

TO FUTURE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS

Welcome to the Democratic Odyssey!

We are a radically **transparent and inclusive** network - open to all - which has come together to **constitute this assembly**. We believe in the creative power of democracy to address the challenges facing Europe and the world, and that citizens themselves should be at the heart of this story! And so we invite you to debate a big question:

“Reflecting on your experience of recent crises, what needs to change for the EU to overcome future storms?”

You will first need to chart a course, a direction of travel. We suggest that together, **you imagine these changes to take place from where you live**, and from there ask what the EU can do to help bring them about, for instance:

... to overcome conflict with our European neighbours,

... to mitigate climate change and prevent biodiversity breakdown,

... to find agreement on asylum, including on climate refugees, despite disunited views,

... to make a common good of food, housing, education and healthcare,

... to take care of those left behind,

... to come up with the money needed for these endeavours!

And last but not least...

...to bring about a future with you in it, through a European Peoples' Assembly.

Yes, this is an ambitious agenda! But politics is, or should be, about negotiating **big picture transformations**. The future people's assembly that we call for will not only recommend specific policies and monitor EU institutions to keep them accountable. It will also meet on a regular basis to reflect on what crisis may come next, which **hard choices** and **difficult trade-offs** will be needed to to overcome them, where will sacrifices be needed, and what the EU can do to stay on course.

The impact of your gathering will be to trigger a new political dynamic of citizen empowerment in the EU. So this democratic experiment will serve to kick off this process as you set an agenda for the next EU and consider a second key question on democracy in Europe:

“How we, the people, can help better steer the European ship through upcoming storms?”

Note: the Democratic Odyssey's topic selection process is crowdsourced, from below, from the project's community. The above themes are just a starting point.

As this journey continues, our vision is that randomly selected citizen participants will refine the broad topics down to more specific focus areas. These will then be taken up, in multiple sessions, as the Assembly evolves into a permanent institution.