World e-Parliament Conference 2026

Advancing democracy and strengthening parliaments through digital transformation

Practical information note

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Theme

The theme of the Conference is ***Advancing democracy and strengthening parliaments through digital transformation*** and specifically how strategic digital transformation and new technologies can strengthen democratic resilience and parliamentary effectiveness.

Organizers

The conference is organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the European Parliament, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD).

Dates

The pre-conference takes place on Monday, 16 November from 14:00 to 18:00

The World e-Parliament Conference takes place on:

- Tuesday, 17 November from 09:00 to 18:30
- Wednesday, 18 November from 09:30 to 17:00

Venue

The pre-conference and the Conference will take place in the Paul Henri Spaak building of the European Parliament (Google Maps) at:

Rue Wiertz 43
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium

Access badge, entry to the European Parliament, conference badge

IMPORTANT: You will need to bring the ID document or passport that you registered with in order to get your access badge and to pass through security controls each time you enter the European Parliament.

Access badge

On arrival, you will need to **collect your access badge at the Station Europe** (Google Maps). The Station Europe is located on the Simone Veil Agora, opposite the entrance area of the European Parliament. The address of Station Europe is:

Rue de Trèves 3
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium

Station Europe will be open and expecting World e-Parliament Conference participants at the following times:

16 November – open as from 12:00 until 17:00

17 November – open as from 08:00 until 17:30
18 November – open as from 08:00 until 12:00

At Station Europe, go to one of the self-service kiosks and scan the ID document or passport that you registered with.

You will receive one single access badge for the European Parliament, and you should keep it for the whole duration of the event.

Access to the European Parliament

To be able to enter the European Parliament premises, please bring with you the ID card or passport that you registered with and the access badge.

Dedicated European Parliament colleague(s) will wait for you at the Station Europe and will guide you to the meeting location.

Please note that due to security constraints, you:

- must show a valid official passport or photo-ID before entering the building;
- must undergo security controls at the entrance of the premises (metal detector);
- should carry your access badge visibly throughout your stay in the European Parliament.

Please plan for approximately 45 minutes between collecting your accreditation, going through the security check and arriving at the meeting room.

Conference badge

Once inside the European Parliament building, you will be guided to the Info Point **, in front of the hemicycle**.

At the Info Point , you can collect your conference badge. Please wear your conference badge at all times.

The conference badge does not replace the access badge for entering the European Parliament.



Event app

An event app containing all information about the conference, including the updated programme, will be available for participants to download.

Documents are also available on the conference website.

Languages

All documentation in advance of the Conference will be available in English, French and Spanish.

Interpretation will be provided in English, French, Spanish and Arabic in all sessions, with one exception: On the morning of 18 November, Arabic interpretation will not be available in meeting room 4B1.

Lunch and refreshments

A buffet lunch will be provided for all participants on 17 and 18 November.

Coffee and refreshments will be provided throughout the conference.

A cocktail reception will be provided on 17 November from 18.30-19.30.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Visas

Please consult your Embassies regarding visas. The IPU and the European Parliament can not assist with visa applications.

Visa support documentation:

- The general **invitation letter** is available on the conference website.
- This letter, together with the confirmation emails of registration, plus a letter from the Parliament nominating the delegation members, is normally sufficient to support the visa application.
- Additional visa support documentation is, in principle, not issued.

Local transport

Participants are responsible for making their own arrangements for local transport, including from the airport and to the European Parliament.

Access to the European Parliament by public transport

The European Parliament can be easily accessed via public transport.

The nearest metro/subway station to the **Trône** (Lines 2 and 6), which is about a 4-minute walk away.

Alternative nearby stations include **Maelbeek** (Lines 1 and 5) and **Schuman** (Lines 1 and 5), both roughly a 10-minute walk through the European Quarter.

You can also reach the building easily by train via the **Brussels-Luxembourg** station, which is right next to the European Parliament, or by several bus lines stopping at **Place du Luxembourg** (Lines 12, 21, 27, 34, 38, 64, 80, 95).

Transportation from Brussels Airport to the European Parliament

Brussels airport is located 13 kilometres away from the city centre. The following means of transport can be used:

Taxi

The cost of a taxi from the airport to the city centre is approximately €60 one way.

If you decide to take a taxi, make sure to only use licensed taxis. They can be recognized by their blue and yellow sign at the front of the car and stand permanently in line just outside the arrivals hall at level 2.

Do not under any circumstances accept a ride from anyone approaching you in the arrivals hall, even if they claim to be a licensed taxi driver.

You can book one of the following taxi services online:

www.justhusk.be/
www.taxisverts.be/
www.taxisautolux.be/en

Moreover, please be informed that UBER and BOLT offer their services in Brussels.

Train

The airport train station is located in the terminal building (level -1).

Every hour two trains leave from the airport to Brussels-Luxembourg Station.

Lines are operated by the SNCB/NMBS: www.belgiantrain.be/en.

The journey time is about 20 min. Fares from the airport to Brussels (any station):

- 2nd class: one way: about €11; return: about €22.00.
- 1st class: one way: about €12.00; return: about €24.00.

Bus

STIB Line 12, also known as the "Airport Line", takes you from Brussels Airport to the European district (Place du Luxembourg – European Parliament – or Schuman) in about 40 minutes.

The bus stop is located 100 metres from the arrivals hall, on Level 0. A covered walkway connects the bus stop to the terminal.

Fares from/to the airport:

- Contactless payment with your bank card or smartphone on the bus: €7.
- A paper ticket from the GO vending machines located on Platform C: €7.50.

The ticket is valid for one hour after you validate it, allowing unlimited transfers within that time on the whole STIB/MIVB bus-metro network.

For more information, including the timetable, see here.

Transportation from Brussels South Charleroi Airport

Shuttle

The shuttle timetable is adapted to the flight schedules: www.flibco.com/en.

Shared taxi

The shared taxi will pick you up directly at the airport or your hotel and drop you off at the hotel or airport at the time of your choice: www.flibco.com/en/d2g-connections/taxi-brussels-charleroi-airport.

Taxi

The taxi stand is right outside the arrivals area. A taxi ride normally takes around 75-90 minutes and costs approximately €120-€150 one way.

Public transport

By train and bus, from Charleroi Central station – Line A1: Airport > Charleroi Gare Centrale, runs between 04:30 and 23:30 with a frequency of 2x/hour.

A "combined" train + bus ticket is available on the SNCB website: www.belgiantrain.be/en.

Public transportation from Brussels Midi/Zuid train station to European Parliament

Metro

Contactless payment with your bank card or smartphone is approximately €2.50/journey (www.stib-mivb.be/buy/your-bank-card-is-your-ticket).

A paper ticket from the GO vending machines is about €2,70.

Tickets are valid for one hour on the whole STIB/MIVB bus metro network.

Take Line 6 or Line 2, direction Elisabeth, and exit at the Trône metro station. The European Parliament and its nearby hotels are a 7-minute walk from the station.

Travel insurance

You are advised to purchase a travel insurance for the entire period of the programme for Belgium and the countries through which you will travel to Brussels including illness, accident, theft and other hazards. The European Parliament will not be able to take care of these contingencies should they happen to you. The European Parliament will not reimburse the travel insurance fees.

Accommodation

Participants are kindly requested to select and book their own accommodation. There are no specific block bookings or room fares arranged by the European Parliament.

Hotels that are within walking distance of the European Parliament include:

- Hotel Renaissance
- Radisson RED
- Stanhope
- Thon EU
- Moxy Brussels City Center

OTHER INFORMATION

Security recommendations for travelers to Brussels – Personal safety:

Avoid isolated areas, especially at night. Stick to well-lit and populated places. Beware of pickpockets, especially in crowded areas like train stations, tourist sites and public transportation. Always keep personal belongings close and secure. Carry a copy of your passport and visa, and store the originals in a safe location, such as your hotel's safe.

Luggage

For security reasons there are no storage locked areas at the European Parliament.

We strongly recommend you leave any luggage at the hotel.

Cloakroom

Coats/luggage may be left (unguarded) on the coat racks outside the meeting room. The European Parliament declines responsibility for any loss or theft. Given the weather in Brussels, it is advised to pack a foldable umbrella.

Lost and found objects

If found, any lost objects will be sent to the European Parliament's "lost & found" service on the ground floor of the Altiero-Spinelli building.

Lost Property Office
SPINELLI 00D024
+32 3228 30200
BurObjetsTrouves-BRU@europarl.europa.eu

Smoking

Please note that smoking (incl. electronic cigarettes) is not permitted in the European Parliament premises except in specifically designated smoking rooms:

- SPINELLI 01E02 – next to the Infocentre
- SPAAK 03C011 ES – next to the Hemicycle Bar.

Internet access

Wi-Fi will be available in the European Parliament building.

- Select the EP-VISITORS network
- Read the Term of Use until the end
- Press Accept

Login details will be displayed in the EP premises.

Health and Medical Needs

Carry necessary medical documents and a sufficient supply of medication if needed. Make sure to have travel insurance that covers medical emergencies.

Emergency Contacts

European Parliament's emergency number: **+32 2 283 31 12**

Local Emergency Services (Belgium):

- Police, Fire, Ambulance: 112 (Emergency number for all services).
- Police (non-emergency): 101.
- Online Portal: File non-urgent complaints or reports digitally via Police.be.

CONTACTS

To contact the organizers:

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