

The Other Democratic Deficit – a Toolbox for the EU to Safeguard Democracy in EU Member States

23 May 2018, 13:00-15:00 (registration and lunch from 12:15)

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung EU Office
Rue du Taciturne 38, 1000 Brussels

The European Union's fundamental values have come under pressure in a number of member states. Recently, EU institutions have shown more commitment to defending these common values, yet to this day, the available instruments have proven insufficient. In order to find ways to uphold democracy and the rule of law within the EU, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung convened a group of recognised experts from politics, civil society and academia who developed ideas on how the EU could safeguard democracy in its member states. These instruments were recently published in a policy paper which will be discussed in this event with Brussels-based stakeholders and experts. As European leaders increasingly become aware of the urgent need for action and negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework get underway, the question of how the EU's values can be safeguarded should be part of these debates.

Draft Agenda

- 12:15 Registration and lunch
- 13:00 **Welcome**
Renate Tenbusch, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung EU Office
- 13:05 ***Safeguarding democracy in EU member states – which instruments?***
Michael Meyer-Resende, Executive Director, Democracy Reporting International
Paul Nemitz, Principal Advisor, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission
Jo Leinen, Member of European Parliament (S&D)
Comment on the recommendations by
Heather Grabbe, Director, Open Society European Policy Institute (tbc)
- 14:00 ***Discussion/Q&A***
Moderator:
Juliane Schulte, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Department for Central and Eastern Europe
- 15:00 End of event