



A Democracy Fit for the Future

Monday 15 May 2023, 10.00-11.30
Veröld – The House of Vigdís, University of Iceland

Round table organised in the context of the extraordinary meeting of the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

In these turbulent times, European states need to stand together to safeguard democratic culture, stability, and security in the continent. It is vital that we work together to reinforce and renew European democracy and create a future in which human rights and the rule of law flourish. How to respond to authoritarian regimes and attacks on the pillars of our democratic institutions? What can be done to counter democratic backsliding and its negative consequences? How can we build trust in the democratic system? How can we enhance democratic culture, increase inclusivity, and expand civic spaces?

Join us for a discussion on a democracy fit for the future!

Programme

Welcome Remarks by Guðbjörg Linda Rafnsdóttir, Pro-Rector of the University of Iceland

Panel Discussion moderated by Steinunn Gestsdóttir, Pro-Rector of Academic Affairs and Development at the University of Iceland

Old and new challenges to democracy

Video message by Sviatlana Tsikhanovskaya, Leader of the Belarus democratic opposition

Alexander Shlyk, Special Representative for Elections of Sviatlana Tsikhanovskaya

Mariia Mezentseva, Chairperson of the Ukrainian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Jón Ólafsson, Professor of Cultural and Russian Studies, University of Iceland

Exchange of views

Addressing the root causes of democratic backsliding

Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Lilja Dögg Alfreðsdóttir, Minister of Culture and Business Affairs

Daníel E. Arnarsson, Director of the National Queer Association (Samtökin '78)

Isabel Alejandra Diaz, Iceland's UN Youth Representative for Education, Science, and Culture

Exchange of views

Conclusions