

Library and Knowledge Services DIRECTORATE C

The EPRS **Directorate for the Library and Knowledge Services** provides Members of the European Parliament and parliamentary staff with a comprehensive range of physical and digital books, journals, newspapers, newswires, databases and other information sources that are relevant to all facets of their own work and that of the European Parliament as an institution.

The Parliament's Library has existed since 1952 and today its impressive reading room in Brussels – located at the very heart of the EP complex, on the fifth floor of the Altiero Spinelli Building – provides not only a spacious venue for study and learning, but also an attractive platform for book talks and policy roundtables. In parallel, an intensive process of digitisation has greatly broadened the diversity and accessibility of sources for parliamentary clients. An increasingly wide selection of library materials are being made available to the general public. The Directorate is organised in **five units**.

LIBRARY READING ROOMS

The **Library Reading Room Unit** runs the front office and daily operations of the Parliament's reading rooms – through a series of 'info-desks' – and holds a collection of over **100,000 books** and nearly **as many e-books**, as well as over **30,000 journals, databases, newspapers, newswires, databases and other information sources**.

There are five Reading Rooms open to Members and parliamentary staff:

- **Brussels:** The main reading room is located on the fifth floor of the Altiero Spinelli Building (Spinelli-05D), whilst the Astrid Lulling Lounge, for Members only, on the ground floor of the same building, has a library component.
- **Strasbourg:** The two reading rooms in Strasbourg are to be found on the ground floor of the Winston Churchill Building, next to the Swan Bar, and on the ground floor of the Pierre Pfimlin Building.
- **Luxembourg:** The reading room in Luxembourg is on the ground floor of the Robert Schuman Building (providing the EP Historical Library).

Beyond managing and cataloguing the library book collections, the Unit deals with over **10,000 reference requests** each year and organises info-sessions on how to access Library knowledge sources. Regular events – including EPRS book talks and policy roundtables, with Members and outside experts from think tanks and academia – are held in the main Library Reading Room in Brussels. The Unit also promotes the development of a growing number of 'reading corners' in the various directorates-general across the parliamentary estate.

DIGITAL LIBRARY

The **Digital Library Unit** is responsible for implementing the EPRS's ambitious Open Digital Library project. It is developing the Library's digital catalogue and digital knowledge services relevant to parliamentary work. It manages subscriptions to the **online press** – such as PressReader, Financial Times, Le Monde, The Economist,

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

Members' Hotline ☎ 88100

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Agence Europe and AFP – as well as to **online journals, databases** and **specialised analytical sources**, such as BrowZine, Factiva, MBI Europa Aktuell, Oxford Analytica, Nexis, Contexte, Bloomberg and PoliticoPro. In addition, **personalised email alerts** to new material can be set up by Members and staff through the EPRS intranet.

CITIZENS' LIBRARY

The **Citizens' Library Unit** carries forward the EPRS strategy of making library services available to members of the general public and outside researchers, wherever practically possible, in parallel to opening the library catalogue to users outside the Parliament. Brussels will see the opening of a public Library for Europe in the Solvay Library in Park Leopold. In Luxembourg, the Parliament's historical collection will be opened to citizens as part of the EP History project. In Strasbourg, citizens will also gain access to a special visitors' reading corner. One-week study visits and one-month research visits are also encouraged. A network of partner and affiliated libraries in national capitals is being developed in order to promote a two-way exchange of sources and information.

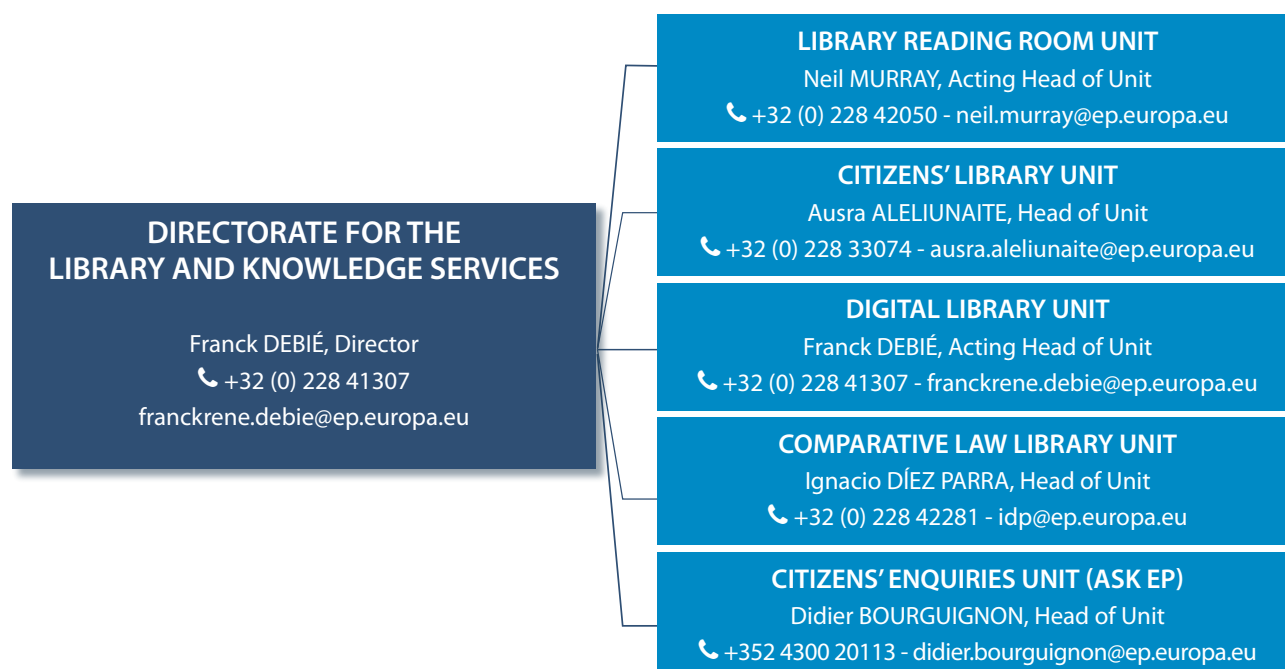
COMPARATIVE LAW LIBRARY

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. All the research work of the comparative law library is publicly available [here](#).

CITIZENS' ENQUIRIES (Ask EP)

The **Citizens' Enquiries Unit** (AskEP) seeks to enhance the European Parliament's interaction with citizens by answering letters, emails and other enquiries about the Parliament and its approach to EU issues received from members of the general public. The Unit replied to over **420,000 citizens' enquiries** during the six years from 2014 to 2020. 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.eptthinktank.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://eptthinktank.eu>



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