

# Knowledge & Power

The Essential Connection between  
Research and the Work of Legislature



William H. Robinson

---

“Knowledge will forever govern ignorance;  
and if a people would govern themselves,  
they must first arm themselves with the  
power that knowledge brings.”

James Madison (4th President of the  
United States, and a principal contributor  
to the U.S. Constitution)



# THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION



Assemblies from the following countries  
take part in the activities of the ECPRD:

Albania  
Andorra  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
France  
Germany  
Georgia  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Moldova  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
San Marino  
Slovak Republic  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Turkey  
Ukraine  
United Kingdom  
United States of America

.....

This paper was prepared by Mr William H. Robinson, Senior Specialist in Public Policy at the U.S. Congressional Research Service.

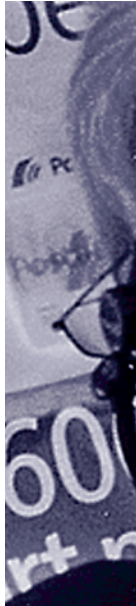
The manuscript was completed in September 2002.

The opinions expressed in this paper are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the ECPRD.

Reproduction and translation, except for commercial purposes, are authorised provided the source is acknowledged and provided the publisher is given prior notice and provided with a copy of the publication.

Publisher: Dick Toornstra  
ECPRD  
c/o European Parliament  
B - 1047 Brussels

# PREFACE



This paper is the fourth in the current series of publications on issues in parliamentary practice from the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (EPCRD).

*Knowledge and Power: The Essential Connection between Research and the Work of the Legislature* examines the contribution to be made by legislative research towards improving legislative decision-making and strengthening democracy. As a leading practitioner in the field, the author, William H. Robinson, shares his thoughts on ways of enhancing the usefulness of legislative research and the criteria by which such efforts should be judged.

It is often the case that basic, yet essential information about the workings of parliaments is diffuse and difficult to track down. In an appendix, this EPCRD paper also sets out the current position of parliamentary research services across Europe. Readers will find it a valuable companion to *Parliamentary Library, Research and Information Services of Western Europe* edited by Jennifer Tanfield and published by the EPCRD last year.

The EPCRD is a cooperative body operating under the aegis of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. It is primarily an international network of research and documentation departments, but it also brings together officials responsible for information gathering and dissemination and the preparation of

legislation. Its aim is to facilitate contacts and exchanges between the officials of member parliaments which will be of benefit to all.

Founded in 1977 by the Conference of Speakers of European Parliamentary Assemblies, which delegated the task of setting up and administering the Centre to the Presidents of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the EPCRD comprises 43 member countries and 7 guest countries, and thereby covers a total of 70 parliamentary chambers.

The main activities of the EPCRD are seminars hosted by member parliaments on subjects of relevance to parliamentary officials. The two main emphases in recent years have been, broadly, how parliaments should react to the challenges of new technology, and parliamentary management and democratisation. In addition, there are working groups which meet annually to consider the technical aspects of information and communications technology, and macroeconomic policy.

The Secretariat of the EPCRD is based at the European Parliament in Brussels. It is staffed by permanent officials of the Parliament, and acts as a clearing house for requests for information involving comparative research. It also runs the EPCRD website to be found at <http://www.ecprd.org>

# Contents



sections

pages

|   |  |    |
|---|--|----|
| Preface   | .....  | 3  |
| Foreword  | .....  | 5  |
| Introduction  | <b>1</b> .....   | 1  |
| Legislative Research Contributes to Sound Legislative Decision-Making | <b>2</b> .....   | 1  |
| Legislative Research Contributes to a More Vibrant Democracy          | <b>3</b> .....   | 1  |
| Steps to Strengthen Legislative Research                              | <b>4</b> .....   | 1  |
| Criteria and Performance Characteristics                              | <b>5</b> .....   | 1  |
| Status of Parliamentary Research Services in the ECPRD                | <b>6</b> .....   | 1  |
| Parliamentary Research and Library Services in the 21st Century       | <b>7</b> .....   | 1  |
| Appendix A:   | Criteria and Performance Characteristics for Parliamentary Information Providers | 11 |
| Appendix B:   | European Parliamentary Research Organizations                                    | 11 |

# Foreword



Judging from debates at various conferences amongst colleagues, the changing role and function of parliamentary research, analysis and documentation services is a matter of keen interest.

The European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) actively participates in these debates and over the last few years has organised a series of conferences with subjects ranging from the independence of research services to the use of regulatory impact assessment as a means of analysing legislation.

The changing role of research and documentation is of course due to a wide variety of developments, although a few can be identified as universally applicable. Without listing each and every cause, it is clear that the revolution in information technology and the globalisation of policy issues have had the most impact.

Influence has also been brought to bear on the work of parliamentarians and their relationship with the executive or government by the changing role of political parties, non-governmental organisations, the overwhelming presence of the media and the expectation that everything should be instantly deliverable.

Equally, legislation has in many cases become a highly complex and technical matter strengthening the government's position. As the key public player, the government possesses far more knowledge and technical expertise than parliaments will ever have. The question of how to balance the relationship between parliament and government is thus very

much at the forefront of our debates.

Indeed, very few parliaments put together comprehensive legislative proposals. The majority simply amend government proposals or instruct the executive to initiate proposals in a specific domain. Some observers even argue that parliaments will become less involved in the technical process of legislation and will have to concentrate more on strengthening their control, their capacity for supervision and their ability for trend monitoring which will allow them to offer alternative policy options.

How then can this new thinking be developed into organisational structures? It is clear from this study that there is no single role model to suit everyone. Some parliaments opt for a small analysis unit with all research being done by externals either via outsourcing or specific contracts; others go for the in-house model and build up sizeable services in one central unit which caters for all clients. Naturally, all kinds of variations exist between these two extreme examples.

However, what can be recognised is that the role of parliamentary committees, either standing or ad hoc, is increasing everywhere and that most of the legislative work is being carried out here rather than in plenary sessions. As a consequence many parliaments have decided to strengthen those support services which deal directly with committee activities. Often this has resulted in the creation of policy clusters composed of related parliamentary committees assisted by a permanent, integrated group of researchers and administrators.

It has been argued that such an approach has increased flexibility and the capacity to bring together various subject disciplines into a faster, tailored and more relevant assistance on issues of direct parliamentary interest.

In such a model, the general information and documentation services remain a central unit catering for requests from individual Members, committees and other parliamentary bodies.

Furthermore, an increasing number of governments understand that strengthening the quality of legislation is in the interest of all parties concerned, and legislative proposals should be presented in a more coherent and comprehensive context. Thus, the texts submitted to parliament should contain not only the draft bill, but also a wide array of data which were used by government to elaborate the proposal. These data provide an insight into the potential ecological, budgetary, economical, social, etc. impact of the proposed regulation. They also indicate why the government has opted for a particular course of action, what methodology was used in the process and how the societal consultation process had been organised.

Such detailed information will naturally influence the parliaments' need for additional research. Fundamental research will be replaced by applied research. We have already seen that some parliaments have concluded 'contracts' with the government on what the minimal technical and methodology requirements which must be respected

in each legislative proposal should be.

The advent of the democratic conscience is also strengthening the need for accountability and proportionality in the way powers vested in the European institutions are exercised. This need is expressed more especially in transparency, clarity and a willingness to stand up to scrutiny. The European Commission has already declared its willingness to provide, as of 2003, such a systematic assessment of its legislative proposals.

Apart from these considerations we can also observe a growing need to act, as a public administration, more productively and more competitively. The insistence in getting more (products) in return for less (money) is a phenomenon seen in practically all public services worldwide. In conjunction with the developments outlined earlier, this is leading to a quest for the best models and practices.

It is in these matters that the sharing of experiences by parliamentary colleagues in the framework of the ECPRD achieves its proper significance.

Bill Robinson, an American senior specialist in public policy and the author of this study, has been at the forefront of this debate for many years. Instrumental in the implementation of the US aid policy for emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe and a long-standing chair of the Parliamentary Section of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), he has first-hand experience of the various models and is deeply conscious of the need to preserve



proven democratic rules and procedures, whilst at the same time allowing variations for different cultures and traditions.

In submitting his paper Bill Robinson wrote: 'Many of the ideas contained in this paper have been expressed in piecemeal fashion in other forums and formats. Some of these thoughts were aired first in ECPRD presentations in Brussels, Strasbourg and Kiev; others were presented at meetings of IFLA and/or in IFLA publications. Still others have been prepared for other outlets. Some of the ideas have appeared in published papers; others have not moved beyond the level of "gray literature". However, much of the material, especially the recent survey of ECPRD research organizations in 2002, is new. Much is also reformulated and brought up to

date. I hope there is some merit in bringing these old and new pieces together in one place, in a more coherent format. Despite my intentions and efforts, only the reader can render judgment on whether or not I have succeeded'.

The ECPRD is grateful to Bill Robinson for accepting the challenge to produce this study and hopes that it will contribute to the strengthening of parliaments' role in the legislative process and thus in improving democratic governance.

---

Dick TOORNSTRA  
Co-Director, ECPRD



# Introduction

The founding fathers of the U.S. Constitution had an abiding faith in the power that knowledge bestows. The notion that “knowledge is power” dates back to the teachings of philosophers (from Bacon to Nietzsche), and was understood and practiced long before that by statesmen, scoundrels, and spies of all ages. The ancient Chinese ruled for millennia by maintaining a monopoly on knowledge and education.

The American application of this idea was partly theoretical and, in large part, practical. American writers and statesmen borrowed liberally from the best thought on the Continent about how to harness political power and institutions to the interests of the people. Writers like Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu, and Rousseau helped provide the theoretical framework. However, it was their own practical experience in State legislatures and the Continental Congress that taught the founding fathers of the American Republic about how to structure institutions to maximize the space for individual freedom. And it is to this more idealistic joining of knowledge and power that I will devote the balance of this paper.


We begin with a broad question of how modern legislatures attempt to harness knowledge to power. The practical form assigned to this question is: “What role can legislative research play in strengthening democracy and improving democratic governance?” This question, in turn, carries a number of specific questions in train:

- How does legislative research improve legislative decision-making?
- How can legislative research contribute to a more vibrant democracy?
- What can we do to strengthen legislative research?
- What criteria can we use to judge the adequacy of our efforts?
- Where is the current status of our parliamentary research services?
- What is the future of our legislative research and information services?

We will look at each of the questions in the following sections



# Legislative Research Contributes to Sound Legislative Decision-Making



Good research and information can improve the effectiveness of the legislature along several dimensions. The discussion below illustrates the hierarchical nature of the various contributions that research can make to legislative decision-making, starting with the basic function of informing specific policy decisions on complex issues.

**First, research can improve decision-making on specific policy issues faced by the legislature.** Reliable facts and analysis can contribute to both a better understanding of the problems and more realistic and effective legislative solutions to those problems.

**At the next level, research can help improve the institutional dynamics within the legislature.** A commonly accepted body of authoritative facts provided by the parliamentary library or research service can facilitate political agreement by narrowing the range of debate to differences in values, rather than disagreement over the facts of the case. It is difficult to reach agreement on any proposed changes in policies if the parties cannot even agree on the facts.

**At a political level, the use of high-quality information by the legislature can add to the perceived legitimacy of its actions in an increasingly technocratic era.** Science, technology, and the information revolution are transforming nearly every aspect of our lives at an accelerating pace. To be legitimate in today's world, governmental action must also be perceived as soundly based in fact and employing the best available thinking on an issue.

**At the constitutional level, research for the legislature can position it to play a more active role in the policy process of the nation.** Regardless of the form of government, there is a growing desire for the legislature to be more effective in either overseeing the actions of the executive and/or in shaping legislation that governs the people. This is consistent with a global imperative toward democracy (whether that movement is seen as deep-seated or only superficial). At a minimum, the term "democracy" is invoked more frequently, and is seen as the *sine qua non* of legitimacy. At a deeper level, this drive requires more effective participation by the representatives of the people in overseeing powerful executives, in setting or approving laws, and in the governance of the nation. This level of actual performance, where the term democracy comes closer to being the reality of democratic governance, is inconceivable with a weak, poorly informed legislature.



# Legislative Research Contributes to a More Vibrant Democracy

Good legislative research contributes to a more vibrant democracy in several ways.

**Legislative research contributes to a more pluralistic political process.** It does so by adding another important player to the game – the legislature, and by enhancing the contribution the legislature can make to the final outcome. This is especially true in cultures where the executive has dominated policy and the legislature has previously lacked strength and status. For a variety of reasons, the executive apparatus of most nations has a tendency to acquire virtual monopoly power. That tendency is exacerbated by our increasing reliance on technical experts, globalization of the economy, the central position of the executive in foreign affairs, and the role of the media in shaping public opinion – a forum where the executive has a clear advantage over the multiple voices in the legislature. Armed with the power that knowledge brings, the legislature can be a partial check on these monopolizing powers of the executive.

**Good legislative research improves decision-making and enhances the legitimacy of the legislature.** It is important to the legitimacy of the legislature and its actions that people perceive the legislature as basing its actions on a solid foundation of reliable facts and analysis, as well as weighing values and interests. We recognize that the legislature *must* engage in the art of balancing conflicting values and interests in society. One of the essential functions of the legislature is resolving conflict in society through peaceful, consensual processes. While we would be ill-served by a

technocratic legislature that *only* paid attention to facts and analysis, we all hope that in balancing and reconciling competing interests and values in society, that the legislature does so in a way that uses knowledge and analysis to attain *more effective* rather than less effective solutions to those problems.

**Good legislative research adds to democracy by giving more people in society an effective voice in making decisions about their own governance.** This can be demonstrated in the following syllogism. First, good research adds to the effectiveness of the legislature and enhances its role in the policy making process. Second, by enhancing the voice of the legislature, research indirectly gives more effective voice to the people whom it represents. Third, through increasing the number of voices actually heard in the process of governing, we are enlarging democracy in the most literal meaning of the term.

**Legislative research can contribute to more civility in dialogue and contribute to a more democratic temperament in the policy process.** By moving in the direction of providing relatively more power to the legislature, legislative research can contribute to redistributing power in society. By achieving somewhat greater balance between the legislative and executive functions in the government, legislative research can help change the nature of the dialogue that occurs in that process. By lending credibility to the bargaining position of the legislature and the authenticity of its participation, good legislative research can add to an

atmosphere of greater respect among the parties to the discussions and an enhanced sense of equality for the participants. By helping to create an atmosphere of greater mutual respect, there is more civility in dialogue, and a stronger inclination to hear other voices and to participate. A truly democratic temperament encourages participation in the policy dialogue.



# Steps to Strengthen Legislative Research

Given the importance of legislative research, what can we do to strengthen it?

Most of the following suggestions come from my own experience of working for a legislature for nearly thirty years, and direct observation of research services around the world for over a decade. I also benefited from an informal poll that I took of a dozen or so legislative research directors or parliamentary librarians, whom I asked what they viewed as the three most important characteristics distinguishing excellent legislative research.

## A. Appoint the best people to research positions.

John Stuart Mill had some very practical guidance on this question: Seek out the best people, because “with small men [sic], no great thing can be accomplished.” This means appointing people for *what* they know, not *who* they know. It also means that the research manager will be swimming upstream against the current of the ruling “old boy” networks or “political cronyism” that usually run deep in the highly political environment of a legislature. If the legislature wants a good research unit, then research managers will have to resist these strong counter-forces, even to the point of risking their own continued tenure. One possible path to success in this effort is to educate the political elite of the legislature to legitimate differences that exist among legislative staff. In this model, personal staff of the Members,

political officers, and some committee staff might legitimately be *political* appointments (beholden completely to a single client), but those who serve the *entire legislature as an institution* should receive the protection and independence of a career professional appointment. Such career professional appointments and status will promote longer tenure, independence of perspective and action, fairness in providing services, and the building of valuable institutional memory in the professional staff of the legislature.

## B. Focus on the legislature and its needs.

The legislature should be the principal client of the research service. Ideally, it would be the *only* client. In too many instances, the scarce resources of the legislature are stretched too thinly by having to meet the research needs of the government, the public, and/or the press. The role of the legislature is so essential to the effective functioning of democracy that its limited research services should not be spread over too many masters.

Focusing on the needs of the legislature means tracking legislation and preparing background papers that will be helpful on the most important issues coming before it. Legislative focus means paying attention to current issues, and keeping in touch with Members and committees regarding their perceptions of institutional need on those issues.

Legislative focus also requires scanning the research environment for emerging issues and promising policy ideas that might be useful to the legislature in its attempt to solve the problems of society. It should entail anticipating issues in advance of full legislative consideration so that the research service has the time it needs to gather data, conduct good research, and even build computer-based policy simulation models that will help the legislature consider policy choices and their implications quickly.

In the end, good research will be a combination of several kinds of information that the research service must master:

- **Policy information** (the likely causes of the problems, alternative solutions, and their impacts)
- **Political information** (sources of support and opposition), and
- **Procedural information** (the stages of the legislative process where interventions may be made, and the vehicles and procedures for doing so).

### C. Produce balanced, objective research.

This goal is essential to the effective functioning of a research and parliamentary information service. Let me suggest a simple rule: if you work for the entire legislature as an institution, you should produce balanced analyses – i.e. work that is even-handed and fair in its treatment of all points of view. Failure to do that will expose the research service to justifiable criticism, possible budget cuts, or even therisk

of abolition. The requirement for balanced analysis flows from three sources:

**Good political judgment.** If analysts align themselves with any of the partisans, they are suspect in the eyes of all other groups.

**Good political philosophy.** The people elect a few representatives to make binding value judgments for the rest of society. The most important problems in society are driven by value conflicts, not technical concerns. The special expertise of the technician thus has no special standing in a debate on values, nor should it. (As an illustration of one of the more subtle implications of this point, CRS does not make *recommendations*, since to do so would involve making value judgments about the superiority of one path over another.)

**The needs of the legislature for a neutral arbiter.** The legislature is constantly pressed to adopt this or that policy, by clever people who contort facts to serve their interests. The institution needs to be able to turn with confidence to some neutral arbiter to sort out the authenticity of competing claims for data validity and range of policy positions available. If the research service is seen as providing partisan or biased analysis, then it cannot function effectively in the important role of neutral arbiter.

### D. Provide timely research.

Working for the legislature requires speed and timely responses. The time pressure on the legislature flows from the dictates of the political process. The executive enjoys a tremendous advantage in setting the policy agenda for the nation, including making effective use of public

opinion. It is customary for the executive to take as long as it needs to formulate its policy proposals. After working for months on an issue and finally releasing it, the executive will then press the legislature for speedy approval – acting as if *any* time taken in thoughtful consideration by that body constitutes dilatory behavior and/or unnecessary delay in bringing needed benefits to society. At the same time, there is a *real need* for prompt action, since it is likely that the publicity surrounding the executive’s proposal will have succeeded in promoting greater consensus for action. Since consensus is elusive in our fractionated societies, action must be taken while the policy action window is still open. Under these circumstances, the legislature must act quickly. Failure of the research service to provide timely analysis is not likely to result in postponement of the decision. Rather, it will usually mean that the decision is made on the basis of what the political actors already know themselves or “feel” are the facts and values to be considered.

**E. Produce integrated, interdisciplinary research.**

The kind of research that is most useful in a legislative environment is an integration of different disciplinary approaches that also incorporates political intelligence, value perspectives, and procedural considerations. Failure to consider and assign appropriate weights to the various dimensions of an issue forces non-specialist law makers to take on tasks for which they are not prepared. For example, producing separate analyses of the

legal, economic, medical, scientific, and/or programmatic concerns of an issue force the legislator to play lawyer, doctor, engineer, and/or program specialist. A truly interdisciplinary approach requires a team working together and developing a shared understanding of the problem, and making a clear presentation.

**F. Make all work for the legislature concise and accessible.**

Legislators have no time to read lengthy papers. In writing for the legislature, special care must be taken to:

- Make it brief,
- Provide summaries,
- Use charts and graphs to illustrate points,
- Employ “bullets” and other typographical techniques

As the product line of CRS has evolved over the last few years, reports have become shorter and made increasing use of the techniques discussed above. Roughly one-half of the total current inventory of CRS products consists of 1 to 2-page fact sheets or short reports limited to a maximum of six pages.





# Criteria and Performance Characteristics

There are two key needs for research and information in the legislative process: (1) to provide individual **Members** with the information needed to understand the policy issues on which they will be voting; and (2) to provide the in-depth information and analysis needed by **committees** in helping the legislature to assert its role in the policy process and to have choices available to exercise its prerogatives. These roles are outlined below in terms of normative statements of desired performance.<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Information for Members

- Maintain a strong commitment to serving the needs of the legislature and its Members, and try to be helpful at all times.
- Meet all deadlines or negotiate new ones that you can meet.
- Answer most routine requests for information (those with no deadline requested) within one week.
- Provide materials that are balanced, brief, and relevant.
- Seek to provide proactive work (including selective dissemination of information, clipping services, background reports).
- Advertise the availability of assistance (brochures on services, new acquisitions lists, finding aids or annotated bibliographies of information on hot topics, etc.).
- Seek regular feedback from the legislature on the quality and utility of current services, and

solicit suggestions for improved services from Members and leadership.

## 2. Analytical Information and Research for Committees

- Serve in the role of “research broker” or “intermediary” between the world of ideas and the world of action, with a distinctly practical bias – never letting academic training and erudite colleagues get in the way of producing understandable and timely reports for the legislature.
- Focus on the legislative agenda and what is important to the legislature in deciding on which topics to concentrate limited analytical resources.
- Maintain a stock of up-to-date analytical reports on major issues of interest to the committees and the legislature.
- Meet deadlines of committees for reports and information.
- Stay in regular contact with the committee to ensure that all necessary services are provided on legislative issues of importance to the committee, and to maintain continuing relevance and timeliness of work in progress.
- Develop options and trace their effects (impact analysis) for the committee to facilitate informed decision-making.
- Anticipate issues and prepare committee in advance to deal with matters of importance in a non-crisis environment.

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A for a more complete statement of these characteristics that move from possible goals, to desired attributes and capacities, to expected results.

# Status of Parliamentary Research Services in the ECPRD



While no definitive evaluation can be made of the research services of the ECPRD members short of conducting on-site in-depth analyses, it is possible to trace some of the broader attributes of these services through the use of a survey. Such a survey was conducted first in 1998, and then repeated in the summer of 2002.<sup>2</sup>

The 2002 survey had a response rate of 80%, with 44 of 55 parliamentary chambers in the ECPRD responding. But the total information available on ECPRD research is much more extensive, when combined with the earlier 1998 survey and the recent ECPRD study by Jennifer Tanfield in 2000: *Parliamentary Library, Research an Information Services of Western Europe*, (ECPRD, 2000). As a result, additional information on 5 of the 11 non-respondents is available and fairly current. Combining all these sources, we have information for 49 chambers (nearly 90% of the total 55 chambers).

## A. Central Research Organizations vs. “research services”

The first essential distinction to make is between the existence of a particular kind of organization (a central unit charged with doing research), and the availability of research services to the parliamentary chamber (which may

be provided through a multiplicity of organizations located throughout the chamber). We define a central research unit in fairly rigorous terms: (1) the name of the organization clearly denotes its research and analysis function, (2) the staff have advanced academic degrees that support a research orientation, (3) there are at least three different academic disciplines present in the organization to permit it to carry out inter-disciplinary and integrative studies, and (4) the services and products offered to the chamber demonstrate the presence of research services. In the discussion below, we focus on the 49 chambers on which have information (either from the 2002 survey, or from the data available from 1998 and/or 2000).

In the ECPRD, 13 of the 49 chambers indicated that they did not have a central research unit in the terms noted above. However, of those 13 lacking such a unit, 9 chambers report the availability of some “research services” provided through a number of different organizations in the chamber. Thus, while 27% of the chambers lack a central research organization, nearly all chambers have access to research services in some form through a number of different organizations.

---

<sup>2</sup> The original survey was conducted by the author and completed in the fall, 1998. The results were reported in broad outline at the ECPRD Correspondents Meeting in that year. The later survey was conducted in cooperation with the staff of the European Parliament, who sent out the request for updated information. I am especially grateful to Dick Toornstra, Hanneke Coppolecchia, and Beate Rambow for their support. I am responsible for the interpretation.

## B. Number of New Research Units

Since 1998, seven new research organizations were created in ECPRD chambers (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, the Second Chamber of the Netherlands, Norway, and Slovenia). This is an impressive period of expansion, exceeding the six new services created in the 1994-98 period, and equaling the boom years of 1990-94 following the launch of several newly independent nations and legislatures throughout much of Central and Eastern Europe (when new research organizations were created in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the Polish Sejm and Polish Senat, and Hungary – as well as Cyprus). Ukraine eliminated its central parliamentary research organization in 2000, and relies on several remaining units in the Rada to provide legal research, as well as two non-governmental organizations outside the Rada for the availability of socio-economic analysis (the Institute for a Competitive Society and the Center for Political and Legal Reform). Looking over the 8-year period (1994-2002), over one-third of the chambers in ECPRD created new central research units (19 net new units for the 55 chambers).

## C. Scale of Central Research Organizations

Most of the central research services are relatively small (ranging from 3-10 research staff for 12 chambers, and 11-20 staff for an additional 7 chambers). However, 5 chambers have central research services with a more substantial 21-30 staff. The largest central research staffs are found in the German Bundestag (86),

the Polish Sejm (79), the Italian Chamber of Deputies (45), and the British House of Commons (39).

## D. Patterns of Organization

The most common organizational pattern is for the central research organization to be a *separate* unit from the Library and/or other information providers for the parliament. This is the case for 18 chambers in the ECPRD. However, there has been an increase in the number of chambers using what I term an “*articulated*” approach to research services. In these settings, accounting for about 14 cases, the research unit is part of a broader organization that might also contain the Parliamentary Library and the archives department, among others. This form of organization can provide greater encouragement to the information providers to cooperate and to coordinate their efforts. Finally, there are a few cases of *integrated* services, where the central research service and the Parliamentary Library are joined in the same organization. This is the case for the two chambers of the U.K. and for four other chambers.



# Parliamentary Research and Library Services in the 21st Century

Where are we going in the future? One thing is certain: institutions providing library and research services for legislatures in the 21st century will need to be far more adaptable and strategic in approach than their predecessors. The reason is simple – change in the modern world is more rapid and pervasive today than ever before. These changes impinge upon and shape the substantive challenges and inner workings of the legislature itself at the same time that they transform the societies of which they are an essential part. The forces driving change are discussed first, and then their implications.

## A. Driving forces

While there are many forces shaping society today, the most compelling are those that stem from demographic, economic, technological, and political changes.

Space limitations permit only a skeletal outline of the trends and forces that are now hard at work shaping our future – and the environment of legislatures. While demography is following

its own unique path in each nation, we are all experiencing an aging of our population that puts pressure on state budgets to finance growing pension commitments. The other forces that are impacting our societies and legislatures include:

- (1) **The Wave of Democratic Revolutions**, which is advancing the role of democratic institutions like legislatures. According to Samuel P. Huntington, this “Third Wave of Democratic Revolutions” began in 1974 and is advancing the value of democratic institutions like legislatures. It is characterized as a largely peaceful revolution that reached its peak with the destruction of the Berlin Wall in 1989 – followed by the collapse of communism and the centrifugal dispersion of the former Soviet Union in 1991. The central element of change in these revolutions or their most notable product is the creation (or recreation) of more meaningful legislatures, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Copeland and Patterson claim that we are

<sup>3</sup> Copeland, Gary W. and Patterson, Samuel C., eds. *Parliaments in the Modern World: Changing Institutions*, (Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press), 1994, pp. 1, 8.

<sup>4</sup> The powers and actual performance of legislatures will vary from country to country, but it is clear that the newly emerging legislatures in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union are stronger than their Soviet-era predecessors. Two recent articles in the *New York Times* highlight the distance between lofty goals and gritty reality in Africa, as an example. In an article dated 9 July 2002, Rachel Swarns noted that the Organization of African Unity was being disbanded and replaced by a more powerful African Union -- which will require its members to make commitments to democratic principles and to respect human rights. The article noted that in the last decade “42 of 48 sub-Saharan African countries have held multiparty elections. In the early 1980’s only four countries were holding such elections....” However, the author noted that democra-

living in “an age of parliaments,” where “representative democracy – is on the wing again.”<sup>3</sup> Some would argue that it is the *idea* of democracy that is soaring, but that its actual manifestation in stronger legislatures and enhancement of freedom may be lagging.<sup>4</sup>

**(2) The Information Revolution**, which has already transformed the world into a global village in which instantaneous communication is both possible and frequent. The dawning of the information age is one of the most profound forces impinging on society today. As one scientific observer has noted: “The agricultural age was based on plows and the animals that pulled them; the industrial age, on engines and the fuels that fed them. The information age we are now creating will be based on computers and the networks that interconnect them.”<sup>5</sup> This revolution makes the widespread, instantaneous sharing of ideas and information feasible, and the expected norm. It also makes technology an important contributor to increased openness of legislative activity and efficiency.

**(3) The Globalization of the Economy** has subjected all institutions (public as well as private) to the forces of efficiency and com-

petition. This has given rise to demands that organizations (including legislatures and legislative information providers) provide greater value for the money spent; that old top-down, command-and-control structures be replaced with leaner, flatter structures that empower workers; respond better to legislative customers; and incessantly strive to improve.

But those same universal competitive pressures have also created economic and political institutions on a supranational scale, such as the European Union, the World Trade Organization (WTO), and others. In turn, these larger groups generate additional pressures on their constituent units to bring policies of national governments into conformance with the broader entity. The European Union provides a graphic illustration of these forces at work. One knowledgeable source contends that “nearly \_ of all legislation to be treated by national parliaments is initiated in Brussels.”<sup>6</sup> However, he notes that the EU, in turn, is heavily affected by decisions made by the WTO, actions of other major trading partners, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and others. The obvious success of the European Union is leading to plans for further expan-

---

tically elected President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa had to share the stage with Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi (who had not held an election in 30 years). In an article dated 19 July 2002 in the *New York Times*, Jennifer Windsor praised the conditional nature of promised economic aid from the United States to the region on the requirement of free elections, respect for human rights, and the intervention by other African countries in the region if those rights are violated. But she also noted the existence of tensions between democratically elected leaders like President Mbeki of South Africa and the old autocrats – Qaddafi (Libya), Moi, (Kenya), and Mugabe (Zimbabwe).

<sup>5</sup> Dertouzos, Michael L., “Communications, Computers and Networks,” in *Scientific American*, September 1991, p. 62. Dertouzos goes on to estimate that 60% of the workforce in the United States has jobs that involve information. (Page 64).

<sup>6</sup> Dick Toornstra, Co-Director of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD) in an email message to the author dated June 21, 2002.

sion, with another 10 countries set to join the original 15 in 2004. While the EU is an effective response to the limits of national economic independence in our global economy, there are inevitable tensions created by the actions of larger, supra-national bodies. For example, the division of powers between the EU and its constituent countries, the relationship between national parliaments and the EU, the competences and structures of the various EU institutions, as well as other thorny topics are currently being debated by a constitutional Convention. The Convention was initiated in 2002 and is to report in 2003, allowing the EU Member States to reach decisions at an Intergovernmental Conference in 2004. A similar set of issues may face the effort to create the proposed new Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which seeks to unite the United States, Canada, Mexico, and all the nations of Central and South America in a common marketing area. If successful this effort will create a common market of 34 countries, with a combined population of over 800 million people, and GDP in excess of \$14 trillion. The agreement creating the area is scheduled for completion in 2005.<sup>7</sup>

**(4) The Declining Confidence in Political Institutions**, including the legislature, has raised doubts about the ability of the legislature to cope with today's complex problems. Citizens around the world want more from the legislature than it may be capable of delivering. They are more fear-

ful over the possible loss of jobs, pension security, and the apparent inability of the government to grapple with complex problems like terrorism, the environment, food safety, and economic harmonization across national boundaries. At the same time, tolerance for lengthy and contentious debate, the efficacy of "compromise," and the ability of the legislature to "aggregate interests" is declining. The resultant frustration of the electorate means more rapid turnover in the legislature, and more frantic searches by legislators to find the "magic bullet" that will improve performance and yield greater results.

## **B. Portents for the Legislature and Parliamentary Information and Research Providers**

Any attempt to look at current events and project them into the future is fraught with risk and uncertainty. This inherent haziness of forecasting is compounded when applied to political institutions. As one of my colleagues at the Congressional Research Service has noted so cogently:

Worth remembering is that the future often outwits the best prognosticators. Many of the largest events of this century were never or only dimly foreseen by pundits of the period, such as the Great Depression, the energy crisis of the mid-1970s, the rise and then fall of the Berlin Wall, cloning and genetic engineering, the reach and power of the Internet, the development of

<sup>7</sup> For additional information, see Overview of the FTAA Process at [http://www.ftaa-alca.org/View\\_e.asp](http://www.ftaa-alca.org/View_e.asp), accessed on 7/7/2002.

new reproductive technologies, or the recent Asian financial crisis. “Expect the unexpected” is the lesson for the future that emerges from this record.<sup>8</sup>

With that sober warning, let me hazard some provisional forecasts of what might be in store for parliamentary libraries and researchers in the future.

***(1) The potential role of parliamentary information providers is increasing, and the expectations and demands placed on them are escalating.*** As legislatures take on new significance, their need for information and analysis to support informed legislative decision-making grows apace. Legislators are posing more questions about policy choices, consequences, and comparative practice. The result is a revitalization of the potential role for information providers of the parliament, but more challenges as well.<sup>9</sup>

In response to these demands, legislatures have created or strengthened existing parliamentary research services. Between 1998 and 2002, there were 7 new research services created in the 55 chambers that make up the ECPRD. The number of comparative studies requested by ECPRD participants has increased rapidly from 10 in 2000, to 33 in 2001, to 22 through mid-June of 2002.<sup>10</sup>

As a very useful development, these comparative analyses are made more accessible to all members through the ECPRD website. As further evidence of this trend, the Spanish Senate reported that the number of comparative studies for that chamber escalated from 20 during the 1993-1996 session to 75 in the 1996-2000 period

Moreover, the challenge of providing analysis for the legislature is heightened by the greater complexity of the tasks assigned. In addition to attempting to harmonize laws among nations in our globalized economy, there is a growing demand for identifying more policy choices for the legislature and a need for impact analysis. Impact analysis is the attempt to forecast the effect of a change in policy *before* it is made, so that legislators can have the information needed to make rational decisions before taking action. Impact analysis requires in-depth analytical skills and extensive program knowledge. Moreover, it often requires a policy model that simulates the current program and proposed changes. In turn, models can often require advanced statistical skills, some computer programming, and in-depth knowledge of the program and its policy environment. Many legislatures are also looking to their research and information

---

<sup>8</sup> Oleszek, Walter J. “Issues for the 21st Century Congress,” in *Biennial Budgeting*, Hearing before the Committee on Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, (Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.), March 16, 2000, p. 203

<sup>9</sup> For a more complete analysis of this process and the role of information in supporting the legislature, see Robinson, William H., “Parliamentary Libraries: The Role of Information in the Legislative Process,” in Kurian, George Thomas, editor, *World Encyclopedia of Parliaments and Legislatures*, (Baldwin Place, NY: Congressional Quarterly), 1997.

<sup>11</sup> Personal communication from Dick Toornstra, 6/24/2002.

agencies to help them understand and have an impact on the national budget. Budget analysis usually calls for strong economic and program analysis skills. A number of nations in the ECPRD offer specialized budget analysis services (including Poland, Sweden, and Slovakia).

The ultimate challenge for legislative research services and their parliamentary clients is to find sufficient specialized resources to undertake all these complex tasks. It is clear that the Executive will always have the upper hand on resources and information. Legislatures and their research units must accept that reality and design coping strategies that will permit them to get some independent analytical leverage on important issues and policies. The basic strategy involves building an independent research unit in the parliament, with sufficiently attractive salaries to attract and maintain a multi-disciplinary unit to undertake analysis on a few of the top issues before the legislature.<sup>11</sup> There are other strategies that can augment resources as needed at times of great pressure and analytical overload. These include: (1) positioning the research service

in the role of “research broker,” where it seeks to enlist and coordinate the support of other parliamentary analytical services, outside academics, and other experts at no charge; (2) using contracts to hire outside experts to work on specific analytical tasks (as is done in many parliamentary research units);<sup>12</sup> (3) obtaining analytical staff on a loan basis (secondment) from the Executive to either work for the research service, or with legislative bodies directly;<sup>13</sup> (4) offering attractive internships for undergraduate and graduate students to work in the research service at no charge; and (5) writing requirements into legislation that the Executive undertake research and reports and make the results available to the legislature.

**(2) *Parliamentary information providers must be far more strategic and efficient than in the past.*** As French President Jacques Chirac noted: “There is nothing more dangerous than standing still in a world that is changing.”<sup>14</sup> It is incumbent on parliamentary information institutions to engage in regular strategic thinking to ensure that their products and services are responsive to the needs of their client legislatures. It is helpful to use a com-

---

<sup>11</sup> It must be accepted as a fact of life, that there will never be enough resources in the legislature to meet its analytical needs completely with internal staff. For example, the U.S. Congressional Research Service (CRS) has a staff of approximately 740, including 440 research specialists. Even so, the entire staff of the U.S. Congress approaches 20,000, and CRS finds itself swamped with an average of 500,000-600,000 requests for information each year. Other strategies must be found to cope with the analytical overload. These include playing the role of research broker, using contract funds to augment staff, and obtaining volunteer interns and specialized staff from the Executive on secondment. (See main text for an explanation of these approaches).

<sup>12</sup> largest research services on the continent with 79 specialized research staff who undertake analysis directly for the Sejm. The Polish Senate, with far fewer staff, makes extensive use of contracts to bring expertise to the Senate.

<sup>13</sup> Many executive agencies in the United States prize the ability of their staff to understand and work with the legislature. As a result, they are willing to make top-quality staff available for secondment as a training process. Both sides have to respect



prehensive framework for such a process. One of the better approaches is found in the so-called SWOT technique (standing for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats).<sup>15</sup> This framework focuses first on the internal environment of the organization, and its current strengths and weaknesses. It then moves out to the external environment, looking for opportunities for and threats to the mission of the organization. The process then encourages the organization to define new strategic directions that will make it more effective in a changing environment.

Legislatures around the world are feeling the pinch of constrained resources, as world trade patterns compress the world and spread a universal impetus toward more cost-effective performance for all institutions – public and private. Thus, parliamentary information providers are increasingly forced to consider “downsizing” and generally to do more with less in terms of resources.

**(3) *Regional organizations of parliamentary information providers are becoming increasingly important.*** One of the most effective ways to share practical information and technology in our rapidly changing world is through conferences and personal

visits to the information providers of neighboring countries. However, the cost of travel to international conferences has become increasingly difficult to manage for many legislatures and legislative information providers. As a result, there has been a trend toward the creation of regional associations of information providers to lessen the distances and costs of exchanges. Examples of such regional organizations at the national level include the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD), as well as one of the oldest regional associations representing the Nordic countries. There are two regional organizations in Asia and the Pacific, one for eastern and southern Africa, a new one proposed for pan-Africa, and one proposed for Latin America. There is also a partial international counterpart to ECPRD in the form of the Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments of the International Federation of Libraries and Institutions – or IFLA, which gathers once each year to share ideas for improving parliamentary information practices in their respective legislatures. Recent innovations at IFLA include the addition of full-day workshops on Research, and on Library and Research management techniques.

---

the special status of the staff that are serving the legislature temporarily – the executive by not subjecting the staff to pressures to keep them informed of what the legislature is doing or seek to influence them to defend the agency’s position, and the legislature by not putting the executive experts into overtly political roles that would compromise their future effectiveness as civil servants. The powerful House Ways and Means Committee (dealing with taxes, trade, and Social Security) almost always has an experienced pension expert on secondment for a year or more from the Social Security Administration.

<sup>14</sup> As quoted in Oleszek, *ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> See, for example, John M. Bryson and Farnum K. Akston, *Creating and Implementing Your Strategic Plan: A Workbook for Public and Nonprofit Organizations*, (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers), 1996.

**(4) Automation and telecommunications advances have had profound effects on how parliamentary information providers conduct their business -- and present equally profound challenges.**

The twin revolutions in automation and telecommunications are the driving forces that are having the most profound and immediate impact on nations and their legislatures. Perhaps one of the most striking examples of the changes occurring in this arena was recorded by the New York Times in an article entitled "Putin Tries Out Cyberspace," in which Russian President Vladimir Putin participated in a global dialogue via an Internet "chat room." In a live encounter, he discussed with predominantly younger people around the world his country's role in Chechnya, the Russian education system, and his effort to move Russia in a more democratic direction.<sup>16</sup> Beyond the sheer drama of such an event is the substantive reality of worldwide communication on a "real-time" basis. It is clear that automation and telecommunications can enhance the effectiveness of parliamentary information enterprises significantly.

At the same time, the availability of "instant gratification" of information needs creates expectations for more of the same from our legislative clients. Why wait for the parliamentary library or documentation center to provide a piece of information or the research service to do an analysis when one can go on the Internet and find "something"

immediately? Partisan "think tanks" have their own homepages on the Internet, on which they offer readily useable position papers with just the right twist. Therefore, it is incumbent upon parliamentary libraries and research services to put information on the Web of comparable or better quality and utility. To fail in this effort is to lose two opportunities: (1) the chance to put before the legislature high-quality information that is unbiased and targeted directly on the needs of the legislature; and (2) to demonstrate that parliamentary institutions are up to the challenge of competing in the information revolution, and can be counted on to provide equivalent or better services than other outside institutions.

The spread of such technology is impressive. Today, roughly 70 per cent of legislatures have access to email, and two-thirds have a parliamentary website. Parliamentary libraries have access to both email and the Internet through the parliament itself, and over 20 per cent of the libraries either have their own website or are made accessible to clients through the main parliamentary website. The picture is much brighter in Europe, where all the respondents to the survey evidenced virtually universal access to computers for nearly all staff members, and full connectivity to both Internet and *Intranet* services. After launching its own homepage on the congressional intranet in 1996, the U.S. Congressional Research Service (CRS) saw the percentage of requests answered by

---

<sup>16</sup> Tyler, Patrick, "Putin Tries Out Cyberspace," *New York Times*, March 7, 2001, <http://www.nytimes.com/2001/03/07/technology/07/RUSS.html>

direct access to the homepage grow astronomically in the course of 5 years – from roughly 33 per cent of total requests in 1997 to over 80 per cent in 2001. Through the CRS homepage, Congressional users can access the current status of legislation (including the text of bills and reports), track legislative issues, access all active CRS reports, make requests, and use electronic “briefing books” on topics of key legislative interest.

**(5) *Parliamentary information providers must make their services more relevant to and immediately useable by the Legislature.*** The process starts with the individual Member of Parliament, and moves outward and upward to committees and to parliamentary leadership. With many more new Members of parliament, special efforts must be made to acquaint them with the services of parliamentary information providers. By the same token, the products and services should be easy to access, and easy to use – meaning short, non-technical, timely, with lots of charts and interpretive graphics, and, as noted before, a strong presence on the Web. This focus on the member and his/her unique needs in a legislative setting will help to overcome outside competition. Persuading the Members of the advantage of balanced analysis over partisan argumentation is another element in this conversion equation.

The forces that will propel parliamentary information providers into closer contact with individual Members and the leadership will also motivate them to provide more services for committees. As the legislature takes on greater activity in the policy process, it tends to rely more on its committees to refine proposals under consideration. That is certainly the case in the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag, where committees play a determining role in the legislative policy process.<sup>17</sup> As a result of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, the Congressional Research Service has a legal mandate to serve committees as its highest priority, and pays close attention to the legislative agenda in patterning its services. This orientation to committees is partly fueled by the substantive research needs of the committees and the sensible response of research managers to concentrate analytical resources at that stage of the process where the most important decisions are made, and partly on economic support grounds. To continue to enjoy financial support in times of fiscal stringency will require research services and libraries to demonstrate their contribution to the important work of the legislature. Work for committees is one important manifestation of such an orientation, in addition to the above-mentioned assistance to Members of Parliament and parliamentary leaders.

---

<sup>17</sup> The most famous statement on this issue was made by Princeton scholar, later U.S. President, Woodrow Wilson in 1885. “Congress in session is Congress on public exhibition, whilst Congress in its committee-rooms is Congress at work.” Wilson, Woodrow, *Congressional Government: A Study in American Politics*, 1981 (first published in 1885), p. 69. While plenary sessions have gained some ability over the years to alter legislation after the committee stage, the primary locus for crafting and amending legislation remains the committee. For the Bundestag, the committees are the venue for negotiations among strong parties over the desired content of public policy.

# Appendix A

## Criteria and Performance Characteristics for Parliamentary Information Providers

### Timely Background Information for Members

#### a. Goals

- Provide quick access to current information on major legislative issues on which the member will *vote*.
- Offer brief and timely information on *all* legislative issues.
- Inform Members on all issues or matters of interest to the legislature (whether legislative or not – e.g. foreign policy, overseeing the executive, etc.).
- Assist Members in providing services and information on policy problems to their constituents (helping the Members to meet the needs of constituents, but also in building democracy).

#### b. Attributes of Good Capacity To Meet Need

- Maintain good current reference information on legislation and current policy issues (books, periodicals, serials, CD-ROMs, databases, international publications, journals, and newspapers).
- Provide automation and telecommunication capabilities to obtain and transmit information quickly (networked PCs, Internet access and tools).
- Offer competent staff (sufficient *numbers* to provide backup and some specializa-

tion; *training* for researchers and librarians, librarians with subject specialization, and entry-level researchers; and *skills*, including the ability to find information quickly, and good judgment in selection for both balance and relevance).

- Provide a good supply of timely, prepared products to meet information needs of highest demand quickly.

#### c. Performance Criteria

- Maintain a strong commitment to serving the needs of the legislature and its Members, and try to be helpful at all times.
- Meet all deadlines or negotiate new ones that you can meet.
- Answer most routine requests for information (those with no deadline requested) within one week.
- Provide materials that are balanced, brief, and relevant.
- Seek to provide proactive work (including selective dissemination of information, clipping services, background reports).
- Advertise the availability of assistance (brochures on services, new acquisitions lists, finding aids or annotated bibliographies of information on hot topics, etc.).
- Seek regular feedback from the legislature on the quality and utility of current services, and solicit suggestions for improved services from Members and leadership.



## Analytical Information and Research for Committees

### a. Goals

- Provide timely information and analysis on major policy issues to committees and legislatively active Members.
- Help committees to understand and deal with complex problems and proposals.
- Prepare in-depth analyses of major government proposals and develop additional choices for legislative committees and the legislature as a body.
- Define issues, identify causes of the problem, and develop alternative solutions for major policy issues under committee jurisdiction on an anticipatory basis.
- Create choices for the legislature in an attempt to “change the nature of the dialogue” with executive agencies.
- Conduct impact analyses of major proposals before the legislature or alternative measures suggested (including cost, distribution of benefits, effectiveness, administrative feasibility, etc.).

### b. Attributes of Good Capacity to Meet Need

- Maintain sufficient staff size to have backup, specialization, and coverage to support all major committees in at least one simultaneous major project in each committee.
- Offer sufficient expertise to be respected by experts in the ministries and in academia and think tanks.
- Provide helpful research materials on major policy issues (latest government reports, academic research, and other “gray literature,” solid data sources and databases on issue areas of interest).

- Sustain a base of good research tools to conduct analysis (networked PCs, Internet connections, statistical packages, spreadsheets, databases, and simulation models where appropriate), permit materials to be shared with other researchers, communicate with counterparts around the world, and produce publication-quality reports for the legislature.

### c. Performance Criteria

- Serve in the role of “research broker” or “intermediary” between the world of ideas and the world of action, with a distinctly practical bias – never letting academic training and erudite colleagues get in the way of producing understandable and timely reports for the legislature.
- Focus on the legislative agenda and what is important to the legislature in deciding on which topics to concentrate limited analytical resources.
- Maintain a stock of up-to-date analytical reports on major issues of interest to the committees and the legislature.
- Meet deadlines of committees for reports and information.
- Stay in regular contact with the committee to ensure that all necessary services are provided on legislative issues of importance to the committee, and to maintain continuing relevance and timeliness of work in progress.
- Develop options and trace their effects (impact analysis) for the committee to facilitate informed decision-making.
- Anticipate issues and prepare committees in advance to deal with matters of importance in a non-crisis environment.

# Appendix B

## *European Parliamentary Research Organizations*

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i> | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>   | <i>Date<br/>Created</i> | <i>No. of Staff</i>   |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| Albania                     | Research Service and Library   | 1999<br>(Research)      | 4 total staff:<br>1 lawyer<br>3 librarians  |
| Austria                     | Parliamentary Research Service   | 1975                    | 34 total staff (32 full-time) but only<br>3 conduct research part-time:<br>1 lawyer<br>1 historian<br>1 political scientist |
|                             | Legal and Legislative Service  | 1989                    | 20 total staff (11 full-time)   |
| Belgium:<br>Senate          | No central research service per se.<br>Members receive some help from<br>party groups. |                         |   |
|                             | Legal Affairs and Documentation<br>Service   | n/a                     | 6 total staff:<br>4 lawyers<br>1 assistant<br>1 secretary   |



| <i>Structure</i>  | <i>Relation to Library</i>   | <i>Services Provided</i>  |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Reports to SG, through Dept of Legal &amp; Constitutional Issues</p> <p>Reports to Director of the Parliament (through Vice-Director for Legislation)</p>  | Combined with Library  | <p>Documentation, statistical material, bibliographical reports, some comparative studies on legislation.</p> <p>Sample reports include: Comparative study of cooperative relations between committees, parliamentary delegations and the Government; Data on the World Trade Organization; Report on the 2001 State Budget; Organization of justice for minors in France and Italy.</p> <p>Answered 450 inquiries, wrote 18 research reports, and edited one book.</p> |
| <p>Research Service has 4 branches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library</li> <li>• Information &amp; Publication</li> <li>• Documentation of Parliamentary Papers</li> <li>• Documentation of Literature &amp; Statistics</li> </ul> | Library is part of Research Service  | <p>Documentation, statistical material, library services. Because of resource limitations, few research services are offered (e.g. studies, reports, analyses).</p> <p>Sample reports include: comparative studies on remuneration of MPs, formation of parliamentary groups, parliamentary influence on national R&amp;D policy.</p>   |
| Reports to Director of the Parliament (through Vice-Director for Administration)  | Separate from Research Services and Library  | Legal opinions on constitutional law, European law, and parliamentary rules of procedure  |
| Reports to SG and is part of the Legislative Service  | Separate from Library (which has staff of 48; 18 librarians plus a research section) | Interpretation of constitutional and parliamentary law, opinions on procedural questions, issues related to the functioning of the Senate   |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i>                    | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>  | <i>Date<br/>Created</i>                   | <i>No. of Staff</i>   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  | Committees and Studies Service  | 1995                                      | 24 total staff:<br>4 economists<br>12 lawyers<br>2 assistants<br>6 secretaries      |
|  | Evaluation of Legislation Service   | 2000                                      | 5 total staff:<br>4 lawyers<br>1 economist<br>1 secretary                           |
| Belgium:<br>Chamber of<br>Representa-<br>tives | No central research service per se. Research is provided by four organizations in the Parliament: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal Dept</li> <li>• Studies and Documentation Dept</li> <li>• Research Dept of Library</li> <li>• Committee on European Affairs</li> </ul> | 1999 (Legal Dept = primary research unit) | 18 total staff from all organizations with academic degrees, 14 of whom are lawyers |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina                           | No research service   | n/a                                       | n/a   |
| Bulgaria                                       | Parliamentary Research and Public Relations Dept  | May 2002                                  | Plans call for at least 8 staff   |
|  | Legal and Legislative Department  | 1990                                      | 12 total staff:<br>10 lawyers<br>1 economist<br>1 philologist                       |
| Croatia  | Information and Documentation Department, Information and Networked Services  | 2001                                      | 6 total staff: 3 university trained (Plans to expand to 14 total staff)             |
| Cyprus   | No central research service, but some research services handled by four departments:  | n/a                                       | 59 total staff:<br>43 with Master's degree; 15 others with university degree        |





| <i>Structure</i>  | <i>Relation to Library</i>  | <i>Services Provided</i>  |
|---|---|---|
| Reports to SG and is part of the Legislative Service  | Separate from Library   | Expert opinions on legal adequacy and wording of bills which are initiated in the other Chamber; internal legal advice and notes for individual senators.<br>Since 1996, about 140 reports on individual bills have been provided.  |
| Reports to SG and is part of the Legislative Service  | Separate from Library   | Expert opinion on bills, notes on jurisprudence, assessment of need for new legislation or adaptation of existing legislation, proposals for harmonization or simplification of existing legislation.   |
| All report to Deputy SG as part of Legislative Services Branch                                | All separate organizations in the Legislative Services Branch. (Library has a Research Department with 5 staff – all lawyers) | All types of analysis and research in the areas of constitutional and parliamentary law; general research; legal advice; reports on European issues; comparative studies; compilation of legislative documents from different countries; databases on parliamentary activities<br><br>About 300-400 reports each year from the Legal Division, 3500 requests received by the Documentation Department, the Library prepares about 10 thematic dossiers each year. |
| n/a   | n/a   | n/a   |
| Dept includes Research, Library, and Parliamentary Information Center; reports directly to SG | Combined in same unit   | Plans to provide responses to requests for information, in-depth analysis and research for Members, Committees and parliamentary leadership.  |
| Reports directly to SG  | Separate from Library   | Annotations of laws; legal opinions; comparative legal studies  |
| Reports to SG   | Separate from the Library (which has a staff of 6, including 3 librarians who do some research)                               | Plans to provide full range of research services, including background reports; economic reviews; summaries, notes and compilations on current issues; and research at the request of Members of Parliament.  |
| All four depts report directly to SG  | Separate from the Library (with a staff of 1 librarian)   | Studies, reports, background papers and data.   |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i>         | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>  | <i>Date<br/>Created</i> | <i>No. of Staff</i>   |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
|                                     | [1] Parliamentary Committees Dept   | 1960                    | 21 total staff  |
|                                     | [2] Studies, Research, and Publications Department  | 1960                    | 12 total staff  |
|                                     | [3] International Relations Department  | 1960                    | 14 total staff  |
|                                     | [4] European Affairs Service  | 2000                    | 12 total staff  |
| Czech Republic: Chamber of Deputies | Parliamentary Institute   | 1990                    | 15 total staff:<br>3 assistants<br>12 researchers (6 lawyers; 2 economists;<br>1 historian; 2 political scientists;<br>1 technical) |
| Czech Republic: Senate              | Parliamentary Institute (which works for both Chambers)<br><br>Research is also done by five other units in the Senate: | See above               | See above   |
|                                     | [1] Legislative Dept  | 1996                    | 13 total staff<br>11 lawyers<br>2 secretaries   |
|                                     | [2] Press & Documentation Dept  | 1996                    | 6 staff   |
|                                     | [3] Foreign Relations Dept  | 1996                    | 5 staff   |
|                                     | [4] Secretary of the Standing Committee on the Constitution of the Czech Republic & Parliamentary Procedures            | 1998                    | 1 staff   |
|                                     | [5] Advisor to European Integration Commission.   | 2002                    | 1 staff   |



| <i>Structure</i>  | <i>Relation to Library</i>  | <i>Services Provided</i>   |
|---|---|--|
|   |   |  |
|   |   |  |
|   |   |  |
| Separate department that reports directly to SG<br><br>Contains a separate unit on EU law | Separate from Library (14 staff of which 8 information specialists) | Research studies; economic reviews; informal answers to requests; seminars.<br><br>Produced about 30 research papers in 2001, 76 written answers to queries, 104 other answers, 67 expert opinions on bills, and 24 preliminary consultations.   |
| See above   | See above   | See above  |
| All units report to SG  | All are separate from Library                                       | Prepares legal opinions on compatibility of legislative drafts with current law, Constitution, Court decrees, and international treaties (about 120 per year); represents the Senate in legal proceedings before the Constitutional Court (20-30 times); assists Senators in preparing bill drafts (about 15 per year), and consults on bills received from the Lower Chamber. |
| Reports to Committee Chairman & SG  |   | Provides searches of articles and publication, conducts analyses of press articles on selected subjects, processes changes in tabled bills, and produces a monthly publication.  |
| Reports to Chairman & Secretary of the Committee  |   | Provides background papers for parliamentary visits and trips (about 200 per year).  |
|   |   | Conducts analysis of the constitutional system, analyzes impacts of accession to the EU, collects comparative information from other bicameral systems (about 45 per year in total).   |
|   |   | Tracks developments in the EU and produces analysis for the Senate (about 5 per month).  |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i> | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>  | <i>Date<br/>Created</i> | <i>No. of Staff</i>   |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| Denmark                     | No central research service per se. However, there are several entities in the new Parliamentary Department that provide counseling and analytical services in relation to bills, constitutional and human rights, procedural and EU matters, etc.<br>Staff that provide legal and other counseling regularly meet in an internal coordination group (legal and EU counselors and advisers, staff from the library and the heads of the secretariats of the Standing Committees). | October 2001            | Legal matters:<br>2 Legal Counselors<br><br>EU matters:<br>5 staff<br><br>Others as appropriate from various places in the Parliament   |
| Estonia                     | Dept of Economic and Social Information (DESI)  | 1995                    | 8 staff:<br><br>Soc. & Ed. Topics - 4;<br>Econ. & Budget -3<br><br>2 economists<br>1 each in Mathematics, Sociology, Information Science, Psychology, Political Science & Social Work |
|                             | Legal Department  | 1992                    | 10 staff:<br>7 lawyers  |
| Finland                     | Research Service  | 1956                    | 9 total staff:<br>1 lawyer<br>1 economist<br>1 historian<br>4 social & political scientists<br>2 research secretaries   |



| <i>Structure</i>  | <i>Relation to Library</i>  | <i>Services Provided</i>   |
|---|---|--|
| All are part of the new Parliamentary Dept and report to SG.  | These entities are separate from the Library, Archives and Information Division. The Library has a staff of 16, but does not conduct research.    | Provide general counseling and legal (and economic advice regarding EU matters); conducts analyses on domestic legislative, administrative, and EU matters and proposals, etc. Offers counseling both oral (e.g. appearances before the Committees) and written notes, reports and analyses (both internal and public).<br><br>The 2 legal counselors mainly work for the Standing Committees and individual MPs, but also provide assistance to the Secretary-General and the Speaker.  |
| Reports to SG through Deputy SG   | Separate from National Library (with 48 staff)  | Provides economic and social analyses to Members and Committees of the Parliament. Provides analyses, comparative studies, informative compilations, and materials and documents. Also organizes seminars. Commissions and conducts public opinion polls.<br><br>From the time of its creation in 1995 to 2002, completed about 700 written works. Average number of written works ranges from 125 in 2000 to 150-180 in 2001-2002. About 35% are analytical, and 65% are informational compilations. Coordinated the production of 44 research projects with outside sources and conducted 20 seminars. Website averages about 450 hits per day (70,000 from January-June of 2002).<br><br>Sample Reports include: The Price of Bread in the Baltic States; Background Data for Widowhood Pension Bill; Investments in Estonia; Pension Expenditures and the GDP of EU Countries; International Aid Payments to Estonia; Public Opinion: Trust in Parliament in EU and CEE Countries. |
| Reports to SG, through same Deputy SG   | Separate from National Library  | Conducts legal analysis of bills.  |
| Reports to SG. Research Service is one of three groups under the Information and Communication Unit; others include Parliamentary Information Office & the Library. | Separate from Parliamentary Library, but joined with it in a larger unit. Parliamentary Library has a total staff of 55, including 25 librarians. | Provides factual and background material for MPs, staff, and parliamentary leadership.<br><br>Research Service answers an average of 5,000 requests each year.   |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i>                   | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>  | <i>Date<br/>Created</i> | <i>No. of Staff</i>  |
|---|---|-------------------------|--|
| Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) | Research, Analysis and Library Dept   | 1997                    | 9 total staff:<br>1 lawyer<br>2 economists<br>1 journalist<br>2 political scientists,<br>2 literature & language<br>1 with secondary education |
| France:<br>National Assembly                  | No central research Service per se.<br>[1] Studies and Documentation Service<br>4 depts:<br>• Economics,<br>• Legal and Administrative Affairs,<br>• Employment /Health / Education / Culture<br>• Women's Rights | 1969                    | 36 total staff   |
|   | [2] The Library   | 1834                    | 29 total staff   |
|   | [3] Research and Evaluation Service   | 1983                    | 12 total staff   |
|   | [4] Archives and Historical Parliamentary Research  | 1789                    | 18 total staff   |
| France:<br>Senate                             | No central research service per se.<br>There are four centers for research activities:<br>[1] Studies Service   | 1976                    | 6 staff:<br>3 economists<br>3 scientists   |



| <i>Structure</i>   | <i>Relation to Library</i>  | <i>Services Provided</i>  |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Reports directly to SG</p> <p>No subdivisions, except that Library is a separate unit in the Department</p> | <p>The Library is a separate unit within the Research , Analysis &amp; Library Dept.</p>  | <p>Provides research and analytical support to the Members, committees and staff of the Parliament. Conducts legal research, information and documentation, and financial analysis. Offers analyses and opinions on draft laws, on constitutional issues, the organization and functioning of the legislature, the role of committees and the rights of Members, relations between the executive and legislature, and performs comparative studies with other nations.</p> <p>Sample reports: Constitutional and legal analysis of the relationships between the President of the Republic and the Parliament; information on the implementation of the Constitution of Macedonia; Analysis of questions asked by parliamentarians and answers given over the period 1988-2002; Analysis of the number of adopted laws by the Assembly over the past three years.</p> |
| <p>All report to SG</p>  | <p>All independent services</p>   | <p>Documentary Dossiers (legal, statistical, comparative), replies to written questions from Members and staff.</p>   |
|  |   | <p>Normal library activities, exhibitions of publications on specific subjects (in 2001: abolition of death penalty, The Paris Commune).</p>  |
|  |   | <p>Scientific and technological research</p>  |
|  |   | <p>Collects, elaborates and analyses all parliamentary activities since 1789 (adopted texts, proceedings, parliamentary questions, records of hearings, activities of Members, committees, electoral programmes); Dossiers on activities of MPs, research in current and historical parliamentary archives.</p>   |
| <p>Studies Service has 2 sections: macroeconomics, and science and technology</p>                              | <p>It is unclear how the other organizations relate to the Library and its Studies Division, although they are presumably separate.</p> | <p>Together, the four research services of the French Senate provide studies of local communities, science and technology issues, comparative law, macroeconomic issues, and responds to requests from Senators for information.</p>  |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i> | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>  | <i>Date<br/>Created</i>                           | <i>No. of Staff</i>   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
|                             | [2] European Affairs Service (Division of Comparative Legislation)  | 1989  | 3 staff (mostly lawyers)  |
|                             | [3] Local Communities Service   | 1998  | 3 staff   |
|                             | [4] Library Service (Division of Research & Documentary Studies)  | 1993 (Division of Research & Documentary Studies) | 3 staff   |
| Georgia                     | Research Department   | 1992  | 23 total staff:<br>5 historians<br>3 lawyers<br>3 economists<br>1 philosophy<br>1 psychology<br>3 biologists<br>2 physicists<br>4 languages<br>1 architect  |
| Germany:<br>Bundestag       | There are 11 research divisions:<br>• 10 of them in the Reference and Research Services (RRS) Directorate-General;<br>• 1 belongs to the Parliamentary Support Division | 1964  | 86 staff in research divisions; 16 research staff in Parliamentary Library<br><br>54 university trained; 10 assistants;<br>24 support<br><br>About 60% of trained staff are lawyers;<br>40% graduates in other subjects |





| <i>Structure</i>  | <i>Relation to Library</i>   | <i>Services Provided</i>  |
|---|--|---|
| Division of Comparative Legislation is part of the European. Affairs Service  |  | The Division of Comparative Law has produced 110 studies, the Science and Technology Division lists 44 studies on its website, while the Division of Documentary Research (of the Parliamentary Library) produces 500-600 dossiers per year.  |
| Local Communities Service became independent in 1998  |  |   |
| Division of Documentary Studies is part of the Parliamentary Library  |  |   |
| The Research Dept reports directly to SG, and comprises: 2 research & analysis units, a communication unit, the Parliamentary Library, and the archives | The research groups are separate from the Library, but integrated through the larger department.   | Provides research, information, and consulting services for MPs, staff and other parliamentary structures. Offers research, compilations, responses to requests, organizes databases and website, provides training, serves as research broker in connecting Parliament to other research resources, and produces a monthly newsletter.<br><br>Completes about 90 research reports each year; handles about 15 information requests each month, and completes about 8 research requests each month.<br><br>Sample reports include: State Territorial Organizations and Management; Information on Jury Court; Private Investigators Service; and Parliamentary Electoral Systems.   |
| 10 research divisions report to SG through four directorates in RRS DG and one through a different DG   | All research divisions are separate from each other and from the Library, which is one of 47 divisions in RRS. (Library has a total staff of 90, including 16 listed as researchers) | Analyses of issues, opinions, background analyses, surveys, and studies; proposals for reform and draft solutions to problems; assessment of constitutional issues; comparison of different legal and political systems; assistance with legislation; and occasionally preliminary drafts of bills; evaluations, summaries, overviews, arguments and counter-arguments (pros and cons), contributions to discussions, notes, documentation, compilations, and material for speeches<br><br>Reports are produced in several series: [1] Materials (for comprehensive studies and analyses; [2] Info-Briefs (up to 30 pages of background material on issues, and updated as required); [3] Topical Terms (which explains the origin and meaning of terms frequently used in debates); and [4] Topical Court Rulings (which describe and briefly discuss politically relevant court rulings). |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i> | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>   | <i>Date<br/>Created</i> | <i>No. of Staff</i>   |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| Germany:<br>Bundesrat       | No central research service per se. However, all members of the Bundesrat are officials in their Land governments; as such they have access to the research services available in the respective Land government.          | n/a                     | n/a   |
| Greece                      | Scientific Service   | 1989                    | 16 total staff:<br>9 lawyers,<br>2 political scientists,<br>1 economist,<br>4 support staff |
| Hungary                     | Research work is provided by three different units of the Parliament:<br><br>[1] Information Service (part of the Parliamentary Library, but also provides joint services with the Information Center for MPs – see below) | May 1991                | 8 total staff:<br>(with degrees in history, economics., law, sociology & philosophy)        |
|                             | [2] Information Center for MPs (in MPs' building)  | September 1991          | 5 total staff   |

| <i>Structure</i>  | <i>Relation to Library</i>   | <i>Services Provided</i>   |
|---|--|--|
| n/a   | n/a  | n/a  |
| <p>Reports directly to SG</p> <p>Two internal departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative Support</li> <li>• Parliamentary Studies</li> </ul> | <p>Separate from the Library (which has a staff of 45 and provides some research services)</p> | <p>Dept of Legislative Support provides reports and pending bills and other proposals, including comparative law studies. Its reports have been gathered in 8 volumes, comprising over 1,500 pages of material.</p> <p>Dept of Parliamentary Studies undertakes independent studies and answers questions (for MPs, foreign parliaments, and other organizations). This department has published a number of volumes on a variety of issues of legislative and parliamentary history, as well as translations of the Greek Constitution in French and English.</p> <p>Sample reports include: 'The Cyprus Problem in the Hellenic Parliament' and 'The Role of National Parliaments in the Elaboration of EU Legislation'.</p> |
| <p>Reports to SG through Library</p> <p>Has 2 sections:<br/>Info Center &amp;<br/>Hungarian Parliamentary Docs.</p>   | <p>Is part of the Library</p>  | <p>Provides background material for committee hearings, research on parliamentary life and history, answers to reference questions, information packages, and comparative materials for the Parliament.</p> <p>Completed 62 brochures between 1994 and 2002. On an annual basis, produces 10-12 background papers, 50-60 information packages, and answers about 7,000 reference questions (2,000 of which require some research work).</p> <p>Sample products include analyses on: public education, waste management, children and guardianship arrangements; support for committee hearing on financing health care reform, and a report on women parliamentary chairpersons in Europe, and others.</p>                     |
| <p>Serves as a central on-site pool of research and assistance to Members from other staff</p>  | <p>Separate from Library, but linked through the Information Center</p>                        | <p>Provides data and information on the legislative and control functions of the Parliament (including statistics on plenary sessions, questions, political debates, etc). Also provides data on telephone and IT services to citizens, as well as analyses for IT and information systems for the Parliament. Received 4,210 questions by telephone and 621 requests by email for technical assistance.</p>   |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i>      | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>  | <i>Date<br/>Created</i> | <i>No. of Staff</i>   |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
|                                  | [3] EU Dept of the Office of Foreign Relations  | 1993                    | 2 total staff   |
| Iceland                          | No central research Service per se.<br><br>Some research services provided by three different groups:<br><br>[1] Committee Department | 1989                    | 9 total staff:<br>6 lawyers<br>1 economist<br>2 assistants  |
|                                  | [2] Information Services (Includes the Library and documentation)   | 1998                    | 4 total staff:<br>primarily Information Research  |
|                                  | [3] International Dept  | n/a                     | 4 total staff for research  |
| Ireland                          | Research Service (part of Parliament Library)   | 1976                    | 3 research staff:<br>PhD (Hist),<br>MA (Socio),<br>economist  |
| Italy:<br>Chamber of<br>Deputies | [1] Research Service (17 depts: 1 for each parliamentary committee + Legislative Observatory + Dept for Regions)                      | Mid-1970s               | 80 total research staff:<br>20 researchers mostly with law degrees<br>35 information-providers<br>25 clerks |



| <i>Structure</i>   | <i>Relation to Library</i>  | <i>Services Provided</i>   |
|--|---|--|
| Reports to Office of SG  | Separate from other two units and Library   | Publishes three products on a weekly basis: The European Report, The NATO News, and the Minority Observer. Also publishes every two weeks, The Analysis on Europe. Also produces other books and pamphlets to inform MPs and the public. Produces about 100 reports per year.  |
| Reports directly to SG<br><br>2 Divisions:<br>• Committee Division<br>• Publication Division | Separate from Library, which reports to SG through Information & Tech. Dept   | Provides legal analysis for Committee and Members; conducts legal research and provides information on laws and legal matters. Sample reports include: Duty of Government to disclose information to the Parliament, and analysis of the effect of a new law on the evaluation of real estate.   |
| Reports to SG  | Includes Library  | Provides reference work, comparative analysis, in-depth research, and collects statistics. Samples of work include: Rights of foreign nationals to vote in community elections; the role of the Parliament in supervising the executive power: Comparison of Nordic countries; Drug treatment programs for prisoners: comparison of programs in selected EU countries.   |
| Reports to SG.   | Separate from other two providers   | Offers background information for parliamentary visits and delegations; handles all protocol matters.  |
| Is part of the Library<br>Reports to the Librarian<br>No internal divisions.                 | Part of the Library: Total staff of 10 in the Library; 5 professionals and 5 support staff. Four of the professionals provide research. | Undertakes research for Members as requested by them in writing. The topics are restricted to those that directly relate to their work in the Parliament. Moreover, priority is given to enquiries connected to current legislative business (bills, motions, etc). Written memoranda are sometimes produced. However, given the present limited staff resources, there are few written memoranda and no reports or studies produced.  |
| Reports directly to SG   |   | Provides documentary assistance (national, EU and comparative legislation). Provides dossiers for each bill presented to the Parliament (containing a commentary by the service and documentation); dossiers on specific questions of interest to Committees; research papers for the Office of President of the Chamber, parliamentary groups, and for individual deputies.<br><br>In 2001 the Service prepared 434 dossiers and answered about 820 requests for information. Sample reports 2001: Reform of the National Tax Service, Water Resources, Immigration and Asylum, |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i> | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>   | <i>Date<br/>Created</i>                          | <i>No. of Staff</i>   |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
|                             | [2] Parliamentary Library (5 depts: Cataloguing, Foreign Legislation, Net Technologies, Legislative and parliamentary documentation) | 1848   | 66 total staff: 9 researchers<br>30 info specialists<br>27 clerks   |
|                             | [3] International Relations Service (2 depts)  | n/a  | 21 total staff: 4 researchers<br>7 info specialists<br>10 clerks  |
|                             | [4] Relations with EU  | n/a  | 16 total staff: 2 researchers<br>9 info specialists<br>5 clerks   |
|                             | [5] State Budget Dept  | n/a  | 20 total staff: 3 researchers<br>11 info specialists<br>6 clerks  |
| Italy:<br>Senate            | Research Department  | Since 1987 in current form, restructured in 2001 | 28 total full-time staff for 8 research units:<br>10 research chiefs<br>11 information providers, mostly with university degree<br>8 clerks |
|                             | Budget Department, divided into three research units   | 1989   | 11 total staff:<br>3 researchers<br>4 information providers<br>4 clerks   |



| <i>Structure</i>       | <i>Relation to Library</i>  | <i>Services Provided</i>   |
|------------------------|---|--|
|                        |   | Report on State of Legislation, State of Scientific and Technological Research in Italy.<br>Monthly bulletin of prepared dossiers.   |
| Reports directly to SG |   | Acquisition, cataloguing, bibliographical reports, documentation, (comparative) studies on legislation. Databases on parliamentary Activities; Digital Archives of foreign and comparative public law. In 2001: Dossiers e.g. Data protection in Europe, Institutional Reform of EU in 2004, Management of Airports.   |
| Reports directly to SG |   | Documentation and Research on International Relations, assistance to parliamentary delegations.<br>In 2001: 93 Dossiers, 36 Info Notes, 182 replies to requests for information.   |
| Reports directly to SG |   | Provides counseling and legal advice on EU matters, Reports on activities of and relations with EU Institutions.   |
| Reports directly to SG |   | Research, documentation and preparatory assistance on budgetary matters.   |
| Reports directly to SG | Separate from the Library, which has 33 total staff:<br>3 librarians<br>30 research staff<br><br>Library states that research is done by Research Service | Provides information papers on the most important bills coming before Committees. Papers may contain comparative legislative information; bibliographic and “doctrinal” data; explanatory notes on the articles of the bill - which clarify their content; references to other legislation; and statistics. The Service also answers inquiries from Members, and reproduces reports or analyses of other organizations for use by the legislature. The Department supplies quick answers or research to telephone and written questions from Senators.<br><br>During the present term (which started in May 2001), 202 papers as answers to inquiries have been produced (previous term, April 1996-May 2001, 723 papers).<br>Sample papers: Modification of the Rules on Immigration and Asylum; Constitutional Reform of Regional Provinces and Communes; Franchising Rules. |
| Reports directly to SG | Separate from Library and also Research Dept  | Provides assessments of the financial effects of revenue and expenditure bills; advises the Committee on the Budget with data and information on the compliance of all government departments with the annual budget. Produced (since May 2001) 62 papers.<br><br>Sample studies: Expenditure Legislation January-April 2002; Budget Decision 2002-2004.   |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i>       | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>   | <i>Date<br/>Created</i> | <i>No. of Staff</i>   |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| Latvia                            | No central research service per se. Standing Committees carry out own research.  | n/a                     | n/a<br>Parliamentary Information Dept has 8 staff:<br>4 librarians<br>4 subject specialists   |
| Lithuania                         | Information Analysis Department  | 1991                    | 30 total staff:<br>3 lawyers<br>2 economists<br>6 historians<br>3 information specialists<br>and others (mathematics, chemistry, physics, etc.) |
| Luxembourg                        | No central research service per se. The Legal Department and Knowledge Management Dept conduct research and analysis activities together with the Secretaries of the Committees. |                         | 4 total staff:<br>1 university-trained librarian-documentalist<br>& Secretaries of Committees (lawyers or economists)                           |
| Moldova                           | Center of Parliamentary Studies and Public Relations   | 2001                    | 19 total staff  |
| Netherlands:<br>First<br>Chamber  | No research service. However, all members of the First Chamber have access to the research facilities of the Second Chamber.   | n/a                     | n/a   |
| Netherlands:<br>Second<br>Chamber | Dept of Information Services<br><br>Committee staffs provide some research for their respective committees.  | 2001                    | 65 total staff<br>(about 65% of staff have bachelor's or master's degrees)  |





| <i>Structure</i>  | <i>Relation to Library</i>   | <i>Services Provided</i>   |
|---|--|--|
| n/a   | n/a  | Parliamentary Committee staffs may invite expert consultants to advise them, or request a special study by the relevant ministry.  |
| <p>Reports directly to SG</p> <p>4 subdivisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick Reference</li> <li>• Legal &amp; Political</li> <li>• Economic &amp; Social</li> <li>• Reference Library</li> </ul>                                       | <p>Separate from the National Library, which has a Government Information Department to serve the legislature and ministries</p> | <p>Provides current Issue Briefs, reports for the Seimas on specific issues, Information Packets, and a clippings service.</p> <p>Produced approximately 200 written reports, 200 information packets, and responded to about 800 requests per year.</p> <p>Sample topics: Election Systems in European countries, USA and Canada; Constitutional amendments in connection with EC membership; Relations with Kaliningrad region; Tax policy in different countries; legislation in EC related to artificial insemination and family planning.</p> |
| <p>Reports directly to SG or via Deputy SG</p>  |  | <p>Provides research at the request of Members of Parliament, as well as information at the request of foreign parliamentarians. Most of the requests concern legal questions of all kinds and comparative law studies, e.g. Comparative Law Study on Committees of Inquiry; Comparative Law Study on MPs' pension system; Comparative Law Study on Parliamentary Committees in general. Produces 300 research requests per month.</p>   |
| <p>Encompasses 3 sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analytical Information</li> <li>• Letters and Audiences</li> <li>• Parliamentary Library.</li> </ul> <p>Reports to DG of Parliament</p>  | <p>Includes Library as part of Center</p>  | <p>Provides documentation, library services, statistical material, comparative studies. Sample reports include: Institutional law of the EU, comparative study on national minority rights, comparative study on territorial organization of the State, financial and budget studies.</p>  |
| n/a   | n/a  | n/a  |
| <p>3 Divisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Information</li> <li>• Documentation &amp; Research</li> <li>• Bus. Processes &amp; Central Archives.</li> </ul> <p>Reports to Director of Constitutional Process, who reports to SG</p> | <p>Separate from Library</p> <p>Library of Second Chamber has a staff of 7, but no researchers</p>                               | <p>Provides analysis, reports of media on current legislation, and quick reference services. Sample topics include: comparative study of disability insurance in Germany, France, and the Netherlands; Terrorism and the USA; Murder of Pim Fortuyn; comparative analysis of education systems in the Netherlands, Belgium, UK, Denmark, Germany, Italy and USA.</p>   |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i> | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>                                   | <i>Date<br/>Created</i>   | <i>No. of Staff</i>   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| Norway<br><br>2000          | Research Section (of the Information and Documentation Department) | 1999  | 7 total staff:<br>5 people covering law, political science, history<br>2 budget advisors  |
| Poland:<br>Sejm             | Bureau of Research   | 1991  | 79 total staff:<br>29 lawyers, and a number with social science, economics, agriculture, geography, and technical sciences degrees  |
| Poland:<br>Senat            | Information and Documentation Office                               | 1991 as Bureau of Research;<br>1997 as Information & Documentation Office | 22 total staff:<br>10 lawyers (incl. 1 PhD)<br>2 economists (incl. 1 pH)<br>5 foreign language specialists<br>1 each in humanities, ecology, agriculture, sociology, and history (pH) |



| <i>Structure</i>   | <i>Relation to Library</i>  | <i>Services Provided</i>   |
|--|---|--|
| Section of the Information and Documentation Department, which also includes the Library and Archives  | Both are part of the IDD<br>Library has a staff of 13, with 9 professional librarians | Offers background papers, information and analysis to Committees, factions, and individual Members -- either in response to requests, or on own initiative.  |
| Reports directly to the Chief and Deputy Chief of the Chancellery<br><br>4 divisions:<br>• Budget Analysis<br>• Economic & Social<br>• Legal Opinions<br>• Information   | Separate from the Library, which has 72 staff but no researchers.                     | Provides a comprehensive array of research and analysis, including: legal opinions; comments on bills; analysis of bills; economic analysis; budget analysis; opinions on social consequences of bills; analyses of public attitude toward Sejm; environmental impact studies; opinions on internal relations; translations; publications; and seminars and conferences.<br><br>Offers a series of publications: Information (brief reports); Reports (more substantial analytical work); Materials and Documents (collection of documents and press clippings on issues of interest to the Sejm); Experts' Opinions (opinions prepared by outside experts at the request of the Bureau), and the Bureau of Research Bulletin, which covers samples of Legal Experts' Opinions, translations of laws and other information, etc.<br><br>In the 3rd term of the Sejm (October 1997 through September 2001), the Bureau received 9,559 requests for information, and produced 10,045 opinions. So far, the 4th term has produced 1,700 requests and 1,985 opinions. Sample topics of reports include: Special accounts in the State budget; Academic Education: A challenge of European integration. |
| Reports directly to Head of Chancellery<br><br>8 units:<br>• Quick Reference<br>• Information & Analysis<br>• Archives<br>• Civic Education Unit<br>• Polish emigration<br>• Petitions<br>• Legal Advisory<br>• Expertise Unit | Separate from the Sejm Library  | Provides answers to requests that require both simple research and complex analyses; uses experts on contract to supplement staff and conduct analysis and provide expert opinions; press clippings; legislative tracking and analysis; info packs; organization of seminars.<br><br>Provides a series of publications: Opinions (44 titles in the inventory), Subject papers (27 titles), Information Packet (21 titles), and Reports (11 titles).<br><br>Sample titles: Social Security in the US; Code of Labor -- Report on Reform; Comparative Study of the Legal Regulation of Healers' Services; Comparative Study of Legal Regulation of Tobacco Advertising; Financial Assistance to Students in the EU.  |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i>         | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>  | <i>Date<br/>Created</i> | <i>No. of Staff</i>  |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| Portugal                            | Parliamentary and Legislative Information Division (DILP)                                   | 1977                    | 18 total staff:<br>13 researchers<br>5 support staff   |
|                                     | Library   | 1836                    | 20 total staff:<br>12 librarians<br>8 support staff  |
| Romania:<br>Chamber of<br>Deputies  | Directorate for Parliamentary Information; Parliamentary Studies and Documentation Division | 1996                    | 27 total staff:<br>21 research<br>6 support:<br><br>11 lawyers<br>3 soc.-pol.<br>1 economist<br>3 physicists<br>2 other advanced degrees |
| Romania:<br>Senate                  | Information and Documentation Division (IDD); part of the Legislative Dept                  | 1997                    | 14 total staff:<br>degrees in:<br>law, languages, political science,<br>administration & management                                      |
| Russia:<br>Duma<br>(No<br>response) | Analytical Department   | n/a                     | About 56   |



| <i>Structure</i>   | <i>Relation to Library</i>   | <i>Services Provided</i>  |
|--|--|---|
| Part of a broader service that reports to SG (Information and Documentation Directorate)   | In same broad Directorate that includes Library and other information services         | Provides abstracts and comparative analysis of national and foreign legislation, national and foreign parliamentary documents (including draft laws and debates), and activity reports on the legislature.  |
| Part of Information and Documentation Directorate that reports to SG   | In same broad Directorate that includes DILP and other information services            | Provides selections of research and scientific information, with short abstracts.   |
| Dept reports directly to SG<br><br>4 subdivisions:<br>• Parliamentary Studies<br>• Documentation<br>• Library<br>• Museum<br><br>Research is done in the first two units | As a subdivision, the library is part of the Directorate for Parliamentary Information | Provides documentation, reports, information bulletins, studies, comparative studies, exchanges of information with outside colleagues, advice, and analysis of issues and bills. Covers all subjects, foreign and domestic.<br><br>Produced the following since its beginning in 1996 to the present: 196 documentary studies and syntheses, 194 reports on foreign policy issues, 165 short written answers to specific requests, and 117 documentary files. Production in the first six months of 2002 includes: 58 documentary studies and syntheses, 19 reports on foreign policy issues, 20 short written answers to specific requests, and 15 documentary files.<br><br>Sample studies include: comparative study of EU Community criminal measures and sanctions; constitutional aspects of property rights; money-laundering and efforts to combat; priorities of EU foreign and security policies; and legislative elections in France. |
| IID is part of the Legislative Dept which reports directly to SG   | Separate from Library, but all are part of IID   | Manages and provides research and studies on major issues regarding legislation, and policy analysis on domestic and foreign topics, at the request of the Standing Bureau, parliamentary groups, standing committees and individual Members.<br><br>Produces an average of one in-depth study each month, and about 10-15 requests for information each day.   |
| n/a  | n/a  | n/a   |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i>                | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>   | <i>Date<br/>Created</i>                | <i>No. of Staff</i>   |
|--|--|--|---|
| Russia:<br>Federation<br>Council<br>(1998) | Information and Analysis Directorate<br>(IAD)  | 1996                                   | 100 staff<br><br>5 Doctors of Science (D.Sc.)<br><br>23 Candidates of Science (PhD)                     |
| Slovakia                                   | Department of Analysis and Training<br>(Section of the Parliamentary Institute,<br>which also includes the Parliamentary<br>Library) | 1990 (Analysis<br>& Training<br>Dept); | 13 research staff:<br>5 economists<br>3 social scientists<br>2 law<br>2 natural science<br>1 technology |
|  |  | 1997 (PI)                              | (5 PhD)   |
| Slovenia                                   | Research Department  | 1998                                   | 9 total staff:<br>8 research<br>1 support   |



| <i>Structure</i>  | <i>Relation to Library</i>   | <i>Services Provided</i>  |
|---|--|---|
| <p>IAD reports to the Deputy Chief of the Administrative Staff of the Federation Council.</p> <p>IAD has 8 depts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Analysis &amp; Forecasting</li> <li>• Information &amp; Ref.</li> <li>• Economic Analysis</li> <li>• National Security &amp; Political Analysis</li> <li>• Social Policy</li> <li>• Information &amp; Communication Systems</li> <li>• Information Resources &amp; Databases</li> <li>• Electronic Systems (Sessions)</li> </ul> | <p>Information and Analysis Directorate is separate from the Parliamentary Library of the Duma (which is also used by the Federation Council).</p> <p>IAD is the result of combining the precursor of the Analytic Dept with the Info-Tech. Dept</p> | <p>Prepares information and analytical material for the Members of the Federation Council; provides analysis of contemporary economic issues; produces analytical newsletters; prompts dialogue and exchange of information between Executive agencies and the legislature on the subject of the nature of the Russian Federation; develops information and analysis of policy issues in the various regions of Russia, as well as in foreign countries.</p> <p>Has produced 201 legal analyses, with a total of 1,200 pages; 22 issues of the Analytical Newsletter (aggregate volume of over 2,000 pages); 13 reports to the Leadership of the Federation Council (over 140 pages); draft recommendations for 15 parliamentary hearings; 90 conferences and roundtable sessions (over 236 pages); 347 information reports for the Leadership and Members of the Federation Council (with a combined volume of 2,467 pages).</p> |
| <p>PI reports directly to SG</p>  | <p>Research and Training is part of the Parliamentary Institute, along with the Library, Automation, and Archives</p>  | <p>Provides social, economic, and budget analysis for Members, Committees, and staff of the Parliament. Covers legislation and issues, research, expert opinions on bills, economic and social reviews, background materials for parliamentary delegations, seminars and training for new Members, comparative analysis of legislation and issues.</p>  |
| <p>Analysis &amp; Training is part of PI</p> <p>2 sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic &amp; Social</li> <li>• Domestic and Foreign Analysis (also EU integration)</li> </ul>  | <p>(Director of PI is also Director of Research and Training)</p>  | <p>Workload averages: 200 written replies per year, 100 quick responses monthly, 40-50 information packs on specific issues each year, 6-8 Monitors yearly (selected information from scientific journals), and Economic and Social Situation in the Slovak Republic monthly while legislature in session.</p> <p>Sample titles include: comparative study on 'conflict of interest' legislation; state of public administration in Slovakia; comparative study of the taxation of banking income; imports and the protection of cultural heritage.</p>   |
| <p>Reports directly to SG</p>   | <p>Separate from the Library (which itself is part of the Dept of Documentation &amp; Information)</p>   | <p>Provides impartial analysis and information on issues and problems for the Parliament, comparative information, and information and data on the legislature.</p>   |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i>       | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>            | <i>Date<br/>Created</i> | <i>No. of Staff</i>   |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
|                                   |   |                         | <p>2 lawyers<br/>2 economists<br/>2 historians<br/>2 social scientists</p> <p>2 PhDs, 1 cand.; 2 MAs</p>  |
| Spain:<br>Congress of<br>Deputies | Directorate of Studies and<br>Documentation | 1980                    | <p>20 authorized research staff:</p> <p>13 presently in Studies Dept (including<br/>2-6 economists, 6 in Comparative Law,<br/>plus Director)</p>  |
| Spain:<br>Senate                  | Directorate of Studies and<br>Documentation | 1982                    | <p>69 total staff:<br/>19 with university degrees, incl.<br/>4 clerks, 14 librarians; 1 economist,<br/>36 support staff, and 13 scholarship.</p> <p>Dept of Studies<br/>5 staff:<br/>2 clerks<br/>1 economist<br/>2 support staff</p> |



| <i>Structure</i>  | <i>Relation to Library</i>  | <i>Services Provided</i>  |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Managed by a Deputy SG</p>   |   | <p>Produced 174 studies during the third term of the legislature (from November 2000 to June 2002: 16 documentary studies with abstracts, 49 on data, 21 with general information, 85 comparative studies, and 3 other analyses.</p> <p>Sample topics include: comparative analysis of MPs' salaries and allowances, budget of the Republic of Slovenia and the budget deficit, comparative analysis of the use of 'official' State languages, comparative study of VAT taxes in European countries, comparative analysis of excise taxes on fuel in EU.</p>  |
| <p>Directorate of Research and Documentation reports to Assistant SG for Parliamentary Affairs</p> <p>6 depts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studies</li> <li>• Comparative Law</li> <li>• Documentation</li> <li>• Library</li> <li>• Archives</li> <li>• Publications</li> </ul> | <p>Library is one of parallel subordinate departments with Studies and Documentation</p>            | <p>Provides short 'notes' and longer 'reports' for the Parliament on bills, and issues before the legislature, including both foreign and domestic matters. Increasingly, the work involves comparisons with other European countries (and specifically EU countries), including their laws and practices.</p> <p>Produces an average each year of: 3 notes on legal issues, 4-5 on macroeconomic subjects, 3-4 on comparative law, and 10 'green books' comparing bills with foreign legislation, existing law and case law.</p> <p>Sample topics: Note on the Complementary Voluntary Pension Plan of the European Parliament; Note on the Petroleum Bill; Note on the Monetary Union; Economic Forecasts for Spain; Note on the Legal Status of Internal Security Personnel in the French, German, and Italian Parliaments.</p>  |
| <p>Directorate has 7 units (depts):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studies</li> <li>• European Union</li> <li>• Library</li> <li>• Documentation</li> <li>• Archives</li> <li>• Publications</li> <li>• Documentation on Self-Governing Areas</li> </ul>                            | <p>Library is part of the Directorate of Studies and Documentation, along with Div. of Studies.</p> | <p>Manages, coordinates, and provides research and studies related to parliamentary issues. It not only provides such research, but also serves as general advisor on research work in the Chamber, through SG. The Directorate also provides legal and technical advice, prepares dossiers on individual bills, and meets the documentation needs of the Parliament. It provides such support to the Chamber as a whole and to individual Senators as requested.</p> <p>In the period from 1996 to 2000, the Directorate completed 13,552 research requests, 48 written reports, and produced the following dossiers: 6 monographs, 24 dossiers requested by various bodies of the House, and responded to 75 questionnaires.</p> <p>Sample topics for dossiers include: Euthanasia (1998), society of information and knowledge (1998), Scenic Arts (1999), adoption of children (2002); Sales of Books and Proceedings Published by the Chamber.</p> |



| <i>Structure</i>   | <i>Relation to Library</i>   | <i>Services Provided</i>  |
|--|--|---|
| <p>The Research Service has 6 sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law and Political Science</li> <li>• Economics &amp; Statistics</li> <li>• International Relations &amp; Communications,</li> <li>• Soc. Policy &amp; Education</li> <li>• Budget Office</li> <li>• Follow-up &amp; Evaluation</li> </ul> | <p>Separate from the Library</p> <p>Library has 39 staff; 23 librarians</p>  | <p>Provides analyses and computations, and carries out investigations, and produces factual and background material. Provides services for MPs, party secretariats, parliamentary committees, and the parliamentary administration. Also provides information in response to requests from other parliaments. Almost all work is in response to requests, but the Service does initiate some of its work.</p> <p>The Service answers some 3,000 requests for research each year in the form of memoranda. Approximately 90% of requests come from Members and party secretariats. (During the course of a session, almost 90% of MPs make use of the Service). Distribution of requests by party is roughly proportional to party representation in the Parliament, with a slightly larger relative share going to Opposition parties.</p> <p>Sample research topics include: Municipal companies, marginal tax calculations at the level of the household, EU fines on Tetrapack, labor market policy measures, alternative budget computations, environmental legislation in Norway, the fight against crime in New York, socio-economic costs of juvenile delinquency, and others.</p> |
| <p>Documentation Center is a part of Parliamentary Services, along with Legal Services, and Drafting</p>   | <p>Documentation Center is separate from the Library and is part of another bloc of services and administration.</p> | <p>Provides information and documentation to Members, parliamentary groups, and other parliamentary bodies.</p> <p>Responds to about 3,000 requests per year. Provided 5 documentary studies (research).</p> <p>Sample titles: Press summaries; parliamentary debate summaries; summaries of political subjects.</p>  |
| <p>Part of Parliamentary Services</p> <p>Teams 1-3 divided by issue area:</p> <p>[1] Science, education, culture, etc.</p> <p>[2] Foreign affairs, etc.</p> <p>[3] Social security, health, etc.</p>   | <p>Legal Service is separate from the Library and is part of another bloc of services and administration.</p>        | <p>Provides information and responds to requests of Members. No information on numbers of requests or titles of reports.</p>  |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i>               | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>   | <i>Date<br/>Created</i> | <i>No. of Staff</i>   |
|---|--|-------------------------|---|
| Turkey                                    | Research Service   | 1982                    | 14 total staff<br>All have university degrees, including 2<br>Doctorates, 4 Master's, and 1 Law Degree      |
| Ukraine                                   | No central research service per se,<br>but some legal services from:<br>[1] Institute of Legislation | 1994                    | 20 staff; 4 advanced degrees  |
|   | [2] Directorate of Law   | 1991                    | 35 staff, mainly lawyers  |
|   | [3] Science and Experts Directorate  | 1990                    | 50 staff  |
|   | [4] Two outside NGOs:<br>• Institute for Competitive Society   | 2000                    | 15 staff  |
|   | • Center for Political & Legal Reforms   | 1996                    | 10 staff  |
| United<br>Kingdom:<br>House of<br>Commons | Research Service of the House of<br>Commons Library  | 1946                    | 80 total staff:<br>39 research<br>14_ librarians with subject specialties<br>25_ other staff<br>+ Director. |



| <i>Structure</i>   | <i>Relation to Library</i>  | <i>Services Provided</i>  |
|--|---|---|
| Research Service is part of the Parliamentary Library (Library and Documentation Center of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, TBBM). Library was founded in 1920 and in 1982 established a Research Service within its own structure | Research Service is part of the Library (Library and Documentation Center). Library and Documentation Center has 84 total staff, including the 14 staff of Research Service | Provides written and oral responses to inquiries from individual Members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, ranging from simple reference requests to in-depth research reports. The staff of the Research Service principally meets demands relating to the research needs of Members of Parliament or follows current internal and international developments, preparing fact sheets or research reports accordingly. The services supplied by the Research Service include: Research services related to the legislative activities of the Members of Parliament, in accordance with their demands, as well as the preparation of information profiles and research reports based on analysis. Also provides research on own initiative on important subjects arising in Turkey and the world, and on the subjects which are on or may come to the TBBB's agenda.<br>In 2001, 664 applications were made to the Research Service which issued 92 written answers, 10 research reports and provided 562 publications searches and document preparation. The Research Service prepared 220 research reports, 30 information notes and 53 country reports to date. 7 of the research reports have been published as books. Sample titles include: The Election Laws of the EEC Countries; Value Added Tax; Free Trade Areas: a general Evaluation; Election Regulations in various Countries; Historical Developments and Present Situation in Women Rights; Governments and their Programmes. |
| Reports to SG  | All are separate from the Library, and report directly to SG  | Provides legal research and analysis, comparative legal studies, and other legal services for Members, Committees, and parliamentary bodies of the Supreme Rada.  |
| Reports to SG  |   | Provides legal analysis of bills, explanation of legislation, consults with committees, and provides reference services.  |
| Reports to SG  |   | Provides legal analysis, bill explanations, and analytical review of legislation at the end of the session.   |
| Outside Rada   | Outside Rada  | Works on regulatory policy, deregulation, administrative reform, and small business development.  |
| Outside Rada   | Outside Rada  | Works on administrative reform, judicial reform, information technology, legal advice and review.   |
| Reports to Librarian of the House of Commons, who in turn is appointed by Speaker and is accountable financially   | Subordinate part of the Parliamentary Library, which has a total staff of 200   | Provides research papers on major issues and most legislation; standard notes that are continuously updated on frequently raised issues; responses to individual inquiries (including written briefings and verbal consultations usually telephonic); and new Intranet pages that are now under development.  |

| <i>Country/<br/>Chamber</i>             | <i>Research<br/>Organization</i>   | <i>Date<br/>Created</i> | <i>No. of Staff</i>   |
|---|--|-------------------------|---|
|   |  |                         | All have university degrees, incl.<br>7 PhDs, and other advanced degrees<br><br>Specialties include:<br>5 lawyers<br>5 scientists<br>many economists, statisticians, linguists,<br>historians, etc. |
|   | Committee Office   | 1979                    | 20 staff; all university  |
|   | Parliamentary Office of Science<br>& Technology (POST)   | 1989                    | 7_ staff<br>Nearly all PhDs   |
|   | Committee Office   | 1979                    | 12 staff  |
| United<br>Kingdom:<br>House of<br>Lords | House of Lords Library Research<br>Section<br><br>Parliamentary Office of Science and<br>Technology (POST); see section above<br>on House of Commons | 1977                    | 9 total staff in Research area:<br>Nearly all have university degrees.  |



| <i>Structure</i>  | <i>Relation to Library</i>   | <i>Services Provided</i>   |
|---|--|--|
| <p>to the Clerk of the House</p> <p>Organized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Affairs</li> <li>• Social Policy</li> <li>• Science &amp; Environment</li> <li>• Business &amp; Transport</li> <li>• International Affairs &amp; Defense</li> <li>• Economic Policy &amp; Statistics</li> <li>• Social &amp; General Statistics.</li> </ul> |  | <p>Responds to approximately 30,000 requests per year, of which about 13,000 are substantial enough to be logged. Maintains an inventory of over 1,500 standard notes, with 960 available on the parliamentary intranet.</p> <p>Sample titles include: Cross-border shipping and smuggling, unemployment by constituency, Gibraltar's constitutional future, National Insurance and Contributions bill, social indicators, among others.</p>   |
| Reports directly to Clerk   | Separate from Library  | Provides research, as well as administrative and information support to Committees. Sample topics include: pension credits, Budget for 2002, etc.  |
| Reports directly to Clerk   | Separate from Library  | <p>Provides scientific and technical analysis to Parliament in form of notes (4 pages long), reports (longer), and commentary for select committees. Also provides seminars, conducts on-line discussions to explore public views, liaises with other countries' parliaments.</p> <p>Produces about 15 notes and 2 long reports each year. Sample titles include: access to water in developing countries, etc.</p>  |
| Reports directly to Clerk   | Separate from Library  | Sample titles include: Electronic Road Charging; Chemical and Biological Weapons; Electronic Government; Health Risks and Mobile Phones  |
| <p>Librarian reports to Clerk of the Parliament through the Reading Clerk and Principal Finance Officer</p> <p>Library has two integrated units; one supervised by a Senior Library Clerk (for Research), and a second by a Reader and Technical Services Librarian (for traditional library services)</p>  | <p>Research provided by a separate section within the Library</p> <p>Total staff of 28 for the Library (of whom 9 are devoted to research)</p> | <p>Provides research to all Members in the form of Lords' Library Notes (which summarize developments on specific topics of interest to the House, and offers references on those topics), and renders research aid on a confidential basis to individual Members as requested. These individualized services include short briefing notes on specific topics, reports on investigations into specific issues, information packages (extracts from parliamentary debates, brief casenotes, documents, articles, etc.)</p> <p>Responds to about 1,800 research requests each year. Produces up to 10 Lords' Library Notes each year.</p> <p>Sample topics for notes and individual research include: investment in UK railways, social survey statistics, nationality and immigration legislation, House of Lords Reform, foot-and-mouth disease.</p> |

