

Public Discussion: “The Missing Link in EU Accession: Civil Society Driving Rule of Law and EU Integration”

Thursday, 13 November 2025, 10:00-11:30 CET
European Commission – Representation Germany
Europäisches Haus, Unter den Linden 78, 10117 Berlin

Background: The Enlargement Package 2025 adopted on 4 November 2025 by the European Commission contains annual country reports that assess progress of accession candidates on their way into the EU. Independent evidence from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) will be crucial to interpret the findings and sustain reform momentum in accession candidates. At the same time, shrinking civic space threatens their watchdog and bridge-building role.

This Europe Talk situates CSO insights alongside the Commission’s assessment, bridging Brussels’ benchmarks with realities on the ground in both candidate countries and member states. The panel discussion will address the relevance of Germany for re-invigorating EU accession, particularly concerning the Berlin Process, as well as driving forward reform discussions of the EU itself.

The Europe Talk is part of the RESILIO-ACCESS Civil Society Forum 2025 fostering dialogue between CSO representatives from accession countries and EU member states and stakeholders in Berlin.

Agenda

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| 09:30 | Registration |
| 10:00 | Words of Welcome
Barbara Gessler , Head of Representation, European Commission, Berlin
Prof. Dr. Funda Tekin , Director, Institut für Europäische Politik, Berlin |
| 10:10 | Europe Talk: “The Missing Link in EU Accession: Civil Society Driving Rule of Law and EU Integration”
Barbara Gessler , Head of Representation, European Commission, Berlin
Dr Anton Hofreiter , Member of the German Bundestag, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs, Berlin
Markus Knauf , Head of Department E25 Fundamental Issues of EU Foreign Relations, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin
Andi Dobrushki , Director, Open Society Foundations Western Balkans, Tirana
Karyna Hasymova , Advocacy Manager, DEJURE Foundation, Kyiv
Moderator: Prof. Dr Funda Tekin , Director, Institut für Europäische Politik, Berlin |
| 11:30 | End of Event |

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Event supported by



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