

# INTERNATIONAL DAY of DEMOCRACY

– DEMOCRACY IN A CHANGING WORLD –

**Wednesday, 27 September 2017**

10:30-17:30

ALTIERO SPINELLI BUILDING,  
BRUSSELS – ROOM 5G2  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

organised by  
Democracy and Elections Actions Unit,  
DG EXPO

in collaboration with:



**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY 2017**

**Democracy in a changing world**

**Wednesday, 27 September 2017, 10:30 – 17:30**

**European Parliament, ASP5G2**

*Followed by a cocktail and cultural event at BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts (18:00-20:15)  
Accompanied by an exhibition at the European Parliament*

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**09:45 - 10:30 | Registration and welcome coffee**

**10:30 – 10:40 | Opening remarks**

**Christian Leffler**, Deputy Secretary General, European External Action Service

**Stefano Manservigi**, Director-General, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission

**10.40 – 12.00 | Panel I: State of democracy today – trends and challenges**

**Joan Hoey**, Regional Director Europe and Editor, The Democracy Index, Economist Intelligence Unit

**Šimon Pánek**, Co-founder and Director, People in Need

Moderator: **Santiago Fisas MEP**

*This panel will debate the latest democratic trends, analyse current challenges to democracy and discuss ideas for re-setting democracy. The speakers will explore the linkages between democracy, economy and ongoing societal changes. They will be invited to touch upon the state of democracy in Europe and how this impacts upon the EU's credibility in third countries.*

*Questions tackled: Are we really facing a crisis of democracy? How can we renew democracy to adapt to changes in our societies? Does the state of democracy in Europe have implications for the EU's credibility and leverage in third countries?*

**12.00 – 12.30 | Keynote speech by Antonio Tajani, President of European Parliament**

**12.30 – 14.00 | Lunch break**

**14.00 – 14.15 | Keynote speech by HRVP Federica Mogherini on the EU's commitment to democracy and the importance of youth engagement**

**14.15 – 15.45 | Panel II: How to bring the demos back into democracy? Different forms of democratic engagement and political participation beyond elections**

**Paweł Adamowicz**, Mayor of the City of Gdańsk, Poland

**Irene Wairimu Mwangi**, Director for Communication & Public Affairs, Youth Senator Murang'a County, Youth Senate, Kenya

**Gabriel Delacoste**, Founder, Entre Initiative, Uruguay

**Peter Vermeersch**, Professor of International and European Studies, KU Leuven

Moderator: **Kati Piri MEP**

*Elections captured by money, policy convergence amongst the major parties, erosion of faith in institutions – many citizens feel increasingly disconnected and disillusioned by democratic processes.*

*This panel will showcase different forms of democratic engagement, explore innovative tools and the influence of new technologies on democratic participation, and reflect on making democracy work for young generations.*

*Questions tackled: What can be done to bridge the gap between the political class and the electorate? How can we counter democratic fatigue and encourage participation from the bottom-up? How can we make democracy work for young people?*

**15.45 – 17.15 | Panel III: Democracy and media– the values of free speech**

**Diana Moukalled**, Co-founder, Daraj Initiative, Lebanon

**Margaryta Gontar**, Founder, StopFake initiative, Ukraine

**Emma Goodman**, Research Officer, Media Policy Project, London School of Economics

Moderator: **Marietje Schaake MEP**

*An open and free media landscape, and by extension, pluralistic and balanced journalism, is a fundamental marker of democratic societies. But in today's rapidly changing digital world, traditional media is facing new challenges. This panel will debate topical issues around the fake news epidemic and 'post-truth' politics, media pluralism and independence, and media literacy.*

*Questions tackled: Fiction, fabricated as fact, can do real harm to the democratic process. With the spread of 'fake news' easier than ever before, how can the media rebuild trust? Is there a need to regulate freedom of speech and expression? How can we increase media literacy amongst the public to help citizens distinguish between fact and fiction?*

**18.00 – 20:15 | Cultural Event at BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts, Rue Ravensteinstraat 23, 1000 Brussels**

**Welcome cocktail followed by performance of the Arab Puppet Theatre, with a keynote address by former European Council President Herman Van Rompuy.**

*The Arab Puppet Theatre is an artistic collective based in Lebanon. Their "Performance Desperately In Need of an Audience" tells the story of exile, of refugees leaving behind homes and loved ones in the hope of a better future.*

[Please visit BOZAR's webpage to register for the cultural event.](#)