

EU'S EXTERNAL DEMOCRACY ACTION IN A NEW GEOPOLITICAL REALITY

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Multi-stakeholder Conference and launch of Recommendations Report
31 January 2023, Brussels

AGENDA

9:00 – 9:30 REGISTRATION

9:30 – 10:30

OPENING SESSION AND LAUNCH OF THE REPORT

"This is the time to invest in the power of democracies", President of the European Commission Von der Leyen, State of the Union Address, 2022. How will Sweden and the EU invest in democracy in 2023? What are the priorities for the EU democracy agenda?

10:30 – 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 12:30

DISCUSSING REPORT FINDINGS: NEW CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES OF THE EU'S EXTERNAL DEMOCRACY ACTION

"Democracy has not gone out of fashion, but it must update itself in order to keep improving people's lives", Former President of the European Parliament David Sassoli, speech at the conference on the future of Europe, 2021. The EU policies and instruments are faced with new geopolitical realities. How is the global democratic landscape changing? How is the EU reflecting on its democracy priorities? How can its tools and policies be better equipped to address these new contexts? The session will discuss the key highlights and recommendations of the report.

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH AND NETWORKING

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13:30 – 14:45

TEAMING UP – HOW CAN THE EU, EU MEMBER STATES AND PARTNERS WORK TOGETHER TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY WORLDWIDE?

Global challenges, including the democratic backsliding, require global collaboration. The EU and its member states has recently joined forces under the umbrella of a new Team Europe Democracy initiative, working towards increasing the impact of collective democracy support. How is this new initiative contributing to the EU's democracy agenda? The Europe-USA cooperation is also key in maintaining and strengthening a multilateral commitment to safeguard democracy globally. How can likeminded partners work together? How do key EU partners assess the EU's external democracy agenda?

14:45 – 15:00 COFFEE BREAK

15:00 – 16:15

EU ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY: MID-TERM REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS

In light of the previous debates, the session aims at assessing the relevance of the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024 as the guiding instrument of the EU's external democracy action. How can the mid-term review recalibrate it considering the new global situation? How can this process also inform the design of the next Action Plan 2025-2029?

16:15 – 16:30 CLOSING REMARKS