

Parltrack: Tracking the European Parliament

Submitted on 18 Jul 2011 by

[Parltrack](#) is a free tool and the associated free database to track the law-making in the European Parliament. It

- aggregates and publishes dispersed information,
- provides email and RSS based notifications,
- links most documents with [Pippi Longstrings](#) for analysis and commenting.

Combined information

Parltrack collects the data daily and combines the information on [MEPs](#), progress on dossiers from [OEIL](#), [committee agendas](#), and vote results from the [plenary minutes](#). Using this data it is easy to see for example at a glance:

- which MEP has taken responsibility for which dossiers,
- which committee is responsible or gives opinion on which dossiers,
- forecasts for next steps on dossiers in the EP *and* committees - including tabling deadlines for amendments,
- online detailed committee agendas,
- online calendar with EP *and* committee dates,
- who are the influential MEPs related to a dossier. There's much more possibilities in this data than the web-interface and your humble developers can ever present to you. Though we are willing to work for hire to dig deeper into this information-goldmine. ;)

The benefits of this project are

- empowers citizens, activists, policy advocates by providing a less complicated interface, thus lowering the barriers to participation in legislative processes.
- liberates the data hidden away in hard-to-process pdf files, and html pages, for further data mining, by providing the source code as free software this also reduces legal uncertainties regarding databases.
- proves, when the data is available in raw format different interest groups will come and present this cost-effectively in ways the generic interface of the institutions is unable to satisfy.

Notifications

Anyone can subscribe to receive email notifications on changes on dossiers. On every dossier page, there's a link "*Track this Dossier*", by providing your email here you create a new *notification group*. If you don't specify a name of the *notification group*, one will be randomly generated for you. If you specify an existing *notification group* name, the current dossier will be added to that. After you created a notification group, you can share the link to this so other people can join in.

The Texts

Most of the documents created in the law-making process (initial, supplementary and final texts, opinions) are linked whenever available from OEIL. Most of these documents are also available on [Eur-Lex](#) (the official EU website publishing the texts) and thus are also automatically available in Pippi Longstrings from the *Documents* tab for dossiers. Using Pippi Longstrings you can [analyse the texts](#) and comment on them. Commenting happens by selecting the text you want to comment on. The results of pippi-analysis are also displayed as comments, from a user named Pippi Longstrings.

The Data

All data in Parltrack is available freely in various forms for anyone to use. Most of the pages have a "*Download as JSON*" link, all new and changed dossiers are listed in an RSS feed, changes in dossiers are also available as email notifications. Furthermore a complete [DB dump](#) as JSON is also available. All this is under the [ODBLv1.0](#) license. Running your own instance of Parltrack is encouraged, the [code](#) is free under the [AGPLv3+](#).

Searching

Currently search is possible for text in MEPs names, dossiers titles and IDs of final acts like "directive 2006/24/EC".

Credit

Parltrack is inspired by ehjs [Tratten](#), was conceived during the [2010 FCForum Tools for policy reformers](#) workshop and is influenced by a bunch of good people, thanks!