



Spain2023eu
Parliamentary Dimension



CORTES GENERALES



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INTER PARES | **Parliaments in Partnership**
EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments



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International IDEA

GLOBAL CONFERENCE TO COMMEMORATE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PARLIAMENTARISM

STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTS TO ENHANCE DEMOCRACY

León, June 30 and July 1, 2023

DRAFT AGENDA



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CONCEPT

International Conference gathering representatives of the Parliaments of the EU Member States, Parliaments of European Union candidate countries, Parliaments of countries with special partnerships with the European Union and partner Parliaments of emerging democracies with a view to:

1. Commemorating the International Day of Parliamentarism stressing the historical roots of parliamentarism.
2. Highlight the key role of Parliaments in promoting democracy worldwide and the value of parliamentary institutions faced with the new challenges and threats to democracy (Russian invasion of Ukraine or the assault on parliamentary institutions, among others).
3. Enhance global parliamentary development and inter parliamentary cooperation.
4. Improve Parliaments' ability to address a series of global strategic challenges, focusing on the political involvement of women and young people.
5. Stress the position of Parliaments as core institutions of representative democracy, and hence, the importance of strengthening Parliaments as key aspect of the international strategy for the evolution of democracy.
6. On occasion of the International Day of Parliamentarism, on June 30, 2023, the deep roots of Spanish parliamentarism shall be stressed, particularly the role played in this sense by the *Cortes de León*, set up in 1188, which, according to the UNESCO represent the first documented example of parliamentarism in history.

Parliaments are one of the institutional pillars of representative democracy, together with elections and the Rule of Law. A strong and efficient Parliament contributes to



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political stability, economic development and the citizens' quality of life. The EU Parliaments, and many others, are increasingly involved in parliamentary diplomacy and in providing technical support to the strengthening of Parliaments worldwide, acknowledging that support among counterparts is the most efficient way to share learnt lessons and transfer expertise to evolving Parliaments, which results in a stronger democracy.



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AGENDA

Thursday, June 29, 2023

Arrival of delegations

- 20.30 Official dinner hosted by the Speakers of the Congress of Deputies and of the Senate, Rt. Hon. Ms. Meritxell Batet Lamaña and Rt. Hon. Mr. Ander Gil García
- Diocesan and Holy Week Museum of León*
C/Mariano Domínguez Berrueta, 12, León

Friday, June 30, 2023

- 9.00 Arrival of participants
- Royal Collegiate of St Isidoro of León*
Plaza de San Isidoro, León
- 9.20 Welcome address by Rt. Hon. Mr. José Antonio Díez, Mayor of León
- 9.30 - 10.50 **Working Session – Parliamentary Cooperation and Development of Democracy**
- Moderator: Mr. Kevin Casas Zamora, Secretary General of the IDEA Foundation
 - Guest speaker: Rt. Hon. Mr. Othmar Karas, First Deputy Speaker of the European Parliament, to present his initiative regarding the “Charter on the role of parliamentarism in an effective democracy”
 - Address by Rt. Hon. Ms. Bärbel Bas, Speaker of the German Bundestag
 - Address by Rt. Hon. Ms. Marketa Pekarova Adamova, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic
 - Address by Ms. Catherine Gotani Hara, Speaker of the Parliament of Malawi, to present her experience with the ongoing parliamentary cooperation project with InterPares



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Debate

10.50-11.30

Coffee break

Arrival of His Majesty the King

Family photo

11.30-12.00

Inauguration Session

- Address by Rt. Hon. Mr. Ander Gil García, Speaker of the Senate
- Address by Rt. Hon. Ms. Meritxell Batet Lamaña, Speaker of the Congress of Deputies
- Address by His Majesty the King

12.00 – 13.00

Keynote address - León as cradle of parliamentarism

- Moderator: Rt. Hon. Mr. Ander Gil García, Speaker of the Senate
- Guest speaker: John Keane, author of *“The Life and Death of Democracy”*

13.00 - 14.30

Lunch

His Majesty the King shall briefly exchange views with participants during the pre-lunch cocktail.

14.30- 16.00

Main Session - The defence of European values and democratic institutions faced with the new challenges and threats to Democracy

- Moderator: Rt. Hon. Ms. Meritxell Batet Lamaña, Speaker of the Congress of Deputies
- Address by Rt. Hon. Ms. Urška Klakočar Zupančič, Speaker of the National Assembly of Slovenia
- Address by Rt. Hon. Mr. Andreas Norlén, Speaker of the Swedish Riksdagen



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- Address by Rt. Hon. Mr. Augusto Ernesto Santos Silva, Speaker of the Portuguese Assembly
- Address by Rt. Hon. M. Gordan Jandroković, Speaker of the Croatian Parliament

Debate

16.00 – 17.00

Closing session

- Adoption of the “**León Declaration on Parliamentarism**”

Free evening

Saturday, July 1, 2023

10.00 – 11.00

Private visit to the Real Colegiata de San Isidoro

Stroll through the city of León and free visit to the León Cathedral.