

A Europe that Empowers, Protects and Delivers: Strengthening European Multi-Level Democracy



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, Université 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

- **Kalypto 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