**Urgent Questions on Parliamentary Activity during the Coronavirus Pandemic**

**We would greatly appreciate your help in reaching additional experts that can report on the legislative activity in their countries, particularly from countries outside Europe and North America**.

**Please feel free to forward this message to your friends and colleagues whom you know to be relevant experts about the current operations of parliamentary activity in their countries.**

After analyzing a first batch of reports, we have come to appreciate the extent to which the question of whether parliament is operating is a matter of degree rather than a yes/no question.

Hence, to supplement the substantive country reports, **we have developed this very brief survey, which we would really appreciate it if you could please fill-out.** **It takes less than 5 minutes to fill**.

**Thank you for your willingness to participate in this study. Please answer these two questions:**

**1.**       **Parliamentary activity during coronavirus pandemic**

**According to your best judgement, which number best captures the operation of the (federal) legislature in your country in the past two weeks (23.3-6.4)?**

If your country has a bicameral legislature and the situation is different in the two chambers, please base your answer on the lower chamber or the more dominant chamber, whichever plays the greater role in lawmaking and legislative oversight.

**Important note**: for this question (and particularly for answers 5-9), what matters is whether parliament and its bodies are operating. It does not matter whether they are operating through physical or online presence, and whether through normal numbers of attendance or if the numbers of MPs present were reduced to the minimum quorum required.

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| --- | --- |
|  | **Parliamentary activity during the coronavirus pandemic** |
| 1 | The legislature was supposed to be in session during this time of year, but was shut down due to coronavirus |
| 2 | The legislature is closed due to a usual break (e.g. Easter break), which has started earlier or was extended due to coronavirus |
| 3 | The legislature is closed due to a usual break (e.g. Easter break), whose duration was not changed due to coronavirus |
| 4 | The legislature is closed due to a usual break (e.g. Easter break), whose duration was not changed due to coronavirus, but held 1-2 emergency meetings due to coronavirus |
| 5 | The legislature is operating in skeletal form – plenum and committees are closed, while the leadership of the legislature (e.g., some very small forum of speakers of each house, leaders of each party) continue to meet |
| 6 | The legislature is partly operating – committees are operating, whereas plenum is closed |
| 7 | The legislature is partly operating – plenum is operating, whereas committees are closed |
| 8 | The legislature is officially fully operating, but meetings are sparse – 0-2 meeting in last two weeks |
| 9 | The legislature is officially fully operating, but meetings were reduced – 3-4 meeting in last two weeks |
| 10 | The legislature is fully operating as usual |

**The number that best captures the operation of the (federal) legislature in my country in the past two weeks (23.3 - 6.4) is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

·         *If none of the options below captures the situation in your country, you may suggest an in-between number (e.g., 6.5) and explain why.*

*Please explain:*

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·         *If the situation in your country has significantly changed during these past two weeks, you may submit two separate responses*

o   *Week of 23.3 - 30.3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

o   *Week of 31.3 - 6.4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**2.**       **Parliamentary use of technological solutions during coronavirus pandemic**

**According to your best judgement, which number best captures the operation of the (federal) legislature in your country in the past two weeks (23.3-6.4)?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Parliamentary use of technological solutions during coronavirus pandemic** |
| 1 | Physical presence still used in debate and vote (or legislature is closed). No special technological solutions adopted. |
| 2 | Physical presence still used in debate and vote, but technological solutions such as videoconferencing are used to communicate with other governmental bodies, hear experts, etc. |
| 3 | Plenum still requires physical presence, but committees use technological solutions such as videoconferencing and remote voting in lieu of physical presence. |
| 4 | Both plenum and committees use technological solutions such as videoconferencing and remote voting in lieu of physical presence. |

**The number that best captures the parliamentary use of technological solutions during coronavirus pandemic by the (federal) legislature in my country in the past two weeks (23.3 - 6.4) is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

·         *If none of the options below captures the situation in your country, you may suggest an in-between number (e.g., 2.5) and explain why.*

*Please explain:*

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·         *If the situation in your country has significantly changed during these past two weeks, you may submit two separate responses*

o   *Week of 23.3 - 30.3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

o   *Week of 31.3 - 6.4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*