



Digital Democracy

ENGAGEMENT - ACCOUNTABILITY - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## DIGITAL DEMOCRACY: PARTICIPATION-ACCOUNTABILITY- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, October 2, 2013  
Old Parliament Building, Athens, Greece

### THEME:

The conference aims to explore the ways that the use of digital communication technologies enhances the democratic process by, among other things, changing the nature of political communication, enhancing citizen participation in public policy decision making and increasing government transparency and accountability.

### ISSUES:

Widening the Public Sphere/ Increasing and enhancing citizen participation / Increasing government transparency and accountability

## Conference Program

09.30 *Participants Arrival- Coffee/Tea*

10.00 *Conference Opening: Symeon Tsomokos, Organizing Committee, Digital Democracy Conference*

10.05 *Opening Speeches*

*Evangelos Venizelos, Vice President of the Hellenic Government & Minister of Foreign Affairs*

*Evangelos Meimarakis, Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament*

10.45 *Keynote Speeches*

*Dimitris Kourkoulas, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic*

*William Echikson, Head of Free Expression, EMEA, Google*

*Roberto Viola, Deputy Director-General, European Commission Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology (pre-recorded message)*

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11.15 **First Session:**

**THE IMPACT OF NEW INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES ON POLICY MAKING**

*As the web has proven its effectiveness for improving relationship with the public, new media tactics have expanded beyond email and search messaging to include video, social, and data-driven targeting. How these tools improve the relationship with the public and where to next?*

**Antonis Kailis**, *Public Relations Officer of the European Parliament Information Office in Greece*

**Alexandros Bistis**, *Political Scientist, Member of the Central Committee SYRIZA*

**Pantelis Tzortzakis**, *MOB Quest Holdings and former Deputy Minister for Administrative Reform and E-Government*

**Thomas Gerakis**, *Managing Director, MARC*

**Constantine Kamaras**, *President of the Board, IAB Europe*

**Moderator: Paschos Mandravelis**, *Columnist, Kathimerini*

12.30 *Break - Light Lunch*

13.00 **Second Session:**

**DIGITAL NETWORKS, GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND THE CIVIC MOVEMENT**

*The advent of the internet has given rise to hopes that previously marginalized actors and arguments can be made more visible to a broader public. How possible is for predictions that equate the spread of new media with political liberalization to be realized?*

**Keynote Speech**

**Miguel Gonzales Sancho**, *Deputy Head of Unit "Growth and Jobs", Directorate General "Communication Networks, Content and Technology", European Commission*

**Eugenia Tsoumani-Spentza**, *former MP New Democracy party*

**Calliope Spanou**, *The Greek Ombudsman*

**Mattheos Tsimitakis**, *Journalist, Blogger*

**Moderator: Leonidas Vatikiotis**, *Catastroika*

14.00 **Keynote Speech**

**Kyriakos Mitsotakis**, *Minister of Administrative Reform and E-Government*

14.15 **Third Session:**

**DELIVERING GROWTH THROUGH TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY: THE INTERNET FACTOR**

*The principle of accountability and transparency are central to the very idea of democratic governance. The adoption of web based technologies in public administration has created a new government-citizen interface. The question is, up to what extent new technologies can lead to a more transparent, interactive, open and hence, accountable government.*

**Harry Theoharis**, *Secretary General, Public Revenue, Hellenic Ministry of Finance*

**Stefanos Komninos**, *Secretary General, Hellenic Ministry of Development*

**Anastasios Tzikas**, *President, Federation of ICT Enterprises*

**George Pagoulatos**, *Professor, Athens University of Economics & Business*

**Lena Tsipouri**, *Professor of Economics, University of Athens*

**Litsa Panayotopoulos**, *Partner, Boston Hamilton*

**Moderator: Stamatis Zacharos**, *Managing Editor, Capital.gr/Kefalaio Newspaper*

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15.30 *Keynote Speech*  
**Pantelis Kapsis**, Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister, Responsible for the Public Broadcasting Corporation

15.45 **OPEN DISCUSSION ENTITLED:**  
**NEW MEDIA: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES FOR POLITICAL COMMUNICATION**

**Makis Voridis**, Parliamentary Spokesperson for N.D.

**Nikos Voutsis**, General Secretary of SYRIZA's Parliamentary Group

**Odysseas Konstantinopoulos**, Press Office Representative, PASOK

**Nicolas Demertzis**, General Director of EKKE (National Center for Social Research), Professor, University of Athens

**Nikos Gouraros**, President, Online Publishers Association of Europe & Director, Strategy, Operations and Business Development for Digital Media at Lamprakis Group

**Moderator: Dimitris Michalelis**, Editor in Chief, Real News & Director, Real.gr

17.00 *End of Conference*

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