



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Secretariat-General

The Secretary-General

Brussels

Mr Klaus Welle  
Secretary-General of the European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz 60  
1047 Bruxelles

**Subject: Delivering the Joint Legislative Portal**

Dear Secretary-General,

Under the 2016 Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-making<sup>1</sup>, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission agreed to make the various steps of the legislative process easier to follow by the citizens, with the view to setting up ‘a dedicated joint database on the state of legislative files’.

The three institutions defined in October 2017 the objectives and the content of the joint database. Following a thorough analysis of the technical feasibility, funding and governance aspects of the project, the institutions’ operational teams presented in July 2019 two different options for the development of the Joint Legislative Portal:

- the Publications Office offered to build a solution on the existing infrastructures, interinstitutional standards and data available on EUR-Lex; the initial version of the Portal could be delivered in one year for a cost of EUR 250 000;
- the European Parliament proposed to base the Portal on its Legislative Observatory and to create a new ad hoc solution to be delivered in three years for a cost of EUR 800 000 on the institutions’ own budgets.

However, it was still not possible to agree on a common solution between all institutions’ representatives.

After almost three years of intense work, it is crucial to start implementing this project as soon as possible, to reap the benefits of all the efforts and resources spent in the preparatory work.

---

<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 39 of the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making (OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1).


The Commission and the Secretariat-General of the Council are in favour of the solution proposed by the Publications Office. This solution is based on EUR-Lex, to which all Institutions already contribute. It reconciles fast implementation timing and cost-effectiveness. It will also allow reusing existing data and producing future interoperable solutions.

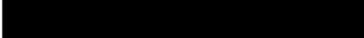
Under a strong governance structure, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission will be the masters of the project. We will steer its implementation together and jointly decide on the content and interface of the Joint Legislative Portal. The expertise of the Publications Office will be used optimally in its sole role as service provider.

In addition, considering the budgetary constraints, we should take advantage of the budget already assigned under the Interoperability Solutions Programme of the European Union<sup>2</sup> (the ISA<sup>2</sup> Programme) for the option proposed by the Publications Office. The funds for the initial version of the Joint Legislative Portal (EUR 270 000) are available as from 1 April 2020.

I am confident that we can all quickly come to an agreement, to meet this important political commitment that will increase transparency for the benefit of citizens.

Yours faithfully,

  
(e-signed)

c.c.:  Secretary-General of the Council

Enclosure: Joint Legislative Portal: Concept paper and first Progress Report

---

<sup>2</sup> ISA<sup>2</sup> - Interoperability solutions for public administrations, businesses and citizens:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/isa2\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/isa2_en).