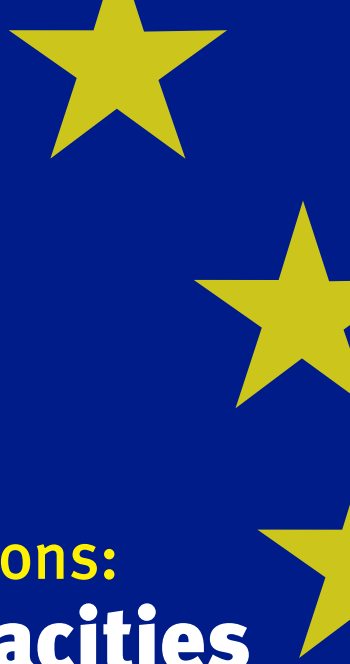


**1, 8 & 10 DECEMBER 2020
ONLINE CONFERENCE**



**Parliaments
and democratic innovations:
Adapting the capacities
of parliaments to
changing democracies**

Hosted by the European Parliament

CO-ORGANISED BY



In the last decades, democracies have experienced structural transformations. A growing trend towards disintermediation in politics, declining trust in representative institutions, personalisation and new forms of political participation have deeply changed representative democracies.

As pillars of representative democracy, parliaments have also been affected by these changes. In particular, emerging non electoral forms of representation including new citizen forums, representative claims by civil society and deliberative tools are driving renewed interest in democracy innovation and its impact on parliaments. These new developments are challenging the existing conceptual and normative resources of policy-makers and practitioners in parliaments.

The Covid-19 crisis has even accelerated changes in parliamentary democracies. The introduction of new systems allowing for virtual participation and for remote voting by members is a major shift for parliamentary institutions. In order to make sense of these changes, to spot new trends in parliamentary democracies and to help parliaments to prepare for future challenges, the European Parliament, the European Commission and INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnerships - *EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments* are jointly promoting the online conference on «Parliaments and Democratic Innovations: Adapting the capacities of parliaments to changing democracies».

The conference has three main goals:

- Firstly, by **building bridges with academia and top researchers** in democratic theory and parliamentary studies, **the conference aims to provide policy-makers and practitioners with a sort of map to orientate themselves in the debate about the evolution of representative democracy and its impact on parliaments.**
- Secondly, **the conference will assess the transformative potential of citizens' assemblies and deliberative forums** including randomly selected bodies, whose impact on parliamentary democracy is still unclear. At worst, randomly selected deliberative bodies might be used to bypass electoral accountability, or they might substitute for broader parliament's involvement. At best, by linking the judgments of elected representatives more closely to public opinion such tools might function as an important
- supplement to parliaments thus strengthening the legitimacy of representative democracy.
- Thirdly, **the conference will be the first international forum to develop a framework to approach from a comparative perspective the impact digital technologies might have on parliamentary democracy.** The development of hybrid parliaments where virtual forms of participation co-exist with more traditional ones is a complex political terrain. On the one hand, new technologies have ensured that parliaments carry out their main functions even in periods of unexpected crisis such as the Covid-19 crisis. On the other hand, the emergence of virtual forms of participation might affect important elements of parliaments. Informal interactions and spontaneous proceedings are crucial aspects of parliamentary life that remote participation and voting could weaken.

All these three dimensions (the broad evolution of parliamentary democracies, the transformative potential of deliberation and the impact of Covid-19 on the way how parliaments function) will be discussed from the **perspective of capacity development: the conference will discuss to which extent capacity building activities for parliaments should adapt to these changes and should adopt some of the innovative tools developed in the past years.**

Methodologically, the distinctive aspect of the conference is the intention of combining a theoretical approach with a more concrete empirical approach, focusing on the organizational implications of the changes in parliamentary democracy. As a consequence of this double-faceted approach, the conference will bring together academics, policy-makers and practitioners from parliaments, international institutions and organisations active in the field of capacity development.

DATES & TIME

SESSION I: 1 December, 15:00 – 16:30 CET
SESSION II: 8 December, 15:00 – 16:30 CET
SESSION III: 10 December, 15:00 – 17:00 CET

**TUESDAY,
1 DECEMBER**

15:00 – 16:30 CET

SESSION I.

A role for parliaments in changing representative democracy

Moderator: Jonathan Murphy

[Did you miss Session 1? Watch the event video on YouTube](#)

15:00 – 15:10

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

David McAllister,

Member of the European Parliament, Chair Committee on Foreign Affairs

15:10 – 15:30

SPEECH

Nadia Urbinati,

Professor of Political Theory, Columbia University

15:30 – 16:20

DISCUSSANT

Mehreen Khan,

EU Correspondent, Financial Times

Q&A

16:20 – 16:30

WRAP UP SESSION I

**TUESDAY,
8 DECEMBER**

15:00 – 16:30 CET

SESSION II. Deliberative democracy:
Impact on parliaments

*Moderator: **Francesco Ronchi***

15:00 – 15:05

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY MODERATOR

15:05 – 16:20

DISCUSSION AND Q&A

Paulo Rangel,
Member of the European Parliament

David Farrell,
Professor of Politics, University College Dublin

Cécile Untermaier,
Member of the French National Assembly

Magali Plovie,
President of the French-speaking Parliament of
Brussels

Cristina Leston-Bandeira,
Professor of Politics and International Studies,
University of Leeds

Claudia Chwalisz,
Policy Analyst, Open Government Unit, OECD

Firuze Demir,
Political Adviser, EUSR Office in Bosnia and
Herzegovina

Giovanni Rizzoni,
Head of the International Relations Department,
Italian Chamber of Deputies

16:20 – 16:30

WRAP UP SESSION II

**THURSDAY,
10 DECEMBER**

15:00 – 17:00 CET

SESSION III.

Covid-19 and the future of parliaments

Moderator: *Thomas Millar*

15:00 – 15:05

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY MODERATOR

15:05 – 16:20

DISCUSSION AND Q&A

Joakim Strand,

Member of the Finnish Parliament, Chair of the Finnish Parliament's Futures Committee

Stefan Marschall,

Professor of Political Science II, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf

Olivier Rozenberg,

Associate Professor, Centre for European Studies & Comparative Politics, Sciences Po Paris

Joseph C. Sternberg

Editorial Board member, Wall Street Journal

Elena Griglio,

Senior Parliamentary Official of the Italian Senate

16:20 – 16:30

WRAP UP SESSION III

16:30 – 16:35

REMARKS

Krzysztof Bernacki,

Head of Parliamentary Support and Capacity Building Unit, Directorate for Democracy Support, Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union, European Parliament

16:35 – 17:00

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Pietro Ducci,

Director-General, Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union, European Parliament

Kevin Casas-Zamora,

Secretary-General, International IDEA

TBC,

European Commission

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