

1st Hambach Democracy Dialogue 2021



Strengthening Citizen's Participation and Protecting European Values

**PUBLIC VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
ON 8 & 9 JULY 2021**

The Hambach Festival of 1832 was an important milestone in the German and European democracy movement and also shaped the development of social democracy. Hambach Castle today is a symbol not only of the history of German democracy, but also of European unification and Europe's ideals and history.

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung invites members of the European Parliament, experts in democracy, representatives of European civil society, as well as young people and young professionals from all over Europe, to reflect on democracy in Europe at our public virtual conference. The Hambach Democracy Dialogues want to establish a platform for exchanging progressive ideas and proposals for developing and defending European democracy.

**Please register here for the public conference of the Hambach Democracy Dialogues: www.fes.de/lnk/472
More information: www.fes.de/en/souveraenes-europa/hambach-democracy-dialogue-2021**

PROGRAM THURSDAY, 8 JULY 2021

09.00 – 15.15

Workshop for young people: Shaping Europe, Fostering Democracy

Young Europeans (age group 18-35) will discuss in this workshop how to organize and further develop democracy in the digital age: As „Citizens' Think Tank“ the participants will develop their views on the topic and formulate concrete ideas for political decisionmaking. The workshop will give an opportunity to form new networks and to present the ideas during the conference in the panel „European digital democracy and data sovereignty“.

Workshop Registration: www.fes.de/lnk/47x

15.00 – 15.25

Interactive Networking Option

via Zoom Breakout Rooms (5 minutes, 5 participants)

15.30 – 16.00

Opening

Martin Schulz, President of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Kurt Beck, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Hambacher Schloss Stiftung

Moderated by **Jacki Davis**

16.00 – 17.15

Panel I: More power for citizens? The Conference on the Future of Europe

The goal of deliberative and participatory democracy is to strengthen the involvement of citizens in the political decisionmaking process, thereby enhancing their political participation and selfdetermination. What role can new formats of citizen participation play? Will these compete against or complement the work of parliaments? How could deliberation be embedded in the overall system of democracy? Is a permanent Citizens' Council at EU level possible? What role can the Conference on the Future of Europe play in fostering deliberation at European and transnational levels on a lasting basis?

Panel discussion with

- **Ivo Belet** (European Commission)
- **Gabriele Bischoff** (Member of the European Parliament)
- **Wolfgang Merkel** (Berlin Social Science Center)
- **Éva Tessa Udvarhelyi** (Coordinator Citizen's Participation, Budapest)

Moderation: **Ralph Szepanski** (ZDF)

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17.15 – 17.30

Coffee Break

17.30 – 18.45

Panel II: European digital democracy and data sovereignty

The internet offers new opportunities for political participation and co-determination. Regardless of their location, citizens can go online to network and exchange information, join forces and pursue political concerns together. The virtual public arena can help to promote innovative forms of social cooperation and overcome national and linguistic borders. The EU already offers citizens a variety of digital ways to have a say in policy making. Are the existing online instruments enough or do we need new mechanisms for digital code-termination? What are the opportunities and risks of e-voting? Does the EU need more digital sovereignty and how can it better protect our online data?

Panel discussion with

- **Francesca Bria** (President of the Italian National Innovation Fund)
- **Jeanette Hofmann** (Berlin Social Science Center)
- **Paul Nemitz** (European Commission)

Moderation: **Jacki Davis**

18.45 – 19.45

Interactive Networking Option

via SpatialChat

PROGRAM FRIDAY, 9 JULY 2021

08.45 – 09.10

Interactive Networking Option

via Zoom Breakout Rooms (5 minutes, 5 participants)

09.15 – 09.30

Welcome address

Jens Geier MEP, Chair of the SPD group in the European Parliament

09.30 – 10.45

Panel III: How can the EU better protect Europe's fundamental values?

Europe's fundamental values, such as democracy and the rule of law, are coming under pressure from a number of increasingly authoritarian member states. The EU has been trying to tackle this for years, and has created new instruments and mechanisms to enhance protection of its fundamental values. As a result, it is now possible to link EU funding to compliance with rule of law principles. How good are the EU's new instruments? Can they stop the erosion of the rule of law? What do the people in the concerned countries think about these developments? What can the EU do to foster the democratic culture in member states?

Panel discussion with

- **Katarina Barley** (Vice-President of the European Parliament)
- **Věra Jourová** (Vice-President of the European Commission)
- **Krzysztof Ruchniewicz** (University of Wrocław)

Moderation: **Matthias Kolb**, Süddeutsche Zeitung

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10.45 – 11.00

Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.15

Panel IV: Europe's fight for freedom of expression and against disinformation on the net

The European Democracy Action Plan sets out to improve measures to counter disinformation, strengthen media freedom and journalists' safety and prevent election manipulation. What about freedom of expression and freedom of information on the net? How can the power of dominant online platforms be limited? What concrete steps can the EU take against disinformation and attempts at manipulation on the net? To what extent are elections in Europe threatened by disinformation and propaganda on the net?

Panel discussion with

- **Carlotta Alfonsi** (OECD)
- **Lutz Güllner** (European External Action Service)
- **Tomáš Kriššák** (Gerulata Technologies)

Moderation: **Jacki Davis**

12.15 – 12.30

Closing Remarks

- **Brigitte Juchems**, Head of the FES regional office of Rhineland Palatinate/Saarland
- **Johanna Lutz**, Head of the Office on Democracy
- **Renate Tenbusch**, Head of the FES EU Office

12.30 – 13.30

Interactive Networking Option
via SpatialChat

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