



# Democratic Europe Now!

Campaign for a democratic EU Convention

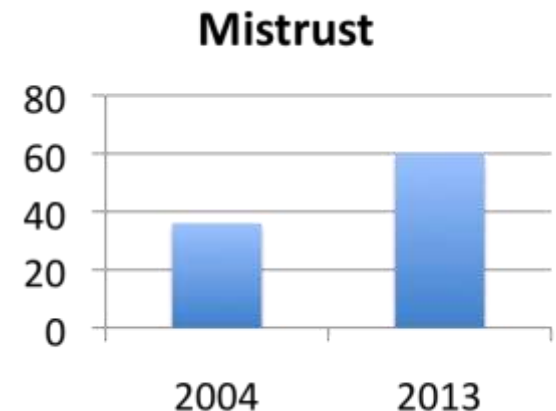
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# Democracy International

- Increase forms of 'direct democracy'
- Greatest success: European Citizens' Initiative
- Current European campaign to increase participatory and direct democracy in EU

# EU crisis of democratic legitimacy

- Democratic deficit reaching its limits
  - closed-door negotiations, intergovernmentalism, weak EU Parliament, minimal citizen engagement
- Gap between the EU and citizens is growing, confidence is plummeting,
  - 50% of EU citizens do not think their voice matters, rising extremism and nationalism



# How do we democratise the European Union?

A large, diverse crowd of people of various ages and ethnicities is shown from the chest up. They are all smiling and holding up small, light blue plastic cups in their right hands, as if participating in a toast or a celebratory event. The crowd is dense and fills the entire frame. Overlaid in the center of the image is a horizontal yellow banner with the text "How do we build a Europe of the citizens?".

How do we build a Europe of the citizens?

# Real reforms!

## Change the Lisbon Treaty!

Major democracy reforms  
require Treaty change



Treaty change requires  
Convention (Lisbon Treaty)



Treaties must anyway be revised



Experience from previous Conventions





**DEMOCRATIC  
EUROPE  
NOW**

# Aims

1. EU Convention for democratic reform
1. Process must be democratic, transparent and participatory
1. Pan-European referendum at its end

# Partners at EU and national levels



DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL



YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS



fyeg



One future. One Europe.  
[www.democraticunion.eu](http://www.democraticunion.eu)

MEHR DEMOKRATIE



die parteiunabhängig  
für eine stärkung der



LEGAMBIENTE



AT F O R M

International  
Elias Canetti  
Society



SOLIDARIDAD · LIBERTAD · SOBERANIA



# Actions

*Political pressure on EP*

*Public actions*

*Spread the network*



# SPREAD THE PETITION

ENOUGH OF CLOSED-DOOR  
NE  
RE

We want  
Europe. It  
work on st  
process must be democratic, participatory  
and transparent, and give citizens the  
chance to vote on the outcome.  
It is time to open up the debate. It's time for  
a Europe of and for its citizens.

SIGN

IS MORE  
THAN THE  
EURO

**MORE THAN THE EURO**

The economic crisis has focussed attention on the most purely economic aspects of the EU:

**DEMOCRATIC EUROPE DAY**

On Saturday, 17th May campaign partners, democracy activists, and creative, enthusiastic

**ACTION CAMP**

Join us, and work with peers from all over Europe on a great campaign! The action camp

next step in the European experiment should  
be made toward democracy not away from it.

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be made toward democracy not away from it.



# TAKE ACTION!

**BUILDING PRESSURE ON THE EU PARLIAMENT**



## JOIN US

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Aenean commodo ligula eget congue quisque id adipiscing in enim tincidunt nibh pulchrum. Donec quam felis, ultricies nec, pellentesque eu, pretium quis, sem. Nulla consequat nulla quis sed sit amet turpis elementum ligula vel, aliquet nec massa eros. Vestibulum id ligula vel felis dapibus accumsan praesent, imperdiet a, venenatis vitae, justo. Nullam dictum felis eu pede

# SUPPORT CANDIDATE SURVEY



### LAJOS BORKOS

(Fraktion Europäische Konservative, Hungary)

has not signed the petition yet.



**REMIND HIM NOW**



**CHECK UP ON YOUR CANDIDATES**

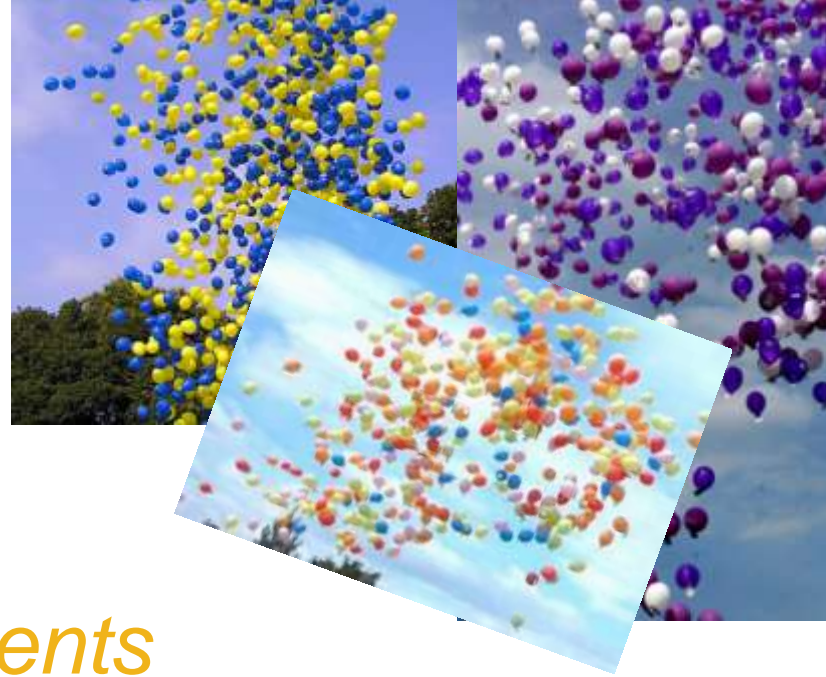
TAKE

JOIN

# European Democracy Day

17<sup>th</sup> May 2014

*Europe-wide actions & events*



# EU is more than the Euro

*Guerrilla  
coins*



# Memoranda

## Youth, Economists, Lawyers



YOUNG  
EUROPEAN  
FEDERALISTS



DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL



DEMOCRATIC  
EUROPE  
NOW

### YOUTH MANIFESTO: CALL FOR A DEMOCRATIC EUROPE

It's actually quite simple: we want to be able to influence the decisions that affect our lives. We are convinced that the primary responsibility of our political leaders is to us, the people. We believe in democracy.

And even though people across Europe share our belief that democracy is the essential feature of our political systems, we find ourselves living in a European Union where the citizens and their representatives are largely excluded from important decision-making. A Europe in which the direction of the European project is negotiated in backroom deals by the heads of a few powerful Member States, and in which leaders justify their decisions by proclaiming that there is simply no alternative.

The current state of the European Union - and its democratic deficiencies - is dividing Europe and risks the destruction of a unique historical experiment: the peaceful and solidary coexistence of the different, formerly hostile countries of the European continent. Social and economic insecurities are burdening individual lives and environmental challenges threaten to impose precarious living conditions on future generations. Finally, euroscepticism and extremism are increasingly rallying support amongst the European people.

To avoid surrendering our Europe to nationalist and anti-European movements, we are convinced that it is time for a Europe-wide dialogue - a dialogue that includes all voices and views so as to lay out a democratic basis for the future of Europe. We want to ask ourselves the question: How do we want to live together? And how can we assure our future prospects, social inclusion and generational equity within a European context?

For this we need a European Convention - a democratically legitimate Convention that brings together politicians, civil society and citizens of all origins, ages, sexes and social status in an open debate to advise on the best proposals for Europe's future. A Convention whose outcomes are legitimated directly by the citizens of Europe.

**We, youth organisations from across Europe - from Greece to Finland, from Portugal to Hungary - are advocating a democratic Europe and a democratic EU Convention.**

**We call...**  
the European Parliament, Council, Commission and the governments of the Member States to convene a Convention, according to Article 48 of the EU Treaty. The Convention would be charged with advising on the best suggestions to secure sustainability and solidarity, as well as to improve democracy and citizen participation in Europe.

- The Convention must
- have the greatest possible democratic legitimacy
  - reach its decisions in plenum according to fully democratic rules
  - have adequate time for serious and thorough deliberation
  - operate with full transparency, have all its meetings open to the public, and include in its deliberations proposals from civil society
  - subject its proposals to approval by the citizens of Europe in a referendum, rather than leaving the decision to the heads of state and government.

Significant investments of the Commission and Member States into digital and traditional platforms for citizens to provide their inputs and media coverage are paramount for the legitimacy of this process.

# TAKE ACTION!



**TELL US YOUR VISION**  
FOR EU DEMOCRACY





Join us at [democratieuropenow.org](https://democratieuropenow.org)!

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