

Library and Knowledge Services DIRECTORATE C

The EPRS **Directorate for the Library and Knowledge Services** provides a wide range of services to individual Members of the European Parliament, parliamentary staff and the institution as a whole. It operates the Library Reading Rooms in Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg, housing the Parliament's extensive physical and digital collection of books and journals, which it acquires and manages. It provides online access to subscription-based publications for the Parliament as a whole and answers citizens' enquiries about the Parliament and the EU generally. The Directorate for the Library is organised in **three units**.

The **On-Site and Online Library Services Unit** takes the lead in providing access to knowledge sources for the parliamentary community as a whole. It provides physical and online access for Members and staff to books, journals, databases, and news and information sources, whilst also providing training in the use of such sources.

READING ROOMS

The Reading Rooms hold the Parliament's collection of over **90,000 books** (over 110,000 e-books), as well as **30,000 journals, databases and information sources**. They are located in Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg, and are open to Members and parliamentary staff. Regular events – including book launches and EPRS policy roundtables, often with expert speakers from think tanks and academia – are held in the principal Library Reading Room in Brussels.

The Library has five **Reading Rooms** in all, situated in the following locations in Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg:

- **Brussels:** on the fifth floor of the Altiero Spinelli building (SPINELLI-05D), which is the principal Reading Room, and in the Astrid Lulling Lounge on the ground floor, which is Members only;
- **Strasbourg:** on the ground floor of the Winston Churchill building, next to the Swan Bar, and on the ground floor of the Pierre Pflimlin building;
- **Luxembourg:** on the ground floor of the Robert Schuman building (Historical Library).

Almost 80,000 books and e-books were lent to parliamentary clients in the five years from 2014 to 2019. Library staff responded to over 119,000 reference requests over the same period.

ONLINE KNOWLEDGE SOURCES

The **On-Site and Online Library Services Unit** also provides access, via the EPRS intranet, to an increasingly large number of **electronic news services and databases** relevant to Members' parliamentary work. These include subscriptions to general EU and national news sources – such as Agence Europe, Europolitics, Reuters, AFP and the Financial Times – and subscriptions to specialist information and analytical sources – such as Factiva, Westlaw, Nexis, Oxford Analytica, EU Trade Insight and IHS Global. In addition, **personalised email alerts** to latest EPRS publications, as well as to new books and articles on any subject, can be set up on the EPRS intranet.

Library sources and resources can be accessed on the EPRS intranet at: www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu



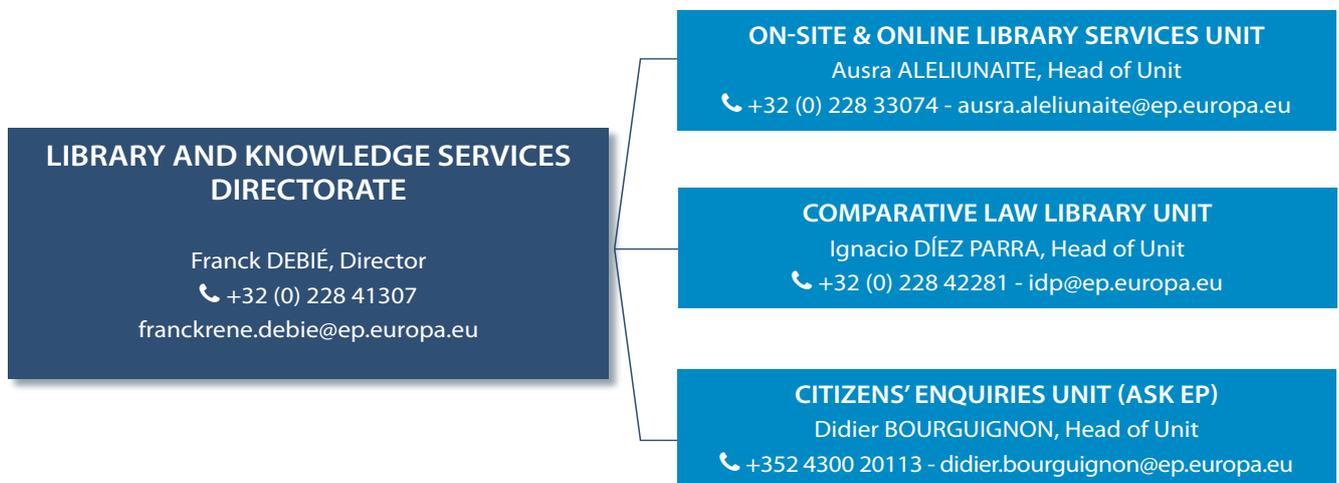
COMPARATIVE LAW

The **Comparative Law Library Unit** serves as a centre of knowledge and expertise on the law of the European Union, its member states and comparable democratic jurisdictions. It is responsible for building and maintaining an extensive reference collection of legislation, case law and legal doctrine, as well as engaging in research and analysis, in the field of comparative law. It organises conferences on comparative law issues and works closely with other such libraries to increase EP access to relevant material.

CITIZENS' ENQUIRIES (Ask EP)

The **Citizens' Enquiries Unit** seeks to enhance the Parliament's interaction with citizens by answering letters, emails and other requests on the Parliament and EU issues received from members of the public. The Unit replied to over 330,000 citizens' enquiries during the five years from 2014 to 2019. Citizens may access the service on the EP website at: www.europarl.europa.eu/askEP. The Unit also produces '**model answers**' which can be used by Members to reply to frequently asked questions. These are available at: www.eptinktank.eu/author/epanswers.

OUR ORGANISATION



Library sources and resources can be accessed on the EPRS intranet at: www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu

www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank



<http://eptinktank.eu>



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For access to all EPRS services, please see: www.eprs.sso.ep.parl.union.eu | January 2021