Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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e-Parliament interactive session

The digital tools that parliamentarians use to do their work

Tuesday, 17 October 2017, 9 – 10.30 a.m.
Hall no.1 (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace

(Interpretation in English and French only)

This session looks at how digital communications are changing the ways that parliaments, and specifically legislators, are working. Though by no means a panacea, digital tools are helping to connect members more directly and closely with the public and they are supporting the work of parliaments.

But the rapid advent of new digital communication methods has also changed public expectations of their political representatives. People now more than ever expect to receive an instant reply, to be able to get involved and to have access to information about what their parliament and representatives are doing.

In this session we will draw on the findings of the World e-Parliament Report to discuss trends, opportunities and challenges and, from this, hold an open discussion with participants in the session on their own practices, problems and concerns.

The session hopes to draw out a meaningful conversation to allow members and parliamentary staff to better understand the potential for new digital tools and the support needed to make use of them.

Findings from the 2016 World e-Parliament Report

- Email matters
- Social media is a mixed blessing
- Working with constituents
  - Listening and interacting
  - New publishing media – words, pictures, video
- Broader digital trends for parliaments: digital drafting of laws, open data and open publishing, visibility and the constancy of media scrutiny, trust

Open discussion

- What trends are members observing?
- What tools are members using? What do they find helpful or unhelpful?
- What challenges do they face using new digital tools?
  - Skills
  - Workload
  - Access (self, public)
  - Culture (abuse)
- What benefits (expected and unforeseen) have members seen from using digital tools?

Gaps and Lessons

- What do members need to be more effective?
- How can parliaments support them?
- Where can parliaments and members improve at using digital tools?