

The President and Vices

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Vienna, 6 March 2024

Dear Minister Laanet

On behalf of the European Law Institute (ELI), an entirely independent non-profit organisation established to provide practical guidance in relation to European legal development, we write to draw your attention to the recently published **ELI Charter of Fundamental Constitutional Principles of a European Democracy** (unedited draft available [here](#), copyedited and formatted version will be available on ELI website soon).

The ELI Charter identifies and articulates the constitutional principles which form the foundations of a European liberal democratic state. ELI hopes that its Charter, which aims at providing general guidance to public authorities, jurists, individuals, and civil society on fundamentals expected of any such genuine democracy properly so-called, will be drawn upon by legislatures and courts in Europe and beyond, and that it may inspire future constitutional developments. The Charter is both timely and of utmost importance, in times marked by unrest and democratic backsliding.

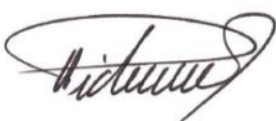
The underlying premise of the ELI Charter is that a European liberal democratic state is based on majority rule but is constrained by the obligation to respect the rule of law, including fundamental human rights. Although focused on the fundamental constitutional principles of European states, there is of course no assertion that Europe has the monopoly of liberal democracy. This Charter therefore also refers to international initiatives and constitutional norms found beyond Europe and seeks to have global resonance.

Among the innovative aspects of the ELI Charter is that it also seeks to capture contemporary challenges posed by political extremism or illiberal populism and novel threats such as media manipulation and fake news. Furthermore, it aims at providing a value framework within which modern pan-European concerns, such as sustainability, artificial intelligence and automation, and the role of internet platforms can be assessed. Those issues have not been previously captured in a comprehensive way in a report of this nature.

We are also pleased to invite you and your Team on this occasion to a series of **webinars** on each of the Charter's chapter, which will start with the inaugural webinar on *Liberal Democracy* on **11 March 2024 from 12:30 to 14:00 CET**. More information about it and a link to **register** is available [here](#).

Should you wish to schedule a one to one meeting with us and Project Co-Chairs, Prof Sir Jeffrey Jowell KCMG KC and Prof Sir Francis Jacobs KCMG KC, and Co- Reporters, Prof Dr Takis Tridimas and Prof Dr Elise Muir, or should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the [ELI Secretariat](#).

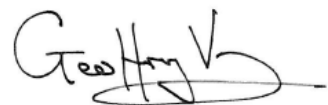
Yours sincerely



Prof Dr Pascal Pichonnaz
ELI President



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First ELI Vice-President



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