



Safeguarding the fundamental values of the European Union

A hearing organized by the European Affairs Committee
on Thursday 12 March 2015 at 9:00-11:30
at Christiansborg, room 1-133

"The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail."

All EU member states must adhere to the above values as described in the Lisbon Treaty. Before joining the EU, states must comply with the political Copenhagen criterium: Stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities.

But what does the EU do when member states do no longer adhere to the values of the Lisbon Treaty and the political Copenhagen criterium?

Political developments in certain EU member states indicate that the fundamental values of the EU – democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities – are under pressure.

Against this backdrop, the European Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament wants to discuss:

*Are the fundamental values of the EU under pressure?
What should the EU do to safeguard its values?
Does the EU need a "Copenhagen Commission"?*

Programme

- 9:00–9:10** **Arrival and coffee/breakfast**
- 9:10–9:15** **Welcome**
- Eva Kjer Hansen, Chair of the European Affairs Committee
- 9:15–9:35** **Are the fundamental values of the EU under pressure?**
- Niels Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe
 - György Schöpflin, Member of the European Parliament (EPP, Hungary, Fidesz)
- 9:35–9:55** **What role should the EU play in safeguarding its fundamental values in member states?
Which instruments exist – and are these sufficient?**
- Hubert Legal, Director-General of the Council Legal Service
 - Morten Kjærum, Director of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency
- 9:55–10:05** **Monitoring democracy and the rule of law – does the EU need a Copenhagen Commission?**
- Jan-Werner Müller, Professor, Princeton University
- 10:05–11.20** **Questions and answers**
- 11.20–11.30** **Concluding remarks**
- Eva Kjer Hansen, Chair of the European Affairs Committee

Registration and information:

- To register, please send an email to euu@ft.dk no later than 5 March 2015. Kindly note that the number of available seats is limited.
- For further information, please contact Maria Ulf-Møller, Committee Clerk, telephone (+45) 3337 3641, email: maria.moller@ft.dk.