

UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

ASSOCIATION DES SECRETAIRES
GENERAUX DES PARLEMENTS



ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES
GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTS

COMMUNICATION

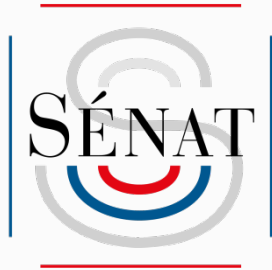
by

Mr Philippe DELIVET
Director of International Relations and Protocol of the French Senate

on

“Cooperation between parliamentary administrations”

Luanda Session
October 2023



COOPERATION BETWEEN PARLIAMENTARY ADMINISTRATIONS

**Interparliamentary Union 2023 in Luanda -
Association of General Secretaries of Parliaments
Presentation by Mr Philippe DELIVET - Director of
International Relations and Protocol of the French
Senate**





TO BEGIN WITH

In the French Senate, cooperation between parliamentary administrations takes place in both **a bilateral and multilateral framework**, in accordance with the “cooperation strategy” adopted by the executive of the Senate in March 2020.

1.

THE BILATERAL COOPERATION

- A) Cooperation agreements
- B) Exchanges of civil servants
- C) Hosting foreign delegations

A) COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

- The Senate has signed 32 cooperation agreements with foreign parliamentary assemblies.
- In 2022 a declaration of intent was signed with the *Verkhovna Rada* of Ukraine and a cooperation agreement with the *Land of Saarland*.
- In January 2023, a protocol agreement with the *Ukrainian Rada* was signed by the two General Secretaries.
- Of the 32 agreements, around ten were the subject of regular activities during 2022, such as talks, visits or on-site missions (for example on legislative procedure, control, communication or the evaluation of public policies).
- In parallel with the European twinning, hosting of 3 Quaestors of the Moroccan Chamber of Counselors

B) EXCHANGES OF CIVIL SERVANTS

- Exchange of civil servants within the framework of the *Weimar* format (the Polish Senate and the German Bundesrat).
- Exchange of civil servants under the administrative cooperation protocol between the Senate and the *Saarland* (Germany).
- Hosting of a *Rada* official for a week.

C) HOSTING FOREIGN DELEGATIONS

- 17 cooperation initiatives in 2022, gathering 149 participants, including 11 members of parliament and 25 civil servants.
- Between January and October 2023, 17 delegations has been welcomed.

2.

THE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

- A) European twinning with the Chamber of Councillors of the King of Morocco
- B) The International Short Programme on the organisation of parliamentary work (annual in French and every 2 years in English)
- C) Participation in the European Union's INTER PARES programme
- D) The DEMOCRACY SUPPORT NETWORK of the European Parliament
- E) Cooperation with the Asia Parliamentary Centre
- F) Interparliamentary assemblies



A. EUROPEAN TWINNING WITH THE CHAMBER OF COUNCILLORS OF THE KING OF MOROCCO

- Twinning from May 2021 to March 2023
- The French Senate was the project leader, with the Italian Senate as junior partner, while the German Bundesrat, the Belgian Senate, the Polish Senate, the Romanian Senate and the Portuguese National Assembly also participated.
- In 2022: 18 activities, including 13 missions by Senate experts to Rabat, 4 steering committees, 1 mid-term seminar.

B. THE INTERNATIONAL SHORT PROGRAMME ON THE ORGANISATION OF PARLIAMENTARY WORK (ANNUAL IN FRENCH AND EVERY 2 YEARS IN ENGLISH)

- Programme on the organisation of parliamentary work, organised jointly with the INSP and the National Assembly.
- The 27th edition, which took place from 14 to 25 November 2022, was attended by 21 participants, including 1 parliamentarian, 17 parliamentary officials, 1 official from a ministry and 2 from the private sector. The event brought together 14 countries.
- The working theme was "*The path of the law, from drafting to evaluation*", divided into some thirty working sessions.

C. PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION'S INTER PARES PROGRAMME

- The programme was launched by the European Commission and the Senate has responded to it, provided that the objectives are consistent with its parliamentary cooperation strategy and works with other parliamentary assemblies.
- The Senate of Côte d'Ivoire, the Parliament of Montenegro, the Parliament of Libya, the Parliament of Peru and the Senate of Chile have all benefited from this programme.
- The Senate continued these activities in 2023, in particular for the benefit of the Ivorian Senate.
- It has expressed an interest in working within the framework of INTER PARES with the Rada of Ukraine.

D. THE DEMOCRACY SUPPORT NETWORK OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- It is a network created on the initiative of the European Parliament. Bringing together officials from the Member States since 2020, the network promotes bilateral and multilateral cooperation initiatives undertaken by parliaments.

E. COOPERATION WITH THE ASIA PARLIAMENTARY CENTRE

- Memorandum of cooperation with the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia, signed in 2019. It was extended to the 10 ASEAN countries in 2022 with the joint signing of a 3-year memorandum of understanding with the Asia Parliamentary Centre.
- A number of activities have been carried out in this context, including the presentation of the Senate's international activities and the sharing of experiences and concepts relating to parliamentary diplomacy.
- The French Senate attended a seminar in Cambodia in October 2022.

F. INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES

- The French Senate appoints a delegation to take part in various international parliamentary assemblies such as the IPU, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, the Assembly for the Mediterranean, the Assembly for the Union of the Mediterranean and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.
- The Senate is also an observer member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.
- Some interparliamentary assemblies work on thematic issues. This is the case of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.
- In 2023, a French delegation took part in the 48th session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie.

3.

OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION

- A) The activity of the Senate through interparliamentary friendship groups
- B) The interparliamentary dimension of protocol
- C) Decentralised cooperation

A. THE ACTIVITY OF THE SENATE THROUGH INTERPARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

- Through its friendship groups, the Senate is very active internationally. The institution has 81 friendship groups and 4 information groups.
- In 2022, the friendship groups made 29 international trips and hosted 11 meetings.
- Since the beginning of 2023, the friendship groups have organised 57 events of all kinds in the Senate and 9 trips abroad by French delegations have already been organised.
- Friendship groups can act as vehicles for interparliamentary cooperation by identifying needs during dialogue with their counterparts.

B. THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY DIMENSION OF PROTOCOL

- The activities of the protocol can sometimes take on a dimension of cooperation between parliaments. For example, during the State visit of Charles III on 21 September 2023, His Majesty was accompanied by a delegation of British parliamentarians who met with their French counterparts who were members of the friendship group.

C. DECENTRALISED COOPERATION

- The Senate acts as an intermediary for the external action of local and regional authorities.
- The main actions undertaken are :
 - Developing the Senate's role in providing information and promoting local initiatives.
 - Organising events to promote the external action of local and regional authorities. For example, a round table was organised on 10 July 2023 on the theme of "*French and Ukrainian local authorities facing the challenge of war in Ukraine*".
 - The organisation of conferences on decentralised cooperation with a specific country or region.



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**

M. Philippe DELIVET
p.delivet@senat.fr

