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**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE
(CDDG)**

**COMMENTS ON PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
RECOMMENDATION 2212 (2021)
"MORE PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY TO TACKLE CLIMATE
CHANGE"**

For consideration and approval by the CDDG at its 14th meeting

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate General of Democracy
Democratic Governance Division

Context

At their 1416th meeting on 3 November 2021, the Ministers' Deputies agreed to communicate to the European Committee on Democracy and Governance – CDDG, for information and possible comments by 15 January 2021, Recommendation 2212 (2021) “More participatory democracy to tackle climate change”, adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly on 29 September 2021. The text of the Recommendation, the corresponding Resolution and the supporting report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, (Doc. 15351, rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou) are [published here](#).

The Assembly recommends in particular that the Committee of Ministers:

- building on the work of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance, as well as on the 2018 Committee of Ministers’ [Recommendation on the participation of citizens in local public life](#) and the 2017 Committee of Ministers’ [Guidelines for civil participation in political decision-making](#), encourages its competent steering committee to draw up a report on new forms of participatory democracy, with a view to sharing good practices amongst member States, and to take into account the present report as a contribution in the specific area of climate change;
- invites member States to promote effective means of enhancing citizens’ competences for democratic culture, in particular through the Council of Europe Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture, with a view to empowering them, especially the young generations, to constructively tackle the environmental challenges;
- considers setting up, in co-operation with the European Union, a European-wide “Citizens’ Assembly for Climate and the future of Europe”, including citizens, experts as well as elected representatives at local, regional, national and European level, and discuss this proposal at the forthcoming World Forum for Democracy entitled “Can Democracy Save the Environment?”, which will take place from 8 to 10 November 2021.

Comments by the CDDG

The CDDG takes note of the above Recommendation and the supporting report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy.

In April, the CDDG held a discussion about its future work and priorities, and it recognised the timeliness and importance of new specific tasks such as the drafting of two reports on new forms of deliberative and participatory democracy, and on green public administration respectively. The Assembly’s invitation for the Committee of Ministers to encourage the CDDG “to draw up a report on new forms of participatory democracy (...) and to take into account the present report as a contribution in the specific area of climate change” confirms the pertinence of proposals contained in the draft terms of reference currently under consideration by the Committee of Ministers.

The Assembly's report (Doc. 15351) points to various benefits of public participation and citizens' assemblies, including better representation of the population, greater social cohesion, restoring trust in politics and allowing citizens to reclaim the public space which has been taken over by social media. It also highlights a series of preconditions for citizen's assemblies to achieve these goals, in particular reducing the excessive influence of interest groups and lobbies.

The CDDG will bear in mind the content of Assembly Doc. 15351, when conducting future work on new forms of deliberative democracy, should the Committee of Ministers entrust it with such tasks.