



**European Committee
of the Regions**

**A new chapter for participatory democracy
Moving towards a more resilient, inclusive and citizen-centred democracy**

Format: Hybrid (Interactio, webstream)
Venue: European Committee of the Regions, Brussels
Timing: 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.
Date: 9 March 2023
Languages: EN, DE, FR, IT, ES, PL

Agenda

10:00 – 10:15 Opening

- *Apostolos Tzitzikostas, First-vice President, European Committee of the Regions*
- *Dubravka Šuica, European Commissioner for Democracy and Demography*

10:15 – 10:45 Plenary session – A new chapter for EU democracy

European Citizens want to be heard and involved in EU policymaking. They want to have their say and to shape policies in the years between elections. Major transformation processes such as those required for the Green Deal can only succeed with the commitment of a large majority of European citizens. The session will focus on what is needed to usher in a *New chapter for EU democracy*.

- *Daniel Freund, Member of the European Parliament*
- *Gaëtane Ricard-Nihoul, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Communication, European Commission*
- *Anna Renkamp, Senior Project Manager Democracy and Social Cohesion, Bertelsmann Stiftung*

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00 Workshops

In-person participants are invited to take part in moderated workshops to identify the priorities, the challenges and the best approaches and methods to engage citizens in the local and regional decision-making processes.

The workshops are held in: English, German and French

12:00 – 12:15 Break

12:15 – 12: 45 Plenary session – Setting the direction for the future and comments

- *Lukas Mandl, Member of the European Parliament, Vice President, Assembly of European Regions*

Results from each breakout session are presented for discussion and information to the Plenary session by each of the breakout session moderators. The results will have a concrete impact on the development and the direction of the *New chapter for participatory democracy initiative*.

12:45 – 12:55 Info point – Supporting the implementation of participatory democracy

- *Silke Toenshoff, Head of Unit, Events and local dialogues, European Committee of the Regions*

12:55 – 13:00 Closing

- *Vincenzo Bianco, Chair of the CIVEX commission, Member of the Catania Municipal Council*