Directorate-General for the Presidency
Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments
Institutional Cooperation Unit

Brussels, 21 January 2014

Background note to the conference on 'EU Parliaments in global governance'

Subject: How to improve cooperation in multilateral assemblies between EU National Parliaments and the European Parliament?

1. Parliaments and globalization

The role of Parliaments is progressively becoming stronger in recent years and their voice is given increasingly more space in the political agenda. It is the result of the important tasks that Parliaments play in the globalized world. First of all a Parliament is the main legislator, initiating laws and adopting legislation. Besides that it has a strong mediation function. A Parliament is an active and effective interface between the government and the citizens. Finally, it controls the executive, ensuring the right balance of power.

One of the results of the above mentioned process is the initiative to 'parlamentarize' the United Nations, to set up a directly elected UN Parliamentary Assembly, which has been on the political agenda for years. The EP has advocated for the establishment of the UNPA in 2001, in order to increase the democratic nature, the democratic accountability and the transparency of global governance and to allow for greater public participation in the activities of the UN. This was followed by the adoption of the Brussels Declaration 'Towards a democratic and equitable international order' on 17 October 2013 by its supporting Members. This initiative clearly shows that there is a strong wish to parlamentarize the globalization.

In recent discussions in the EP Foreign Affairs Committee, there has been continuous support for this initiative. The overall message from the Committee was that it agreed to jointly advocate with the IPU for a UNPA, but it should stay with the UN in case the UNPA is created.

The last EU enlargements raised the profile and increased the influence exerted by the EU and its parliamentary dimension in multilateral and regional organisations. This requires greater efforts on the part of national Parliaments and the EP in order to provide parliamentary representation corresponding with the EU's international role.

2. Current situation in relation to multilateral assemblies

Multilateral parliamentary Assemblies and fora varies in organization structure, membership and basis of cooperation. Some are institutionalized with permanent secretariat (committees, bureau); others are ad hoc and are more of a consultation forum,

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but with stronger weight in international politics (e.g. G8, G20). Multilateral parliamentary Assemblies are formed on regional geographic, security, linguistic or religious basis.

As it is listed and shown in the Annex, there are currently 32 multilateral Assemblies or fora, dealing with inter-parliamentary cooperation with the EU, out of the parliamentary bodies established by the Lisbon Treaty (e.g. COSAC).

- In 19 of them both the EP and EU national Parliaments are involved.
  Among these two are global (IPU, PC WTO), two are defence and security based (OSCE PA, NATO PA), two are multilateral coordination fora (G8 Speakers' Conference, G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Consultation Forum), 14 are regional (e.g. Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference) and one is language based (Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie).
- In five Assemblies only national Parliaments are represented (Central European Initiative Parliamentary Dimension, Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Baltic Assembly, Benelux Parliament).
- In six only the EP has relations or involvement. (e.g. EURONEST PA, EUROLAT PA, ACP-EU JPA).
- There are two Assemblies involving EU candidate Turkey. (PUIC, TURKPA)

EU national Parliaments are not part of all regional interparliamentary Assemblies created by the European Parliament. Nevertheless, it is to be noted that some of the EU national Parliaments for historical and cultural reasons have a very intense bilateral political relationship with Parliaments of countries participating in other regional multilateral Assemblies (Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, ASEP Parliamentary Forum, Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference etc.).

In the session of a multilateral Assembly, the EP is normally represented by a permanent or an ad hoc delegation of several Members or by its President/Vice-President. EU national Parliaments either send a delegation of Members or they are represented by their Speaker/Deputy-Speaker. The EP position to be represented in a session is defined either by an EP resolution - in this case the ad hoc delegation or the President/VP has a clear mandate. The Chair of the ad hoc delegation has a special role to play in order to arrive to a common position.

3. Problems of coordination

The lack of satisfactory cooperation between the EP and national Parliaments can be seen for example in the following cases:

G8 & G20

The EP together with some of the EU national Parliaments are involved in the parliamentary dimensions of G8 and G20. This gives them the opportunity to influence the activity of these multilevel bodies in setting a global regulatory agenda. The Presidents and Speakers of the national Parliaments and the EP or their representatives exchange views and discuss the role of parliaments' best practices at the global scale, while ensuring democratic legitimacy, accountability and transparency of decision-making.

PCWTO

National Parliaments and the European Parliament could also better coordinate in the framework of the Parliamentary Conference of WTO, co-organised by the IPU and the European Parliament. National and European parliamentarians could help promoting greater public understanding of the trade agenda (not only regarding trade in industrial

goods and agricultural products, but also cutting-edge issues such as e-commerce, intellectual property rights, respect for social rights and biodiversity, cultural services, foreign investment etc.) It is particularly important given the WTO now has a direct bearing on lives of all European citizens.

Regional integrations

Finally, it would be meaningful to develop a European parliamentary dimension of the ongoing regional integration process, in Eastern Partnership countries, Latin America, Africa and South East Asia.

4. Potentials in reinforced cooperation

How to increase the EP and national Parliaments influence in the international multilateral Assemblies? It goes without saying that the keyword is the **reinforced cooperation**. There is indeed some potential to exploit and strengthen the EU parliamentary dimension in multilateral parliamentary Assemblies and international fora. The EU could have an increased weight in multilateral assemblies if the EP and EU national Parliaments could speak with one voice. It does not mean that we have to act always as "a block" but try to enhance our coordination on a case to case basis in each of these Assemblies.

5. Suggestions

What can be done in practical terms to facilitate this process?

1. The Parliament of the EU Presidency could elaborate jointly with the European Parliament, twice a year, **the calendar of meetings of all multilateral Assemblies** attended by the Representatives of the EP and national Parliaments. Such a **comprehensive planning** would allow organizing the work in the most rational way.

2. In order to ensure the best possible **coordination** of the positions defended by national Parliaments and EP in the framework of these Assemblies, it would be advised:

- to **establish working contacts**, **ahead of plenary meetings** in order to:
  - A. clearly **define the issues/agenda points** where this cooperation could lead to a tangible result;
  - B. **coordinate and** if possible **to find a common position** in order to defend in the most efficient way our values and interests**;**
  - C. **inform each other** at an early stage about **the difficulties which might arise** and try as much as possible to eliminate the controversy;
  - D. **decrease the level of mistrust** that sometimes exists between the national and European parliamentary levels.

- to build administrative bridges by **encouraging informal discussion** to get maximum information and establish a **strong working contact** amongst officials from the relevant services;

- to improve **visibility** of the reinforced cooperation between the EP and national Parliaments represented in the Assemblies by organizing **joint press conferences** and **statements** to be issued during plenary sessions of Assemblies or in response to some important, unforeseen international events.

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ANNEX

List and description of multilateral parliamentary assemblies and international fora

A. GLOBAL MULTILATERAL PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES (INSTITUTIONALIZED):

1. Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

It is the international organization of Parliaments, established in 1889. IPU is the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue and works for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy. To that end, it fosters contacts, co-ordination, and the exchange of experience among parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries; considers questions of international interest and concern and expresses its views on such issues in order to bring about action by parliaments and parliamentarians; contributes to the defence and promotion of human rights and contributes to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.

Membership/status:	EP: Associate Member NPs: All EU NPs and EU candidates are full members.
EP is represented by:	Vice-President
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	16-20 March 2014, Geneva (Switzerland)



2. Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (PCWTO)

It is a joint undertaking of the EP and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Its principal objective is to enhance external transparency of the World Trade Organization and make this inter-governmental organisation accountable to legislators as elected representatives of the people. It is aimed at strengthening democracy at the international level by bringing a parliamentary dimension to multilateral cooperation on trade issues.

Membership/status:	EP: Co-Chair. Member of the Steering Committee NPs: All EU NPs are full members. EU candidates: IC, FY, MN, TR are full members, SR is observer. BE, FR, SW and UK are members of the Steering Committee.
EP is represented by:	Ad -hoc delegation from INTA (6 MEPs). INTA chair co-chaired the session.
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year and on the occasion of WTO Ministerial Conference.
Next session: IPU-EP Steering Committee	11-12 February 2014, Brussels (The date of the next parliamentary conference on the WTO has not yet been fixed.)

B. MULTILATERAL PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES IN SECURITY/DEFENCE:



3. Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE PA)

It is the parliamentary dimension of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, with 57 participating States. The primary task of the 323-member Assembly is to facilitate inter-parliamentary dialogue, an important aspect of the overall effort to meet the challenges of democracy throughout the OSCE area. It is the partner of the EP in International Election Observation Missions.

Membership/status:	EP: Observer (International partner) NPs: All EU NPs and EU candidates are full members.
EP is represented by:	Vice-president
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	28 June -2 July 2014, Baku (Azerbaijan)

NATO Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire de l'OTAN

4. NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA)

It is the inter-parliamentary organisation of legislators from the member countries of the North Atlantic Alliance as well as 13 associate members, including the EP. The principal objective of the Assembly is to foster mutual understanding among NATO parliamentarians of the key security challenges facing the transatlantic partnership. Assembly discussions and debates make a parliamentary contribution to the development of the consensus that must underpin NATO policies.

Membership/status:	EP: Own member delegation (10 delegates) NPs: EU NPs are members, except AT, FI, SW are associated members. EU candidates: IC and TR are full members; FY, MN and SR are associated members. President:UK, VPs: BE, FR, DE, RO
EP is represented by:	Delegation for relations with the NATO PA (10 MEP full members, 10 MEP substitutes). Members of SEDE.
Frequency of sessions:	Twice a year - Spring session+ Annual session
Next session:	30 May -2 June 2014 Lithuania (Vilnius)

C. MULTILATERAL COORDINATION FORA (AD-HOC):

5. G8 Speakers' Conference

The aim of the meeting is to promote "an exchange of experiences, opinions and information, primarily on parliamentary matters such as the role of parliaments and the organization of parliamentary functions in a rapidly changing world" in the parliament chairing the G8 group (CA, DE, FR, IT, JP, RU, UK, US). The topics of the conferences are, in line with the original mandate of the group, mainly parliament-related issues, such as evaluating activities of international parliamentary assemblies and inter-parliamentary relations, the role of parliaments in the promotion of intercultural dialogue and social integration, or relationships between parliaments and civil society.

Membership/status:	EP: Full member. NPs: DE, FR, IT, UK are full members.
EP is represented by:	President
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year, after the Summit
Next session:	September 2014, Russia (Moscow)

6. G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Consultation Forum

It is an annual exchange of views between Speakers of the G20 countries. It is a good opportunity to conduct bilateral meetings with BRICS countries' speakers.

Membership/status:	EP: Full member NPs: DE, FR, IT, UK are full members, ES is invited. EU candidates: TR is a full member.

EP is represented by:	Vice-President
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	Tbc

D. REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES/CONFERENCES:

7. Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

PACE is one of the statutory organs of the Council of Europe with 47 member states. Unlike the EP its powers extend only to the ability to investigate, recommend and advise. Even so, its recommendations on issues such as human rights have significant weight in the European political context. It has an intensive cooperation with the EP in this field as well as in international enforcement of justice, culture and education. With the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights the EU became subject to its human rights law and external monitoring.

Membership/status:	EP: International partner NPs: All EU NPs and all EU candidates are full Members. President: FR, Permanent VPs: DE, FR, IT, UK Other VPs: AT, BE, ES, LU, MT, PL, RO, SK, SV
EP is represented by:	President/Vice-president
Frequency of sessions:	One session divided into four part-sessions a year
Next session:	27-31 January 2014, Strasbourg

8. **Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA UfM)**
(Former Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA))

The Assembly is the parliamentary arm of the Union for the Mediterranean, which was established in July 2008 in an effort to upgrade the former Euromed Partnership/ Barcelona Process. It consists of parliamentarians from the EU member states and the ten Mediterranean partners (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey), MEPs, as well as members from the parliaments of the European Mediterranean partner countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Monaco and Montenegro) and from the Mauritanian parliament. The EMPA first plenary session was held in 2004.

Membership/status:	EP: Component and co-presidency NPs: All EU NPs are full members. EU candidates: MN and TR are full members.
EP is represented by:	Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly - Union for the Mediterranean (49 MEP full members, 49 MEP substitutes).
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year (at least)
Next session:	8 February 2014, Jordan (tbc)



9. **Asia -Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP)**

It plays a crucial role in promoting mutual understanding among the people and countries of Asia and Europe. It adds the complement of parliamentary diplomacy to an ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) process otherwise dominated by intergovernmental meetings.

Membership/status:	EP: Full member NPs: All EU NPs are full members.
EP is represented by:	Ad hoc delegation
Frequency of sessions:	Every two years, in the place of the Summit shortly before it
Next session:	Autumn 2014, Europe. Venue tbc. (Italy/Brussels)

10. Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC)

Established in 1993 as a parliamentary dimension of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the PABSEC has proved to be an effective forum for inter-parliamentary dialogue in the wider Black Sea region. With a membership of the twelve BSEC Member States, the PABSEC facilitates the mobilization of efforts by the national parliaments aimed at regional cooperation, promoting democratic values, the rule of law, pluralistic society and market economy.

Membership/status:	EP: Observer NPs: BG, GR, RO are full members. EU candidates: SR and TR are full members.
EP is represented by:	Vice-president/AFET rapporteur or the EURONEST PA Co-president. Ad hoc delegation from D-EEA (Delegation for relations with Switzerland and Norway and to the EU-Iceland JPC and the European Economic Area (EEA) JPC)
Frequency of sessions:	Twice a year
Next session:	18-19 December 2013, Tbilisi (Georgia)

11. Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)

Established in 1991, a forum for political dialogue between parliamentarians from the Baltic Sea Region aims at raising awareness and opinion on issues of current political interest and relevance for the Baltic Sea Region. It promotes and drives various initiatives and efforts to support a sustainable environmental, social and economic development of the Baltic Sea Region. It strives at enhancing the visibility of the Baltic Sea Region and its issues in a wider European context. BSPC gathers parliamentarians from 11 national parliaments, 11 regional parliaments and 5 parliamentary organizations around the Baltic Sea. The BSPC thus constitutes a unique parliamentary bridge between all the EU- and non-EU countries of the Baltic Sea Region. BSPC external interfaces

include parliamentary, governmental, sub-regional and other organizations in the Baltic Sea Region -notably the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the Baltic Sea States Sub-Regional Cooperation (BSSSC) and of the whole Northern Dimension area.

Membership/status:	EP: Full member NPs: DE, DK, ET, FI, LT, LV, PL, SW are full members. EU candidates: IC is a full member.
EP is represented by:	Vice - president and/or SINEEA chair.
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	24-26 August 2014, Olsztyn (Poland)



12. Nordic Council (NC)

It is the parliamentary branch of Nordic cooperation, and consists of senior representatives of the parliaments of the five Member States of the Nordic Union.

Membership/status:	EP: Observer NPs: DK, FI, SW are full members. ET, LT, LV are observers. EU candidates: IC is a full member.
EP is represented by:	Vice president and/or SINEEA chair
Frequency of sessions:	Twice a year, annual session and theme session
Next session:	7-9 April 2014, Iceland



13. West Nordic Council (WNC)

It is a cooperation forum of the parliaments and governments of Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Iceland founded in 1985. The EP holds annual interparliamentary meetings with the WNC.

Membership/status:	EP: Guest EU candidates: IC is a full member.
EP is represented by:	SINEEA chair

Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	7-9 April 2014, Iceland

14. Barents Parliamentary Conference (BPC)

It is the parliamentary branch of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (DK, FI, IC, NO, RU, SW and the European Commission). The participants can be elected members of local and regional as well as national and indigenous peoples' assemblies in the Barents Region.

Membership/status:	EP: Full member NPs: DK, FI and SW are full members. EU candidates: IC is a full member.
EP is represented by:	Vice president and/or SINEEA Chair
Frequency of sessions:	Every two years
Next session:	2015

15. Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (CPAR)

It is a parliamentary body comprising delegations appointed by the national parliaments of the Arctic states (CA, DK, FI, IC, NO, RU, SW, US.) and the EP. The conference also includes permanent participants representing indigenous peoples, as well as observers.

Membership/status:	EP: Full member NPs: DK, FI and SW are full members. EU candidates: IC is a full member.

EP is represented by:	Ad hoc delegation or Vice-president/SINEEA chair
Frequency of sessions:	Every two years
Next session:	9-11 September 2014, Whitehorse, Yukon (Canada)

16. Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum (NDPF)

It is a parliamentary conference comprising delegations appointed by the national parliaments of the Northern Dimension IC, NO, RU and the EP. The Nordic Council, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the Barents Parliamentary Conference, the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, the Baltic Assembly are also represented. The conference also includes participants representing indigenous peoples.

Membership/status:	EP: Full member EU candidate: IC is a full member.
EP is represented by:	Ad hoc delegation/SINEEA Chair
Frequency of sessions:	Every two years
Next session:	2015

17. Cetinje Parliamentary Forum (CPF)

It is parliamentary forum founded in 2004, which aims to encourage and promote parliamentary dialogue and cooperation throughout the Balkans between the countries of South- Eastern Europe. It offers the possibility to share experiences and best practices and to rationalize parliamentary work, especially in relation to the implementation of EU standards into national legislation and in other issues of common regional interest.

Membership/status:	EP: Ad-hoc participation of AFET Members (observer) NPs: CR, SL are full members. EU candidates: FY, MN, SR, TR are full members. EU potential candidates: AL, BH are full members.
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	2014, Montenegro



18. Parliamentary Assembly of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP PA)

It is a new assembly, which is aimed to transform the ad hoc parliamentary dimension of the South East European Cooperation Process into a permanent inter-parliamentary forum.

Membership/status:	EP: Ad-hoc participation of AFET Members (observer) NPs: BG, CR, GR, RO, SL are full members. EU candidates: FY, MN, SR, TR are full members. EU potential candidates: AL, BH are full members. Other: MO is a full member.
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	Inaugural session in 2014/2015 (tbc)



19. Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF)

It is an association of the parliaments of Francophone countries. It was established in Luxembourg in 1967. It aims among others to represent the interests of Francophone countries in international level, as well as to foster democracy, rule of law and human rights, to support the international role of members of parliament and to

develop and provide information about the cultures and peoples who speak and use the French language. It has four regional assemblies (African, American, Asian, European). The European is called l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie Région Europe.

Membership/status:	EP: Forum des francophones du Parlement européen (observer) NPs: BE, FR, GR, LU are full members. BG, HU, LV, PL, RO are associated members. CR and LT are observers. EU candidates: FY is associated member, SR is observer.
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	3-8 July 2014, Ottawa (Canada)

F. MULTILATERAL PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES WHERE ONLY EU NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS ARE MEMBERS:

20. Central European Initiative Parliamentary Dimension (CEI PD)

It was established in 1989 as a first forum of cooperation among the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Cooperation among the parliaments of CEI Member States has always been an important part of the CEI operation. The Parliamentary Dimension, along with the Governmental and the Business Dimensions, is positioned as one of the three pillars of the CEI.

Membership/status:	NPs: AT, BG, CR, CZ, HU, IT, PL, RO, SK, SL are full members. EU candidates: FY, MN and SR are full members.
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	Autumn 2014, Austria



21. Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO)

Orthodoxy in its social, historical and spiritual sense constitutes a common historical cultural tradition and religious expression for approximately half of the population of Europe. In a context of historical changes in progress throughout Europe personalities from Europe, who participated in the 1993 Conference held by the Hellenic Parliament, detected the need for the presence of Orthodoxy, as a common cultural expression of a large number of European citizens, in the shaping of contemporary Europe.

Membership/status:	NPs: BG, CY, CZ, ET, FI, GR, LT, LV, PL, RO, SK are full members. EU candidates: MN and SR are full members.
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	2014, venue tbc.

CPA COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

22. Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

It connects, develops, promotes and supports Parliamentarians and their staff to identify benchmarks of good governance and the implementation of the enduring values of the Commonwealth of Nations (formerly British Commonwealth).

Membership/status:	NPs: CY, MT, UK are full members.
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	October 2014, Cameroon



23. Baltic Assembly (BA)

It is an organisation established for coordinating the three Baltic countries' cooperation on the parliamentary level, discussing issues and projects of mutual interest, addressing common problems, and expressing a common position concerning international, economic, political and cultural issues. Member states of the Baltic Assembly use trilateral cooperation as a force multiplier in international affairs.

Membership/status:	NPs: ET, LT, LV are full members.
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	2014, Estonia



24. Benelux Parlament

It provides the governments with advice on economic and cross-frontier cooperation. Its recommendations may also concern other matters if common interests or current events so dictate. The Benelux Parliament also keeps the 3 governments informed about the opinions that move in the parliamentary assemblies from which its members originate.

Membership/status:	NPs: BE, NL, LU are full members.
Frequency of sessions:	Three times a year
Next session:	2014, Luxembourg

G. MULTILATERAL PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES WHERE ONLY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS INVOLVED:

25. ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EU JPA)

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly was created out of a common desire to bring together the Members of the European Parliament and the elected representatives of the African, Caribbean and Pacific states ("ACP countries") that have signed the Cotonou Agreement.

Membership/status:	Component and co-presidency
EP is represented by:	Delegation to the ACP-EU JPA (78 MEPs)
Frequency of sessions:	Twice a year
Next session:	17-19 March 2014, Strasbourg (France)

26. EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly

It is a parliamentary forum to promote political association and further economic integration between the EU and the Eastern European Partners (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The participation of Belarus will be examined, as well, when conditions are met). Euronest is to contribute to the strengthening, development and visibility of the Eastern Partnership, as the institution responsible for parliamentary consultation, supervision and monitoring.

Membership/status:	Component and co-presidency

EP is represented by:	Delegation to the Euronest PA (60 MEPs)
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	November 2014, Yerevan (Armenia), tbc

27. Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EUROLAT PA)

It is the parliamentary institution of the Bi-regional Strategic Association established in June 1999 in the context of the EU-LAC (European Union-Latin American and Caribbean) Summits. EuroLat adopts and submits resolutions and recommendations to the various organizations, institutions and ministerial groups responsible for development of the Bi-regional Strategic Association. Its members are from the Andean Parliament (Parlandino), Central American Parliament (Parlacen), Latin American Parliament (Parlatino), Parliament of Mercosur, Congress of Mexico, National Congress of Chile and from the EP.

Membership/status:	Component and co-presidency
EP is represented by:	Delegation to the EuroLat Parliamentary Assembly (75 MEPs)
Frequency of plenary sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	24-27 March 2014, Brussels (Belgium) or 27-29 March 2014, Athens (Greece)

28. Pan-African Parliament

It is the legislative body of the African Union, its inaugural session was in 2004. Its 235 parliamentary representatives are elected by the legislatures of 47 of the 54 African Union Member States rather than being directly elected in their own capacity.

Membership/status:	Partner organisation
EP is represented by:	Delegation for relations with the PAP (12 MEPs)
Frequency of sessions:	Twice a year
Next session:	31 March - 1 April 2014, Brussels (Parliamentary pre-summit to the EU-Africa Summit)

29. ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

It is the parliamentary assembly of the ASEAN member countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam).

Membership/status:	EP: Observer (Dialogue partner)
EP is represented by:	Ad hoc delegation (3 MEPs) from ASEAN delegation's Bureau
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	14-20 September 2014, Vientiane (Laos)

CARIFORUM

30. CARIFORUM Parliamentary Committee

The Parliamentary Committee comprises two delegations with an equal number of members from the EP and from Parliaments of the CARIFORUM states (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago) respectively. The EP gave its assent to the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in 2009. Article 231 of the agreement provides for the creation of a CARIFORUM-EU Parliamentary Committee, whose main task is to monitor the implementation of the trade and development agreement and provide recommendations to the CARIFORUM-EU Joint Council and Trade and Development Committee.

Membership/status:	Component and co-presidency
EP is represented by:	Delegation to CARIFORUM-EU Parliamentary Committee (9 MEPs of INTA, 5 MEPs from DEVE)
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next plenary session:	Spring 2014 (tbc), Brussels (Belgium)

H. MULTILATERAL PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES WHERE ONLY EU CANDIDATE COUNTRIES' NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS ARE MEMBERS:

PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES (PUIC)

31. Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC)

It is a parliamentary union of the 53 parliaments of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

Membership/status:	EU candidate: TR is full member.
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	2014



32. Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA)

It is a parliamentary union of the four Turkish speaking countries, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzistan and Turkey.

Membership/status:	EU candidate: TR is full member.
Frequency of sessions:	Once a year
Next session:	2014

EU Member States:

AT	Austria
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CR	Croatia
CY	Cyprus
CZ	Czech Republic
DE	Germany
DK	Denmark
ET	Estonia
FI	Finland
FR	France
GR	Greece
HU	Hungary
IR	Ireland
IT	Italy
LT	Latvia
LU	Luxembourg
LV	Lithuania
MT	Malta
NL	The Netherlands
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SK	Slovakia
SL	Slovenia
SP	Spain
SW	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom

EU Candidate countries:

IC	Iceland
FY	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
MN	Montenegro
SR	Serbia
TR	Turkey

Other countries:

AL	Albania
BH	Bosnia Herzegovina
CA	Canada
JP	Japan
MO	Moldova
NO	Norway
RU	Russia
US	United States

Membership of National Parliaments of EU Member and Candidate Countries and the European Parliament
in Multilateral Assemblies and International Fora in 2014

		EP	AT	BE	BG	CR	CY	CZ	DE	DK	ET	FI	FR	GR	HU	IR	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SK	SL	SP	SW	UK	IC	FY	MN	SR	TR	Type
1	**IPU**	A	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	EP and EU National Parliaments
2	**PCWTO**	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	O	M	
3	**OSCEPA**	O	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	
4	**NATOPA**	M	A	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	A	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	A	M	M	A	A	A	M	
5	**G8**	M							M				M				M													M						
6	**G20**	M							M				M				M											O		M					M	
7	**PACE**	IP	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	
8	**PAUFM**	C	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M			M		M	
9	**ASEP**	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M						
10	**PABSEC**	O			M									M											M								M	M	
11	**BSPC**	M							M	M	M	M						M		M			M						M		M				
12	**NC**	O								M	O	M						O		O									M		M				
13	**WNC**	G																													M					
14	**BPC**	M								M		M																	M		M					
15	**CPAR**	M								M		M																	M		M					
16	**NDPF**	M																													M					
17	**CPF**	O				M																					M					M	M	M	M	
18	**SEECPPA**	O			M	M								M											M		M					M	M	M	M	
19	**APF**	O		M	A	O							M	M	A			O	M	A			A		A							A		O		
20	**CEIPD**		M		M	M		M							M		M						M		M	M	M					M	M	M		Only EU National Parliaments
21	**IAO**				M		M	M			M	M		M				M		M			M		M	M							M	M		
22	**CPA**						M														M									M						
23	**BALTIC**										M							M		M																
24	**BENELUX**				M														M			M														
25	**ACP-EU**	C																																		Only EP
26	**EURONEST**	C																																		
27	**EUROLAT**	C																																		
28	**PAP**	O																																		
29	**AIPA**	O																																		
30	**CARIFORUM**	C																																		
31	**PUIC**																																		M	Only EU Candidates Nat. Parl.
32	**TURKPA**																																		M	

M - Member, A - Associated member, O - Observer, C - Component, IP - International partner, G - Guest