

THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY SUPPORT

18-19 March 2026
European Parliament
Brussels



All sessions are open to all EP and are also webstreamed.
European Parliament, Spinelli building, 3E2

Draft Programme

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2026

09:00 – 10:00 Registration and welcome coffee

10:00 – 11:00 **WELCOME ADDRESS** by **Roberta Metsola**, *President of the European Parliament (video message)*

OPENING ADDRESS by **Igor Grosu**, *President of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova*

Chaired by DEG Co-Chair David McAllister, *Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs*

11:00 – 12:30 **EUROPE'S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY SUPPORT**

Chaired by DEG Co-Chair David McAllister, *Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs*

- Representative of the European Commission, International Partnerships/Enlargement, tbc.
- Sir Christopher Chope, Chair of the Special Committee on the New Democratic Pact, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Carl Hartzell, Deputy Director-General, Head of department for Multilateral Governance and Humanitarian Policy, Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Anu Juvonen, President Board of Directors, European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) and Executive Director, Demo Finland – Political Parties of Finland for Democracy

Interventions by Members of the European Parliament and participants

Q&A

12:30 – 14:15 Lunch (upon invitation only)

14:30 – 16:00

RESOURCES FOR FINANCING DEMOCRACY SUPPORT

Chaired by DEG Member Robert Biedroń

- Rasmus Nordqvist, Shadow Rapporteur for the MFF (Greens/EFA, Denmark)
- Michael Gahler, DEG Member
- Representative of the European Commission, Justice and Consumers, tbc.
- Christina Kattami, Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU
- Noura Berrouba, Chief of staff at the Daniel Sachs Foundation

Interventions by Members of the European Parliament and participants

Q&A

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00

A BATTLE OF NARRATIVES

(in association with the Subcommittee on Human Rights)

Introduction by DROI Vice-Chair Marta Temido

Chaired by Vice-President Nicolae Ștefănuță, *DEG Member*

- Staffan I. Lindberg, Director of the V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute in Sweden
- Representative of International IDEA, tbc.
- Thomas Coombes, communications expert and creator of the hope-based approach
- Prof. Richard Youngs, Carnegie Europe
- Andia Ulliri, Young Political Leaders Alumna, Albania
- Bernard Guetta, Member of the European Parliament, tbc.

Interventions by Members of the European Parliament and participants

Q&A

THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2026

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome coffee

09:30 – 11:00 **SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

Chaired by Cecilia Strada, *Member of the European Parliament, DEG Member*

- Member of the European Parliament, EUDS Special Committee, tbc.
- Simona Constantin, Member of Cabinet of Commissioner McGrath
- Stella Ronner-Grubacic, Deputy Managing Director, Multilateral Relations, Human Rights and Democracy, EEAS
- Edita Velic, Young Political Leader from Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Kreshnik Gashi, Citizens' Assembly participant from Kosovo (BIRN)
- Valeriu Paşa, President of WatchDog. MD Community, Republic of Moldova

Interventions by Members of the European Parliament and participants

Q&A

11:00 – 12:30

A GLOBAL CONVERSATION OF DEMOCRACY SUPPORTERS

Chaired by DEG Co-Chair Barry Andrews, *Chair of the Development Committee*

- Ambassador Rita Adam, Ambassador of Switzerland
- Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, South Africa, tbc.
- Ambassador Katri Viinikka, Ambassador for Democracy and Rule of Law, Finland
- Martin Chungong, Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union

Interventions by Members of the European Parliament and participants

Q&A