

## Welcome Address from the President



Welcome to the home page of the Institute for Parliamentarism and Democracy Questions based in Vienna.

Parliament is one of the pillars of a functioning democracy and the work of our institute is intrinsically linked to both as is reflected in our logo.

For parliamentary democracy to work however, there has to be a minimum consensus on the “rules of the game” by all parliamentary groups. In Austria these are called “the rules of procedure” of the National Council and the Federal Council. The rules of both chambers have relevant explanatory interpretations. This sounds a bit dry but in practice these rules are at the heart of many a lively debate in plenary and committee sittings.

The classic job of parliament is lawmaking and controlling the executive which forms part of the complex web of government affecting the lives of us all. With membership in the European Union, another dimension has been added to the work of national parliaments in member states.

The Institute will post regular bulletins on the homepage and analyse the multi-faceted work of parliaments not just in Austria but also other democratic countries.

We hope you will find something fresh and interesting and welcome constructive suggestions.

**Dr. Werner Zögernitz**

**President**