



European Parliament | 29-30 September 2026

Draft Programme

11:00 – 12:30 | Pre-session: Towards an EU interparliamentary alliance on violence against politicians (by invitation - for parliamentarians only)

Follow-up debate to the EU Parliamentary Democracy Forum 2025 on the forthcoming “Recommendation on safety in politics” and the accompanying “Guide of best practices” with the European Commission

DAY I

13:00 – 14:00 | Welcome coffee

14:00 – 14:30 | Opening session

Opening addresses:

- ❖ **Roberta Metsola**, President of the European Parliament (TBC)
- ❖ **Verona Murphy**, TD, Ceann Comhairle, Houses of the Oireachtas (Speaker of the Lower House of the Irish Parliament)
- ❖ **VIP guest** (TBC)

14:30 – 16:30 | Session I: Enhancing electoral resilience

Exploring the challenges to electoral resilience across the EU and the proposals under the European Democracy Shield; examining the respective roles of the European Parliament and national parliaments in preventing interference and disinformation in electoral processes; and discussing the contribution of civil society, independent authorities, and digital platforms in safeguarding elections, as well as ways to foster citizens’ engagement in electoral processes.

16:30 – 17:00 | Coffee break

17:00 – 18:30 | Session II: EU strategy for civil society

Examining the EU Civil Society Strategy as an instrument to reinforce democratic resilience across the Union; exploring how strengthened protection and support for civil society organisations can uphold civic space; clarifying the political responsibility of the European Parliament and national parliaments in this regard; and discussing ways to embed meaningful and sustained participation of civil society in EU and national democratic decision-making beyond ad-hoc consultations.

18:30 – 20:00 | Networking dinner



DAY II

08:15 – 09:00 | Welcome coffee

09:00 – 09:45 | Exchange of views with Michael McGrath, Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection (TBC)

09:45 – 11:15 | Session III: From legislation to implementation: strengthening parliamentary oversight at EU and national level

Examining parliamentary oversight as a key instrument to reinforce the role of parliaments vis-à-vis the executive in a challenging geopolitical context; exploring how stronger oversight can enhance democratic accountability and citizens' trust; and discussing approaches to ensure the effective implementation of EU legislation, including coordination between the European Parliament, national parliaments, and civil society actors.

11:15 – 11:45 | Coffee break

11:45 – 13:15 | Session IV: Defending democracy amid geopolitical disruption: towards a Team Europe parliamentary diplomacy approach

Exchanging best practices in parliamentary diplomacy across the EU and examining its role in countering democratic backsliding amid fragmentation and geopolitical instability; exploring avenues to strengthen cooperation between EU national parliaments and the European Parliament; and coordinating parliamentary diplomacy tools under a Team Europe approach

13:15 – 13:30 | Closing remarks

Speakers:

- ❖ **Esteban González Pons**, Vice-President for Relations with National Parliaments, European Parliament
- ❖ **Katarina Barley**, Vice-President for Relations with National Parliaments, European Parliament

13:30 – 15:00 | Networking lunch
