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**Generalitat de Catalunya**  
Government of Catalonia

THE CONGRESS



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**DRAFT 17/11/2025**

## **Stronger Democracy through Multilevel Governance**

**A joint event of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR),  
the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe  
and the Government of Catalonia**

**World Trade Center, Barcelona, Catalonia | 19 November 2025**

Simultaneous interpretation English/Spanish/French/Catalan

### **Background**

Democracy is under increasing pressure worldwide. From disinformation to the erosion of local participation, global and geopolitical developments are testing the resilience of democratic institutions. In this critical context, the 53rd General Assembly of the CPMR, hosted in Barcelona by the Generalitat de Catalunya, proposes an International Seminar on Democracy as a dedicated moment to reflect on how to protect and renew democratic practices from the local and regional levels.

The Seminar will explore key challenges and opportunities linked to participatory processes, local democracy, multilevel governance, territorial cohesion, decentralisation, and the digital information environment. The Council of Europe New Democratic Pact for Europe emerges as a response to these challenges. The Pact is structured around three pillars: (1) Learning and Practising Democracy, (2) Protecting Democracy, and (3) Innovating for Democracy with a view to formulating and implementing comprehensive policy solutions to reinforce democratic governance. The Pact will address the urgent challenge of democratic backsliding through a collective, inclusive and complex process. It will not aim to reinvent democracy, but rather to reinforce its foundations, amplify its benefits, and innovating its form to make it resonate with all citizens, in particular with younger generations.

The Pact is about making democracy stronger, more resilient and more adaptable to emerging and ongoing challenges through innovation, technology, and collective action. The CPMR and its member regions can play a vital role in influencing and shaping the Pact, bringing in the territorial perspective that connects democracy to social inclusion, economic resilience, and citizens' everyday lives.

With contributions from regional representatives, youth organisations, think tanks, and European institutions, the seminar will contribute to the Pact by serving both as a forum for open dialogue and a platform for influence.



This initiative is a contribution towards the  
**New Democratic Pact for Europe**

# DRAFT AGENDA

## 14:15 – 14:35 Opening Statements

*Moderated by:* **Davide STRANGIS**, CPMR Acting Secretary General

- **Filip REINHAG**, President of the CPMR and Regional Councillor, Region Gotland, Sweden
- **Konstantinos KOUKAS**, Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Congress Rapporteur on the New Democratic Pact for Europe, Council of Europe
- **Jaume DUCH**, Minister for EU and Foreign Action, Generalitat de Catalunya

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## 14.35 – 15:50 SESSION I: The State of Democracy and Multilevel Governance in Europe and the world – Challenges & Opportunities towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe

*Moderated by:*

**Sally BAILEY-RAVET**, Head of Department and Head Interpreter, Council of Europe

- **Marie-Antoinette MAUPERTUIS**, President of the Corsican Assembly, France, President of the CPMR Islands Commission
- **Siv Henriette JACOBSEN**, Councillor; Østfold County, Norway, Vice-President of the CPMR North Sea Commission
- **Sari NURRO**, Member of the Regional Board, Oulu Region, Finland
- **Hélène DRAINVILLE**, Delegate General of the Québec Government in Brussels, Canada
- **Francesc ALMENDROS**, Co-President of the Mediterranean Youth Council, associate professor of economy at UAB

### DISCUSSION

#### Concluding remarks

- **Ana OLLO**, Vice-President and Regional Minister of the Government of Navarra, Spain

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## 15:50 – 16:00 Keynote speech

- **Agusti FERNANDEZ DE LOSADA PASSOLS**, Secretary for European and Multilateral Affairs and Development Cooperation, Generalitat de Catalunya

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### 16:00 – 16:20 Coffee Break

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## 16:20 – 17:30 SESSION II: Interactive Survey & Debate on Building Resilience, Democratic Security and Innovation for Stronger Democracy

*Moderated by:*

**Sally BAILEY-RAVET**, Head of Department and Head Interpreter, Council of Europe

Introduction to Guiding Questions:

- **Jeff LOVITT**, Expert, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

### DISCUSSION

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17:30 - 18:15

### SESSION III: Interactive Session on Digital Information & Artificial Intelligence

*Moderated by:*

**Sally BAILEY-RAVET**, Head of Department and Head Interpreter, Council of Europe

- **Paulius KOLOSOVAS**, Youth Delegate, Lithuania, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- **Octavio CARABALLO DE LEÓN**, Vice regional minister of the President's Cabinet, Canary Islands Government, Spain
- **Nereida CARRILLO**, President Learn to Check and Professor of Journalism at the Autonomous University of Barcelona

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18:15 – 18:45

### CONCLUSIONS and NEXT STEPS

*Moderated by:* **Davide STRANGIS**, CPMR Acting Secretary General

#### Summary of Main Recommendations

- **Jorge NUÑEZ**, CPMR Director
- **Jeff LOVITT**, Expert, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

#### Closing remarks

- **Claudia LUCIANI**, Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
  - **Agusti FERNANDEZ DE LOSADA PASSOLS**, Secretary for European and Multilateral Affairs and Development Cooperation, Generalitat de Catalunya
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