



Civil Society Week

4-7 March 2024

**RISE UP
FOR DEMOCRACY**

DRAFT PROGRAMME

With the **European elections in June 2024** holding the key to Europe's future, the European Economic and Social Committee, as the institutional partner of civil society, is launching the first edition of its Civil Society Week. This flagship event will **gather people of all ages and backgrounds**, including young people, journalists and EU institutions, for a vibrant **debate** on topics that matter to our everyday life and **Europe's future**. We will shine a light on the threats to democracy and the challenges in safeguarding democratic values. We will explore how best to mobilise our networks for citizens to vote and unleash the potential of Europe's young generation.

MONDAY 4 March

11:00 – 12:30 **Securing the ballot:** Elections in times of AI and new technological challenges (*Room JDE 52*)

13:30 – 14:00 Welcome coffee (*Foyer 6/JDE 62*)

14:00 – 16:00 **OPENING** (*Room JDE 62*)

- ❖ Welcome by **Oliver Röpke**, EESC President
- ❖ **Keynote speech by Erika Staël von Holstein**, Chief Executive of Re-Imagine Europa
- ❖ **Panel discussion: Democracy across Europe: in peril or prosperity?** moderated by **Shada Islam**. With:
 - **Věra Jourová**, Vice-President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency
 - **Oliver Röpke**, EESC President
 - **Brikena Xhomaqi**, co-chair of the EESC Liaison Group
 - **Gabriella Civico**, president of Civil Society Europe
 - **Laura Sullivan**, former Executive Director of WeMove.EU
 - **Janis Fifka**, European Youth Parliament

Q&A

16:00 – 16:15 Coffee break (*Foyer 6*)

16:15 – 17:45 Session 1: (*Room JDE 52*) **Civil Society for democracy in candidate countries**
Session 2: (*Room JDE 62*) **Success factors for e-democracy initiatives**

EESC-2024-00600-00-00-CONVPOJ-TRA (EN) 1/4

TUESDAY 5 March

08:30 – 10:30 Welcome Desk

09:00 – 10:30 **ECI High-level panel: The ECI at a Crossroads - an Opportunity to Take a Step Forward.** (*Room JDE 62*)

Moderator: **Daniela Vancic**, Democracy International

- **Aurel Laurențiu Plosceanu**, EESC Vice-President in charge of Communication
- **Emily O'Reilly**, European Ombudsman
- **Hendrik Van de Velde**, Ambassador, Coordinator for the Belgian Presidency 2024
- **Tilly Metz**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Pascal Leardini**, Deputy Secretary General, Secretariat-General of the European Commission
- **Olga Kikou**, organiser of the ECI "End the Cage Age"
- **Carsten Berg**, The ECI Campaign

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break (*Foyer 6*)

11:00 – 12:30 Session 1 (*Room JDE 52*): **Civic Space, threats to democracy and EU elections**

Session 2 (*Room JDE 62*): **Expert panel: "More deliberation, more impact?"**

Connecting the ECI and European Citizens' Panels"

Moderator: **Angela Jain**, Bertelsmann Stiftung

Speakers:

- **David van Reybrouck**, Renowned Belgian writer and organizer of G1000
- **Prof. Graham Smith**, University of Westminster
- **Prof. Paul Blokker**, University of Bologna and Citizens Take Over Europe (CTOE)
- **Prof. Kalypso Nicolaidis**, EUI Florence, Democratic Odyssey

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch (*Atrium 6*)

14:00 – 15:30 Session 3: (*Room JDE 51*) **Empowering Social Inclusion**

Session 4: (*Room JDE 62*) **Workshop: "How-to... Navigate the ECI Support Infrastructures!"**

Speakers:

- **Vasiliki Mustakis**, Participatory Democracy Coordinator, ECAS
- **Jérôme Stefanini**, Lead of IT Team on ECI, DIGIT, European Commission

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break (*Foyer 6*)

15:45 – 17:15 Session 5: (*Room JDE 62*) **Reinventing prosperity: An intergenerational dialogue for a wellbeing economy**

Session 6: (*Atrium 5*) **Workshop: "How-to... Look for Partners"**

Moderator: **Daniela Vancic**, Democracy International

- **Xavier Dutoit**, Fix the Status Quo
- **Sebastián Rodríguez**, European Campaign Playbook
- **Stéphanie Poppe**, Dignity in Europe ECI

17:15 – 17:25 ECI Day Conclusions (Atrium 5)

- **Oliver Röpke**, EESC President
- **Violeta Jelić**, President of the EESC's Ad hoc Group on the European Citizens' Initiative

17:30 – 18:30 Networking and screening of the winning videos of the *ImagineEU* competition (Atrium 6)

WEDNESDAY 6 March

08:30 – 10:30 Welcome Desk

09:00 – 13:00 Your Europe, Your Say: Youth priorities for the next Legislative Term
(Room JDE 52/Atrium 5)

JOURNALISTS' seminar: Mobilising citizens for the European Elections
(Room JDE 63)

09:30 – 11:00 Session 1: (Room JDE 62) **Towards a Digital Transformation that leaves no one behind**

11:15 – 13:00 Session 2: (Room JDE 62) **Civil dialogue for inclusive democracy**

11:15 – 12:45 Session 3: (Room JDE 51) **Democratising economic policymaking – Yes we can!**

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch (Atrium 6)

14:30 – 18:00 Your Europe, Your Say: Youth priorities for the next Legislative Term
(Room JDE 52/Atrium 5)

14:30-16:00 Session 4: (Room JDE 51) **National Heat, European Beat**

Session 5: (Room JDE 62) **EP election toolkit for civil society: How to successfully tackle disinformation and citizen washing**

16:15-17:45 Session 6: (Room JDE 62) **A Single Market for public good**

Session 7: (Room JDE 51) **A Blue Deal through citizenship and stewardship**

18:00 – 19:00 Networking (Atrium 6)

THURSDAY 7 March

08:30 – 10:30 Welcome Desk

10:00 – 11:30 Session 1: (Atrium 5) Education to tackle polarisation and enhance democracy

Session 2: (Room JDE 62) **Smart public policymaking in the EU – Making better choices together**

11:45 – 12:30 Award Ceremony: Civil Society Prize – Mental Health (Atrium 6)

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch (Atrium 5)

14:00 – 16:30 Closing session - EESC Civil Society Panel for EU Elections (*Atrium 6*)

Moderator: **Shada Islam**

14:00 – 15:00 **Civil Society Week: Bringing together civil society's messages**

15:00 – 16:30 **Dialogue between Civil Society and Institutions for a more democratic Europe**

Participatory debate with

- ❖ **Pedro Silva Pereira**, Vice-President of the European Parliament
- ❖ **Representative of the Belgian EU Presidency** (tbc)
- ❖ **Colin Scicluna**, Head of Cabinet of Dubravka Šuica, European Commission Vice President for Demography and Democracy
- ❖ **Oliver Röpke**, EESC President