Assessing the impact of increased parliamentary openness

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In democratic society, citizens require parliament to be open and transparent about the law-making process and other parliamentary business.

Many parliaments have made commitments and are taking specific actions to increase openness. This session will look for evidence of the positive and negative effects of parliamentary openness, and assess its impact including on public perceptions of parliament.
Positive effects

- **To fight against corruption**
  - how public expenditure is being made
  - how lobby is interacting with decision making actors

- **To strengthen the democratic processes**
  - Background of candidates
  - Held authorities accountable for their promises

- **To facilitate the civil society a participatory role in public policies development**
  - Open Data
Negative effects

- Asymmetry of knowledge.
  - First sight information is not the same in the eyes of experimented users

- Can easily gets into privacy instead of public interest matters
  - Then it turns into a kink of political pornography

- Deepen distrust
  - Trust is only possible when you don’t know something. Transparency becomes necessary when you have a lack of trust.
What is the limit of transparency?
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