

Strengthening Democracy: From Words to Action

Online Discussion on Civil Society Approaches to the New Democratic Pact for Europe
16 January 2026, 10am–12pm CET

The [New Democratic Pact for Europe](#) (NDP) proposed by Council of Europe (CoE) Secretary General **Alain Berset** has sparked debates about how it could lead to the concrete strengthening of democracy.

Ahead of the International Conference "Shaping Democratic Renewal: Civic Space and the Path to a New Democratic Pact for Europe" (2-3 February 2026, Strasbourg), CURE – Campaign to Uphold Rights in Europe invites civil society representatives to join a closed discussion on strengthening democracy promotion and protection by the CoE.

The discussion will build on [CURE's note](#), focusing on seven areas of interest:

- employing the principles of good democratic governance;
- safeguarding of freedom and fairness of elections;
- strengthening of democratic culture and civic education;
- promotion of a sustainable independent public information space;
- space for civil society;
- increasing inequality;
- early warning against democratic backsliding.

In addition, the European Partnership for Democracy's opinion piece "[New Democratic Pact: A Chance for Europe?](#)" provides input for the discussion. This piece raises the question of the role of citizens in CoE member states in the creation of the Pact.

The overarching question for the online discussion – what the position or role of civil society in all these areas might be – will be introduced by and elaborated on under the guidance of distinguished CoE experts:

Anca Ailincai, Professor of Public Law at the University of Grenoble-Alpes Centre for Legal Research/
CURE Advisory Council Member

Boriss Cilevičs, PACE Member (1999-2023)/ CURE Advisory Council Member

Jack Hanning (tbc), President, Association of Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe

Harry Hummel, CURE Team Member

Ana Mosiashvili, Research and Programme Manager, European Partnership for Democracy

Moderator: **Anna Sevortian**, member of the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs (CINGO)

Join us online on **16 January 2026, 10am-12pm CET**. Registration is open until **12 January 2026** [here](#). Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@cure-campaign.org.

CURE – Campaign to Uphold Rights in Europe is an initiative of leading civil society organisations from across the European continent, which was launched on 26 January 2022 in Strasbourg. We share a firm belief in the founding idea of the Council of Europe and the value therein: the Council as a guardian and promoter of a pan-European legal framework in human rights, democracy and rule of law, and as a pioneer in developing international norms and standards. Therefore, the overall goal of CURE is to make the Council of Europe strong and effective in fulfilling its abovementioned statutory role.

CURE activities are currently supported by

