



Draft

Title: **Defending Democracy, Delivering Answers**

Tabled by: EGP Committee

Draft text

1 Democracy is under attack in every region of the world. In the US, so-called
2 election deniers are working on undermining the legitimacy of the upcoming 2024
3 presidential elections in order to prepare Trump’s comeback, to set up a system
4 fundamentally opposed to a representative, constitutional democracy. In Brazil,
5 the threats to independent journalists and environmental defenders, and
6 discrimination and violence towards Indigenous and LGBTI communities has
7 constantly risen under Bolsonaro. In Central Asian countries such as Kyrgyzstan,
8 nationalist leaders harshly reversed steps towards a parliamentary form of
9 government with the violent repression of opponents. Globally, democracy has
10 been in constant and accelerating decline since 2006, resulting in more than a
11 third of the world’s population living under authoritarian rule.

12 In Europe, we have also been witnessing a backlash on democratic progress,
13 attempts to dismantle our democracies undermining our fundamental rights and the
14 rule of law. In Serbia, the ruling party has steadily put pressure on the
15 independent media, the political opposition and civil society. In Poland, the
16 independence of the judiciary is heavily at risk, while women’s and LGBTI rights
17 are being harshly restricted. In several EU Member States, corruption remains a
18 major obstacle to transparency and accountability, both of which are
19 cornerstones of democracy. Civic space is shrinking, and NGOs, human rights and
20 environmental defenders and independent journalists are under threat. Right-wing
21 leaders Viktor Orbán, Jarosław Kaczyński or Giorgia Meloni only pay lip service
22 to the democratic model. Political actors like VOX in Spain, the Sweden
23 Democrats or the Rassemblement National in France openly undermine our
24 democratic values under the pretence of representing the people.

25 These leaders and political parties have a lot in common. They demand power in
26 their own interests and at the expense of our freedom. Their attack on democracy
27 is an attack on the way we live and on our human rights. They use the multiple
28 crises that we currently face to fuel protests supportive of their populism and
29 their right-wing and fascist politics that do not deliver for citizens. They
30 unite in their goal to push the boundaries of the acceptable closer and closer
31 to fascism – and we must unite in fighting back!

32 For us European Greens it is very clear: we will do everything in our power not
33 to let them win. We will continue to take a strong stand against the far right
34 and fascism in Europe. We will continue to work towards societies where we
35 welcome everyone's voice, and each person can contribute. Because for us,
36 involvement and participation in political decision-making are the basis for
37 democracy.

38 However, we must not take democracy for granted. With all our energy, we will
39 multiply our efforts to protect human rights for all by ensuring that women,
40 LGBTQI people, Black and People of Colour, disabled people, ethnic and racial
41 minorities, and others who are marginalised have a direct say on the issues that
42 impact them the most. We will defend civil society, activists, and NGOs in
43 shrinking spaces against discrimination in authoritarian Member States and work
44 towards European minimum standards on protecting NGOs and Non-Profits throughout
45 the EU. We will defend the rule of law and the freedom of the media, and we will
46 fight to hold governments accountable when they do not take action against
47 corruption.

48 Even more so in times of crises, when social cohesion declines our democracy
49 suffers. This is why we support legitimate social protests by people facing the
50 fear of poverty and exclusion and we are ready to channel their demands into
51 policies that deliver. We will strongly fight for social justice in order to
52 leave no one behind and we will never give into right-wing and fascist political
53 actors exploiting protest and dissatisfaction in their own interest. We strongly
54 deplore conservative forces ignoring their democratic responsibility but helping
55 fascists into power – as the only answer to imminent division, polarisation,
56 uncertainty and anger is solidarity.

57 This is what we will fight for in the upcoming European elections in 2024: a
58 Europe built on our core value of democracy.