

# INTERNATIONAL DAY of DEMOCRACY

- DEMOCRACY IN A CHANGING WORLD -



Wednesday, 27 September 2017

10.30-17.30

ALTIERO SPINELLI BUILDING,  
BRUSSELS – ROOM 5G2  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

#DemocracyDay #EU4Democracy

## P R O G R A M M E

*Followed by a cocktail and cultural event at BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts (18.00-20.00)  
Accompanied by the exhibition "Voices of Democracy", 25-29 September, ASP Balcony 5G*

**Web streaming:** [morning session](#) - [afternoon session](#)

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**09.45 - 10.30 Registration and welcome coffee**

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**10.30 – 10.40 Opening remarks**

**Christian Leffler**, Deputy Secretary General, European External Action Service

**Stefano Manservigi**, Director-General, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission

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**10.40 – 12.00 Panel I: State of democracy today – trends and challenges**

**Joan Hoey**, Regional Director Europe and Editor, The Democracy Index, Economist Intelligence Unit

**Šimon Pánek**, Co-founder and Director, People in Need

Moderator: **Santiago Fisas, MEP**

*This panel will debate the latest democratic trends, analyse current challenges to democracy and discuss ideas for re-setting democracy. The speakers will explore the linkages between democracy, economy and ongoing societal changes. They will be invited to touch upon the state of democracy in Europe and how this impacts upon the EU's credibility in third countries.*

*Questions tackled: Are we really facing a crisis of democracy? How can we renew democracy to adapt to changes in our societies? Does the state of democracy in Europe have implications for the EU's credibility and leverage in third countries?*

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**12.00 – 12.30 Keynote speech by Antonio Tajani, President of European Parliament**

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**12.30 – 14.15 Lunch break**

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Organised by Democracy and Elections Actions Unit, DG EXPO



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## P R O G R A M M E

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**14.15 – 14.30** **Keynote speech by HRVP Federica Mogherini on the EU's commitment to democracy and the importance of youth engagement**

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**14.30 – 15.45** **Panel II: How to bring the demos back into democracy? Different forms of democratic engagement and political participation beyond elections**

**Fabio Massimo Castaldo, MEP**

**Paweł Adamowicz**, Mayor of the City of Gdańsk, Poland

**Irene Wairimu Mwangi**, Director for Communication & Public Affairs, Youth Senator Murang'a County, Youth Senate, Kenya

**Gabriel Delacoste**, Founder, Entre Initiative, Uruguay

**Peter Vermeersch**, Professor of International and European Studies, KU Leuven

Moderator: **Kati Piri, MEP**

*Elections captured by money, policy convergence amongst the major parties, erosion of faith in institutions – many citizens feel increasingly disconnected and disillusioned by democratic processes. This panel will showcase different forms of democratic engagement, explore innovative tools and the influence of new technologies on democratic participation, and reflect on making democracy work for young generations.*

*Questions tackled: What can be done to bridge the gap between the political class and the electorate? How can we counter democratic fatigue and encourage participation from the bottom-up? How can we make democracy work for young people?*

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**15.45 – 17.15** **Panel III: Democracy and media– the values of free speech**

**Diana Moukalled**, Co-founder, Daraj Initiative, Lebanon

**Margaryta Gontar**, Founder, StopFake initiative, Ukraine

**Emma Goodman**, Research Officer, Media Policy Project, London School of Economics

Moderator: **Marietje Schaake, MEP**

*An open and free media landscape, and by extension, pluralistic and balanced journalism, is a fundamental marker of democratic societies. But in today's rapidly changing digital world, traditional media is facing new challenges. This panel will debate topical issues around the fake news epidemic and 'post-truth' politics, media pluralism and independence, and media literacy.*

*Questions tackled: Fiction, fabricated as fact, can do real harm to the democratic process. With the spread of 'fake news' easier than ever before, how can the media rebuild trust? Is there a need to regulate freedom of speech and expression? How can we increase media literacy amongst the public to help citizens distinguish between fact and fiction?*

# P R O G R A M M E

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## Cocktail Reception and Cultural Event at BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts

Rue Ravensteinstraat 23, 1000 Brussels, Room: Terarken

**18.00 – 19.00** Cocktail reception

**19.00 – 19.30** EU and democracy: a never ending task

**Keynote address by Herman Van Rompuy, President Emeritus of the European Council**

**19.30 – 20.30** “Performance Desperately In Need of an Audience” by the Arab Puppet Theater

*Please visit [BOZAR's webpage](#) to register for the cultural event. Please note that unregistered participants will not be able to attend.*

## S P E A K E R S B I O S

**Antonio Tajani****@EP\_President**

*Born in Rome on 4 August 1953, Antonio Tajani graduated in law from the University of Rome "La Sapienza". During his military service, he was an officer in the Italian Military Air Force. Mr Tajani worked as a journalist for more than 20 years, initially on the RAI Radio (Radio 1) including time as their special envoy in Lebanon, the Soviet Union and Somalia. He was subsequently the head of the Rome editorial office of the daily newspaper 'Il Giornale'.*

*Mr Tajani was among the co-founders of Forza Italia and was first elected to the European Parliament in 1994 where he served until 2008 when he was appointed as European Commissioner for Transport, in which capacity he was active in promoting the extension of passenger rights. In 2010 he became the Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship and pushed for ambitious re-industrialisation goals and "green growth" by supporting SMEs, notably through the Payment Delays Directive and the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan.*

*He returned to the European Parliament in 2014 becoming one of its vice-presidents. In January 2017 Antonio Tajani was elected President of the European Parliament on a programme that placed great emphasis on bringing the EU closer to its citizens.*

**Federica Mogherini****@FedericaMog @eu\_eas**

*Federica Mogherini is the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission since 1 November 2014. She was the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs from February to October 2014 and a Member of the Italian Parliament (Chamber of Deputies), where she was elected for the first time in 2008. In her parliamentary capacity, she has been the Head of the Italian Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and Vice-President of its Political Committee (2013-2014); member of the Italian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (2008-2013); Secretary of the Defence Committee (2008-2013) and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.*

**Herman Van Rompuy****@HvRpersonal**

*Elected as the first full-time President of the European Council in November 2009, Herman Van Rompuy took office when the Lisbon Treaty came into force on 1 December 2009. In 2012, he was re-elected for a second (and last) term starting on 1 June 2012 and running until 30 November 2014. At the time of his first election, Mr Van Rompuy was Prime Minister of Belgium. Prior to that he had served in Belgium as Speaker of the House of Representatives (2007-2008) and in several government positions, including as Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Budget (1993-1999), and as Secretary of State for Finance and Small Businesses (1988). In 2004, he was granted the honorary title of Minister of State. Herman Van Rompuy was economist at the National Bank of Belgium, when he began his political career, in 1973, as national vice-president of his party's youth movement. He was president of the Flemish Christian Democrats (1988-1993). He served in the Belgian Parliament, in turn as Senator (1988-1995) and Member of Parliament (1995-2009). Herman Van Rompuy is professor at the universities of Leuven and Louvain, at the College of Europe in Bruges and at Sciences Po in Paris, and he is the President of the European Policy Centre.*

## S P E A K E R S B I O S

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**Christian Leffler****@CLEfflerEU @eu\_eas**

Christian Leffler joined the European Commission in 1996, where he took up the post of Commission "Antici" and Head of the unit in the Secretariat General responsible for the coordination of relations with the Council of Ministers. In 1999, he became the Deputy Head of the Private Office of the Right Honourable Chris Patten, European Commissioner for External Relations. From 2002 until 2007, he was Director in charge of the Middle East and South Mediterranean in the European Commission's Directorate General for External Relations. He then spent three years as Head of Cabinet of Mrs Margot Wallström, Commission Vice President for Institutional Relations and Communication. During 2010 Mr Leffler was Deputy Director General of the DG for Development and relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States, as well as a senior adviser to EU High Representative for CFSP and European Commission Vice-President Catherine Ashton, assisting her in the preparation for the establishment of the new European External Action Service. From the beginning of 2011 to 2015 he was Managing Director for Americas with the European External Action Service. Mr Leffler took up his current position on 16 September 2015.

**Stefano Manservigi****@stefanomanservi @europeaid**

Stefano Manservigi is the Director-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) at the European Commission since May 2016. An Italian national, he previously served as Head of the Private Office of Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Commission Vice-President. In 2014, he was the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey. Before that, he held other positions at the Commission, including as Director-General for Migration and Home Affairs and Director-General for Development and Relations with African, Caribbean, and Pacific States. He has also headed the Private Offices of the Commission's President Romano Prodi and Commissioner Mario Monti and served in the Private Offices of the Commission's Vice-President Filippo Pandolfi and of Commissioner Francesco Vanni d'Archirafi. A lawyer by training, he enjoys teaching and has been a visiting professor at the University of Bologna, University of Roma III, and the College of Europe.

**Santiago Fisas Aixelà****@SantiagoFisas**

Santiago Fisas has been an MEP since 2009. He is a lawyer from Catalonia and graduated in Company Management at IESE. He was vice-president of SATI (textile company) from 1980-1996 and vice-president of the Spanish High Sports Board 1996-1998. He held the position of Secretary of State for Sports from 1998-1999 and President of the PP Municipal Council of Barcelona from 1999-2003. He was also a Minister in the Madrid Regional Government (Culture, Sports, Tourism, Youth) from 2003-2009. Mr Fisas is a member of the Spanish Olympic Committee.

**Fabio Massimo Castaldo****@FMCastaldo**

Fabio Massimo Castaldo was born in 1985 and is one of the youngest members of the European Parliament. He studied Italian and French law in Rome and Paris and was elected to the European Parliament in 2014 as a member of the Movimento 5 Stelle (Five Star Movement). He is member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (for both of them he is also coordinator for the EFDD group), as well as a member of interparliamentary delegation, principally covering the Southern Neighbourhood and Latin America. He is also the European Parliament rapporteur on EU relations with Tunisia and the Lead-Member for the European Parliament's Young Political Leaders Programme. He has been an active participant in several election observation missions.

## S P E A K E R S B I O S

**Joan Hoey****@JoanHoeyEIU @TheEIU @TheEIU\_Europe**

Joan Hoey is the editor of The Economist Intelligence Unit's flagship annual Democracy Index and the Editorial Director for Europe. She joined The EIU in 1995 after working as a freelance journalist covering the UK, Ireland and Eastern Europe. She has a first class BA in History from Sussex University. Joan heads a team of analysts covering Europe in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Country Analysis division. She is personally responsible for providing political and economic forecasts for a number of countries in the region, including the UK and Greece. Ms Hoey has long experience in sharing her country and specialist expertise with clients. She is an experienced speaker and media presenter.

**Šimon Pánek****@people\_in\_need**

Šimon Pánek is the executive director of [People in Need](#), the Czech humanitarian organization, which he co-founded in 1992. The group provides humanitarian aid and solidarity for human rights and civil society, principally in authoritarian or conflict-ridden states and zones, including Chechnya, the Balkans, Belarus, Ukraine and Cuba. A former Czech student activist during the 1989 Velvet Revolution, Mr Pánek was a student leader of anti-regime occupation strikes. He became a foreign policy specialist on the Balkans and human rights issues in the presidential administration of Vaclav Havel. A recipient of the 2002 Czech State Medal of Merit and the 2003 European of the Year Award, he has chaired the Board of the Open Society Fund - Prague, and is a member of the European Council on Foreign Relations and the boards of the European Partnership for Democracy and of the recently founded Prague Civil Society Centre.

**Kati Piri****@KatiPiri**

Ms Piri has been an MEP since 2014. In the European Parliament, she is member of the [Committee on Foreign Affairs](#) and member of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and Delegation to the [Euronest Parliamentary Assembly](#). She has a degree in International relations from the University of Groningen. Previously she worked for the European Thinktank WBS (Wiardi Beckman Foundation) and NIMD (Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy). She also worked as political advisor to the Committee on Foreign Affairs / Defence and Security for the S&D Group in the European Parliament. She is a member of the Dutch Labour Party.

**Peter Vermeersch****@pvermeersch**

Peter Vermeersch is a professor of politics at the KU Leuven (University of Leuven), Belgium. He is currently director of the LINES Institute (Leuven International and European Studies) and affiliated as senior researcher with the Centre for Research on Peace and Development (both at KU Leuven). In 2007 and 2008, he was a visiting scholar at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University. He is a graduate of the University of Leuven, but he also studied, lived and conducted research in Central Europe and the Balkans. His research focuses on minorities and migration, democratization, reconciliation and nationalism. He is the author and editor of several academic books, including *The Romani Movement: Minority Politics and Ethnic Mobilization in Contemporary Central Europe* and *The EU Enlargement and Gay Politics: The Impact of Eastern Enlargement on Rights, Activism and Prejudice*. He also writes for non-academic audiences. In 2011 and 2012 Peter Vermeersch was part of the organizing team of the G1000, a large-scale deliberative citizens' initiative held in Belgium.

## S P E A K E R S B I O S

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**Paweł Adamowicz****@AdamowiczPawel**

*Paweł Adamowicz is the mayor of the city of Gdańsk, Poland, and a Civic Platform party politician. He studied law at the University of Gdańsk, where he also became a prominent student movement member. He was one of the organizers of the 1988 strike and became the headperson of the strike committee. Between 1990 and 1993 he served as a vice-rector at his alma mater. In 1990, Mr Adamowicz was elected a member of the City Council in Gdańsk and was working in this capacity until 1998, when he was elected as the Mayor of Gdańsk. He has been holding the Mayor's post since then, being consecutively re-elected. In 2016 he was on the shortlist for the World Mayor Prize because Gdańsk is at the forefront of providing immigrants with the facilities to contribute to the city's society, economy and culture. The city has developed and invested in long term strategies as well as day-to-day measures to successfully integrate newcomers from different countries. Mr Adamowicz describes himself as a supporter of empowered local governments, devoted to strengthening local democracies in Central-Eastern Europe.*

**Gabriel Delacoste**

*Gabriel Delacoste is an activist, political scientist and member of the Frente Amplio coalition from Uruguay. He teaches in the University of the Republic, regularly writes in the national press, and was active in recent political campaigns such as the "No a la baja" movement which successfully prevented the reduction of the criminal age in a two-year mobilization campaign. Attracting and involving many young Uruguayans the campaign helped them to become politically socialized and active. Gabriel Delacoste's recently launched initiative "Entre" offers discussions and seminars and seeks to build a bridge between culture and politics.*

**Irene Wairimu Mwangi****@nimuioren**

*Irene Wairimu Mwangi represents the Murang'a County at the Youth Senate Kenya which was founded in 2014. In her position as the Senate's Director for Communication and Public Affairs Irene informs national policy to address youth concerns at local and national level. She is also a member of the Kenya Youth Taskforce that researches on youth aspirations and provides recommendations for improved youth policies. Between May and August 2017 she worked as a Political Party Special Interest Group Observer for the Election Observation Group monitoring the inclusion of marginalized groups like youth, women and ethnic minority groups in political parties pre-election activities and during election day. Irene Wairimu Mwangi is currently studying a Master in Public Policy at the University of Reading, UK.*

**Marietje Schaake****@MarietjeSchaake**

*Marietje Schaake has been serving as a Member of the European Parliament for the Dutch Democratic Party (D66) with the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) political group since 2009. She serves on the International Trade committee and is the spokesperson for the ALDE Group on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Schaake also serves on the committee on Foreign Affairs and the subcommittee on Human Rights. She is the founder of the European Parliament Intergroup on the Digital Agenda for Europe. Furthermore, Marietje Schaake is the Vice-President of the US Delegation and serves on the Iran Delegation and the Delegation for the Arab peninsula. In addition to her parliamentary work, Marietje Schaake is member of the European Council on Foreign Relations, a Commissioner on the Global Commission on Internet Governance and a WEF Young Global Leader in the class of 2014. She serves as vice-president of the supervisory board of Free Press Unlimited.*

## S P E A K E R S B I O S

**Emma Goodman****@EmmaMayAlex**

*Emma Goodman is Research Officer for the LSE Media Policy Project. She recently completed an MSc in Media, Communication and Development at the LSE. Before that, she worked in Paris as a writer, researcher and programme manager for the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) where she closely followed developments in digital journalism. Previously, she worked in Rome as a journalist and translator.*

**Diana Moukalled****@DianayacpDiana**

*Diana Moukalled is a veteran journalist with extensive experience in both traditional and new media. She started her career as a correspondent for Future Television where she covered many regional and international topics in her series "Through the Naked Eye" particularly problems of women and minorities in the MENA region and in the world; namely, Women under Taliban (1999), Women in Iran (1999), Crimes of Honor in Jordan (2000). Her expertise varies from news writing and reporting, to documentary and TV production and war coverages in hot zones including Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon. Human Rights, women, war, minorities and many other issues were topics of her long and extensive world coverages. She is one of the co-founders of Daraj, which is a new media outlet that aims to be the first independent pan-Arab multimedia platform publishing analyses and investigative reports. It meets rising demand from the Arabic-speaking online community and responds to a real need for a regional independent media outlet where professional journalists could publish credible, impartial and well-investigated stories independent of politically controlled media.*

**Margaryta Gontar****@MargoGontar @StopFakingNews**

*Margo Gontar, Ukrainian journalist, TV anchor and co-founder of fact-checking website StopFake.org Margo Gontar is a graduate of the Kyiv Mohyla School of Journalism and co-founder of the fact-checking website StopFake.org, which aims to refute misinformation about events in Ukraine and provide verified facts. She anchors the regular weekly StopFake video broadcasts and is also a celebrated singer-songwriter.*

**Arab Puppet Theatre**

*The Arab Puppet Theatre Foundation (APTF) was founded in 2008 as a non-profit organisation with the mission to encourage puppetry practices throughout the Arab world, advance new developments in the field, and function as an established puppetry school and theatre. The initiative is a first of its kind in Lebanon and the region, serving as a school and establishing a strong network of international puppeteers. APTF is a platform to revive, advance, continually challenge and rethink puppetry in the Arab world, providing skills and specialised programmes for experienced and novice puppeteers, including puppet-makers, educators, social workers, human rights workers, and librarians. APTF collaborates with artists, professionals, local and international NGOs from various fields and disciplines to explore new possibilities in the field. APTF opened its School and Theatre in Beirut, Lebanon in 2013.*