parliaments and PMOs agree together on such indicators and how they can be measured?
- How can Parliaments and PMOs work together in enhancing institutional transparency and citizen awareness and understanding of Parliaments, and what does collaboration look like in practice?

Dialogue and debate around these questions will provide a framework for INTER PARES programming and inform EU MSPs and PMOs in peer exchanges with partner Parliaments.

Objectives

The objective is to explore the ways in which Parliaments can partner with PMOs to build more effective, inclusive Parliamentary institutions. The workshop will 1) identify means and mechanisms for PMOs and Parliaments to establish partnerships; 2) explore how PMOs and Parliaments can strengthen each other’s work; and 3) inform INTER PARES resources and programming, including the integration of PMOs in peer exchanges with partner Parliaments.

Participants

INTER PARES will invite EU Member State Parliaments and Parliamentary Monitoring Organisations to take part in this workshop, alongside selected partners.

PMO Workshop			
Project Name	INTER PARES Parliaments in Partnership – <i>EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments</i>		
Date	17 January 2020	Time	9:30 – 15:00 CET
Location	Leoforos Vasilisis Amalias 22-24, Athens, Greece	Prepared By	INTER PARES Project Team
Participants:	European Commission, International IDEA, EEAS, European Parliament (DG PRES, DG EXPO, DG ITEC), IPU, EUMSPs, PMOs		



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Draft Agenda Items	
9:00 – 9:30	Registration and Coffee
9:30 – 9:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening Session</p> <p><u>Opening Remarks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gonzalo Jorro-Martinez, Policy Officer – Parliaments and Political Parties, DG DEVCO, European Commission ▪ Jonathan Murphy, Head of Programme, INTER PARES Parliaments in Partnership, International IDEA
9:45 – 11:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 1: How to build partnerships</p> <p><i>What steps can Parliaments and PMOs take to move towards constructive collaboration? How to find common ground, build trust, and develop shared objectives?</i></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Lotte Geunis, Consultant, INTER PARES Parliaments in Partnership, International IDEA</p> <p><u>Participants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maria Baron, Directorio Legislativo, Argentina ▪ Stefanos Loukopoulos, Vouliwatch, Greece ▪ Georgios Angelopoulos, Hellenic Parliament, Greece <p style="text-align: center;">Q&A</p>
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 2: How to work towards shared results</p> <p><i>How can PMOs and Parliaments support each other to become more transparent and accountable? What can be learned from experiences to date and what (technical) solutions are available?</i></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Gonzalo Jorro-Martinez, Policy Officer – Parliaments and Political Parties, DG DEVCO, European Commission</p> <p><u>Participants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lea Briand, Abgeordnetenwatch, Germany ▪ Jochen Guckes, Bundestag, Germany ▪ Pierre Mesure, Digidem Lab, Sweden ▪ Derek Dignam, Houses of the Oireachtas, Ireland



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12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 3: PMOs as Partners in Parliamentary Strengthening</p> <p><i>What can we learn from PMOs from outside the EU to strengthen capacities of Parliaments in the Global South?</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Jonathan Murphy, Head of Programme, INTER PARES Parliaments in Partnership, International IDEA</i></p> <p><u>Participants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Natália Švecová, Slovak Parliament, Slovakia</i> ▪ <i>Aiman Rasheed, Transparency International Maldives, Maldives (TBC)</i> ▪ <i>Jessica Musila, Expert Parliamentary Monitoring and public engagement, Kenya (TBC)</i> ▪ <i>Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability, Serbia) (TBC)</i> ▪ <i>Maria Baron, Directorio Legislativo, Panama</i>
14:15 – 15:00	<p style="text-align: center;">What next?</p> <p><i>INTER PARES will present the proposed follow-up to this workshop, for feedback and inputs from EU MSPs and PMOs.</i></p> <p><u>Closing remarks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Gonzalo Jorro-Martinez, Policy Officer – Parliaments and Political Parties, DG DEVCO, European Commission</i> ▪ <i>Jonathan Murphy, Head of Programme, INTER PARES Parliaments in Partnership, International IDEA</i>