

# DEMOCRACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

## EGE OPEN ROUNDTABLE

29 MARCH 2023, 9 – 11:45 AM (CEST)

*On 29 March 2023 the European Commission and the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) convene a public roundtable to discuss challenges to democracy posed by new sociotechnical developments. How can we ensure technological innovation serves our democracies and how can we strengthen our democratic systems in ways that enable meaningful civic participation?*

*The EGE is currently working on these questions at the request of the President of the European Commission. The EGE Opinion will feed into the revision of the European Democracy Action Plan, as well as the development of the Defence of Democracy package announced by President von der Leyen in her State of the Union address in September 2022.*

*The roundtable gathers a wide array of stakeholders, from academia through to international organisations, industry and civil society organisations, to discuss the questions raised by recent technological advances as well as by longstanding tensions at the very heart of democracy. It will provide a forum for dialogue, and an opportunity to gather inputs from experts and interested participants, to further the reflection and refine the EGE's recommendations.*

Click [here](#) to join the videoconference on 29 March 2023.

## PROGRAMME

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| 09:00 – 09:15        | Welcome and opening presentation by Barbara Prainsack, Chair of the EGE  |
| <b>09:15 – 10:20</b> | <b>Session #1: Democracy and human rights</b><br><i>Session chaired by Maria do Céu Patrão Neves, Vice-Chair of the EGE</i>                                      |
| 09:15 – 09:30        | <b>Andreas Accardo</b> , Head of the Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)   |
| 09:30 – 09:45        | <b>David Kaye</b> , Professor of law at the University of California, Irvine, and former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression |
| 09:45 – 10:00        | <b>Diego Naranjo</b> , Head of Policy, European Digital Rights (EDRI)  |
| 10:00 – 10:20        | General discussion   |
| 10:20 – 10:30        | Break  |
| <b>10:30 – 11:35</b> | <b>Session #2: Towards a more comprehensive understanding of democracy</b><br><i>Session chaired by Nils-Eric Sahlin, Vice-Chair of the EGE</i>                  |
| 10:30 – 10:45        | <b>Michael Saward</b> , Professor of Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick   |
| 10:45 – 11:00        | <b>Carlotta Besozzi</b> , Coordinator of Civil Society Europe  |
| 11:00 – 11:15        | <b>Paolo Benanti</b> , Professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome  |
| 11:15 – 11:35        | General discussion   |
| 11:35 – 11:45        | Conclusions by Barbara Prainsack, Chair of the EGE   |