



Omtrykt (5/4 2005)  
(Program vedlagt)

Udvalget for Videnskab og Teknologi  
(2. samling)  
UVT alm. del - Bilag 37  
Offentligt

Dear Ms Hanne Severinsen, President,

We have the honour of inviting your Assembly to take part in the first workshop, which will focus on "Parliamentarians and technology enabled communications". This workshop is hosted by Edith Mastebroek MEP and is organized by EPRI Knowledge.

"EPRI Knowledge" is a 36 month-project funded under the European Commission's Information Society Technologies (IST) Program. The project includes workshops, studies, conferences and MP working groups and is a successor to the first 'European Parliaments' Research Initiative' project dating back to 1999. It aims at raising awareness of, and supporting decision making on IST subjects, among parliamentarians across the EU, at European, national and regional levels.

This workshop, the first in a series of six, aims to provide a forum for exchange of experience and best practice, and for collaboration in developing policy, strategies and practical guidelines in IST domains. The participants are national Parliamentarians carefully selected for their ICT/IST involvement and are expected to be potential contributors to this subject. During our first workshop, "Parliamentarians and Communications", we will be looking at current trends, consequences and impacts, and future opportunities. In terms of results, we hope to design and agree on a set of voluntary guidelines for communications with citizens and other groups, using new technologies, to be used by parliamentarians across Europe.

In order to ensure a balanced representation of the EU member states, we are proposing each member state to be represented. **Also, we would ask you to appoint one Parliamentarian on basis of their ICT/IST involvement and potential contribution to this subject or as pioneers and innovators in their use of new media in their own political (citizen) communications.**

We thank you very much for the attention we hope you will devote to our initiative and are available for any additional information on the project in general, or on the first workshop in particular.

Yours sincerely,

Benedikte Buhl

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**Beyond the Internet: Members of Parliament & communications**

EPRI Knowledge workshop  
23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2005  
European Parliament, Brussels

Hosted by:  
Edith MASTENBROEK MEP,

Co-hosted by:  
Alexander Nuno ALVARO MEP and Piia-Noora KAUPPI MEP

**Background**

EPRI-Knowledge: Information Society Technologies for Parliamentarians

"EPRI Knowledge" is a 36 month-project funded under the European Commission's Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme. It is a successor to the first 'European Parliaments' Research Initiative' project dating back to 1999. It aims at raising awareness of, and supporting decision making on IST subjects, among parliamentarians across the EU, at European, national and regional levels.

The main activities of the project are Studies, Workshops, Conferences and Website and Newsletter. EPRI Knowledge participants are parliamentarians from European, national and regional levels, already involved or interested in Information Society Technologies and IST related themes.

This workshop, the first in a series of six, aims to provide a forum for exchange of experience and best practice, and for collaboration in developing policy, strategies and practical guidelines in IST domains.

It is intended for parliamentarians who are involved in IST issues as decision makers (i.e. in Parliamentary committees or their Parties) or as pioneers and innovators in their use of new media in their own political (citizen) communications and are opinion formers within their parliaments or parties.

**Workshop Objectives**

This workshop is designed to:

- identify the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities and threats of the use of new technologies for MP-citizen communications
- develop a set of minimum requirements that could provide the basis for a voluntary code of conduct
- explore future possibilities for using ICTs to reinforce and evolve MP-citizen relations

**Preparation**

Each participant will be invited to draft a very brief 'position paper' either describing some of their relevant personal experiences or setting out what they see as the key issues, for distribution to participants before the workshop.

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**EPRI: A unique network of IST interested Parliamentarians**

EPRI (European Parliaments Research Initiative) is a network of ICT interested parliamentarians that has been meeting annually since 1999 at conferences organized by national parliaments together with the "EPRI secretariat".

**EPRI Knowledge: the latest EPRI project**

EPRI Knowledge is the latest project of the EPRI network: a 3 year project funded by the European Commissions' Information Society Technologies (IST) program.

The EPRI Knowledge project aims to raise awareness of, and support decision making on IST subjects among parliamentarians across the EU at European, national and regional levels.

The project consists of 4 main activities designed to address the needs of the following target audiences:

1. *Workshops and studies* for high-level parliamentarians and opinion leaders in IST related political decision making processes
2. *Conferences and general dissemination activities* aimed at the broader Parliamentary community interested in IST related issues and in the potential political impacts of ICT developments, as well as members of the IST community with special interest on interaction with political decision makers

Over the 3 years, the EPRI Knowledge will provide a total of 3 studies, 6 high-level workshops, 3 conferences as well as on-going networking and web enabled dissemination activities.

**EPRI Results so far**

Project accomplishments to date are:

1. The seventh EPRI Conference hosted by the President of the Swedish Parliament, Björn von Sydow, in the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm, October 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2004;
2. A study on use of ICTs by parliamentarians across the EU: "Learning to live with the Internet: How European parliamentarians are adapting to the digital age";
3. A workshop on "Parliamentarians and e-communications" to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of May in the European parliament, co-hosted by Edith Mastenbroek, MEP (author of the recent European Parliament report on safer Internet), Alexander Nuno ALVARO MEP and Piia-Noora KAUPPI MEP.

For more details on any activity and the EPRI Knowledge project, please do not hesitate to contact Benedikte Buhl on tel:+322 644 3777 or by email: [benedikte@polpit.com](mailto:benedikte@polpit.com)



**Beyond the Internet: Members of Parliament & communications**

EPRI Knowledge workshop  
23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2005  
European Parliament, Brussels

Hosted by:

Edith MASTENBROEK MEP,

Co-hosted by:

Alexander Nuno ALVARO MEP and Piia-Noora KAUPPI MEP

*Moderator: Prof. Stephen Coleman, e-Democracy Chair, Oxford Internet Institute.*

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2005**

**14:00-15.30**      *Communicating using the internet & new technologies*

Review of existing strategies & behaviour of MPs using internet and mobile technologies to communicate and interact with their different audiences; good & bad practice in the areas of websites, use of email, weblog, e- and m-communications; individual MP, party, and parliamentary activity.

*Coffee break*

**15:45 – 17:15**      *Political communications context*

A look at the media context (new and old), the political and institutional environment and public expectations i.e. what are the communications wants and needs of different audiences, vis-à-vis old and new communications tools.

**17:30 – 18:00**      *Information Society Policy link - DG Info, European Commission*

A short presentation of 'policy cases': successful EC funded IST & ICT related projects, in a variety of policy areas, including the e-democracy and e-government sectors.

**18:00 – 19:00**      *Reception for "IST-interested Parliamentarians", European Parliament*

The reception open to workshop participants and other IST-interested MEPs

**20:00**                *Dinner for EPRI Knowledge Workshop participants*

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2005**

**09:00-10:30**      *Practical steps: Voluntary guidelines for MP/MEP-citizen (e)communications*

Poor communications experiences can quickly destroy the public goodwill towards engaging with their representatives, and the democratic process. This session will focus on the preparation of set of basic 'Principles' Parliamentarians should follow to ensure good practice in their communications with their citizens. A document of principles will subsequently be distributed to the wider parliamentary community.

*Coffee break*

**10:45-12:15**      *Future strategies: Innovation in relationships and democratic participation*

ICTs present a wealth of possibilities for 'new and improved' communications and relationships between elected representatives and their voters. This session will examine how far we can go in developing strategies to reinforce and evolve the performance of elected representatives and the democratic engagement of our publics.

**12:15 – 12:30**      *Summary and closing remarks by moderator*

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