

INVIGORATING AND STRENGTHENING EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY .

5 March 2018 ■

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
Lisboa ■

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Av. de Berna 45-A, 1067-001 Lisboa, Portugal

For the first time in History, the European Commission has activated Article 7 of the Lisbon treaty against Poland. This article foresees in particular substantial sanctions that can go as far as preventing the incriminated State to vote. Triggering this procedure is unprecedented and underlines the alarming political climate certain democracies are facing these days. Indeed, beyond the questioning of judiciary reforms in Poland, Viktor Orban's Hungary, or, more recently, the harming of the rule of law during the Catalan crisis, are also in the spotlight. Confronted to these risks, and more generally to the rise of nationalist movements, the European Union is equipped with mechanisms aiming at guaranteeing the integrity of democratic values and the rule of law on which it is founded. Article 7 is certainly one of them, but its complex procedure, requiring the Member States unanimity, is likely to reduce the European institutions reaction to a verbal threat, and would highlight their powerlessness. Therefore, how can the EU remain a guardian of democratic values, react efficiently when they are threaten, and promote them? Are the European tools adequate, shall we rethink their implementation or consider alternative measures?

Keynote speeches

Isabel MOTA, President of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

Frans TIMMERMANS, First Vice-President of the European Commission

Debate

Pieyre-Alexandre ANGLADE, member of the French Parliament, for the 4th district of French nationals abroad, Vice-president of the European affairs commission of the French National Assembly

Miguel POIARES MADURO, professor, Director of the Global Governance Programme of the European University Institute and former Minister for Regional Development of the Portuguese Republic

Laurent COHEN-TANUGI, essayist, vice-president of the Jacques Delors Institute

Francisco SEIXAS DA COSTA, former ambassador of the Portuguese Republic to France, and former Secretary of State in charge of European affairs of the Portuguese Republic

Moderator : Vitor MARTINS, commissioner of the conference and former Secretary of State in charge of European affairs of the Portuguese Republic

Concluding words

Enrico LETTA, president of the Jacques Delors Institute, dean of the Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs

Closing address

Augusto SANTOS SILVA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic

[Inscription here](#)

Limited number of seats. In case of cancellation, please let us know as soon as possible.

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