3 December 2021 – 09:30 to 13:00

Hybrid format: European Committee of the Regions room JDE52, Brussels, and online via Interactio and livestreamed (with interpretation)

Interpretation available from/to: DE, EN, ES, FR, IT, PL, SL

09:30 Official welcome & setting the scene
• Apostolos Tzitzikostas, President of the European Committee of the Regions, Governor of Central Macedonia Region
• Herman Van Rompuy, Chair of the CoR High Level Group on European Democracy, President Emeritus of the European Council
• Manfred Weber, (DE/EPP), Chair of the "European Democracy" Working Group of the Conference on the Future of Europe, Member of the European Parliament, President of the EPP Group

10:00 Panel I: Democracy and legitimacy: a democracy that delivers, democracy as a value

Moderator
• Didier Georgakakis, Professor in Political Science, Univerisité Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Panellists
• Joaquín Almunia, Member of the High Level Group on European Democracy
• Domenec Ruiz Devesa, (ES/PES), Member of the European Parliament, Member of the "European Democracy" Working Group of the COFE
• Mark Speich, (DE/EPP), Chair of the CoR Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs, Secretary of State, North Rhine-Westphalia

Followed by a discussion and audience questions

11:00 Panel II: Modern democratic systems: How can participatory democracy strengthen representative democracy?

Moderator
• Kalypso Nicolaidis, Professor at the School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute

Panellists
• Rebecca Harms, Member of the High Level Group on European Democracy
• Eva Maydell, (BG/EPP), Member of the European Parliament, President of the European Movement International
• Karl Heinz Lambertz, (BE/PES), Member of the Parliament of the German-speaking Community of Belgium, President of the Association of European Border Regions

Followed by a discussion and audience questions
11:55  Panel III: Strengthening European democracy across all levels: Local, regional, national and European

Moderator
- Olivier Costa, Director, European Political and Governance Studies Department, College of Europe

Panellists
- Maria João Rodrigues, Member of the High Level Group on European Democracy
- Roberto Ciambetti, (IT/ECR), President of the Veneto Regional Parliament
- Jelena Drenjanin, (SE/EPP), Chair of the Governance Committee, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Followed by a discussion and audience questions

12:50  Conclusions & wrap up

- Herman Van Rompuy, Chair of the CoR High Level Group on European Democracy, President Emeritus of the European Council
- Vasco Alves Cordeiro, 1st Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions, Member of the Regional Parliament of Azores