Udvalget for Videnskab og Teknologi (2. samling)
UVT alm. del - Bilag 207
Offentligt

Council of Europe

Parliamentary Assembly

The President

Strasbourg, 10 July 2008

Dear Speaker,

I am pleased to invite your Parliament to be represented at the fourth Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy in Madrid (Spain), on 15-17 October 2008. The Forum is being hosted by the Spanish Government, in co-operation with the City of Madrid.

As you are aware, the Forum was established by the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in Warsaw in May 2005. The aim of the Forum is to strengthen democracy, political freedoms and citizens' participation through the exchange of ideas, information and examples of best practice. The proposals resulting from its discussions about possible future action will contribute to enhancing the Council of Europe's work in the field of democracy. After its launch meeting in Warsaw in November 2005, the second and third sessions of the Forum were held in Moscow and Stockholm/Sigtuna, each time addressing a different aspect of democracy.

The theme of the 2008 Session of the Forum is "e-democracy". The debates will therefore focus on the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for enhancing democratic processes and to create new spaces for information, deliberation, consultation and transaction between government and citizens and between citizens themselves. The Forum will address the opportunities and risks of e-democracy and discuss examples of how ICTs can contribute to inclusive democratic practice alongside traditional forms of political participation.

The 2008 Session will be held in the Municipal Congress Centre of the City of Madrid and will be opened with a plenary session on 15 October at 4 p.m. On the second day, participants will convene in six parallel workshop tracks grouped under the sub-themes "Democratic Governance", "Empowerment" and the "International and Regulatory Context". The concluding plenary session will take place on the morning of 17 October.

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Mr Thor PEDERSEN
Speaker of the Folketing
Christiansborg
DK - 1240 COPENHAGEN K

The Forum will bring together representatives of public authorities (including parliamentarians and representatives of local and regional authorities) and civil society from the 47 Council of Europe member States and observer States. Other participants will include representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations, the Venice Commission, representatives of the European Union and other international organisations, and of academia.

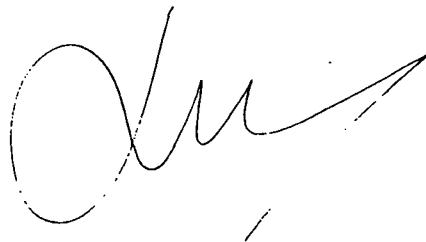Delegations of national parliaments may be composed of **two persons**.

Separate invitations are being issued by the relevant Council of Europe bodies to representatives of Governments, local and regional authorities, and civil society.

A draft programme, information on registration and practical arrangements and a detailed description of the workshop themes are enclosed.
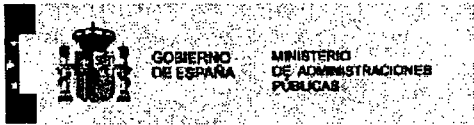
The names of the members of your Parliament's delegation for the 2008 session of the Forum should be notified to the Secretariat of Parliamentary Assembly **not later than 10 September** (see attached note). In addition, notified participants are invited to register individually through the online conference registration system by the aforementioned date. A detailed programme and working documents will be sent to registered participants in due course.

The Parliamentary Assembly attaches great importance to the Forum and I count on a strong participation from your side.

With the assurance of my highest consideration,

Lluis Maria de Puig

Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy
Madrid, Spain
Municipal Congress Centre
15-17 October 2008
Hosted by the Spanish Ministry of Public Administrations
with the support of the City of Madrid

"e-democracy"

DRAFT PROGRAMME

prepared by the
Council of Europe Secretariat

Wednesday 15 October - DAY ONE

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Registration of participants

4 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.

Opening of the Forum for the Future of Democracy 2008

Welcome by
Representatives of the Spanish Government / City of Madrid

Opening Speeches

Right Hon Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Mr Yavuz Mildon, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe

Mr Christer Hallerby, State Secretary, Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality, Sweden, representing the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers and reporting on follow-up to the 2007 Forum Session in Sweden

Break

First Plenary session, Chair: N.N.
Setting the scene

Keynote speech on the theme of the Forum session
Mr Johan Gorecki, CEO and founder, Globe Forum Business Network and co-developer of Skype (tbc)

Interactive panel debate:
"Opportunities and risks of e-democracy"
Moderator: Mr Jérôme Colombain, Radio France Info (tbc)

Panellists:
Prof. William Dutton, Director of the Oxford Internet Institute, Oxford, United Kingdom
N.N.
N.N.

Evening, *time tbc*

Welcome reception given by the City of Madrid at *Parque del Retiro*
for all participants in the Forum

Thursday 16 October - DAY TWO

9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.

Six parallel workshop tracks

Sub-theme	I. democratic governance			II. empowerment		III. International and regulatory context
Track	1. e-participation	2. e-participation at local level	3. **ICT in electoral processes** *Biennial review meeting of Rec(2004)11 on e-voting*	4. **e-inclusion**	5. **e-democracy from the grass roots**	6.
Am	ICT for participatory democracy	e-tools in citizen participation at local level	e-voting: Recent developments and challenges	Access	e-activism/ e-campaigning	e-government and e-democracy developments worldwide
pm	Opportunities for and challenges to representative democracy	e-participatory budgeting	Certification, auditing and observation of e-enabled elections	Proficiency	The role of the media	Regulatory aspects relevant to e-democracy

Sub-theme I: Democratic governance

Workshop track No. 1
e-participation

Rapporteur: Ms Ella Taylor-Smith, Napier University, United Kingdom

ICT for participatory democracy

Chair: Mr Thomas Buchsbaum, Ministry of International and European Affairs, Austria, Chairman of CAHDE

Opportunities for and challenges to representative democracy
(CoE partner:PACE)

Chair: *[to be proposed by PACE]*

Workshop track No. 2
e-participation at the local level
This workshop track is organised by the City of Madrid

Rapporteur: N.N., Rey Juan Carlos University, Madrid

E-tools in citizen participation at local level

Chair: Mr Alejandro Arranz, Director General for Innovation and Technology, City of Madrid

e-participatory Budgets

Chair: Ms Sandra de Lorite, City of Madrid Councillor on Citizen Participation
Moderator: Mr José Manuel Rodríguez Álvarez, Deputy Director of European Affairs, City of Madrid

Workshop track No. 3
ICT in electoral processes

e-voting: Recent developments and challenges
Certification, auditing and observation of e-enabled elections
2008 biennial review meeting of CM Recommendation (2004)11 on legal, operational and technical standards for e-voting, with special invitees from CoE member states, open to all FFD participants

Rapporteur: Ms Laurence Monnoyer-Smith, Université de Technologie de Compiègne, France

Chair: Mr Luc Van den Brande, Chairman of the Council for Democratic Elections, member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Sub-theme II: Empowerment

Workshop track No. 4
e-inclusion

Rapporteur: Mr Tomas Ohlin, Sweden

Access
(partner country: Sweden)

Chair: Mr Christer Hallerby, State Secretary, Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality, Sweden

Proficiency

Chair: Ms Reinhild Otte, Chair of the Council of Europe Advisory Group on Education for democratic citizenship and Human Rights Education

Workshop track No. 5
e-democracy from the grass roots

Rapporteur: Mr Thierry Vedel, Centre de recherches politiques de Sciences Po, France

e-activism / e-campaigning

Chair: N.N. *[to be proposed by the INGO Conference]*

The role of the media
(CoE partner: DG-HL/Media Division)

Chair: N.N.

Sub-theme III: International and regulatory context

Workshop track No. 6
International and regulatory context

Rapporteur: Mr Lasse Berntzen, Vestfold University College, Norway

E-government and e-democracy developments worldwide

Chair: N.N.

Regulatory aspects relevant to e-democracy

Chair: N.N.

Friday 17 October - DAY THREE

10 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

Concluding plenary session, Chair: N.N.

Contribution by the President of the INGO Conference (or his/her representative)

Panel: Results and conclusions of the Forum for the Future of Democracy 2008
-       The General rapporteurs: Prof. Tomás de la Quadra-Salcedo Fernández del Castillo, Mr Zoltán Szabó, Mr Keith Whitmore
-       Mr Vasilis Kouloalis, Executive Director Gov2u, Greece
-       N.N.

Debate

Break

Presentation of the Forum conclusions

Invitation to the Forum 2009 in Ukraine by a representative of the Ukrainian authorities

Closing of the Session by a representative of the host authorities

Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy
Madrid, Spain
Municipal Congress Centre
15-17 October 2008

Description of the themes of the six parallel workshops, to be held on 16 October 2008

Each participant in the Forum is invited to sign up to one of the workshops through the online conference registration system

Workshop 1: *e-Participation*

This workshop looks into the use of Information and Communication Technology *(ICT) for participatory democracy.* How can ICT be used for enhancing democratic processes and to create new spaces for information, deliberation, consultation and transaction between government and its citizens and between citizens themselves? Panellists from several countries will present examples of good practice. Participants will discuss the set of guiding principles on e-democracy and a range of tools for implementing these principles proposed by the Council of Europe's Ad Hoc Committee on e-Democracy. The workshop will also look into the opportunities for and challenges to representative democracy presented by e-democracy. Turning to e-parliament, it will be asked what results have been achieved through the implementation of e-petitioning and ICTs used for the communication between MPs and their electorate.

Workshop 2: *e-participation at the Local Level*

It is at the local level that the individual is closest to and most often involved in democratic processes. It is also in this dimension of public affairs that many innovative means of e-democracy have been conceived and implemented. Participatory budgeting and participatory urban and spatial planning through the Internet will receive particular attention in this workshop. What is the state-of-the-art of e-participation at the local level, in Europe and elsewhere? What results have hitherto been attained and what obstacles will have to be overcome in the future? This workshop is being organised by the City of Madrid.

Workshop 3: *ICT in Electoral Processes*

In strong democracies, elections are merely one of many manifestations of democracy, albeit a very important and visible one. Public as well as non-statutory elections supported by ICTs have been tested in several European countries and have given rise to a vibrant debate in recent years. In 2004, the Council of Europe' Committee of Ministers issued a recommendation to member states on legal, operational and technical standards for e-voting. This workshop is also the second biennial review meeting of the Recommendation. Being open to all participants in the Forum, the workshop will bring together experts on e-voting from across Europe, to discuss the implementation of the recommendation against the background of recent developments in member states and beyond. Particular attention will be given to the questions of security, certification and observation of e-enabled elections.

Workshop 4: *e-Inclusion*

One of the particular benefits of e-democracy is that it may take into account the needs and encourage the participation of certain groups which otherwise may be less inclined to participate politically. Examples of such groups are senior citizens, migrants and national minorities. In particular disabled people can benefit from e-democratic means of participation. There are also other groups whose political participation can be facilitated by the use of e-democracy. In this connection, what measures could be taken in order to address the expectations of young people and the gender perspective in e-democracy? A necessary requirement for the successful introduction of e-democracy is that individuals have access to its instruments, both through access to IT infrastructure and through Internet and media literacy. Another important precondition is that individuals are provided with education for democratic citizenship.

Workshop 5: *e-Democracy from the Grass Roots*

This workshop will first look into *e-activism*, social networking tools and citizens' e-journalism as means of facilitating grass roots initiatives and participation. What experiences, positive or negative, have NGOs made when using e-democracy tools in order to promote their causes and to involve people in discussions? How could the use of e-democracy tools by civil society be taken further? Does civil society have a wish-list in terms of involvement or measures to be implemented from the side of the public authorities, the business sector or other actors? Addressing *the role of the media*, the workshop will discuss the public service value of the Internet, understood as people's significant reliance on the Internet as an essential tool for their everyday activities. Furthermore, the media play an important role in democracy and in political life, e.g. by providing a space where citizens can engage in public debate and represent their interests in public spheres. How could and should media fulfill this mission with the support of ICTs? What is the impact of ICTs in election campaigns and what standards should the media adhere to in this context?

Workshop 6: *International and regulatory context*

This workshop will look into *E-government and e-democracy developments worldwide*. What are the latest developments in these fields? What is the potential impact of Web 2.0 on government and the provision of public services? The workshop will also address the existing and possible future arrangements for public participation in Internet governance. Here, the UNECE Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters is an interesting example of how such participation can be put into a regulatory framework. Could it serve as a model for regulation or as a best practice in other fields of Internet Governance? Turning to *Regulatory aspects relevant for e-democracy*, the workshop will consider whether and to what extent e-democracy should be the subject of rules and regulations. How do the specificities of e-democracy relate to existing national and international regulation and standards on, for example, human rights, penal law or constitutional matters? Issues of particular relevance in this context include transparency and accountability, freedom of information and access to official documents.

Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy
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Information on registration and practical arrangements

Registration
Each invitee to the 2008 session of the Forum is required to register **no later than 10 September 2008**. It is imperative that all invitees, without exception, register individually on the online registration system found at http://www.conference-service.com/ffd-08/welcome.cgi, using the following access code: "EdRtOiU$". For any queries with regard to registration, please contact Ms Annick Schneider (e-mail: annick.schneider@coe.int).

Online registration requires each participant to select one of six workshop tracks. Please refer to the registration website for details on workshop themes. As the number of participants for each workshop track is limited, early registration is advisable.

In addition, the names, professional function and address details of all members of each country's delegations and international organisations should be communicated by the responsible co-ordinators at national level to Mrs Agnieszka Nachilo, Secretary to the Political Affairs Committee, Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, F-67075 STRASBOURG Cedex (bozena.nachilo@coe.int; fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 29 44) by the same date.

Accommodation
All participants are requested to make own arrangements for their accommodation in Madrid. A list of suggested hotels will be provided on the registration website in August. Specific arrangements may apply to invited speakers to the Conference.

Working documents
Registered participants can download the working documents (available in French and English) for the meeting from the registration website.

Conference registration upon arrival in Spain
Participants will be able to register at their arrival at the Forum venue (http://www.madridespaciosycongresos.com) as from 2 pm on Wednesday 15 October.

Cost of participation
There is no registration fee for participants to attend the Forum. It should be noted, however, that all participants will be required to cover the cost of their own accommodation and travel, unless informed otherwise by the Forum organisers.

The local currency in Spain is the Euro. There are foreign currency exchange offices and cash dispensers at the airport. Payment by credit card is widely accepted in Spain.

Working languages
The working languages of the Forum are English, French and Spanish. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in all plenary sessions on the first and third days of the Forum session. Information on interpretation arrangements for the workshop sessions on 16 October can be obtained from the registration website.

Participants requiring a visa for entering Spain
Participants who require a visa for entering Spain, which is a member of the Schengen area, should contact the Embassy of Spain in their country for information and application. In countries where there is no Spanish Embassy, the Consulate of Spain can provide information on where and how to apply for a visa. Participants are advised to submit the visa application well in advance, enclosing the confirmation of the registration for participating in the 2008 Forum for the Future of Democracy with their application.

Weather
Average temperature in Madrid in October is between 10 and 19 °C. Further information for visitors to Spain can be found at www.spain.info.

Electricity
220 Volts 50 Hz, with European type plug.