

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
The Chairman

Honourable Chairperson,

On 25 October 2016 the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling on the Commission to submit a proposal for the establishment of an EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights. This new mechanism should ensure that all EU Member States respect the values enshrined in the EU treaties and set clear, evidence-based and non-political criteria for assessing their records on these areas.

This resolution stressed the crucial role of national parliaments in measuring the progress of, and monitoring compliance with, the shared values of the Union, as enshrined in Article 2 TEU. In particular, the European Union Pact on Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights proposed by the Parliament includes the organisation of an annual interparliamentary debate as a key element for the monitoring of the situation in Member States.

Against this background, the LIBE Committee would like to invite Members of national Parliaments to an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on “the Establishment of an EU Mechanism on Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights - the role of national parliaments”.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday 22 June 2017, from 9h00 to 12h30 in the European Parliament in Brussels (please see the draft programme attached - Annex I).

I am therefore pleased to invite up to four Members of the relevant committee(s) from each national Parliament (two from each Chamber in the case of bi-cameral Parliaments) to attend this meeting.

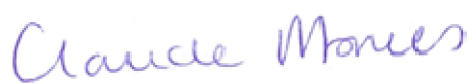
The meeting is structured around two main sessions, in each of them national parliaments representatives will be involved. The first Vice-President of the European Commission for the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights, M. Frans Timmermans, and the Maltese Presidency should also take part in the debate.

Should you be unable to attend, I would welcome any written contribution which would be distributed to our respective Members and other participants.

Practical details regarding the meeting will be forwarded in due course to the services of your Parliament, responsible for relations with the European Parliament.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to accept this invitation and I am looking forward to welcoming you to the European Parliament on 22 June 2017.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claude Moraes". The script is cursive and fluid.

Claude MORAES

Annex I: Draft Programme



DRAFT PROGRAMME

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

**on the Establishment of an EU
Mechanism on Democracy, Rule of Law
and Fundamental Rights**

Thursday, 22 June 2017, 9.00 to 12.30

European Parliament, Brussels

Room: Paul- Henri Spaak 3C50

Order of business

9h00 - 9h05 **Opening remarks** by **Claude MORAES**, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament

FIRST SESSION

**Towards a Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Pact at EU level -
Interinstitutional perspective and role of national parliaments**

9h05 - 10h30

9h05 - 9h15 **Sophie in't Veld MEP**, LIBE Rapporteur for the report on an EU Mechanism on Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights

9h15 - 9h25 **Frans Timmermans**, First Vice President for the Rule of law and Fundamental Rights, European Commission

9h25 - 9h35 **Maltese Presidency**

9h35 - 9h45 **Speaker from a National Parliament**

9h45 - 10.30 Q&A with **National Parliaments** representatives and **LIBE Members**

SECOND SESSION

**The role of National Parliaments in upholding Democracy, Rule of Law and
Fundamental Rights**

10.30 - 12.00

10h30 - 10h40 **Frank Engel MEP**, LIBE Rapporteur for the annual report on the situation of Fundamental Rights in the EU 2016

10h40 - 10h50 **Nuria Abad**, President, European Network of the Council of the Judiciary

10h50 - 11h00 **Representative of the European Commission, DG Justice** - Presentation of the EU Justice Scoreboard 2017

11h00 - 11h10 **Speaker from National Parliament** - the role of national parliaments in ensuring the independence of the judiciary

11h11 - 12h00 Q&A with **National Parliaments** representatives and **LIBE Members**

CLOSING SESSION

12.00 - 12.30

12h15 - 12h30	Conclusion and way forward by the upcoming Estonian Presidency , Closing remarks and adoption of the ICM Statement by the LIBE Chair
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PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE DEBATE

- *During the discussion, so as to make it possible for the highest number of parliamentarians to intervene, speaking time of speakers will be limited to **ten minutes** and speaking time of other participants to **two minutes** per contribution or question.*
- *Speakers wishing to supplement their speeches may do so in writing by submitting a document (preferably in English or French) in advance to the secretariat (email: libe-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu). These documents will be circulated during the meeting.*
- *Meeting documents will be progressively added to the Events section of the LIBE Committee pages: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/libe/events-nationalparl.html> and to the WebNP event webpage: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/relnatparl/en/meetings.html>*

THE MEETING IS BROADCASTED LIVE AND RECORDED

LIBE Committee pages:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=LIBE>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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