



A Council of Europe event to mark the International Day of Democracy

Wednesday, 19 September 2018

09.00-18.00

Palais de l'Europe, Room 1

Council of Europe, Strasbourg

Interpretation: English/French

 [@CoE GoodGov](#) [@CoE NGO](#)

DEMOCRACY & "THE PEOPLE"



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ABOUT: aiming to re-assert the value of our democratic institutions based on individual human rights, civic participation in public decision-making and the rule of law, the [Directorate General of Democracy](#) and the [Conference of INGOs](#) of the [Council of Europe](#) wish to mark the International Day of Democracy with a broad and open discussion on the need for institutions like the Council of Europe to work together with civil society towards a revival of Europeans' faith in the promise and the practice of liberal democracy. The keynote address by Yascha Mounk, author of "The People vs. Democracy", will set the tone and the framework for this discussion – that the values and institutions of democracy and human rights must be preserved and defended not only by capable leaders dedicated to the common good, but also with integrity and courage by engaged citizens. Among the main remedies to the current trend away from liberal democratic values which Yascha Mounk highlights are: (i) ensuring that liberal democracy lives up to our expectations (ii) the role of People Power to defend democracy and hold it accountable and (iii) renewing the faith of citizens in their institutions and in liberal democracy itself. For each of these, discussion sessions will bring practitioners of democratic participation and developers of democratic standards and tools to share their experience and explore new avenues for reflection and for action.

[DRAFT AGENDA](#) (updated: 07/09/2018)

09.00-09.30 Welcome and introduction

Ms Anna Rurka, President of the [Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations](#) of the Council of Europe

Ms Snezana Samardžic-Markovic, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe

09.30-10.30 Keynote

Dr Yascha Mounk, author of "[The People vs. Democracy](#)", Lecturer Harvard University, Executive Director at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

Discussion

10.30-10.45 *Coffee break outside Room 1*

10.45-12.30 Session 1 - Liberal Democracy Living up to Expectations

- Senator Catherine Noone, Chair of [Joint Oireachtas committee on the 8th amendment](#)
Making representative democracy more responsive: experience of the Irish Parliament
- Mr David Vig, [Hungarian Helsinki Committee](#)
[Resisting Ill Democracies in Europe](#)
- Mr Peter André, Chair of the [Steering Committee on Democracy and Governance](#)
Making Representative democracy more participatory: Council of Europe [Guidelines for Civil Participation in Political Decision-Making](#)
- Mr Matjaz Gruden, Director of Democratic Participation
Secretary General's 2018 [report](#) on the State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law: Role of Institutions, Threats to Institutions

12.30-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-15.45 Session 2 - People Power in the 21st century

- Ms Sima Spirovska, [Sharena Revolucija](#)
Grassroots civic participation heard from the street
- Ms Ailbhe Smyth, Co-Directors of [Together for Yes campaign](#) to repeal the 8th amendment
Grassroots campaigns for social and legal change
- Ms Marta Lempart, [Strajk Kobiet](#)
Grassroots mobilisation coalition building
- Mr Viktor Yengibaryan, International Secretary, Bright Armenia Party
Protest and regime change – role of the opposition parties

15.45-16.00 Coffee break outside Room 1

16.00-17.45 Session 3 - Renewing Civic Faith

- Mr Gerhard Ermischer, Vice-Chair Democracy Committee of the INGO Conference
Civil society participation in political decision-makings
- Ms Anja Olin Pape, Chairperson, [Advisory Council on Youth](#),
European Youth participation – growing civic participation from the grassroots
- Mr Daniel Popescu, Head of Democratic Governance Department
Council of Europe's [12 principles of Good Governance](#)
- Mr Sjur Bergan, Head of the Education Department
[Competences for Democratic Culture](#), *Education for Democratic Citizenship*

17.45-18.00 Conclusions and closing