

Newsletter: Birds start flying south and we go back to work

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Dear Friends of Democracy International,

I hope you had a good, sunny summer and the chance to go on a nice holiday. It is always the last few days of August during which you can feel that the summer is almost over. The nights are getting longer and the days are cooler again. Birds start flying south. And we people go back to school, work or university.

For Democracy International being back to work means starting our campaign for a more democratic EU. In that regard our chairperson Gerald Häfner spoke to an audience of 200 people on behalf of the campaign alliance "For more democracy in the EU" at the European Forum Alpbach in Austria last week. Our key demand is a new EU convention that has sufficient time for its deliberations, that the members are elected democratically and that the convention has adequate time for serious and thorough deliberation including proposals from civil society.

Being back to work also means continuing our preparations for the Danube Democracy Rally to take place from 1 to 9 April next year. The rally is a unique opportunity to travel through Austria, Slovakia and Hungary and to engage in an exciting combination of learning more about direct democracy, discussing viewpoints and sightseeing. Registration is now possible on a first-come first-serve basis. To register and for more information please click here <http://www.democracy-international.org/danube-democracy-rally>

Best wishes,

Cora Pfafferott

1. Democracy International presents campaign to save the EU

On 21 August 2013 Democracy International presented the campaign for a more democratic EU at the European Forum Alpbach in Austria, an interdisciplinary conference for science, politics, business and culture held annually in the small town in Tyrol. Gerald Häfner, chairperson of Democracy International and Member of European Parliament, spoke to an audience of 200 people on behalf of the campaign alliance "For more democracy in the EU". Key demand of the campaign is a new EU convention.

Read more here <http://www.democracy-international.org/democracy-international-presents-campaign-save-eu>

2. New democracy group in Romania

Building democratic societies and introducing effective citizens' participation means a mammoth task to many countries of Eastern Europe. However, there are democratic approaches worthwhile pursuing, such as the work of the Slovakian democracy group OZ PD that is campaigning for citizen-friendly referenda this year.

Read more here <http://www.democracy-international.org/romania-democracy-group>

3. Walking 675 kilometres for the referendum in Germany

On 18 August 2013 Michael von der Lohe, Director of the organisation Omnibus and activists from all over Germany started a walk of 675 kilometres to cross Germany from East to West. The aim is to reach the capital of Berlin on 22 September 2013, the day the federal elections will be held in Germany and to demand the introduction of the referendum when coalition talks will start the following days.

Read more here <http://www.democracy-international.org/675-kilometres-referendum-germany>

4. Democracy International has a new website

On 27 July 2013 Democracy International's new website went online. The website follows a new concept. It primarily features democracy activists and their campaigns, and it tells about their fight for more direct democracy in their countries, at local level and in the world. The aim is to help people to connect and to network with each other, to exchange information about best practice and on how to build a democracy organisation.

Read more here <http://www.democracy-international.org/press/democracy-international-has-new-website>

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Democracy International ist ein eingetragener Verein.
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