

Dear Members of Parliament and in IST interested community,

the EPRI Secretariat is pleased to send you the first EPRI Newsletter since the EPRI knowledge project has started in August 2004. Since this time a lot of events happened, i.e. 7th EPRI conference in Stockholm. This Newsletter will give you the opportunity to get informed about news and upcoming events within the next months. Thus, the present December Newsletter 2004 will include the following themes:

- **EPRI conference: documentation on-line**  
Conference documentation and snapshots available on the EPRI web site
- **EPRI Working groups: taking off the ground**  
Parliamentarians establishing working groups on four main activity lines
- **EPRI Study: High Participation in the 1st Round**
- **EPRI Workshop: "Beyond the web: Parliamentarians & communication"**  
High level event planned for February

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### **EPRI conference: documentation on-line**

The summary of the 2004 EPRI conference in Stockholm is available on the EPRI web site. It includes the conference agenda, proceedings of the conference, the conference declaration as well as downloads of speeches and presentations along with links to related EU sites and to European national governments.

[www.epri.org](http://www.epri.org)

### **EPRI Working groups: taking off the ground**

As announced during the 2004 EPRI conference, three working groups have been to be established. Starting with an initial group of parliamentarians, they are concentrating on:

1. eDemocracy,
2. ICT for Parliamentarians, and
3. IST/ICT policy.

The idea is to prepare the next EPRI conferences according to a working agenda that is being discussed in the working groups. The working groups will be supported by the EPRI co-operation and dissemination platform. Until now, there is considerable interest of parliamentarians to join the working groups. Thus, the working groups are characterised by participants across Europe. In case you would like to join, please send an e-mail with reference to the title of working group to:

[info@epri.org](mailto:info@epri.org)

You will receive a confirmation of registration as well as a detailed agenda and time schedule.

### **EPRI Study: High Participation in the 1st Round**

Also part of EPRI knowledge is to investigate the relation of European parliamentarians to ICT/IST. The first study "Awareness, understanding and activity levels of European Parliamentarians" is currently carried out by the EPRI team. It focuses on:

- the use of the available technologies by MPs,
- their perception of the impact on their different roles as a Parliamentarian, and
- possible new directions for future technology development.

The study builds on a questionnaire survey and telephone interviews of parliamentarians all across Europe. The response rate as well as the interest in this study have proven to be considerable. The wide spectrum and geographic origin of persons interviewed allows a trans-European overview. The insight gained will be integrated in the EPRI workshops and working groups. Furthermore, the study will be available on the EPRI web site in late 2005.

A second study will start in May 2005. Its title: "The Role of the governmental and parliamentary sector in the development of IST". All EPRI studies aim to support the EPRI workshops and conferences. Consultation on the second study will take place in February; please send any input you may have to:

info@epri.org.

### **EPRI Workshop: "Beyond the web: Parliamentarians & communication"**

The EPRI workshop "Beyond the Web – Parliamentarians & communications" is scheduled to take place on February 22-23, 2005 in Brussels. It will be animated by Prof. Stephen Coleman (Oxford Internet Institute) and has been designed in consultation with the EPRI Steering Group composed of several ICT-involved Parliamentarians; i.e. Richard Allan MP, UK; Jyrki Kasvi MP, Finland, José Magalhães MP, Portugal.

The workshop will look at how ICTs have changed political communications - and to what effect. The workshop participants will attempt to draw up a charter for MP's use of new technologies in their communications effort. It will further:

- examine the use of web communications by Parliamentarians,
- assess its impact (successes and failures) and
- explore next generation communications strategies and technologies.

For more information about the workshop or post-workshop reports please contact Jo Osborne.

E-Mail: jo@polpit.com or phone: +32 2 6443777

The next EPRI workshop will take place in May 2005. Consultation on the development of the programme will take place in February. For inputs, please also contact Jo Osborne.

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In terms of questions related to EPRI as well as the EPRI knowledge project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

info@epri.org

In this respect the EPRI Secretariat would like to wish all of you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.



Your EPRI Secretariat  
December 2004