



Democracy and Rule of Law

Expert Forum – Liberal White Book Europe 2030

Zoom Meeting

04 September 2020, 09h30 – 14h00 (CEST)

ABOUT THE EVENT

Three important reports by Freedom House, the Economist, and V-Dem, an institute associated with Sweden's Gutenberg University, have found disturbing patterns associated with the state of democracy around the world last year. Research from all three reports suggests that autocracy, in the form of right-wing populism, has developed into a credible threat to democracy.

A democracy based on providing the “rights and liberties to all citizens” depends on a nexus of three crucial dimensions of democratic governance: checks and balances in governmental power; political norms that are accepted and practised by all political actors; and institutions that are separate and independent of governmental influence.

The contemporary spiritual decay of the West appears due to the rise of an illiberal, populist and nationalist camp within the Western world. This shift is clear even in the European Union. Liberal democrats should find a new and attractive way for narrating their liberal vision of the future. A story about freedom, personal responsibility and rule of law, which will respond to the challenges of the 21st century as the decline of voter turnout, apathy of civil society or national chauvinism. For securing minimal standards of democracy in the EU, European Commission's Vice-President, Ms Věra Jourová, was given a portfolio that is focused on the rule of law and includes issues such as fake news and hate speech.

The Institute for Politics and Society has long been interested in the topic of democracy as a concept and the real functioning of this type of regime in Europe (and in the world). Therefore, together with our speakers, we offer professional expertise in ELF's Expert Forum on Democracy and Rule of Law for how a liberal Europe should look like in 2030.

EVENT SCHEDULE

09h25 Participants connect to the online Expert Forum

09h30 Welcome & Presentation of the Liberal White Book Europe 2030 project
Daniel Kaddik, Executive Director, European Liberal Forum

09h35 Introduction of the Expert Forum
Valentin Kreiling, PhD, Policy and Research Coordinator, European Liberal Forum
Šárka Prát, PhD, Executive Director, Institute for Politics and Society

09h50 Welcome words from the Patron
Moritz Körner, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group

10h00 Keynote Speech
Ondřej Kovařík, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group

10h30 Break
Moderator: Karel Sál, Analyst, Institute for Politics and Society

10h35 State of Democracy
Short input statements:

- Anna Shavit, Head of Department, Charles University
- Jacques Rupnik, Director of Research, CERI, National Foundation for Political Sciences
- Staffan Lindberg, Director, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg

followed by a discussion among all participants.

Discussion topics: *Populism as a threat to democracy, “worst practices” in the EU, key tools to prevent autocracy.*

11h35 Break
Moderator: Anas Zaza, External Analyst and Independent Researcher

11h40 The Rule of Law in the EU
Short input statements:

- Laurent Pech, Professor of European Law, Middlesex University of London
- Anna Donáth, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group
- Nedim Hovic, PhD Researcher in anti-corruption, Scuola Superiore Sant Anna
- Kristina Arakelova, President, Youth for Diplomatic Engagement (Georgia)

followed by a discussion among all participants.

Discussion topics: *Rule of Law as a core principle of the EU, enhancing and reforming the Article 7 mechanism, the connection between the Rule of Law and EU funds, monitoring all EU member states.*

12h40 Break

Moderator: Roman Maca, Analyst, Institute for Politics and Society

12h45 Fake News and Disinformation

Short input statements:

- Anneli Ahonen, Head of East Stratcom Task Force, European External Action Service
- Scott Griffen, Deputy Director, International Press Institute
- Péter Krekó, Executive Director, Political Capital
- Liubov Tsybulska, Strategic Communication Advisor, Hybrid Warfare Analytical Group (Ukraine)

followed by a discussion among all participants.

Discussion topics: *Protecting citizens from disinformation while safeguarding the right to freedom of expression, autocratic strategies to spread disinformation and ways to tackle them*

13h45 Conclusions

Magda Arsenyan, Executive Head, Institute of Liberal Politics

Tigran Gasparyan, Deputy Head, Institute of Liberal Politics

Authors of the Democracy & Rule of Law chapter, Liberal White Book Europe 2030

14h00 End of Expert Forum

With the support of:



An online event organised by the European Liberal Forum asbl (ELF). Supported by the Institute for Politics and Society (IPPS). Co-funded by the European Parliament. Neither the European Parliament nor the European Liberal Forum are responsible for the content of the programme, or for any use that may be made of it. The views expressed herein are those of the speaker(s) alone. These views do not necessarily reflect those of the European Parliament and/or the European Liberal Forum asbl.