

The new European Foundation for Democracy through Partnership (EFDP) in a nutshell

Context

The euphoria of democracy spreading around the world is over. Advancing and consolidating democracy has proven far more difficult than assumed. Still, eight out of ten persons polled around the world indicate they want to live in a democracy.

Democracies are more likely to provide for equitable economic growth. They are less likely to engage in violent conflict with each other. Sustained security and development depend on democratic political systems. Democracy is Europe's core value on which our prosperity and peace is built. Should this, therefore, not become a more visible and operational pillar of EU foreign policy?

Why establish the EFDP?

Democracy can not be exported but it can be supported. The complex matter of supporting democratic development requires flexibility and sustained partnerships to achieve reforms. Europe has much to offer. Within the EU there are 27 different democratic political systems. Europeans know that democracy has to grow from within. Europe has valuable experience in combining democracy with social justice, with the enforcement of universally recognized human rights, and with peaceful transitions from authoritarian regimes.

The establishment of the European Foundation for Democracy through Partnership (EFDP) is a contribution to Europe's profile in supporting the advancement and consolidation of democracy outside the European Union. The EFDP is an initiative that complements existing democracy assistance programmes and initiatives on the part of the EU, individual EU Member States and civil and political society organizations.

What is the EFDP?

The EFDP has been set up with the mandate *to contribute to, and reinforce the impact of European endeavours in democracy assistance across the world*. The EFDP is an independent European organization from civil and political society. It aims to work in cooperation with but at arm's length distance from the EU Parliament, Council and Commission.

In the first two years of its establishment, EFDP will focus on three specific functions:

- 1) Providing a *knowledge platform* where European democracy assistance organisations can share lessons learned, strengthen evaluation capacity and cooperate on joint projects. Through this platform European experience with democracy support can be made accessible to partners overseas, the governments of EU Member States and official EU institutions.
- 2) Providing for an *advocacy* function to contribute to a strengthened European profile in world-wide democracy assistance.
- 3) Providing a *flexible funding facility* that complements existing financial instruments. This facility will make timely assistance available when 'windows of opportunity' for democratic reform arise or in situations where democracy comes under threat.

Who constitute EFDP?

Some fifteen European civil society organisations focussing on democracy assistance world-wide have been involved in the run-up to the establishment of the EFDP. The EFDP follows an 'open-door-policy' towards relevant European organisations active in democracy assistance.

Contact EFDP

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