



Draft programme

Conference on Democracy in Europe

How can parliamentarians help safeguard and strengthen democracy and the rule of law?

18–19 June 2023

The Swedish Parliament,
The Former Second Chamber

Sunday 18 June

- 15.00 – 18.00 Arrival of delegations, check-in and registration at the hotels
- 18.15 Departure by bus from the hotels
- 19.00 – 22.00 **Official dinner**
Venue: Skansen
- 22.00 Shuttle bus back to the hotels

Monday 19 June

Delegations are advised to arrive at the Riksdag (Norrbro 1a and 1b) at the latest 08.30

- 08.15 Shuttle bus from Scandic Haymarket to the Riksdag
- 8.00 – 9.00 Coffee and registration at the Riksdag
- 9.00 – 9.20 **Opening of the conference**
- Andreas Norlén, Speaker of the Swedish parliament
 - Michal Šimečka, Vice-President of the European Parliament
- 9.20 – 10.30 **Session 1, part 1: The importance of safeguarding democratic dialogue and the significance of parliaments**
Chaired by Ida Karkiainen, Chair of the Committee on the Constitution
- Panel of researchers
- Johannes Lindvall, Professor in political science at the University of Gothenburg
 - Sara Hagemann, Professor in political science at the University of Copenhagen
- Reflections from a panel of members/former members
Moderated by Cecilia Garme
- Björn von Sydow, Former Speaker and member of the Swedish parliament
 - Astrid Thors, Vice President of Liberal International and former member of the Finnish parliament and the European Parliament
 - Reinhold Lopatka, member of the National Council of Austria and Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- 10.30 – 11.00 Family photo and coffee break
- 11.00 – 12.15 **Session 1, part 2: Exchange of views**
Moderated by Cecilia Garme
- 12.15 – 12.30 Concluding remarks
- Andreas Norlén, Speaker of the Swedish parliament
 - Ida Karkiainen, Chair of the Committee on the Constitution
- 12.30 – 14.00 Lunch buffet in the Grand Gallery

14.00 – 16.15 **Session 2: The importance of safeguarding the independence of the courts and trust in social institutions**

Chaired by Erik Ottoson, Deputy Chair of the Committee on the Constitution

Keynote speeches

- Jessika Roswall, Minister for EU Affairs, Sweden
- Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice, the European Commission

Speakers

- Thomas Bull, Justice of the Supreme Court of Administration in Sweden
- Herdis Kjerulf Thorgeirsdottir, Vice-President of the Venice Commission

Exchange of views

16.15 – 16.30 Concluding remarks

Erik Ottoson, Deputy Chair of the Committee on the Constitution

16.45 – 17.30 Guided tour of the Riksdag (optional)