

**Newsletter: Time to campaign for a democratic EU convention! Join and support us!**

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**Dear Friends of Democracy International,**

This week Der Spiegel reported that Angela Merkel is pressing ahead with plans to reform the EU treaties in a way that will fundamentally change the way Europe works. And while Ms Merkel and the leaders of other powerful European countries would probably prefer to conduct their negotiations behind closed doors, we refuse to be a mere audience to this process.

Right now we are building a Europe-wide movement to call for an EU-Convention\* so that any changes to the treaties will be conducted in a transparent, participatory and democratic way. The Convention should assemble citizens, politicians, academics, business leaders and civil society to take the time to draft a new treaty. The new draft should reflect the needs and aspirations of the people of Europe, and it should be concluded with EU referendums, so that every European citizen is part of the process.

Democracy is essential to a healthy society, and we refuse to let our leaders dismiss citizen participation just because it is inconvenient. We want to make a big impact, and we want you to be a part of it!

**For a more democratic EU!**  
**Support us!**

Best wishes,  
Cora Pfafferott

\* Article 48 of the EU Lisbon Treaty even foresees an EU Convention when treaty changes are made

## **1. Time to campaign for a democratic EU convention**

From 12 to 15 October 2013 young people of Democracy International held in Brussels a strategy seminar to set up the framework of a campaign for a more democratic EU, including a new EU convention and referendums in the EU Member States. Krassina Demireva, a young activist from Bulgaria, reports about the seminar.

Read more here

<https://www.democracy-international.org/time-campaign-new-democratic-convention>

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## **2. Czech Republic: Upcoming elections and rise of direct democracy**

The next legislative elections will take place in the Czech Republic this weekend on 25 and 26 October 2013. They will be held six months before the originally scheduled date of the elections. Our friends of the direct democracy group "Movement for Direct Democracy" (HzPD) shed light on the protests that arose in the Czech Republic subsequently a political scandal, and they explain how they make use of the current election campaign to promote direct democracy in their country:

Read more here

<http://www.democracy-international.org/upcoming-elections-and-rise-direct-democracy-czech-republic>

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## **3. In good hands? Germany after the general elections**

Following the federal elections in Germany on 22 September 2013, coalition talks were slowly getting underway. For democracy activists, Friday 27 of September was a day to call for the introduction of the referendum at national level with a special action in front of the chancellor's office, the "Bundeskanzleramt". Cora Pfafferott reports on her visit to Berlin, where she witnessed the political action and participated in Democracy International's campaign seminar towards a more democratic EU.

Read more here

<http://www.democracy-international.org/germany-after-general-elections>

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## **4. Interview: "Direct Democracy is the best cure for our society"**

In Romania, Georgeta Ionescu, a long-time environmentalist and political activist, fights with all efforts against fracking, a new technology to win energy. Ms Ionescu is one of the founding members of the democracy group in Romania established in July this year. We had the chance to speak to Georgeta Ionescu, asking her about the current state of politics and direct democracy in her country as well as her goals and motivation to be politically active.

Read the interview here

<http://www.democracy-international.org/interview-georgeta-ionescu>

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## **5. Sign up to the Danube Democracy Rally (01.-09.04.2014)**

We cordially invite you to travel with us through Austria, Slovakia and Hungary to engage in an exciting mix of sightseeing, learning more about democracy, exchanging ideas and participating in our campaign for a more democratic EU. To register and to find out more about our journey ahead, please see here <https://www.democracy-international.org/danube-democracy-rally>

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