



ICT 2006 – Vilnius Meeting

REPORT

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1. Introduction

The annual meeting of the ECPRD Working Group on Information and Communication Technology was held in Vilnius on 5 - 6 October 2006.

This Meeting brought together the administrative and technical managers of the IT departments of the Parliaments for two-day debates in order to exchange their experience, share ideas, and offer original solutions.

51 participants from 26 countries representing 31 Parliaments, one International Organisation, and one local Governmental Institution attended the Event.



Since there was no group meeting in 2005, the participants were invited to suggest the relevant topics for the presentations and discussions of this year event.

After all topics of presentations were received, four main themes of the Meeting were identified:

- e-Parliament – Services;
- e-Parliament – Technologies;
- Mobility for Representatives;
- ICT for Interparliamentary Cooperation.

Presentations were based on:

- Experience and good practice;
- Future plans;
- Collaboration and cooperation between Parliaments;

- International Projects.

Meeting website (<http://www.lrs.lt/ecprd-ict>) was created in order to publish useful information.

After the Meeting a DVD was released containing the following information:

- Presentations;
- Video recordings of the presentations;
- Photos and other materials of the seminar.

The DVDs have been sent to all participants by mail.

2. Theme presentation

The Meeting was opened with a welcoming address by Mr. Jonas Milerius, Secretary General of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Speakers' panel was represented by the following parliaments:

- Assembleia da República (Portugal);
- Camera dei Deputati (Italy);
- Chamber of Deputies (Romania);
- Congreso de los Diputados (Spain);
- Federation Assembly (Russian Federation);
- House of Representatives (Netherlands);
- National Assembly (Hungary);
- Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania;
- UK Parliament (Commons & Lords),

by the following governmental institutions, and other organisations:

- Information Society Development Committee under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania;
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

2.1. Presentations and Speakers

Thursday, 05 October

THEME: e-Parliament – Services

Speaker	Country	Title of Presentation
Evaldas Židonis	Lithuania	Development of Information Society in Lithuania – Achievements and Problems
Birutė Leonavičienė	Lithuania	e-Parliament for Citizens - Current Services
Jurgis Bridžius	Lithuania	Future Plans for the Development of e-Parliament in Lithuania
André van der Meer	Netherlands	e-Parliament in the Dutch Parliament
Renata Blagnienė	Lithuania	The Influence of the ICT on Information Services for the Parliament – Experience of the Information Analysis Department
Ramūnas Čepaitis	Lithuania	Information System of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania – Practical Remarks for the User

THEME: e-Parliament - Technologies

Speaker	Country	Title of Presentation
Marian Botocan	Romania	Parliament@work – Accessing Parliamentary Debates in the Romanian Chamber of Deputies
Margarida Matos	Portugal	The Use of Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) and Web Services in the Portuguese Parliament
Eszter Kertész Géczy	Hungary	EUDOC Database System in the Hungarian National Assembly
Miguel Ángel Gonzalo	Spain	Virtual Public Administration and Modernisation Plan

Friday, 06 October

THEME: e-Parliament - Technologies

Speaker	Country	Title of Presentation
Natalie Kunitskaya	Russian Federation	Technological Systems Development in the Session Hall of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
Caroline Morgan	United Kingdom	Repositioning the Parliamentary ICT Service – the Place of the Business Relationship Management in the UK Parliament
Carlo Simonelli	Italy	Information Security Issues at the Italian Chamber of Deputies

THEME: Mobility for Representatives

Speaker	Country	Title of Presentation
André van der Meer	Netherlands	e-Representative, the Virtual Desktop to MPs

THEME: ICT for Interparliamentary Cooperation

Speaker	Country	Title of Presentation
Daniela Giacomelli	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	The Global Centre for ICT in Parliament

3. Internal affairs of the ICT Working Group

At the end of the Meeting on Friday, 6 October, the matters of the ECPRD ICT Working Group were discussed. These discussions consisted generally of two parts:

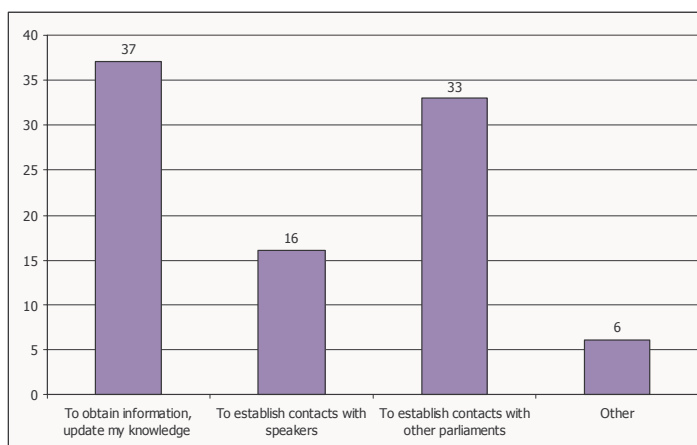
1. The Web site of the ECPRD was presented to the participants of the Meeting. The present content of the Web site was described, and the launch of the new content with improved functionality was announced at the end of October.
2. Organisational questions concerning future seminars were raised and discussed:
 - It was confirmed that the National Assembly of Slovenia will organise the Meeting of the ICT Working Group in 2007;
 - New organisational methodology based on prior work in the interest subgroups was suggested;
 - It was decided to establish an e-forum for better communication between the participants;
 - The changes to the Statute of the ECPRD concerning the appointment of the Working Group Coordinator were explained.

4. Analysis of the Meeting Evaluation Form

Participants were invited to answer a questionnaire to evaluate the meetings organised by ECPRD.

38 of the 51 registered participant filled in the evaluation form.

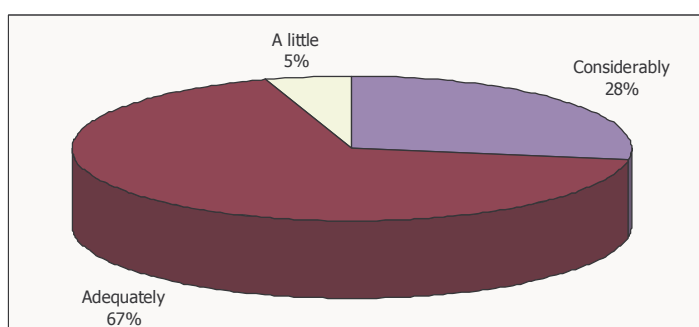
4.1. Why did you wish to participate in this conference?



Other reasons:

- Permet d'avoir des idées pour les futures systéms;
- Exchange experience;
- Exchange knowledge;
- Present one's activities;
- Establish and maintain contacts with other parliaments;
- Find out if ICT problems in the Chamber of Deputies are equal to other Parliaments problems;
- Compare our solutions to other Parliaments solutions;
- Learn about the Parliaments progress and development in the ICT area;
- Share information;
- Discuss solutions.

4.2 Has the conference contributed to attainment of your objectives?



4.3. Which of the following topics would you like to receive more information about?

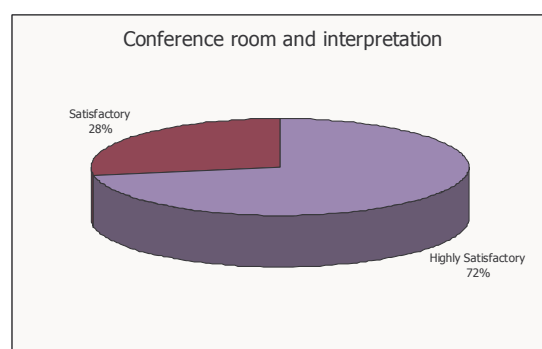
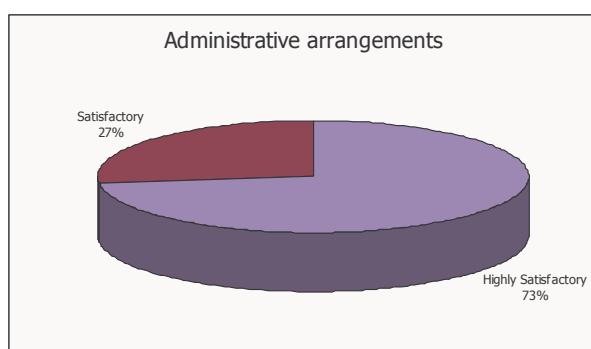
• Mobility	9
• e-Parliament (services, technologies)	2
• e-signature	1
• eRepresentative	1
• Voting systems	1
• Web services	1
• SOA and Enterprise Applications integration	1
• Information security issues	1
• ICT strategies	1
• Open Source	1
• Information archiving	1
• Spain: virtual public administration and modernisation plan	1
• DVD with all presentations	1

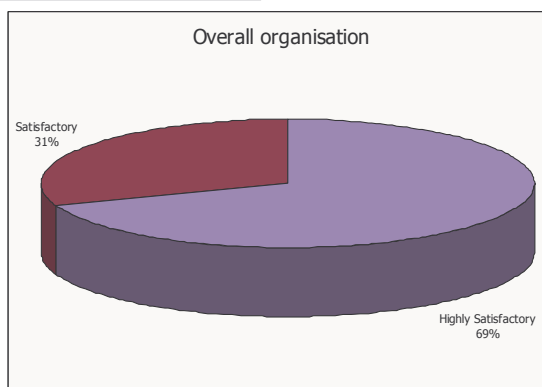
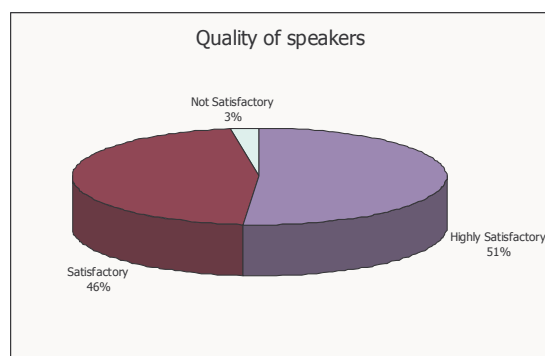
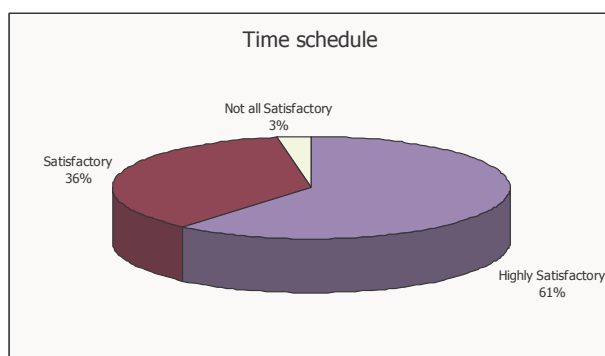
4.4. Topics which have been proposed for the next year's conference

• Archiving practice	
• Controlled (managed) v. unmanaged environment	
• Digital signature	
• Disaster plans	
• Disaster Recovery	
• Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plans	
• e-Democracy	
• E-mail management	
• Enterprise applications integration	
• e-Parliament	2
• eRepresentative project update and MP mobility	
• E-signature	
• E-signature and MPs	
• How to eliminate spam (deliver or not deliver all e-mails to MPs)?	
• ICT organisations. What is the best way of ICT organisation in Parliament business	
• ICT strategy & current initiatives	
• Information security	

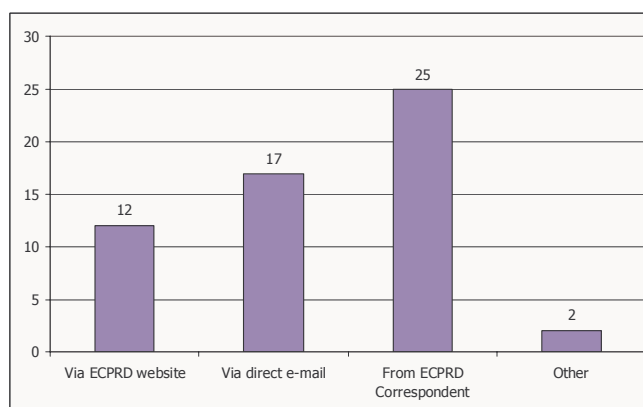
- Information strategy
- Information/Knowledge management
- Submission of EU documents to Parliament information systems
- IT security policy
- Management of IT teams in Parliaments
- Middle ware
- MPs Mobility 3
- Mobile office for MPs – projects and results
- Mobility (PDA and Smartphone for MPs)
- Mobility 7
- New e-processes
- Open Source v. proprietary code
- PDA and Blackberry usage in the Parliament
- PKI and mobility
- PKI 2
- Security 2
- Security, business continuity, disaster recovery (strategy)
- Security in a practical way
- The role of ICT in Parliament business
- The use of SOA in Parliaments: projects and implementation
- Usability
- Usage of PDA
- Video streaming 2
- Web services
- What is most important for MPs (Parliamentary matters, personalized matters, or both)

4.5. What is your evaluation of the overall organisation of the conference?





4.6. How did you learn about this conference?



4.7. Participant's remarks/suggestions

- L'organisation a été excellente.
- Thank you very much (to Organisers and ECPRD).
- I would like to get an invitation directly by e-mail.
- Well done. (4)
- Just a "thank you" to our Lithuanian hosts and our Chairman for such a friendly professional conference.
- ECPRD should animate more parliaments to participate in ICT seminars.
- It was a very bad message that parliaments received last year about no ECPRD meeting.
- Even a two-day meeting is too short for general discussions, it is very important to have an opportunity to meet every year.

- Try to keep to the schedule.
- Try to vitalise the discussion, for example, by preparing questions beforehand. It is a little embarrassing that some speeches don't get any questions.
- I think that the room is not very adequate for this kind of event.
- More effort needs to be put into drafting the agenda. Lithuania did a good job filling up the agenda, but I think all participants have to share the responsibility in it.
- I would prefer the organisation of a wireless LAN during the conference. Saves a lot of money on GPRS, etc. synchronising mobile devices.
- It is strange that the ECPRD website is not available as knowledge forum for this working group. What is the added value of the ECPRD website?
- Need of creation of a knowledge database of what is being done in all parliament members in the ICT field.

5. Conclusions

The participants were free to choose the topics for their presentations. As we see, e-parliament was still the most relevant topic for the Parliaments of the ECPRD member countries.

An overall analysis of the answers given by the participants shows that:

- the Meeting has completely achieved its objectives;
- the main reason for attending this meeting was to obtain and update information and to establish contacts with other Parliaments;
- the most interesting topics – mobility and e-parliament;
- the ECPRD correspondent network remains the most preferred means for promoting of the ECPRD Meetings.

The most preferable themes for the next year's seminar:

- Mobility;
- Disaster Recovery;
- Security.