

BOOSTING
DIGITAL
DEMOCRACY:

HOW TO
CREATE A
DEMOCRACY
SHIELD
THAT DELIVERS



European Parliament, ASP 7 F387

NOVEMBER 18th 2025
12:00 - 13:30

Live & streamed

ORGANISED BY DEMOCRATIC TECH ALLIANCE



Boosting digital democracy: how to create a Democracy Shield that delivers

Tuesday, 18 November 2025, 12:00-13:30

ASP 7 F387 European Parliament

Co-Hosted by MEPs Mika Aaltola (FI, EPP), Alex Agius Saliba (MT, S&D), Helmut Brandstätter (AT, Renew)

By the European Partnership for Democracy & Alliance4Europe

As part of the Democratic Tech Alliance

Democracy is attacked and degraded by information manipulation online, whether it's disinformation, foreign interference, or online platforms with addictive designs and algorithms based on data mining.

The CEOs of Big Tech companies are increasingly becoming unaccountable political actors, while autocratic regimes and extremist political movements attack the foundations of democracies. There is a need to create stronger linkages between democracy and technological innovation in order to defend free and prosperous societies.

The European Democracy Shield is an enormous opportunity to define the direction of European democracy support for the foreseeable future and make the continent more resilient in the face of autocratic takeover. To be impactful, the Shield must provide funding for democratic resilience and tech innovation.

We will bring together leading MEPs and experts to present and debate policy and practical recommendations for the Democracy Shield, what it would mean for tech and democracy in Europe, and for investment in a resilient democracy. This will include a discussion on democratic innovations and recommendations on how to ensure the effective enforcement of existing EU laws. The speed of geopolitical developments makes this debate all the more urgent, and requires targeted and ambitious action.

Agenda

11:30 - Registration (entrance, if coming from outside the EP)

- Gerard + A

11:45 - Arrival and welcome coffee

12:00 - Introduction: *Democracy endangered, the stakes are high*

- MEP Alex Agius Saliba (MT, S&D)

12:10 - Setting the scene: *What's at stake for the Democracy Shield?*

- Nina Jankowicz, author and campaigner

12:30 - Panel: *What the Democracy Shield needs to deliver*

What are the key priorities for the Shield to tackle? The panel will debate priorities for democratic resilience, and crucially, how to resource them from the EU budget and beyond.

- Emma Quaedvlieg, Policy Manager, European Partnership for Democracy
- Omri Preiss, Managing Director, Alliance4Europe
- Sophie Pornschlegel, EU Policy Adviser, Liberties

13:00 - Roundtable discussion

13:20 - Closing remarks

- MEP Helmut Brandstatter (AT, Renew) (TBC)

13:30 - Session ends