



High-level event hosted by MEP Domènec Ruiz Devesa

## Ensuring the integrity of European Parliament elections in 2024 through the participation of civil society

Tuesday, 4 July 2023  
10:30 – 12:30 hours

European Parliament – Room Paul Henri Spaak 4B001  
[60 rue Wiertz](#)  
1047 Brussels, Belgium

***Participants from outside the European Parliament can register for the high-level event [here](#)***

Given the many challenges facing democracy in the EU, elections to the European Parliament must become more inclusive, accessible, representative and transparent.

In view of the upcoming elections to the European Parliament in 2024, the EU's commitment to defending democracy is more important than ever. The elections provide an important opportunity to strengthen citizen participation in elections, improve trust and promote identification with democratic values. In the run-up to 2024, voter mobilisation and campaigning will provide an opportunity to build a collective advocacy agenda, improve inclusion and address equality issues for underrepresented groups, including women, persons with disabilities and minorities.

This panel discussion will bring together civil society organisations, election observation experts and representatives from the European institutions in order to discuss the regulatory options and non-regulatory support initiatives.

### **Guiding questions**

What are current initiatives to enhance youth and women participation and to ensure equal participation of persons with disabilities? Are they sufficient to reach as many voters as possible?

How to protect human rights in political advertising online and ensure free voter participation?

How to improve political and campaign finance regulations?

How could the European Commission's Defence of Democracy Package contribute to countering disinformation and safeguard rule of law principles?



---

### Participants

- 25 participants from the European institutions, civil society and election experts from at least 15 EU Member States.

### Initiatives

- the draft European Elections 2024 key policy paper including findings and recommendations of the four SEEEDS webinars held in 2023;
  - the European Commission's Defence of Democracy Package that is intended promotes measures to support broad and inclusive participation in the 2024 elections to the European Parliament;
  - the European Commission's recommendations on civic engagement and on resilient electoral processes ahead of the 2024 European elections to the European Parliament;
  - the European Parliament's election [strategy](#) presented in June 2023.
- 

## Agenda

10:30 – 11:00	<b>Registration &amp; Coffee</b>
11:00 – 11:10	<b>Welcome and introduction to SEEEDS</b> Mr. Armin Rabitsch, Chairperson Election-Watch.EU
11:10 – 11:20	<b>Key note speech: Opportunities of the 2024 European Elections</b> <b>European Parliament First Vice President Othmar Karas (EPP, AT)</b>
11:20 – 11:25	<b>Key note speech: State of play of the European electoral reforms</b> <b>MEP Domènec Ruiz Devesa</b> , host of the event (AFCO rapporteur electoral reforms, S&D, ES)
11:25 – 11:30	<b>Speech: Transparency and targeting of political advertising</b> <b>MEP Sandro Gozi</b> , (IMCO rapporteur transparency and targeting of political advertising, Renew, FR)



# SEEEDS

Supporting Engagement in European Elections  
and Democratic Societies



ELECTION-WATCH.EU



11:30 – 11:45

Civil society recommendations

- ➔ **Equality and Inclusion:** Mr. Michael Lidauer, Election-Watch.EU  
How to enhance coherence and address inclusion gaps?
- ➔ **Transparency:** Mr. Fernando Hortal Foronda, EPD  
How to protect human rights in political advertising online?
- ➔ **Accountability:** Ms. Tatyana Hilscher-Bogussevich, on behalf of EPDE  
How to improve political and campaign finance regulations?
- ➔ **Risks and Opportunities:** Mr. Dennis Wenzl, DRI  
How to counter disinformation and safeguard rule of law principles?

11:45 – 12:15

**Panel discussion – Round of Questions**

**Ms. Věra Jourová** (European Commission Vice-President for Values and Transparency) (tbc)

“Supporting resilient elections to the European Parliament”

**MEP Domènec Ruiz Devesa**, host of the event (AFCO rapporteur electoral reforms, S&D, ES)

**Ms. Antonella Valmorbida** (Secretary General of the European Association for Local Democracy ALDA and former President of EPD)

“Bridging the gap between active European citizens and EU decision makers”

12:15 – 12:30

**Q&A session and open discussion with all participants**

---

### About SEEEDS:

The EU-funded project “Supporting Engagement in European Elections and Democratic Societies” (SEEEDS) aims on raising awareness about the European elections and bridging the gap between active European citizens and EU decision makers.

The SEEEDS project pursues five interlinked objectives:

1. To expand and strengthen civil society engagement in electoral processes;
2. to strengthen the network of electoral experts for an assessment of the European elections in 2024;
3. to develop practical recommendations at European level;
4. to contribute to the fight against disinformation, and;
5. to encourage citizen participation, in particular of women, youth, voters with disabilities, and mobile European citizens.

The SEEEDS project brings together four civil society partners, the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD), Election-Watch.EU (EW), Democracy Reporting International (DRI), and European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE).