



European association of former members of parliament of the member states of the Council of Europe



Former Members of Congress of the United States of America



Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians

Appeal for Democracy and Dialogue

We, the FMC, Former Members of Congress of the United States of America, the European Association of Former Members of Parliament of the Member States of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament and the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians are deeply concerned about recent attacks on democracy in America and dangerous tendencies in Europe.

Conspiracy theories, unprecedented baiting against the results of democratic elections, spread of fake news despite clear evidence, the misuse of fears of an invisible pandemic and the culmination through a brutal and violent mob put the fragile democracy at risk.

Our common democratic values are under threat. Democracy is an ideal as well as a goal, based on fundamental values shared by many open-minded peoples on the planet, regardless of cultural, political, social or economic differences.

It is the prerequisite for rule of law, the respect of human rights and the protection of the weak ones in our societies. It is the guarantor of inviolability of human dignity, freedom, gender equality, tolerance, freedom of religious belief, respect for minorities, cultural diversity, and peace.

We, former lawmakers from the USA and Europe are therefore forging an “Appeal for Democracy and Dialogue”.

Democracy is our highest value. Democracy is not the rule of the majority over the minority; true democracy is based on dialogue.

We commit ourselves to defend democracy whenever and wherever it is at risk and to closely cooperate for this aim. We invite all associations of former parliamentarians to join the Appeal for Democracy and Dialogue.

The patrons of the Appeal will carefully watch the global development of democracy. Our task is to raise our warning voice if we will see dialogue diminishing and democracy at stake.

Paris, 29-01-2021

Rune Rydén
PRESIDENT FP-AP

Washington, 05-02-2021

Dr. Charles Boustany
PRESIDENT FMC

Ottawa, 05-02-2021

Dorothy Dobbie
PRESIDENT CAFPA/ACEP