



# 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
  - Member of a national parliament (TBC)
  - Member of the European Parliament (TBC)
- 10.30 – 11.00 Family photo and coffee break
- 11.00 – 12.15 **Session 1, part 2: Exchange of views**
- 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

- Representative of the Government of Sweden (TBC)
- 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)