Université de Strasbourg
Excellence University

Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

# International Workshop

## Democratic Security in Europe: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on the Council of Europe's Role in Protecting Democracy



CRÉDITS PHOTOS : CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE, STRASBOURG

## 19 & 20 November 2026

**Day 1** | **Room 5**
**Palais de l'Europe**, Avenue de l'Europe 67075 Strasbourg

in partnership with :

Council of Europe / Conseil de l'Europe

Direction des relations internationales, Université de Strasbourg

**Day 2** | **Room Table Ronde**
**Maison Interuniversitaire des Sciences sociales et des Humanités d'Alsace** (MISHA),
5 allée du Général Rouvillois 67083 Strasbourg

Centre d'Excellence Jean Monnet franco-allemand

With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

OCEAN
Open Council of Europe Academic Networks

The workshop is organised by **Birte Wassenberg** (Chair of International History, Sciences Po Strasbourg, University of Strasbourg), **Klaus Brummer** (Chair of International Relations, Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt) and **Andreas N. Ludwig** (Chair of International Relations, Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt).

## Day 1 - 19 November 2026 | Room 5 - Palais de l'Europe

**14.00-14.45** **Arrival and Welcome**

**15.00-16.30** **Panel I**

**Chair**: **Andreas N. Ludwig**, Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (Germany)

**Esra Demir-Gürsel, Hertie School Berlin (Germany)**

*The Terms of European Unity: Membership Criteria and the Politics of Inclusion and Exclusion in the Council of Europe*

**Victor Fernández Soriano, Free University of Brussels (Belgium)**

*The Council of Europe in front of political change in the Iberian Peninsula (1974–1976): From monitoring to legitimising Portugal and Spain's democratisations*

**Klaus Brummer, Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (Germany)**
*The Council of Europe's Response to Transnational Repression*

**16.30-17.00** **Break**

**17.00-19.00** **Round Table**

**"Democracy under Pressure: Protecting Europe's Future"**

**Chairs**: **Birte Wassenberg (University of Strasbourg, France) and Andreas N. Ludwig (Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany)**

**Welcome: Frédérique Berrod**, President **University of Strasbourg (France)**

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**Andrea Gawrich, University of Gießen (Germany)**

**Philip Leach, Middlesex University (United Kingdom)**

**Claudia Luciani**, Director of the Secretariat of Local and Regional Authorities, **Council of Europe**

**Guiseppe Zaffuto,** Head of Division, Co-ordinator of the Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists, **Council of Europe**

**19.30** **Dinner**

## Day 2 - 20 November 2026 | Room Table Ronde - Maison Interuniversitaire des Sciences sociales et des Humanités d'Alsace

**8.15-8.30** **Arrival and Welcome**

**8.30-10.30** **Panel II**

**Chair: Klaus Brummer**, **Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (Germany)**

**Birte Wassenberg, University of Strasbourg (France)**

*From a "Club of Democracy" to a "School of Democracy"? Assessing the Historical Development of the Council of Europe's Role as a Community of Democratic Values*

**Philip Leach, Middlesex University London (United Kingdom)**

*Striving for Effective Political Democracy? Assessing the Role of the European Court of Human Rights*

**Peggy Ducoulombier, University of Strasbourg (France)**

*Back to Basics: The Protection of the Rule of Law' Foundations by the European Court of Human Rights*

**Andrea Gawrich and Murad Nasibov, University of Gießen (Germany)**

*Democratic Compliance as Narrative Performance: Strategic Distortion in Council of Europe State Self-Reporting*

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| **10.30-11.00** | **Coffee Break** |
| **11.00-12.30** | **Panel III** |
| | **Chair**: **Birte Wassenberg**, **University of Strasbourg (France)** |
| | **Andreas N. Ludwig, Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (Germany)**<br>Democratic Security at the Sub-State Level: Safeguarding Local and Regional Democracy in the Council of Europe |
| | **Antonio Di Marco, Magna Graecia University Catanzaro (Italy)**<br>*Overcoming Institutional Inertia: Preventive Union Action vis-à-vis Value-Challenging Governments and Coordination with the Council of Europe* |
| | **Pietro Massaini, University of Strasbourg / University of Rome La Sapienza (Italy)**<br>*Cooperation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations to Protect and Promote Democracy in the Securitisation of Society* |
| **12.30-12.45** | **Conclusion and Farewell** |
| **13.00** | **Lunch** |

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## Access

***From Strasbourg Central Station To Palais de l'Europe***

*Tram line E, stop Droits de l'Homme*

***Please note*: Bring your ID or Passport**

***To MISHA:*** *Tram line C or E, stop Observatoire*

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