



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY: Democracy Today and Tomorrow

28 SEPTEMBER 2016

*Venue: European Parliament
Altiero Spinelli Building, floor 5, room G2 (ASP 5G2)*

- 8:00 – 9:00** **Registration and access to the European Parliament.**
- 9:00 – 9:05** **Intro: Video clips from European Endowment for Democracy's contest
"What does democracy mean to me?"**
- 9:05 – 9:10** **Opening remarks: Vice-President of the European Parliament Alexander
Graf LAMBSDORFF**
- 9:10 – 9:20** **Message from the United Nations on the International Day of Democracy
– Delivered by Ms. Barbara PESCE-MONTEIRO, UN Secretary-
General's representative in Brussels**

9:20 – 10:45 Session I – DEMOCRACY TODAYⁱ

Notwithstanding a few hopeful examples, democracy is in decline in many countries worldwide. What does democracy mean today? How can democracy adapt to changes in our societies? Is representative democracy outdated? And what can be done to encourage participation and inclusion in various democratic systems?

- Speakers:** Alexander Graf LAMBSDORFF, Vice-President of the European
 Parliament
 Joan HOEY, Regional Manager Europe and Editor of The Democracy
 Index, The Economist Intelligence Unit
- Moderator:** Shada ISLAM, Director of Policy, Friends of Europe

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 11:20 KEYNOTE SPEECH (video message)

Martin SCHULZ, President of the European Parliament

11:20 – 12:45 Session II – REPRESENTATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Representation and accountability to citizens are key ingredients of every well-functioning democracy. How close is the relationship between elected leaders and citizens between elections? How can we make democracy work for people and regain their confidence? How to make citizens feel represented by elected parliamentarians?

Speakers: Tamás MESZERICS, Coordinator in Foreign Affairs Committee for the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
Ismail ILSOUK, Executive Director, Association SimSim-Participation Citoyenne, Morocco
Beauty KATEBE, Chair, Zambia National Women's Lobby

Moderator: Rosa BALFOUR, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

12:45 – 14:15 LUNCH at the European Parliament

14:15 – 15:45 Session III – EDUCATION ON DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRACY LITERACY

In today's Europe, the institutions and actors of representative democracy need to regain citizens' trust but also to adapt to a society with flatter hierarchies and more direct means of expression, debate and participation. These new developments call for new democratic culture for both policy-makers and citizens. How can such a democratic culture be built and transmitted to all generations? How can we strengthen the democratic consciousness of the young generation and of the newcomers to Europe? How can we create a democracy with the participation of everyone regardless of their social or cultural background?

Speakers: Claudia LUCIANI, Director for Democratic Governance, Council of Europe
Emine BOZKURT, Member of the Board of Advisors of International IDEA and former Member of the European Parliament
Siamak AHMADI, founder of the democracy project "Dialog macht Schule"

Moderator: Andreas GROSS, Honorary Member of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

15:45 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 17:30 Session IV – DEVELOPING EU EXTERNAL DEMOCRACY SUPPORT

The EU is an important democracy support actor worldwide. How do partner countries evaluate EU democracy support? What are its strengths and weaknesses? What importance is given to EU democracy assistance and how is it interlinked with other EU policies? How can the EU contribute to the implementation the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and its Goal 16?

Speakers: Linda McAVAN, Co-Chair of the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group
Christian LEFFLER, Deputy Secretary General for economic and global issues, European External Action Service
U Hla THEIN, Chair, Union Election Commission, Myanmar
Imed ABDELJAOUED, Director, Civil Society Support Programme, Tunisia

Moderator: Todd LANDMAN, Professor, University of Nottingham

17:30 – 17:45 CLOSING ADDRESS: DEMOCRACY TOMORROW

Zlatko LAGUMDZIJA, Club de Madrid Member, Former Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina

18:00 **Cocktail**

WEBSTREAMING & SOCIAL MEDIA

You can follow the whole event *via* webstreaming [here](#)

[#democracyday](#)

ⁱ Please note that each session will include a Q&A slot.