



DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter: Back from Burgas – Report and latest news

31 July 2012

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Dear members and friends of Democracy International,

This is the second newsletter that I have edited for Democracy International. In the meantime, I had the great opportunity to get to know the work of Democracy International in practice: At our summer academy in Burgas from 13 – 15 July I had the chance to meet committed people who actively work towards more democracy in Europe: I listened to presentations about the state of democracy in Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Austria and Greece. Also, we discussed actions for a new, democratic Convention of the EU. Read the full report of our 48-hour session in Bulgaria and access all material that we produced (declaration, film, photos, etc.) at www.democracy-international.org/2012-summer-academy.html

Also, over the last few weeks, I had the occasion to draft articles and press releases on a broad range of topics such as the constitutional complaints by our partner organization Mehr Demokratie, the referendum in Romania and a visit by A. Solijonov from Stockholm-based Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) to our office in Cologne.

This is an eventful summer. Enjoy the read. And again, please contact me in case you have any comments, feedback or ideas for future content.

Best wishes from Cologne,
Cora Pfafferott

P.S: More and more laws affecting our daily lives are taken somewhere beyond the nation state. At Democracy International we work together to strengthen tools and procedures that integrate the will of the people into political decisions taken at international level. Join us and become a member of our organization at www.democracy-international.org/join-us.html

1. Referendum in Romania is misuse of democracy

Press Release, Brussels, 27 July: Two days before the upcoming referendum in Romania Democracy International strongly underlines that the plebiscite to impeach suspended President Basescu does not have anything in common with direct democracy.

www.democracy-international.org/referenduminromania.html

2. Democratic commitment works out

According to the judgment by Germany's top constitutional lawyers on 25 July 2012, the German voting system infringes the German constitution ("Grundgesetz"). This verdict follows the constitutional complaint by our partner organization "Mehr Demokratie" and "wahlrecht.de" who had filed a lawsuit against Germany's federal electoral system in December last year.

www.democracy-international.org/complaint-wahlrecht.html

3. Connecting facts and figures

On 6 July 2012, A. Solijonov from Stockholm-based Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) visited our office in Cologne to discuss ways of collaboration in our empirical research.

www.democracy-international.org/empirical-research-democracy.html

4. German citizens demand referendum on ESM and fiscal treaty

On Friday 29 June 2012, the German citizens' alliance "Europa braucht mehr Demokratie" (Europe needs more democracy) and more than 12,000 citizens lodged a complaint with Germany's top Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe to hold a referendum on the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) and the fiscal compact, which were ratified by both houses of the German Parliament on the same day. UPDATE: The collection of signatures continued: By 31 July 2012, more than 33.000 citizens have signed the complaint.

www.democracy-international.org/german-citizens-demand.html

5. How to pay the membership fee

We offer a variety of ways to transfer the fee to join us. No matter which way you choose to support our work - you can cancel your membership any time.

www.democracy-international.org/payment.html