COUNCIL OF EUROPE
STRASBOURG

2&3 NOVEMBER 2026

World Forum for Democracy



Rupture or renewal?

Democratic security for the future

Advancing the New Democratic Pact for Europe

Programme

LABELED G7 FRANCE ÉVIAN 2026

This project is supported by **the Council of Europe and the triennial Contract for Strasbourg European Capital 2024-2026**

PRÉFET DE LA RÉGION GRAND EST
Liberté Égalité Fraternité

La Région Grand Est

ALSACE Collectivité européenne

Strasbourg.eu eurométropole

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

10.00 – 13.00 Morning plenary sessions ***Hemicycle of the Council of Europe***

10.00 Welcoming
10.05 High-Level Opening Plenary - Strengthening Democracy for Disrupted Times
10.40 Video: a taste of foresight
10.45 Keynotes – Democracy needs strategic foresight
11.30 Debate - What is transforming and shaping Europe?

13.00 *Lunch break*

14.30 – 18.00 Afternoon sessions: Exploring post-rupture order scenarios for democracy

Meeting Rooms of the Palais de l'Europe

14.30 (Re)building Democratic Security (DS) and Foresight (DF) : Linking Citizens, Institutions, and Territories to Anticipate Future Challenges – Citizen's perspectives

1. Civic Engagement and Democratic Participation– *DS – Room 6*
2. Foresight Scenarios– *DF – Room 1*
3. Living together: how does intercultural inclusion strengthen our democracies?– *DS – Room 2*
4. The Role of local powers on Safeguarding Democracy– *DS – Room 3*

16.00 *Coffee break*

16.30 (Re)building Democratic Security and Foresight: Linking Citizens, Institutions, and Territories to Anticipate Future Challenges – Institutions' perspectives

5. Dialogue Europe – Africa for democratic security– *DS – Room 2*
6. Shaping the Future of Democracy: Demographic Change, Economic Actors and Democratic Resilience—*DF – Room 1*
7. Results of national foresight exercises — contributions from national authorities – *DF – Room 3*
8. Strengthening Societal Resilience to Disinformation – DF – *Room 6*
9. Creative political processes– *DS – Room 10*

18.00 Reception

Tuesday 3 November / Day 2 – Testing Responses Against Possible Futures

9.30 – 12.00 Plenary sessions ***Hemicycle of the Council of Europe***

9.30 Keynote speech
9.45 Sharing solutions
11.00 Putting Council of Europe Insights to the Test – Constructive debate on how to strengthen democratic decision-making and resilience.
12.00 *Lunch break*

14.00 – 17.00 Afternoon Labs: Confronting concrete initiatives against the future scenarios

Meeting Rooms of the Palais de l'Europe

14.00-15.20 Labs – Session 1

Pillar 1 Learning and practising democracy:
Session 1: Empowering Citizens: Media and Information Literacy for Democracy – *Room 9*
Pillar 2 Protecting democracy:
Session 2: Citizen Mobilisation for Climate: Rethinking Governance in Times of Emergency – *Room 1*
Session 3: Social justice and public services – *Room 6*
***Pillar 3 Innovating democracy*:**
Session 4: Strengthening inclusive democracy free from hate speech – *Room 2*

15.20 *Coffee break*

15.40–17.00 Labs – Session 2

Pillar 1 Learning and practising democracy:
Session 5: Democratic Participation in the Digital Age: What Tools for Strengthening Civic Engagement – *Room 9*
Pillar 2 Protecting democracy:
Session 6: Electoral and democratic integrity – *Room 6*
***Pillar 3 Innovating democracy*:**
Session 7: AI and Democracy: Opportunities, Risks and Governance Challenges – *Room 1*

CLOSING OF THE WORLD FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY ***Hemicycle of the Council of Europe***

17:00 Ceremony for the Democracy Innovation Award
17:30 Closing ceremony: conclusions and key takeaways
18:00 Artistic performance followed by a reception

Concept Note

Democracy is not in crisis. It is, however, experiencing a profound rupture.

Across Europe, growing inequalities, the shrinking of civic space, and loss of public trust in institutions continue to intensify, leading to a form of disillusionment, especially among young people. Citizens are increasingly questioning democratic systems that no longer seem to address their concerns and are ultimately losing interest in them or even gradually disengaging.

At the same time, threats are no longer coming only from within. On the one hand, cyberattacks and foreign digital interference are increasingly targeting electoral cycles and democratic institutions. On the other hand, information manipulation campaigns are weakening public debate and polarising opinion. Moreover, geopolitical shifts now appear to be redefining the rules of the international order and undermining shared universal values, foremost among them the rule of law, human rights, and democracy.

In this context, **democratic security** has become an existential concern. It raises questions such as: how can we continue to protect the ability to hold free elections, preserve the checks and balances and the independence of the judiciary, and guarantee freedom of expression and media freedom? Democracies must not only respond to crises but also anticipate them.

The New Democratic Pact for Europe, firmly focused on the future, is the Council of Europe's response to these new challenges. Supported by the Council of Europe's member states since 2025, the Pact provides a framework for reflecting on the future of European democracies and how to prepare for it. Over two years, the Council of Europe has conducted a broad consultation with its member states, regions, territories, civil society, and universities in order to better prepare for the future of democracy in Europe.

The World Forum for Democracy 2026 will mark the culmination of the Pact's consultation phase, placing emphasis on "**democratic foresight**", that is, the ability of our democracies to anticipate the future in order to strengthen democratic security in Europe.

Adapting to a new reality is no longer enough. Democracies must learn to imagine and build possible futures. Democratic foresight makes it possible both to identify emerging trends, risks, and opportunities, and to foster collective and appropriate responses. In this spirit, the World Forum for Democracy 2026 will bring together political leaders, representatives of civil society and academia, youth voices, the general public, and experts from all backgrounds.

Over two days, participants will take stock of European democracies, project themselves into possible futures based on forward-looking scenarios, and commit to implementing concrete actions at all levels of governance. Discussions will draw on work carried out by specialists in policy planning and strategic analysis, exploring not only future threats but also the choices still available to democracies to strengthen themselves.

The discussions will address both immediate threats and long-term resilience: how can democracies withstand upheaval while renewing themselves?

Take part in this collective exercise and make your voice heard for the future of democracy!

Monday 2 November / Day 1
Democracy Is Under Pressure: the state of play

Arrival of participants and speakers from 8:00

Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN

Master of Ceremonies: Sally Bailey-Ravet, Chief Interpreter and Head of Conferences and Travel, Council of Europe

10:00 Welcoming by

Petra Bayr, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

10:05 Opening Plenary - Strengthening Democracy for Disrupted Times

- Alain Berset, Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- Guy Ryder, UN Under-Secretary General for Policy
- Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of Croatia

10:40 Video: A Taste of Foresight

10:45 Keynotes – Democracy needs strategic foresight

Moderators: Liz Alderman, journalist, former New York Times European correspondent and Emma Nelson, journalist, broadcaster and presenter

- Ambassador Nathalie Chuard, Director of Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
- Michèle Griffin, Director of Electoral Assistance, UN Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
- Věra Jourová, Chair of the Task Force Democracy27, former Vice-President of the European Commission
- César Villanueva Esquivel, Director General for Human Rights and Democracy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN

11:30 Debate - What is transforming and shaping Europe?

***Objective of the session**: to address the main transformations currently faced by democratic societies, using strategic foresight to strengthen democratic resilience and collective preparedness for disrupted times. The session will focus on three types of transformation: socio-economic, institutional, and digital and technological transformation.*

Moderators: Liz Alderman, journalist, former New York Times European correspondent, and Emma Nelson, journalist, broadcaster and presenter

- Prof. Olivier De Schutter, Catholic University of Leuven, former UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
- Prof. Aoife Nolan, President of the Council of Europe European Committee of Social Rights
- Mark Pearson, Acting OECD Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs
- Prof. Mary Kaldor, Director of the Civil Society and Human Security Research Unit, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Janis Sarts, Director of the NATO Strategic Communications Center of Excellence
- Prof. Motohiro Tsuchiya, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 (Re)building Democratic Security and Foresight: Linking Citizens, Institutions, and Territories to Anticipate Future Challenges (I): Citizen's perspectives

***Objective of the sessions**: to explore **insights from citizens and civil society** around democratic foresight approaches that help democracies prepare for tomorrow, while highlighting how democratic security can be strengthened today by reinforcing the bonds between citizens, institutions and territories*

4 parallel sessions: *3 sessions on democratic security (DS) and 1 session on democratic foresight (DF)*

Interpretation FR/EN

Parallel session 1: **Civic Engagement and Democratic Participation** (DS)

Room 6

Led by the Grand Est Region

This session will explore how local-level initiatives and civic engagement serve as safeguards against the global crisis of distrust in democratic institutions. It will ask: What are the underlying motivations, values and forms of mobilisation driving today's citizens to engage in the public sphere? What are the best practices and public policies that local authorities can implement to foster democratic security?

Moderator: Ève-Lorie Auger-Gauthier, International Studies graduate, Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse (Canada)

- Panel: Helfried Carl, Founder & CEO, European Capital of Democracy (ECoD) (Austria)
- Christian Debeve, Regional Councillor for the Grand Est region and President of the Grand Est Commission for Cross-Border, European, and International Relations (France)
- Eric Nussbaumer, Former President of the National Council of Switzerland (Switzerland)
- Julia Samtleben, Mayor of the Stockelsdorf (Germany)

Parallel session 2: **Foresight Scenarios** (DF)

Room 1

From Council of Europe's Consultations

The session will illustrate findings and conclusions from consultations held by the Council of Europe, exploring how public institutions can prepare for future democratic challenges through exploring democratic foresight scenarios.

Panel:

- Felipe Bosch, Cross-Practice Lead, School of International Futures (SOIF)
- Alannah Lewis, Associate, Human Systems Dynamics Global Association
- Nsah Mala, Next Generation Foresight Practitioner (NGFP), Coordinator of the UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES Global Coalition hub for Planetary Wellbeing (Cameroon)

Parallel session 3: **Living Together: How Does Intercultural Inclusion Strengthen Our Democracies?** (DS)

Room 2

Led by the City of Strasbourg

This session will analyse to what extent local authorities' inclusion policies currently serve as a strategic lever for preventing democratic divides, reducing inequalities, and strengthening social cohesion to enhance democratic security. It will ask: what are the main challenges faced at local level, the current responses to these challenges, and how must these responses evolve to remain relevant in the face of social, technological and geopolitical transformations?

Moderator: Robin Wilson, Adviser to the Council of Europe on intercultural integration (United Kingdom)

Panel:

- Aleida Alavez Ruiz, Mayor of Iztapalapa (Mexico)
- Marie-No Gandzion, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg responsible for equality, combating discrimination, and women's rights (France)
- Gerardo Gómez Crespo, Project Manager, Diversit (Spain)

Parallel session 4: **The Role of Local Powers on Safeguarding Democracy** (DS)

Room 3

Led by the European Collectivity of Alsace

This session will explore how powers at the local level, including cities, can serve as a shield to safeguard the democratic rights of its inhabitants, particularly in cases where national and regional powers are drifting away from democratic values. The session will ask: Are local authorities the last line of democratic defence? What role can they play in fostering dialogue and social cohesion among neighbours, both near and far?

Moderator: Fabian Gomond, journalist (France)

Panel:

- Frédéric Bierry, President of the European Collectivity of Alsace (France)
- Lorenzo Kihlgren Grandi, City Diplomacy Lab and German Marshall Fund (Italy)
- Lucia Štasselová, Member of the City Council of Bratislava (Slovak Republic)
- José "Chito" Vela, Mayor Pro Tem of Austin, Texas (United States of America)

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 (Re)building Democratic Security and Foresight: Linking Citizens, Institutions, and Territories to Anticipate Future Challenges (II):

Institutions' perspectives

***Objective of the sessions**: to explore **institutional perspectives** on democratic foresight approaches that support democracies prepare for future challenges, while highlighting how democratic security can be strengthened today through creativity, dialogue and foresight exercises at all territorial levels.*

5 parallel sessions: *2 sessions on democratic security (DS) and 3 sessions on democratic foresight (DF)*

Interpretation FR/EN

Parallel session 5: **Dialogue Europe – Africa for democratic security** (DS)

Room 2

Led by the Permanent Representation of France to the Council of Europe and the Fondation de l'Innovation pour la Démocratie

This session will create a space for inter-continental dialogue and reflection between African and European stakeholders regarding contemporary issues of governance and democratic security. Questions: what are factors of democratic vulnerability and resilience common in both continents? What innovative initiatives developed by public institutions are strengthening democratic security in Africa and Europe, and how can best practices be shared?

Moderator: Arlande Aroukoun, Coordinator of the Northern Lab at the Foundation for Innovation in Democracy.

Panel:

- Laure Baflan Donwahi, Senator (Côte d'Ivoire)
- Tamar Kintsurashvili, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the Georgian fact-checking platform Myth Detector (Georgia)
- Richard Makon, Sub-Regional Director for Central and East Africa, Foundation for Innovation in Democracy in Africa
- Ambassador Pap Ndiaye, Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe
- Julia Tortel, Programme Specialist, Directorate of Political Affairs and Democratic Governance at the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

Parallel session 6: **Shaping the Future of Democracy: Demographic Change, Economic Actors and Democratic Resilience** (DF)

Room 1

Led by the Council of Europe

This session will present the findings of the European Movement Germany's survey on "The Role of Business in Democratic Resilience in Germany" and of the Friends of Europe's Report "Voices for Choices 2026: Is Europe ageing fairly?". The session will explore how democratic resilience can be strengthened across generations and across different sectors of society, including the private sector. It will examine the role of businesses and workplaces as actors in safeguarding democratic structures, alongside the challenges posed by demographic change, political participation and intergenerational fairness. The discussion will ask: How can businesses, democratic institutions and citizens contribute to resilient democratic societies? And how can democratic foresight help anticipate the long-term consequences of decisions taken today?

Moderator: Ambassador Alexandre Stutzmann, Head of the EU Delegation to the Council of Europe

Panel:

- Enno Coordes, European Movement Germany (Germany)
- Adam Nyman, HelloFuture Founder, citizen insight expert
- Diamando Zisimopoulou, Advisory Council on Youth (Cyprus)

Parallel session 7: **Results of national foresight exercises** (DF)

Room 3

Contributions from national authorities

This session will explore how different governments have been conducting national democratic foresight exercises and how that has reinforced their democratic resilience. The panel will allow for an exchange of views and results thereof and peer learning dialogue.

Moderator: Ambassador Sandy Moss, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe (United Kingdom)

Panel:

- Dr Georgios Koliarakis, Senior Advisor, Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES) (Austria)
- Jaana Tapanainen-Thiess, expert on democratic foresight, Finnish Prime Minister's Office (Finland)

Parallel session 8: **Strengthening Societal Resilience to Disinformation – for Informed Choices About Our Future** (DF)

Room 6

Led by the Council of Europe

Democratic foresight depends not only on understanding emerging trends but also on ensuring that citizens are able to make informed choices, free from manipulation, intimidation and undue interference. This session will explore different initiatives aiming to strengthen societies' long-term resilience against disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), as well as to preserve citizens' capacity to make free choices about their future.

Moderator: Astghik Sargsian, journalist (Armenia)

Panel:

- Daniele del Bianco, Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (Italy)
- Vebjørn Heines, Norwegian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe (Norway)
- Surendrini Wijeyaratne, Senior Policy Analyst, Democratic Governance and Human Rights Programming (Canada)

Parallel session 9: **Creative political processes** (DS)

Room 10

Led by the University of Strasbourg

As new technologies develop, democratic institutions must adapt. This session will explore how creative political processes can contribute to enhancing democratic security, including initiatives safeguarding young people's access to the internet as well as preventing polarisation and hate speech online. The session will ask: How can we offer innovations that protect citizens?

Moderators:

- Pierre Balloffet, Professor, HEC Montréal (Canada)
- Sabine Cullmann, Professor, University of Strasbourg (France)

Panel:

- Clément Etoré, Founder of the social network Bulle and finalist of the 2026 Council of Europe Hackathon (France)
- Elina Makri, General Manager, The Democracy & Culture Foundation (Greece)
- Hana Outaik, Co-founder of the association #Stopfisha and finalist of the 2026 Council of Europe Hackathon (France)
- Damien Roy, Territorial Marketing Project Manager, Eurometropolis of Strasbourg (France)
- Luc Sirois, Chief Innovator of Quebec (Canada)

18:00 Artistic Performance followed by a Reception, Foyer of the Hemicycle

Tuesday 3 November / DAY 2
Testing Responses Against Possible Futures

***Objective of the sessions**: to promote inclusive democratic decision-making and resilience while underlining the key strengths of the Council of Europe in preparing for the future.*

Master of Ceremonies: Sally Bailey-Ravet, Chief Interpreter and Head of Conferences and Travel, Council of Europe

Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN

9:30 Opening

- Natalia Gavrilița, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, Club de Madrid Member
- Mattias Guyomar, President of the European Court of Human Rights

9:45 Sharing solutions

After reflecting on the global state of play of democracy, the second day will kick off by reflecting on diverse and inclusive solutions to existing and future democratic challenges.

Moderators: Liz Alderman, journalist, former New York Times European correspondent and Emma Nelson, journalist, broadcaster and presenter

- Ambassador Delphine Delieux, President of Rapporteur Group on Democracy of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers (GR-DEM)
- Gunn Marit Helgesen, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- Jeffry Jeanty, Youth civil society representative to present the "Youth Innovating Democracy: A powerful Manifesto for a democratic Europe in 2049"
- George Papandreou, General Rapporteur on Democracy, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Aleksa Pavlović, representative of the Student Movement in Serbia

11:00 Putting Council of Europe Insights to the Test

Through constructive debate, this session will explore how Council of Europe bodies and mechanisms strengthen democratic decision-making and resilience through monitoring national developments.

Moderators: Liz Alderman, journalist, former New York Times European correspondent, and Emma Nelson, journalist, broadcaster and presenter

- Wim Geerts, Dutch Ambassador for Human Rights
- Eirik Holmøyvik, Vice-President of the Venice Commission
- Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)
- Aikaterini Polyzou, Chair of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI)
- Marialena Tsirli, Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 Afternoon Labs: Confronting concrete initiatives against the future scenarios

***Objective of the sessions**: to translate foresight into action by examining concrete initiatives and solutions that strengthen democratic participation, protect democratic values and foster innovation for future challenges. The solutions and initiatives (whose descriptions were given by their presenters) are classified within the three pillars of the New Democratic Pact for Europe*

14:00 – 15:20 First series of labs

Interpretation FR/EN

Pillar 1 LEARNING AND PRACTISING DEMOCRACY

Session 1 - Empowering Citizens: Media and Information Literacy for Democracy

Room 9

Moderator:

- Marie Bohner - Head of Development and Partnerships, Digital Investigation, AFP (France)

Panel:

- Arthur Chapman, Professor of History Education at University College London and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTE)
- Martina Chapman, Independent consultant specialised in media literacy policy and strategy development (Ireland)

Initiatives:

- **SpotCast (Lebanon)**
  Presenter: Omar Khaled, Co-Founder and Executive Director, SpotCast
  SpotCast is an independent community media platform founded in 2022 in Akkar, the most marginalised region of northern Lebanon. It operates as a model of bottom-up democratic foresight, building civic and informational resilience where democratic erosion takes hold first. Its goals are producing rigorously independent local journalism in a region excluded from national discourse, training community reporters from Akkar, and building durable media infrastructure that resists disinformation, polarisation, and civic disengagement. Actions include daily multimedia reporting on environmental, social, gender, cultural, and accountability issues; investigative documentaries including the UNESCO-awarded 2024 film Basira; training in fact-checking, ethical reporting, and digital safety; and the launch of an FM community radio studio extending reach across the digital divide. SpotCast is rooted in Akkar but national in reach, with over one million monthly viewers, a core team of three, and 22+ trained volunteer journalists embedded in the communities they cover. Partners include Internews, DW Akademie, IRC, the European Endowment for Democracy, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, and Maharat Foundation. By showing how independent journalism functions as democratic infrastructure under state weakness and information stress, SpotCast offers a replicable case of democratic foresight from the margins, relevant to the Forum's pillars of learning, protecting, and innovating for democracy.

- **Eurovision News Spotlight (Switzerland)**
  Presenter: Liz Corbin, Director of News, European Broadcasting Union (EBU)
  AI systems increasingly divert audiences away from trusted journalism, weakening the visibility and sustainability of quality news. The EBU has built a collective response through two interconnected strands. The first focuses on AI and news integrity through research, governance and innovation. The EBU/BBC News Integrity study found that 45% of AI-generated news responses contained significant issues. Alongside this work, the EBU has developed a Digital News and Data Hub (DNDH), bringing together A European Perspective (AEP), YEP (Your European Perspective) News, Neo, multilingual AI tools and public-service news discovery solutions. These initiatives complement the AI Principles Blueprint and the FACTS IN: FACTS OUT campaign, strengthening the visibility, accessibility and integrity of trusted journalism. The second strand is Eurovision News Spotlight, a network of 30 public service media organisations providing cross-border fact-checking, verification, intelligence-sharing and training. Together, these initiatives strengthen democratic resilience by responding to current harms while preparing for future risks, including AI assistants becoming

dominant gateways to news and coordinated disinformation campaigns targeting elections across multiple countries. Together, these initiatives model collective democratic resilience

- **Shikiriza Check (Burundi)**
  Presenter: Thibilisse Nkurunziza, Founder and Editor in Chief, Shikiriza
  Shikiriza Check is an initiative aimed at strengthening information integrity and citizens' resilience to information disorders in Burundi. Launched in April 2024, the project contributes to promoting peace, social cohesion, democracy and security through fact-checking, media and information literacy (MIL), and digital literacy. The project pursues three objectives: combating information disorders, strengthening citizens' critical-thinking skills, and promoting a responsible information and digital culture. To achieve these aims, Shikiriza Check produces fact-checking content and organises training sessions, awareness-raising campaigns and conferences. The initiative primarily targets young people, women, journalists, students, content creators and underrepresented communities. Since its launch, it has published more than 100 fact-checking pieces, organised several training sessions and held the first National Fact-Checking Conference in Burundi. It has also established two university MIL clubs, contributed to the creation of REJADEME—the first Burundian network of journalists committed to combating information disorders—and was nominated for the 2025 Mediterranean Journalism Conference in Marseille. Led by Journal Shikiriza, the project collaborates with media outlets, universities, civil society organisations and the Burundi Press House. As a member of the Factoscope network, it aims to extend its impact across the Great Lakes region

* * *

Pillar 2 PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

Session 2 – Citizen Mobilisation for Climate: Rethinking Governance in Times of Emergency Room 1

Moderator:

- Helfried Carl, Founder & CEO, European Capital of Democracy (ECoD) (Austria)

Panel:

- Simon Moutquin, Political strategist, Green Peace (Belgium)
- Emilie Tamo Kamguia, Agriculture & biodiversity engineer, Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth, Representative of Youth and Environment Europe NGO (France)

Initiatives:

- **KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz (Switzerland)**
  Presenter: Rosmarie Wydler Wälti, Co-Founder, KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz
  The initiative consists of a landmark democratic and legal mobilisation led by older women in Switzerland to hold public authorities accountable for insufficient climate action. Through collective organising, scientific evidence, public advocacy and strategic litigation, KlimaSeniorinnen brought a case before Swiss authorities and ultimately before the European Court of Human Rights. The initiative shows how citizens, especially older women, can use democratic and legal institutions to demand climate policies that protect life, health and dignity. It involves members of the association, individual applicants, lawyers, scientists, Greenpeace Switzerland and wider civil society partners.

- **Quota Climat (France)**
  Presenter: Louna Wemaere, Senior European Advocacy Officer, Quota Climat
  Climate Safeguards is the result of a collaboration between the NGOs QuotaClimat, Science Feedback, and Data For Good, aimed at semi-automatically detecting climate disinformation

in audiovisual media through algorithmic pre-detection followed by manual validation. The project's ambition is to produce reliable, reference, and open-source data on the presence of disinformation in traditional media in the countries studied. The methodology is designed to be replicable, in cooperation with fact-checking organisations specialised in the national context being analysed.

- **Urban Space Project (Kyrgyzstan)**
  Presenter: Gulsunai Toktobaeva, Project Officer, Urban Space
  The URBAN SPACE project, implemented with the support of the Mayor's Office of Bishkek, is an innovative digital platform designed to democratize urban governance and strengthen civic participation in sustainable urban development in Kyrgyzstan. The initiative brings together citizens, youth, civil society, experts, businesses, and public authorities to collaboratively address urban challenges and shape more inclusive, people-centered cities. The project's core objective is to create an open and accessible space where residents can actively contribute to decision-making processes. Through the platform, users can propose urban initiatives, report infrastructure and environmental problems, participate in public discussions, and engage directly with decision-makers and local authorities. By enabling dialogue between communities and institutions, URBAN SPACE promotes transparency, accountability, participatory governance, and public trust. The platform includes key modules such as an Urban Ideas Bank, analytical and educational resources, and crowdsourcing and crowdfunding mechanisms to collect public proposals and support civic initiatives. Initially launched in Bishkek, the project aims to expand across other cities and regions of Kyrgyzstan, creating a nationwide network for sharing innovative ideas, local experiences, and sustainable urban solutions.

* * *

Session 3 – Social justice and public services

Room 6

Moderator:

- Svetlana Stefanovic, Executive Director at Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society (Serbia)

Panel:

- Ilda Cukaj, Human Rights Lawyer (Albania)
- Ambassador Katri Viinikka, Ambassador for Democracy and Rule of Law (Finland)

Initiatives:

- **ENRMSC (Poland)**
  Presenter: Adam Labaran, Founder and Director, European Network of Refugee, Migrant and Stateless Changemakers (ENRMSC)
  The ENRMSC initiative is a European digital hub designed to connect migrants, refugees and stateless communities with opportunities, resources and support systems. Its goal is to improve access to education, employment, civic participation and essential services by identifying community needs and bridging gaps through technology and partnerships. The initiative combines data-driven needs assessment, capacity-building activities and cross-sector collaboration. Key actions include mapping opportunities, providing targeted information and referrals, and supporting community-led engagement and skills development. Operating across multiple European countries, the initiative engages migrants, refugees and stateless individuals as primary participants, while collaborating with civil society organisations, public institutions and private sector partners. By strengthening coordination and amplifying community voices, ENRMSC aims to foster inclusion, participation and equal access to opportunities across Europe.

- **Creating Change (UK)**
  Presenter: Samia Badani, Co-Founder and Chief Executive, Supporting People And Community Empowerment (The SPACE)
  Creating Change: Building Community Power is a community-led health and wellbeing hub founded after the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire to support community recovery, rebuild local capacity, and build long-term resilience in a neighbourhood where 72 residents were killed and institutional failure was profound. The model is built on a single insight: that when institutions have failed a community, leadership must be restored at community level so the community itself identifies its needs, shapes its services, and drives systemic change. This is not participation supplementing a service. It is an ecosystem which people are the change-makers; the model absorbs all emerging needs and generates the wrap-around response from within. Work is structured around a sequenced five-stage pathway: Access, Connection, Participation, Leadership, Influence a sustained transfer of standing from beneficiary to democratic actor. Across eight years and four overlapping crises (Grenfell, COVID, cost of living, Tower demolition), the ecosystem has held and grown. It has supported 30,000+ residents, federates elected residents' associations, runs a youth-led national mental health campaign (Hear Their Healing) and builds the capacity of SPACE Youth adopted a similar people centred model of growth and empowerment Partners include: Social Housing Providers, NHS, 2 Local Authorities.

- **Rural Ireland's Democratic Future: Democratic Social Infrastructure for the Bioeconomy Transition (Ireland)**

Presenter: Jonathan Reyes Gonzalez, Head of Design, Democratic Society
Our initiative applied Democratic Society's Democratic Social Infrastructure (DSI) framework to Ireland's bioeconomy transition in 2025–2026. Ireland is moving towards a climate-stressed farming future: temperatures rising by over 2°C, wetter winters and springs, drier summers, flooding, stressed grass growth, and pressure on livestock, crops, feed, water, soils and infrastructure. Farmers and rural communities will be asked to change land use, cut emissions, adapt to regulation, diversify income and join new bioeconomy value chains. This is not only a technical transition, but a democratic one. If choices are designed mainly by government, researchers, markets or EU policy without rural co-ownership, they risk feeling imposed — deepening distrust and resistance. Our core question was: how can Ireland make the transition with farmers and rural communities, not simply to them? Ireland has 133,174 farms and almost 300,000 farm workers; agriculture accounted for 37.8% of national greenhouse gas emissions in 2023. The initiative was tested through a policy and learning workshop with Climate-KIC and Irish bioeconomy stakeholders. Using DSI as a diagnostic and foresight tool, the workshop explored what democratic and community infrastructures are needed for Ireland's bioeconomy to deliver real impact. It identified strengths, weaknesses and leverage points across five dimensions: shared mandate; governance; civic ecosystems; long-term resourcing; and systemic embedding**.**

* * *

Pillar 3 INNOVATING DEMOCRACY

Session 4 – Strengthening inclusive democracy free from hate speech Room 2

Panel:

- Jean-Marc Berthon, French ambassador for the Rights of LGBT+ Persons (France)
- Georgios Stamatis, General Rapporteur on Roma and Travellers, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Greece)
- Massimiliano Tarantino, Director of Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli and Corporate Communications and Sustainability Director of the Feltrinelli Group (Italy)

Initiatives:

- **The Sentinel Project (Kenya, South Sudan)**
  Presenter: Christopher Tuckwood, Founder and Executive Director, The Sentinel Project
  The goal of Una Hakika (Kenya) and Hagiga Wahid (South Sudan) is to prevent violence by increasing citizens' access to accurate information. Both projects are mobile phone-based information services that monitor and counter the spread of incendiary rumours and misinformation across project areas. The team crowdsources reports from citizens through SMS, voice calls, and social media. Reports are then verified so that accurate, neutral information can be provided back to the community through the same channels and through a network of volunteers (community ambassadors) who help to dispel misinformation before it can create hostility and lead to violence. Participants engage with this information system that operates according to the following basic three-stage process. (1) Rumour reporting - Participants anonymously report rumours through a variety of channels, including SMS, voice calls, social media, a project website, and a network of community ambassadors. (2) Verification - Rumour reports are prioritized and investigated by project staff together with the community ambassador network and trusted key stakeholders (e.g. community leaders, other NGOs, and government officials). (3) Counter messaging - Once a given rumour has been verified as true or false, the facts are then reported back to the affected communities in a targeted manner, which is designed to reduce tensions.

- **Ribologija (Lithuania)**
  Presenter: Reda Jureliaviciute, Co-founder, Ribologija
  The initiative presents an integrated model developed by Ribologija to prevent and respond to online gender-based violence, combining public awareness, professional training, survivor support, and policy advocacy. It addresses a critical but often overlooked threat to democracy: the exclusion of individuals—especially women and young people—from public and civic participation due to online violence and harassment. The model includes national awareness campaigns challenging harmful norms, capacity-building for professionals working with victims, and the development of specialised support services, including Lithuania’s first online rape crisis platform. It also contributes to improving institutional responses through cross-sector collaboration and policy recommendations. By anticipating emerging risks linked to digitalisation, including technology-facilitated abuse, the initiative strengthens safer and more inclusive democratic participation. It involves civil society actors, public institutions, and experts, and offers a scalable approach adaptable to other contexts.

- **Anti-rumours Strategy (Spain/International)**
  Presenter: Gerardo Gómez Crespo, Project Manager, Diversit
  The Anti-rumours Strategy is an internationally recognised participatory methodology that aims to prevent discrimination, polarisation and hate speech by addressing stereotypes, prejudices and misinformation that affect social coexistence and democratic values. Originally developed in Barcelona and currently implemented in more than 100 cities and organisations across Europe and beyond, the initiative promotes critical thinking, empathy and inclusive narratives through community-based action. The strategy combines research, training, communication campaigns, participatory processes and awareness-raising activities to identify and counter harmful narratives affecting different social groups, including migrants, racialised communities, LGBTIQ+ people and other vulnerable populations. A key element of the initiative is the activation of “Anti-rumour Agents”: trained citizens, professionals and young people who become multipliers of inclusive narratives and social transformation within their communities. The initiative involves municipalities, schools, universities, NGOs, youth organisations, cultural actors and public institutions, fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration

and long-term structural impact. Through innovative methodologies and creative formats, the Antirumours Strategy strengthens democratic participation, social cohesion and resilience against disinformation and extremism.

* * *

15:20 – 15:40 Coffee Break

15:40 – 17:00 Second series of labs

Interpretation FR/EN

Pillar 1 LEARNING AND PRACTISING DEMOCRACY

Session 5 - Democratic Participation in the Digital Age: What Tools for Strengthening Civic Engagement?

Room 9

Moderation:

- Daryna Sokolova, Senior Project Officer, Secretariat of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Panel:

- Wojciech Firek, founder and president of the Polish Democracy in Practice Association (title TBC) (Poland)
- David Mekkaoui, CEO of ALL Digital (Belgium)

Initiatives:

- **Le Lab Citoyen (Morocco)**
  Presenter: Anace Heddan, General Director, Les Citoyens
  The Citizen Lab is a structured participatory mechanism that transforms dynamics of confrontation into processes of co-construction of public solutions, while integrating a dimension of democratic foresight. Developed by the association Les Citoyens in Morocco, it is built around a five-step architecture: free expression of criticisms and disagreements, collective prioritisation of issues, co-construction of solutions in mixed groups, testing of proposals against future scenarios, and formalisation into recommendations addressed to institutions. In 2026, the Lab was implemented across more than 10 editions covering 10 regions of Morocco, mobilising over 350 participants — 86% of whom were young people and women — alongside 50 public decision-makers and institutional representatives. Half of the editions were organised in rural areas. Following each Lab, direct dialogue sessions between young people and institutions enabled citizen priorities to be integrated into the agendas of municipal councils, which are currently in a follow-up phase. The Lab demonstrates that it is possible to rebuild democratic trust by starting from conflict rather than bypassing it — and that citizens, including the most marginalised, are ready to engage when spaces are structured, purposeful, and oriented towards concrete outcomes.

- **Zhytomyr Citizens' Assembly (Ukraine)**
  Presenter: Oleksandra Keudel, Founding Director of the Center for Democratic Resilience, Kyiv School of Economics (KSE)
  In October–November 2025, the third citizens' assembly — and the first in a major regional city in Ukraine — took place in Zhytomyr (260,000 inhabitants). The assembly worked with 64 randomly selected participants on "Sustainable Urban Mobility and Transport Infrastructure" and produced 14 recommendations for the city council. The objectives of the initiative were to: Test and implement a deliberative democratic format in Ukraine under wartime conditions Explore whether low institutional trust makes it necessary to adjust the

standard procedure. Measure the effects of citizens' trust in political actors, institutions, and democratic processes The four-day on-site discussions were preceded by a small digital participation process via the open-source AI-powered platform Pol.is. To strengthen public awareness and legitimacy, the project invested in citywide communication measures, including information displayed on city light screens, public announcements in buses, and local media outreach. Recommendations were handed over to the city council of Zhytomyr in February 2026. Local news media reported. One of the recommendations immediately influenced a city council decision regarding Zhytomyr's infrastructure. The initiative was guided by members of the Center for Democratic Resilience at the Kyiv School of Economics and advisors from TU Berlin, funded within the framework of the EU Horizon Project BRIDGE (Building Resilient Innovations in Democracy, Governance and Excellence).

- **Children's Voices (Chile)**
  Presenter: Rodrigo Mayorga, Chief Executive Officer, Momento Ciudadano
  Children's Voices as a Democratic Cornerstone is an initiative by Momento Ciudadano that builds lasting participatory spaces where children's voices genuinely shape democratic life. Grounded in a rights-based approach and the Lundy Model of participation, it challenges adultcentrism by ensuring children co-design the participatory processes through which their voices reach and influence democratic decision-making, rather than merely receiving decisions made on their behalf. In its first stage (2025), a Committee of 15 children and teenagers co-designed the "draw-and-talk" participatory methodology, which was then applied in 152 sessions reaching over 1,300 children aged 6 to 12 across all 16 Chilean regions. Results were systematized and delivered to presidential and parliamentary candidates during the 2025 national elections, generating 113 media appearances across 51 outlets nationwide. Built on cross-sector partnerships united by the conviction that child participation strengthens democracy, the initiative is now expanding along four lines: scaling participatory spaces into Chilean public schools; adapting the methodology with a gender lens; transferring the model to Argentina in partnership with that country's National Children's Ombudsman ahead of the 2027 elections; and strengthening institutional capacity through hands-on training and open-access methodological tools, so organizations can implement genuine child participation autonomously and sustainably.

* * *

Pillar 2 PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

Session 6 – Electoral and democratic integrity Room 6

Moderation:

- Renzo Díaz Giunta, President & Founder of the International Institute for Liberty, Democracy & Progress (IILDP) (Peru)

Panel:

- Marcus Melau, Danish Network of Local Youth Council, Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth (Denmark)
- Albana Vokshi, member of the Special Committee on the New Democratic Pact, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (TBC) (Albania)

Initiatives:

- **Value Your Vote Naija (Nigeria)**
  Presenter: Oche Precious Edeh, Executive Director, YES Africa
  Value Your Vote Naija Initiative is a youth-led civic engagement program that increases meaningful participation of young Nigerians in democracy ahead of the 2027 elections and beyond. Goal: To build civic responsibility and trust among youth by shifting the narrative

from “my vote doesn’t count” to “my vote drives accountability.” We focus on turning high youth voter registration into actual turnout and sustained civic action. Actions: We hold issue-based town halls on campuses and in communities, run peer-to-peer outreach through 50 trained Civic Ambassadors, and deliver voter education and fact-checking via WhatsApp, X, Facebook, and TikTok. Our ambassadors also counter misinformation and promote peaceful participation during elections. Scope: Launched before the 2023 general election, we have implemented activities in that election and three off-cycle state elections across Nigeria. We target youth aged 18-34, with a focus on first-time voters and young women in underserved communities. Participants: Since 2022, we have engaged over 5,500 youth in-person and reached 3 million+ online. Partners: We collaborate with local civil society organizations, student unions, and INEC state offices to ensure non-partisan delivery. Our work aligns with INEC’s Youth Voter Education Strategy and the African Union Youth Charter. Impact: By combining grassroots trust with digital outreach, Value Your Vote Naija provides a replicable model for youth-led democratic innovation

- **Nomoplatform (Cyprus)**
  Presenter: Frixos Stefanidis, Policy Officer, Oxygen for Democracy
  Nomoplatform is a civic-technology initiative by Oxygen for Democracy that makes the work of the Cypriot Parliament transparent and accessible to citizens. The platform enables anyone to track the submission, review and voting of bills, monitor parliamentary proceedings in real time, and consult the performance records and biographies of every Member of Parliament. Building on this, Oxygen for Democracy developed an MP Performance Evaluation Index: an evidence-based methodology that assesses the parliamentary work of individual representatives through verifiable, publicly available data, moving democratic accountability beyond perception and opinion. The goal of the initiative is to close the information gap between citizens and their elected representatives, strengthen a culture of accountability in democratic institutions, and demonstrate that civil society can play an active, evidence-based role in monitoring the legislative process. The initiative targets citizens, journalists, researchers and policymakers. It has been designed as a transferable model, adaptable to other parliamentary systems across Europe. Partners include academic institutions, media organisations and civil society partners at national and EU level.

- **Asuntos del Sur (Argentina)**
  Presenter: Matias Bianchi, Founder and Director, Asuntos del Sur
  The Marcadores de Erosión Democrática (Democratic Erosion Markers / MED) is an open-source, collaborative early warning tool developed by Asuntos del Sur to detect and monitor democratic erosion and resilience in real time. Unlike conventional democracy indexes, which measure consolidated outcomes, the MED tracks early signals — in political discourse, transnational networks, institutional behaviour, and civil society — before erosion becomes irreversible. The tool organises analysis across six dimensions: domestic political and social context; ideological mobilisation; participation in global anti-democratic networks; party system competitiveness; power-concentrating reforms; and limitations on civil and political freedoms. Each dimension is assessed using explicit data sources and a five-level chromatic scale, from deep autocratisation to democratic resilience. The MED is designed for use by civil society organisations, journalists, legislators and researchers. Its methodology is deliberately open and adaptive: participating organisations are not only users but co-producers, updating the tool as conditions evolve. This logic of evidence-based action research places democratic foresight in the hands of those closest to the ground. Country reports have been published for Argentina, Colombia and Spain, with expansion to further countries underway.

* * *

Pillar 3 INNOVATING DEMOCRACY

Session 7 – AI and Democracy: Opportunities, Risks and Governance Challenges

Room 1

Moderator:

- Professor Sébastien Touzé, Director of René Cassin Foundation (France)

Panel:

- Dr Georgios Koliarakis, Senior Advisor, Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES) (Germany)
- Marília Maciel, Director of Digital Trade & Economic Security, DiploFoundation (Brazil)

Initiatives:

- **Urdu AI (Pakistan)**
  Presenter: Abrar Ahmed, Youth Engagement Coordinator, Welfare Association for New Generation (WANG)
  Urdu AI: Building Democratic Resilience Through AI Literacy in Pakistan Urdu AI is Pakistan's first AI learning platform in the Urdu language, created by WANG to ensure that artificial intelligence is a tool every citizen can understand and use, not a privilege reserved for the few. In a country of over 220 million people, most AI knowledge exists only in English, leaving the majority unable to engage with a technology already shaping their access to information, employment, and public life. Urdu AI closes this gap by translating complex AI concepts into simple, practical Urdu, helping ordinary citizens become informed and confident participants in an AI-driven world. The initiative works through digital learning resources, community-based training, school and vocational outreach, and peer-to-peer engagement. A nationwide network of 27 Urdu AI Dost facilitators brings learning directly into underserved communities. To date, Urdu AI has built a community of more than one million learners across Pakistan. Participants include students, teachers, journalists, farmers, lawyers, women, and youth from diverse backgrounds. By 2027, the initiative aims to deliver in-person training to 40,000 people, with a focus on women, youth, educators, and marginalized communities. Urdu AI has been recognized through MIT Solve, the S&P Global Foundation StepForward Initiative, and the AI Opportunity Fund Asia-Pacific.

- **Factchequeado (USA/Puerto Rico)**
  Presenter: Natalia Colombo, Institutional Development Manager, Factchequeado
  Factchequeado is building a community-centered democratic infrastructure that combines collaborative networks, civic AI, and democratic education to help communities anticipate risks, strengthen participation, and build resilience before crises emerge. At its core is a network of more than 145 local media outlets, community organizations, and content creators across 27 U.S. states and Puerto Rico. Through weekly coordination meetings known as El Cafecito and a WhatsApp-based early warning system, partners identify emerging concerns, civic information needs, and disinformation narratives in real time. These insights are transformed into verified, culturally relevant content distributed through the same trusted networks that generated them, creating a continuous cycle of community intelligence and response. This collective intelligence also powers civic AI tools that expand access to trustworthy information and public services. ChatMigrante, an AI-powered WhatsApp assistant, helps migrant communities navigate complex systems with verified information. Electobot supports Spanish-speaking voters by answering civic questions and providing reliable electoral information during election periods. The model also strengthens citizens' capacity to navigate emerging technologies. Through FactDesafIA, a WhatsApp-based learning experience, Latino communities develop skills to identify manipulation, critically evaluate information, and engage responsibly online.

- **Triaje (Peru)**

Presenter: Miguel Alor Flores, Executive Director, Plaza Cívica

TrIAje is a free, open-source AI-assisted legal guidance tool that helps civil society organisations in Peru navigate complex regulatory requirements. It was designed as a first point of orientation for organisations with limited access to specialised legal support. The tool provides source-grounded guidance on issues such as formalisation and public registration, tax identity and RUC, donations and international cooperation, taxation for non-profit organisations, hiring and volunteering, intellectual property, personal data protection, governance, contracts, partnerships, permits, reputation and information security. TrIAje helps organisations understand their obligations, identify legal risks, prepare better questions for lawyers and use scarce legal consultation time more effectively. It does not replace legal counsel; it supports civic actors before they access professional advice. The initiative has national scope in Peru and focuses especially on smaller, emerging and regional organisations. It was first introduced in a capacity-building setting with 31 civil society organisations from 10 regions of the country. TrIAje was developed by Plaza Cívica, Causante and IALEON, combining civic technology, legal expertise and civil society strengthening. The tool uses a secure, end-to-end encrypted AI service and a curated legal knowledge base grounded in Peruvian civil and administrative law.

* * *

17:00 Closing ceremony: conclusions and key takeaways

Master of Ceremonies: Sally Bailey-Ravet, Chief Interpreter and Head of Conferences and Travel, Council of Europe

- Marja Ruotanen, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe
- Emma Wedner, Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth
- Richard Youngs, General Rapporteur of the World Forum for Democracy

17:30 Ceremony for the Democracy Innovation Award and closing speech

- Tanja Gonggrijp, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

18:00 Artistic performance followed by a Reception

SIDE EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

1. **Culture vs War Exhibition by Sergiy Mykhalchuk**

   This exhibition highlights the importance of resilient Ukrainian and European culture by demonstrating how artistic identity transforms into an active tool of peaceful and armed resistance against totalitarian frameworks. The exhibition aims to counter wartime disinformation by providing authentic, firsthand visual accounts that cut through information debris and politicized narratives. It further aims to foster global democratic dialogue through artistic medium by leveraging cultural diplomacy to deepen solidarity with Ukraine and collaboration in support of Ukraine among international policymakers, activists, and larger general public.

2. **Cartooning for Peace Exhibition “Défendons la démocratie !”**
   5 November - 31 December 2026, Villa Schutzenberger, 76 allée de la Robertsau, Strasbourg
   Stroll along the waterfront and discover the editorial cartoon exhibition "Defend Democracy!" ("Défendons la démocratie!"), presented by Cartooning for Peace to mark its 20th anniversary.

   Democracy is faltering and threatening to unleash monsters; the global geopolitical balance has been upended, replaced by a resurgence of power struggles and conflict. Political, social, economic, and environmental crises are multiplying, and there is no shortage of reasons to worry about the future. In such a context, how can we revitalize a democracy that seems to be running out of steam?

   The editorial cartoonists of Cartooning for Peace refuse to give in to resignation; they believe that the fight for democracy—far from being on its deathbed—needs to regain its full vitality in these rapidly changing times. Art, humor, critical thinking, and the irreverence of editorial cartoons—alongside the engagement of civil society—serve as excellent antidotes to the dark passions threatening us, and stand as proof that another world is still possible.

   The exhibition is based on the book “Défendons la démocratie!”, published by Éditions de La Martinière in partnership with Amnesty International, France Médias Monde, MGEN, the Jean-Jaurès Foundation, and Artivistas.

   This exhibition is presented by the City of Strasbourg and the association Journalisme et Citoyenneté to coincide with the World Forum for Democracy (November 2–3 at the Council of Europe) and the European Journalism Conference (Assises européennes du Journalisme, November 4–6) in Strasbourg.

3. **The European Convention on Human Rights : protecting our rights accross Europe**
   2-3 November 2026 | Palais de l’Europe, Lobby of the Hemicycle

   This exhibition offers an accessible introduction to the European Convention on Human Rights, how the European Court of Human Rights works, and the real-life impact of its decisions.

   Educational panels and an interactive display of rotating cubes invite visitors to explore the rights protected by the Convention.

A brochure, available in around ten languages, complements the exhibition by illustrating the rights guaranteed by the Convention through real examples from the Court's case law, making its work accessible to a broad audience.

PROJECTION OF DOCUMENTARIES

Palais de l 'Europe, Projection Room – Ground Floor

1. **Documentary "Tickling the Devil » by Piotr Małecki, introduced by Ms. Petra Bayr, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, followed by a reception.**
   2 November 12:00-14:00

   Christopher Morris took part in 28 wars. Armed with a photographic camera, he documented bloody conflicts across the world. Today, he tries to lead a peaceful family life, but the demons of war continue to haunt him, and turbulent American reality calls out to him at every turn. In tasteful, black and white frames, the film portrays a man who has not laid down his arms yet and is trying to come to terms with his choices and ambitions in an honest way. It explores the consequences of working as a war photojournalist, which indirectly affects his loved ones, too.

2. **Documentary "The Secret Reading Club of Kabul" by Shakiba Adil and Elina Hirvonen, followed by panel discussion moderated by Heli Suominen, Head of the Media Department of the Council of Europe, followed by a reception.**
   3 November 12:00-14:00

   The Secret Reading Club of Kabul is an award-winning documentary filmed in secret by young Afghan women who risk their lives to form a reading club under Taliban rule. Inspired by Anne Frank, they document their lives through intimate, unprecedented footage, revealing both the harsh realities of oppression and the courage to resist. Interwoven with director Shakiba Adil's personal journey, the film is a powerful testament to the enduring power of storytelling, humanity, and hope.

ARTISTIC PERFORMANCES

3. **Concert by Crimean Tatar composer and pianist Usein Bekirov**
   Monday, 2 November, 13:45, Palais de l'Europe, Lobby of the Committee of Ministers

   Usein Bekirov is a pianist, keyboardist, violinist, composer, arranger, and bandleader, of the Ukrainian/Crimean Tatar origin. A graduate of the National Music Academy of Ukraine, he experiments mainly with jazz fusion, funk and ethno-jazz styles. His original compositions are strongly influenced by Crimean Tatar, Ukrainian, Azerbaijani and Balkan folk music. In 1974 Bekirov started performing with many established jazz musicians and participated in several international jazz festivals. In 2016 Bekirov released his debut album. In 2019 Bekirov recorded his second album, Inspiration, in which compiles a concert for piano with orchestra, 10 miniatures for a symphonic orchestra, and 10 jazz etudes for piano, alongside the many jazz compositions in it. In France, he played and recorded with Ibrahim Maalouf, a renowned international Quincy Jones artist, composer and musician.

4. **Bagad Concert**
   Monday, 2 November, 18:00, Palais de l'Europe, Lobby of the Hemicycle

   A bagad is a traditional Breton ensemble that has existed since the 1950s. Inspired by the Scottish pipe band tradition, it consists of three sections: bombardes, bagpipes, and drums/percussion. Each section is led by a penn-pupitre, while the bagad as a whole is conducted by the penn-bagad.

5. **Concert by Las Baklavas**
   Tuesday, 3 November, 18:00, Palais de l'Europe, Hemicycle

   Las Baklavas is a group rooted in the sounds of the Balkans and Latin America, six musicians that bring a unique mix of music from the Andes to the Caucasus. They propose musical compositions that blend polyphony, computer-assisted music, electronic basslines, and bursts of rap and jazz, creating a texture where traditional and contemporary music coexist alongside each member's unique artistic world.

   Las Baklavas was formed in 2021 and has since performed in France, Belgium, Germany, Austria and Switzerland with a neo-trad sound that is as festive as it is sharp.

YOUTH EVENT (Non-public event)

Wednesday, 4 November 2026, European Youth Centre