

INVITATION

Mehr Demokratie e.V., Democracy International and the Initiative & Referendum Institute Europe

in cooperation with Tartu University, Balkan Assist and UNESCOCAT
and with the support of the European Commission

have the pleasure to invite you to

Conference series INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE: A CITIZENS AGENDA:

**Democratizing Europe:
The role of direct democracy**

**27./28. January 2006 , Berlin, Germany
at the Representation of the European Commission**

The debate on the European Constitutional Treaty has come to a crossroads. If it is to have a future, the European Union urgently needs more democracy. However, as the popular votes in several EU member states have shown, a European democracy cannot be built from the top down, by established representative institutions alone. There is no return to the “old“ Europe, where governments could make decisions behind closed doors. In the “new” Europe, the major transnational political agreements must be worked out and approved by all the citizens together. As a consequence, both indirect and direct democratic institutions are about to play an essential role in Europe’s representative democracy.

The conference will be attended by representatives of institutions and citizen organizations from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Poland and several other European states to discuss opportunities and perspectives for direct democracy in Europe and to formulate proposals for the future.

Please confirm your participation at: annika.philipps@mehr-demokratie.de and percy.rohde@mehr-demokratie.de by 20.01.2006.

We are at your disposal for further information and we hope to have the opportunity to welcome you in Berlin in January.

With kind regards,

Annika Philipps & Percy Rohde
Regional coordinators
Mehr Demokratie e.V., Berlin



Bruno Kaufmann, President
IRI Europe, Brussels

This Forum is a contribution to the project “Initiative for Europe – a Citizens’ Agenda” by the Initiative & Referendum Institute Europe (IRI Europe), sponsored by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Education and Culture, “Active European Citizenship”.

Conference programme

Conference series INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE: A CITIZENS AGENDA:

Democratizing Europe: The role of direct democracy

Berlin, 27th to 28th of January 2006 (Friday and Saturday)
at the representation of the European Commission, Unter den Linden 78, Berlin

Friday 27th of January 2006		
Hour	Title	Allocated Time*
9.00h	Welcome address by the hosts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Commission: <i>Dr. Gerhard Sabathil</i> Initiative & Referendum Institute: <i>Bruno Kaufmann</i> Mehr Demokratie e.V. and Democracy International: <i>Dr. Michael Efler</i> 	15min
	Introduction	
9.15h	(Re)Creating Europe with the Citizens: Why Europe needs citizen participation badly, <i>Gerald Häfner, Democracy International</i>	20min +25min
10.05h	The transnational reality of direct democracy in Europe, <i>Bruno Kaufmann, IRI Europe</i>	20min +25min
10.50h	Coffee break	20min
	Direct Democracy in Central European Countries: Lessons for the European Union	
11.10h	1. Germany and Italy: <i>Dr. Michael Efler, Mehr Demokratie e.V.</i>	20min +10min
11.40h	2. Poland: <i>Prof. Jerzy Regulski, Fundacja Rowoju Demokracji Lokalnej (Polish Foundation for the Support of Local Democracy)</i>	20min +10min
12.10h	Short break	10min
12.20h	3. Austria and Southern Tyrolese: <i>Stephan Lausch, Initiative for Democracy</i>	20min +10min
12.50h	4. Switzerland: <i>Bruno Kaufmann, IRI Europe</i>	20min +10min
13.20h	Lunch break	85min
	Direct democracy and the European Union	
14.45h	The ratification process of the European Constitution: A critical evaluation from a democratic perspective, <i>Ronald Pabst, Democracy International</i>	30min +15min
15.30h	Merits and limits of direct democracy as a solution to legitimacy deficits in the EU, <i>Andreas Gross, Member of the Council of Europe and the Swiss Parliament</i>	30min +15min
16.15h	Coffee break	15min
16.30h	A critical review of the proposed solutions for the constitutional crisis, <i>Prof. Dr. Hans J. Lietzmann, University of Wuppertal</i>	30min +15min

Saturday, 28th of January 2006		
hour	Title	Allocated time*
10.00h	Welcome address	10min
10.10	The ingredients of democracy (working title), <i>Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Lauth, Fernuniversität Hagen</i>	30min +30min
11.10	Coffee break	15min
	Direct democracy and the future of Europe	
11.30	The European Citizens Initiative: its history and prospects, <i>Carsten Berg, Democracy International</i>	20min +20min
12.10h	Visions for the future role of direct democracy in the EU, <i>Andreas Gross, Member of the Council of Europe and the Swiss Parliament</i>	20min +20min
12.50h	Lunch break	100min
14.30h	A new, democratic convention procedure on the future of Europe <i>Dr. Percy A. Rohde, Democracy International</i>	20min +20min
	Panel discussion	
15.10h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Christine Landfried , <i>University of Hamburg</i> • Dr. Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, <i>Vice president of the European Parliament</i> • Harald Greib, <i>Newropeans</i> • Asa Gunven, <i>JEF-Europe (Jeunes Européens Fédéralistes) Vice-President</i> • Janis A. Emmanouilidis, <i>Centrum für angewandte Politikforschung (CAP): Bertelsmann Research Group</i> • Gerald Häfner, chair 	90min, 5x5min Statements, discussion
16.40h	Conclusion, <i>Gerald Häfner, Democracy International</i>	15min
17.00h	End of conference	

* For presentations the figures indicate: lecturing time + discussion time



Registration Form

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Democratizing Europe:

The role of direct democracy

27./28. January 2006, Berlin, Germany

at the Representation of the European Commission

Name:

Surname:.....

Email:.....

Address:.....

Telephone (office number):.....

Telephone (private number):.....

Fax:.....

Organization:.....

Please send the registration form via Fax, mail or email to:

Mehr Demokratie e.V.

Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte

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