World e-Parliament Conference 2026

Advancing democracy and strengthening parliaments through digital transformation

17–18 November 2026, Brussels, Belgium

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).

Programme

Pre-conference event for parliamentary staff, Monday, 16 November

Time	Session title	Room	Track	Participants
Monday, 16 November 2026				
13:00–14:00	Registration – Security checks			
14:00–14:15	**Welcome and objectives for the pre-conference**	3C50		Speakers: - Lorenzo Mannelli, Director-General for Information Technologies and Cybersecurity, European Parliament - Andy Richardson, Programme manager, Parliamentary standards, IPU

Time	Session title	Room	Track	Participants
14:15–15:15	**Peer-to-Peer Session 1 – From paperless to intelligent parliaments: Digital workflows for legislative work** *End-to-end digital legislative processes – draft-law systems, e-signatures, secure data exchange and interoperability – and modern voting systems designed for trust and transparency.*	3C50	Technology, innovation & implementation	Presenter : - Ahto Saks, Administrative Director, Parliament of Estonia - Mwaula Solopi, ICT Director, National Assembly of Zambia - Mairead Keating, Head, Parliamentary Business Systems Development, Oireachtas of Ireland Moderator: - Libor Bohac, Director for Business Solutions, European Parliament
15:15–16:15	**Peer-to-Peer Session 2 – Real-time parliament: Enhancing transparency in parliamentary proceedings** *How parliaments can provide real-time access to proceedings to encourage public engagement and support transparency. Technical and organizational solutions to ensure transparency, public engagement and timely information delivery.*	3C50	Technology, innovation & implementation	Presenters: - Claudia di Andrea, Deputy Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies Italy - Yassine Aouididi, Senior Director, Digital Infrastructure, Media, and Program Delivery, House of Commons of Canada - Rodolfo Vaz, IT Project Manager, Chamber of Deputies of Brazil - Oleksii Sydorenko, Head of IT Department, Verkohvna Rada, Ukraine Moderator - Emilie Tournier, Deputy Spokesperson, European Parliament
16:15–16:45	Coffee break			
16:45–17:45	**Peer-to-Peer Session 3 – Innovation showcase: Clouds, managing data and hybrid infrastructures** *Parliaments sharing examples of their innovation with participants as part of a peer learning experience.*	3C50	Technology, innovation & implementation	Presenters: - Peter Reichstaedter, CIO, Parliament of Austria - Saseeta Ramsahye-Rakha, Manager Parliamentary Digital Services, National Assembly of Mauritius - Mateialona Halaholo, ICT Officer, Parliament of Tonga Moderator: - Neven Drljevic, Head of Portfolio Management and Compliance Unit, European Parliament
17:45–18:00	**Wrap-up**	3C50		Presenters: - Avinash Bikha, Project Officer, Centre for Innovation in Parliament, IPU

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Time	Session title	Room	Track	Participants
Tuesday, 17 November 2026				
08:00–09:00	Registration – Security checks			
09:00–09:30	**Opening ceremony**	Hemicycle	Plenary	Podium: - Roberta Metsola, President, European Parliament (video message) - Milton Dick, President, IPU - Christel Schaldemose, Vice-President, European Parliament - Alessandro Chiocchetti, Secretary General, European Parliament - Anda Filip, Secretary General, IPU
09:30–11:00	**Keynote 1 – What does AI mean for parliaments and for democracy?**	Hemicycle	Parliamentarians in a digital society	
9:30-10:15	**Keynote speech**			Keynote: - Maria Ressa, co-chair of the United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence (online) Session chair: - Anda Filip, Secretary General, IPU
10.15-11.00	**High-level session**			Speakers: - Mircea Abrudean, President of the Senate, Romania - Christel Schaldemose, Vice-President, European Parliament - Rodrigo Goñi, President, House of Representatives, Uruguay - Nacho Sanchez Amor, MEP, European Parliament
11:00–11:30	Coffee break			

Time	Session title	Room	Track	Participants
11:30–13:00	**Keynote 2 – The future of parliaments: From digital maturity to digital sovereignty** *Launch of the World e-Parliament Report; introducing the concept of digital-maturity tiers; resilience building: cyber-maturity, business continuity and digital sovereignty.*	Hemicycle	Strategic leadership	Presentation of the key findings of the World e-Parliament Report 2026: - Anda Filip, Secretary General, IPU - Andy Williamson, Senior researcher, IPU Centre for Innovation in Parliament Panelists: - Andy Williamson, IPU - Lorenzo Mannelli, Director-General for Information Technologies and Cybersecurity, European Parliament - Unathi Thosago, CIO, Parliament of South Africa - Estéban Sanchez, Director of ICT, Chamber of Deputies of Chile Moderator: - Philip Tulkens, Director for ICT Infrastructure and Security Operations, European Parliament
13:00–14:30	Sandwich lunch			
14:30–15:30	**Discussion Session 1 – The sovereignty paradox** *How to reclaim control and autonomy of your technology and data while agreeing on common rules*.	Hemicycle	Parliamentarians in a digital society	Panelists: - Darren Jones, Member of the House of Commons, United Kingdom - Quratulain Marri, Member, Senate of Pakistan - Shuaib Afolabi Salisu, Senator of Nigeria - Brando Benifei, Member, European Parliament Moderator: - Raquel De Vincente, Director, Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union, European Parliament
15:30–16:30	**Discussion Session 2 – Truth or dare: Building trust in an age of dis/misinformation** *Building trust is more important than ever but is getting harder as dis/misinformation increases. Strategies include digital literacy, parliamentary openness and transparency, and supporting greater participation in the digital public sphere.*	Hemicycle	Parliamentarians in a digital society	Panelists: - Marc Angel, MEP, Quaestor, European Parliament - Lukas Mandl, MEP, European Parliament - Andrei Baciu, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Romania Moderator: - Christian Mangold, Director-General for Communication, European Parliament

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14:30–15:30	**Discussion Session 3 – Strategic compass: Digital maturity tools and the transformation culture** *Leading and learning on parliament's digital transformation journey: looking at maturity-assessment frameworks from the IPU Digital Maturity Assessment (DMA) and European Parliament IT Maturity Assessment Tool (IMAT), and translating the results into transformation as a strategic pillar.*	4B1	Strategic leadership	Panelists: - Avinash Bikha, Project Officer, Centre for Innovation in Parliament, IPU - Rahayu Susanti, Head of IT, House of Representatives of Indonesia - Ludovic Delepine, Head of IT Governance and Enterprise Architecture Unit, European Parliament Moderator: - Manuel Pereira, CIO, Senate of Spain
15:30–16:30	**Discussion Session 4 – Modernizing parliament's digital infrastructure** *Cloud architectures and new ways of working offer parliaments greater operational efficiencies, create opportunities to build resilience but raise questions around data sovereignty. This session highlights how infrastructure assessments and road maps can guide digital modernization.*	4B1	Strategic leadership	Panelists: - Elizabeta Srbinoska, Head of the Infrastructure, Applications, and Development Department, Assembly of the Republic, North Macedonia - Rupert Hay-Campbell, Head of Architecture, Parliamentary Digital Service, UK Parliament - Patricio Alvarez, ICT Director, Senate of Chile Moderator: - Frode Rein, Special advisor International digitalisation and innovation, Parliament of Norway
16:30–17:00	Coffee break			
17:00–18:30	**Discussion Session 5 – Combatting digital violence against MPs** *An exchange of experiences drawing on the IPU's work on non-consensual intimate images and political violence against parliamentarians.*	Hemicycle	Parliamentarians in a digital society	Panelists: - Antonella Sberna, Vice-President, European Parliament - Lena Gumnior, Member of the Bundestag, Germany - Simey Olvera Bautista, Member, Senate of the Republic, Mexico - Aleida Ferreyra, Global Lead, Democratic Institutions and Processes in a Digital Era, UNDP - Alexander Kriebitz, AI Policy Researcher, IPU Moderator: - Milton Dick, President, IPU

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17:00–18:30	**Discussion Session 6 – Implementing AI in practice** *Exploring the real-world use of AI in legislative work – automation, transcription and translation, intelligent search, analytics, AI-assisted drafting and agentic AI – with lessons from implementation.*	4B1	Technology, innovation & implementation	Panelists: - Virginia Carmona, Innovation Lab, Chamber of Deputies of Chile - Martin Kamprath, AI Coordinator and Advisor, German Bundestag - Patricia Almeida, Deputy CIO, Chamber of Deputies of Brazil - Etienne Desécures, Deputy Head of Systems Development, National Assembly of France Moderator: - Peter Reichstaedter, CIO, Parliament of Austria
18:30-19.30	Networking event			
Wednesday, 18 November 2026				
09:30–10:30	**Discussion Session 7 – Lessons from digital transformation in parliaments** *Experiences relating to modernization and digital transformation. This session highlights how infrastructure assessments and road maps can guide digital modernization.*	4B1	Strategic leadership	Panelists: - Mwaula Solopi, ICT Director, Zambia National Assembly - Ciarán Doyle, CIO, Houses of the Oireachtas, Ireland - Annette Feitscher, Deputy Secretary General, Council of States, Switzerland Moderator: - Najib El Khadi, Secretary General, House of Representatives, Morocco
09:30–10:30	**Discussion Session 8 – Building a smart parliament for better parliamentary services** *Enhancing the experience of MPs through digital platforms, AI-powered assistants, intelligent research tools and integrated parliamentary systems.*	Hemicycle	Technology, innovation & implementation	Panelists: - Omar Alnuaimi, Secretary General, Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates - Boban Stanišić, Secretary General, Parliament of Montenegro - Viacheslav Shtuchnyi, Secretary General, Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine - Sophie Dambe, Assistant Clerk, Parliament of Malawi Moderator: - Oliver Martin Leon, Director, Directorate for Sourcing and Organisational Management, European Parliament
10:30–11:00	Coffee break			

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11:00–12:00	**Discussion Session 9 – Developing AI literacy for members and staff** *Building on the Kuala Lumpur Declaration Recommendation 4 on continuous AI capacity-building, this session will discuss strategies parliaments can employ to ensure continuous upskilling of members and staff to support their effective adoption of AI.*	Hemicycle	Strategic leadership	Panelists: - Barry Andrews, Member, Co-Chair of the Democracy Support and Elections Coordination Group, European Parliament - Lilijana Medelyte, Senior Advisor, Strategy and Innovation Unit, Parliament of Lithuania - Christoph Konrath, Head of Department/Co-Lead Digital Literacy, Parliament of Austria Moderator: - Lord Uday Nagaraju, Member, House of Lords, UK
11:00–12:00	**Discussion Session 10 – Digital accelerators for developing parliaments** *Demystifying digital transformation for smaller legislatures, building strong foundations for governance, data management, connectivity and AI. How parliaments can start small and scale with confidence.*	4B1	Technology, innovation & implementation	Panelists: - Maika Lakeba, Manager IT services & CIP Pacific Hub Coordinator, Fiji Parliament - Saseeta Ramsahye-Rakha, Manager Parliamentary Digital Services, National Assembly of Mauritius - Dritan Kaloshi, CIO, Albania Moderator: - Beatriz Rey, Researcher, University of Lisbon
12:00–13:00	**Discussion Session 11 – Creating value in communities of practice** *Communities of practice enable parliaments to accelerate their digital transformation through benchmarking and the adoption of solutions already validated in comparable contexts, avoiding the cost and risk of solving the same challenges in isolation.*	4B1	Strategic leadership	Panelists: - Frode Rein, Special advisor International digitalisation and innovation, Stortinget, Norway - Stefania Boschetto, Head of Unit, Strategic Coordination, Digital Partnerships and Legal Advice Unit, European Parliament - Andy Williamson, Senior Researcher, Centre for Innovation in Parliament, IPU Moderator: - Peter Reichstädter, CIO, Parliament of Austria
12:00–13:00	**Discussion Session 12 – From digital landscape to better decisions**	Hemicycle	Technology, innovation & implementation	Panelists: - Sandro Mameli, Customer Relations and Service Delivery Excellence Unit, European Parliament - Ingrid Schneider, Head of Platform Architecture and Engineering Unit

Time	Session title	Room	Track	Participants
	Enterprise architecture for parliamentary governance through dashboards and assistants.			- Gerrit Potoms, Head of Solution Design and Quality Assurance Unit - Wanda Troszczynska-van Genderen, Head of Human Resources Unit Session chair: - Ludovic Delepine, Head of IT Governance and Enterprise Architecture Unit, European Parliament
13:00–14:30	Sandwich lunch			
14:30–15:30	**Keynote 3 – Harnessing AI promises while ensuring it serves people** *Parliaments must ensure the benefits of AI are for all while they must protect citizens from its harmful impacts, especially children and workers, to preserve human dignity, agency and societal trust.*	Hemicycle	Parliamentarians in a digital society	Speakers: - Fr Paolo Benanti, AI ethics adviser, Holy See (online) - Anna Ascani, Vice President, Chamber of Deputies, Italy - Nicolae Ștefănuță, Vice President, European Parliament - Rojo Edwards, Member, Senate of Chile Moderator: - Cecilia Strada, Member, European Parliament
15:30–16:30	**Keynote 4 – Reinventing parliament** *Parliaments must adapt to an environment characterized by technological acceleration, increasing cyber threats and citizens wanting greater transparency. Digital transformation is the glue that binds together modernization, innovation and resilience.*	Hemicycle	Parliamentarians in a digital society	Keynote: - Sarah Davies, Clerk Assistant, House of Commons, UK Speakers: - Christel Schaldemose, Vice President, European Parliament - Darkhan Akhmediyev, Chair of the Committee on Digitalization, Innovation and Science, Kurultai, Kazakhstan Session chair: - Anda Filip, Secretary General, IPU
16:30–17:00	**Conclusions and closing of the conference**	Hemicycle	Plenary	Podium: - Christel Schaldemose, Vice President, European Parliament - Anda Filip, Secretary General, IPU