



DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL · Friedrich-Ebert-Ufer 52 · 51143 Cologne · Germany

LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Democracy International, together with a Europe-wide alliance of NGOs, is handing over to the leaders of the European Council the signatures of 58,923 Europeans who demand a relaunch of European democracy through a new EU Convention.

Brexit has pushed Europe into its deepest crisis, and what is now most at stake is the trust of the citizens in European democracy. As the European Council meets today in Bratislava for a political reflection about new priorities of the Union after Brexit, the petition is an appeal that **such fundamental debates about the future of Europe should not take place behind closed doors but must involve citizens and civil society.**

After a period of breathless emergency measures, it is now time to reform the EU-Treaties so that Europe can tackle its economic and social challenges, address its democratic deficit and close the gap between citizens and institutions. **The best mechanism for an open debate - and only legal instrument for democratic reform and other necessary treaty changes - is an EU Convention, as provided by Art. 48 of the EU-Treaty.**

The Convention process must be democratic, transparent and participatory, including citizens, civil society and parliaments of all countries. And its results should be presented to all citizens in a pan-European referendum. This will ensure that citizens are actively involved in a fundamental discussion about the future of Europe, and that citizens themselves legitimise a new Constitution for Europe.

Brexit has been a wake-up call for European democracy. Now is an opportunity for you to open up a debate that includes all Europeans.

Greetings,

Democracy International
and 58,923 European citizens