

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have the honour to invite you to the Vienna edition of the international conference series “**Democracies Under Threat**” on **14 November 2025 at Presseclub Concordia** Bankgasse 8, 1010 Vienna, organized by the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to Central Europe, the International Institute for Peace in Vienna (IIP), in partnership with the City of Vienna’s Office for Human Rights.

### **Background and Rationale**

In recent years, overlapping health, climate, digital, information, and geopolitical crises have placed unprecedented pressure on democratic systems. To address these challenges, the Government of Catalonia has launched an international cycle of democracy conferences, emphasizing the importance of multilateral and local institutions as key actors in safeguarding and renewing democratic resilience.

The conference cycle began in Barcelona in September in collaboration with the think tank CIDOB, continued in Berlin, and concludes in Vienna. Outcomes will be documented to support ongoing academic and policy work.

### **Vienna conference**

The Vienna conference will focus on a **multilateral approach to security**, exploring a broad concept of peace and security in Europe that transcends military paradigms, while also highlighting the crucial roles of cities and regions in strengthening democracy.

### **Programme (provisional):**

The conference will offer two thematic blocks with practitioners and researchers:

- **09:30** Start registration
- **10:00 – 12:00h** *Rethinking Security in Europe: Beyond Military Responses to Geopolitical Tensions*
- **13:00 – 15:00h** *Building Democratic Resilience: Local Solutions to Global Challenges*

### **List of speakers and cooperation partners (as of today) from the following organizations:**

- International Institute for Peace (IIP), confirmed
- Human Rights Office, City of Vienna, confirmed
- Institute for Politics, University of Vienna, confirmed
- European Forum Alpbach (EFA), confirmed
- Political Capital Institute, Budapest, confirmed
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), confirmed
- European Commission Representation in Austria, confirmed
- Austrian Institute for International Affairs (OIIP), confirmed
- International Catalan Institute for Peace, confirmed
- Institute of Innovation in Politics, confirmed
- Democracy Centre Vienna, confirmed
- MEP and president of the Assembly of European Regions, confirmed (video message)
- Government of Catalonia, Secretary General for EU and Foreign Action, confirmed
- Representatives of Austrian regional governments (invited)
- Embassy of Spain (invited)

**Due to limited capacity, please register by 25 October 2025: [at@gencat.cat](mailto:at@gencat.cat)**

Participants may register for Block 1, Block 2, or both. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

I am looking forward to welcoming you personally and to an inspiring debate.

With warm regards,

**Krystyna Schreiber MA**

*Please note: Photos will be taken during the event and may be used for public communication purposes.*