



The Second General Assembly of the International Parliamentarians'
Association for Information Technology -IPAIT II
17-19 May 2004, Conrad Bangkok Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

E-PAR

IPAIT 2/2004/TRACK I/03

TRACK I

ROMANIA

***The Second Assembly of the International Parliamentarians
Association for Information Technology (IPAIT II)
17-19 May, Bangkok***

Contribution by Senator Ioan Nicolaescu,
Vice-President of the Committee on Science,
Education and Youth of the Senate of Romania
on e- Parliament

Mr. President,
Distinguished members of the Assembly,
Ladies and Gentleman,

*

On behalf of the Romanian Delegation to the Second General Assembly of the Parliamentary Association for Information Technology (IPAIT II), I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand for the warm hospitality, for the excellent conditions in order to make this meeting a real succes.

It is now widely accepted that the shift to the *information society* and the *knowledge-based economy* is essential for our countries to draw the full benefits of digital technologies and Internet, in terms of sustainable growth, increased productivity and competitiveness, creation of new jobs and social progress. How to benefit from and maximise digital opportunities represents a continuous challenge for all our countries.

The concept of ***e-parliament*** - integrated together with *e-government* in the broader concept of *e-governance* -, tries to capture the notion of changing institutional relationships and the involvement of both the civil society and business. Taking into account the recognition of the potential of *e- everything*, as part of a wider global trend, to enable more effective delivery of socio-economic and political imperatives, e-governance is nowadays seen as a remedy of the perceived disconnection between citizens and the state. In this

perspective, our delegation very much welcomes the initiative of choosing **e-parliament** as main subject of our meeting and supports a continue multilateral exchange of best practices and policies with a view to strengthening partnership and co-operation among our Parliaments in the framework of the IPAIT.

**

Taking into account that the *Constitution of Romania not only guarantees the right of citizens to information, but the public authorities shall ensure the accurate information of the citizens regarding the public affairs*, the Parliament was one of the first public institutions implementing an IT system connected to the parliamentary activity (based on the Internet/Intranet technology) aiming at circulating information within and without the organisation and ensuring the accuracy and the transparency of information.

The Internet site of the Senate which is available at the address www.senat.ro and which is actually under a process of modernisation, will further provide:

1. The direct, rapid and easy access of citizens and mass-media to all information regarding the process of passing a draft of law or a legislative initiative together with all the other background information connected to the respective law. These documents will be scanned optically and thus the Internet users will have access to the whole process of passing a law including the draft of law/the legislative initiative submitted to the Standing Bureau of one of the two Chambers, the amendments and the reports of the specialised committees, the final version of the law adopted by the Senate/ the Chamber of Deputies. At the same time, the e-mail communication will enable anyone interested in the political decision-making process to expose his point of view on a draft of law before the debates are closed and the law is published in the Official Gazette.
2. The management of the information on the sittings of the Standing Bureau of the Senate and joint sittings of the Standing Bureau of

the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies. At the same time, thanks to the connection to the Intranet Senate network of the senatorial offices, senators will be promptly informed about the draft of law on the agenda of the committees or of the plenary and are able to access the text of the draft law in an electronic format.

3. The management of the activity of Senators and of the Records of the Senate Plenary Sitzings, including the management of Questions and Interpellations, will ensure the automatic saving of the meetings' minutes and will also provide the public access to the senators' contribution in the plenary of the Senate. Considering that the new communication channels can improve significantly the parliamentary process, our efforts are aimed to establishing an on-line system of access to parliamentary debates.
4. Set up and management of the archives in electronic format.
5. The management of the Petitions. Citizens will have an additional communication channel at their disposal to submit a petition and follow up the process of its solution from the very first discussions on the respective matter by the specialised Committee, to the final report on it.
6. The electronic inbox of the Senator. The creation of electronic links between the senatorial offices and the central headquarters will enable senators to work at their senatorial office, to check their e-mail as if located in the central headquarters, with access to all facilities offered by the central network from anywhere in the world. The direct consequences of this type of activity will be :
 - A longer presence of senators among their voters;
 - The possibility of following the matters while being in a mission abroad

I am pleased to take this opportunity to shortly introduce to you the web page of the Senate of Romania. Since all of you are very familiar with the web page of other Parliaments I will make just very few comments on the presented slides.

Finally, I would like to express our conviction that the parliamentary co-operation can play an important role in the development of the e-parliament. The Senate of Romania is ready to share its experience and, mostly to benefit of the expertise of the parliaments, which are more experienced in that particular domain.

Thank you for your attention.