



Pre-session

European Democracy Shield - Protecting the safety of political candidates and elected representatives

(by invitation - for elected representatives only)

In cooperation with the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), European Commission

29 September 2026 | 11:00 – 12:30

Building on the discussions held during the 2025 EU Parliamentary Democracy Forum session on "Overcoming Political Polarisation", this pre-session will bring together Members of the European Parliament, members of national parliaments, regional and local elected representatives, to exchange views with the European Commission on measures to address violence against politicians. The discussion will contribute to the preparation of the Commission's forthcoming Recommendation on Safety in Politics and dedicated Guide of Best Practices, expected by the end of 2026.

Programme

11:00 – 11:05 | Opening remarks and introduction

- ❖ **Esteban González Pons**, Vice-President responsible for Relations with National Parliaments, European Parliament

11:05 – 11:25 | Keynote address

- ❖ **Verona Murphy**, TD, Ceann Comhairle, Houses of the Oireachtas (Speaker of the Lower House of the Irish Parliament) (TBC)
- ❖ **Aleksandra Dulkiewicz**, Mayor of the city of Gdańsk, Poland, member of the European Committee of the Regions

11:25 – 11:40 | Presentation by the European Commission

- ❖ **Marie-Helene Boulanger**, Acting Director, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), European Commission

11:40 – 12:25 | Exchange of views with parliamentarians



Interactive discussion on challenges, experiences, and possible avenues for enhanced interparliamentary cooperation to prevent and respond to violence against politicians

12:25 – 12:30 | [Concluding remarks and next steps](#)