



CODE '11 | Budapest Conference on Democracy and Human Rights

Organized by the International Centre for Democratic Transition and the Tom Lantos Institute

Budapest, June 28, 2011

The Budapest Conference on Democracy and Human Rights is intended to become the first of a series of high level discussions on the most significant topics of democracy as well as the importance of human rights in the 21st century. The International Centre for Democratic Transition (ICDT) has been working in the field of democracy promotion for six years. During these years, the ICDT implemented successful projects worldwide. Now, it is time for the organization – along with the newly established Tom Lantos Institute – to shift its activities to a whole new level.

In this spirit, the two organizations organize a high level conference in Budapest with the aim of bringing together some of the most pre-eminent international figures. The conference is designed to provide floor not only for politicians, decision-makers but experts, scholars, professors as well as representatives of international organizations. The conference will also be expansive in terms of coping with various relevant topics that emerge today as regards democracy and human rights.

The conference wants to provide decision-makers and policy-former personalities with valuable input and useful perspectives. The forum has the following main objectives:

1. To facilitate and assist national governments and civil society in their efforts to design and implement effective measures for preparing emerging challenges as regards democratic processes;
2. To contribute to a better prosperity of the countries that choose the path of democratic transition by helping them recognize and tackle the challenges;
3. To explore long-term tendencies in the field of democratic transition and the enhancement of human rights.

The conference is designed around three major topics. First, the pressing issue of the European Roma will be covered. The conference exerts to provide as many sides as possible with the opportunity to present their opinions so that the living conditions of European Roma be analyzed accurately.

Secondly, the scope of the Eastern Partnership countries is to be discussed. Even though the EaP countries have been in the focus of the transatlantic community for years, their future pathway is still unclear. There are tendencies that point at a democratic shift of these countries; however, the opposite opinion can often be heard, as well. The panel tries to answer to some of these questions.

The events in North Africa and the Middle East in the spring of 2011 stirred up a lot of turbulence and controversy. So the issue of countries like Tunisia and Egypt cannot be avoided when it comes to democracy promotion. The third part of the conference is intended to let internationally acknowledged figures express their opinion and share their point of view with each other and the audience.

