

International Day of Democracy Brussels

The 50%’s Voice: Launch of the Youth Political and Civic Engagement Cohort

15 September, 2022 | 14:00–16:00 | European Committee of the Regions, Bâtiment Jacques Delors, Rue Belliard 99/101

With 50% of the world’s population under 30, the vitality of democracy is dependent on young people more than ever before. However, younger generations have become dissatisfied with democracy and what it has delivered, and lack the resources and networks to make their voice heard. In order to rejuvenate pluralistic democracy, it is essential that young people are given the opportunity to meaningfully participate in all aspects of democratic politics.

In this context, the European Commission and the European Partnership for Democracy have launched the Youth Political and Civic Engagement Cohort, as part of the Year of Action ahead of the second Summit for Democracy in Spring 2023. The Cohort aims to promote the development and implementation of Summit commitments on youth political and civic engagement. This session will launch the Youth Cohort and provide a forum for dialogue and collaboration between a wide range of actors working to advance youth democratic participation across the globe.

Bringing together youth activists in the EU and globally as well as key decision-makers involved in youth engagement, this session will help to ensure that youth voices are central to the Cohort, and are heard loud and clear throughout the Year of Action and the Summit itself.

Provisional programme

- ❖ Introducing the Youth Cohort – Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships
- ❖ Context: The Summit for Democracy Year of Action – Samantha Power, Administrator of USAID
- ❖ State of play of youth participation worldwide – Qyira Yusri, EU Special Adviser on Youth
- ❖ Panel discussion: The road toward implementing Summit for Democracy commitments on youth political inclusion, with responses from youth activists
 - The Youth Cohort – how it will work and what it aims to do – EC Representative
 - Best practices for S4D Commitments on youth – Global South government representative
 - Response from AfricTivistes
 - Response from the European Democracy Youth Network
 - Audience Q & A
- ❖ Conclusion and wrap-up – European Partnership for Democracy