



European Democracy Group: Civil Society Series

Co-hosted by Carnegie Europe and the European Movement International
*in partnership with the European Partnership for democracy
and Democracy Reporting International*

On behalf of Carnegie Europe and European Movement International, we are delighted to welcome you to the first event of this special Civil Society Series of the European Democracy Group, organised in partnership with Democracy Reporting International and the European Partnership for Democracy. With three landmark EU policy and political initiatives in the pipeline—the Conference on the Future of Europe, Digital Services Act, and European Democracy Action Plan — the meetings will focus on the implications of each initiative for the future of Europe, and the roles of civil society in safeguarding and strengthening democracy therein.

European Elections at Risk: Ensuring integrity of democratic discourse online

Tuesday, 20 October 2020, from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m (CEST).

Microsoft Teams (access via this [link](#))

The European Union’s proposed European Democracy Action Plan and Digital Services Act are grounded by the ambition to help protect and bolster democracy in Europe in the digital age - providing an opportunity to apply a multistakeholder approach for safeguarding elections.

Tech companies have tried and improved several modes of addressing malicious actors and content on their platforms, with limited success. Governments around the world are also tackling how to regulate the threats posed to electoral integrity. European civil society has become more specialized in addressing these problems and holding online platforms and governments to account, but still lacks the tools, data access and coordination to react systematically and in real time to such challenges.

This panel will showcase lessons learned from these different stakeholders in safeguarding elections in the digital age, questioning their roles and potential for co-ordination in their common effort to improve the information ecosystem and foster resilience of European democracies.

Kick-off speakers:

Marie-Hélène Boulanger | Head of Unit, Union Citizenship Rights and Free Movement, DG Justice, European Commission

Patrick Costello | Head of Division, Democracy and Electoral Observation, EEAS

Carla Luis | Researcher: Elections, Democracy and Human Rights Training, research and support, University of Coimbra

Armin Rabtisch | Chairperson and Election Expert at Election-Watch.EU





Participants

European Elections at Risk: Ensuring integrity of democratic discourse online

Tuesday, 20 October 2020

1. **Özlem Atikcan** | University of Warwick
2. **Francesca Boggeri** | Election Observation and Democracy Support (EODS)
3. **Vanessa Cotterell** | European Movement International
4. **Pascal Crowe** | Open Rights Group
5. **Petros Fassoulas** | European Movement International
6. **Pavel Havlicek** | AMO - Czech Association for International Affairs
7. **Ruth-Marie Henckes** | European Partnership for Democracy
8. **Maria Koomen** | Open Government Network for Europe
9. **Rasto Kuzel** | MEM O98
10. **Michael Meyer-Resende** | Democracy Reporting International
11. **Rafael Goldzweig** | Democracy Reporting International
12. **Susan Morgan** | Consultant
13. **Ines Narciso** | ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa
14. **Eliška Pírková** | Access Now
15. **Helena Schwertheim** | Democracy Reporting International
16. **Maxime Staelens** | European Centre of Employers and Enterprises
17. **Richard Youngs** | Carnegie Europe
18. **Anthony Zacharzewski** | Democratic Society
19. **Layla Wade** | Digital Action
20. **Nienke Palstra** | Global Witness

The European Democracy Group is run jointly by Carnegie Europe and European Movement International, as part of Carnegie's [Reshaping European Democracy](#) initiative, established in 2017 to analyse, debate, and help improve the state of democracy in Europe. For this Civil Society Series, we are partnering with Democracy Reporting International and the European Partnership for Democracy to deepen the discussions around important policy initiatives aiming to strengthen European democracy.

