

**Speech by Prof Vytautas Landsbergis, Member of the European Parliament,  
Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania**

**Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees on Foreign Affairs of Parliaments  
of the European Union and the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy  
Vilnius, 27-28 November 2013**

**Democracy in the World**

What we can consider currently taking place in the world is rivalry of civilizations.

Not a “war”, God forbid, among them, but a normal, even if global, rivalry on values and goals which could prevail in the world of tomorrow. Among those values, there is consent and democracy even if the latter concept remains misty in some respects.

Democracy has developed as principles and rules adopted more or less jointly by societies or communities wishing to gain moral grounds for their biological survival and growth, refusing egotist self-destruction.

As we see, the “transitional period” was extremely long and will never finish.

In a very natural way, after maybe a hundred thousand years, now there exists democracy and not only democracy models of cohabitation and governance. We see and have to deal with **non-democracies** as well, even developing into **post- or anti-democracies**. In their turn, a variety of non-democracies appears to be able to develop for the better – into a pre-democracy, emerging democracy, etc.

Occasionally, I have already attempted, at the Forum for Democracy, to define the situation or scheme of the contemporary world, inventively completed by false concepts and options such as “peoples democracy”, “managed democracy”, or “sovereign democracy” (of any common rules and norms), usually covering clear dictatorships.

That is a system of brainwashing by extensive use of “Orwellian language” with directly opposing or contrary meanings to normal, usual words. “Democracy” may suffer here as well.

Remember “The Captive Mind” by Czeslaw Milosz, the Polish Nobel Prize winner from Lithuania. That is a true story, in short, the modern history of the European mind, not only that of the then captive nations. The virus of Communism has no mental borders.

The post-Christian civilization of the Western hemisphere is degrading. As we do believe in democracy as a universal value (and human right to enjoy it), we should try to share that legacy with the other, in some sense different, civilization of Islam.

Putting aside fanaticism or terrorist insanity of certain anti-democratic organisations, as they happen to be not only Islamist, we should cooperate with the creative Islamic world about understanding of democracy – to overcome any improper and detrimental rivalry there. Let the rivalry stay only in the framework of democracy–non-democracy.

To be understood better I will now try the way of commenting our vocabularies, whether they reflect common and universal grounds or not. Let us consider the “State of law” concept, taking for clarity the strictly opposing formula the “State of lawlessness”, or the same “of Law” becoming just a misguiding coverage in the case of the “State of **dictatorial law**” (look at Eastern Europe at large).

Therefore, only the **State of democratic law** brings a true sense. But let us see further.

When the word “democracy” serves as a definition of “state” (naturally, a **democratic state**), we may use the label “democracy” and “democracies” for all the states based on a **democratically developed legal system** (and adopted accordingly: in democracy, by democracy), so the Constitutional system can be simply called “Law”.

No surprise, authoritarian oppressive regimes or those of openly dictatorial arbitralism also call themselves a “state of law”, just because the decrees of the rulers are drafted in the form of and called “laws”.

Not wishing to lie to ourselves, we should use and promote a clearly right concept in the right wording as already quoted: a state of democratic law. Go and use it, despite doubtful formulas. Hopefully, such are our states.

What is left out, what remains beyond this line? – The rest.

Making a true distinction and using proper vocabulary, we will call the regimes, where **a state** is without a genuine law, the **states of non-democratic law**, the “law” of tyrants exercised by their regimes.

Stop then calling for justice anywhere or everywhere; call for **democracy** and, subsequently, democratic law, democratic judiciary. Then justice will come to you like the Messiah from the desert.

Until this option exists, you should not be astonished by Magnitsky story, Khodorkovsky story, etc. Such cases are normal things in an abnormal state of lawlessness quite often reaching its top – *bespriediel* (out of limits). It goes on, if there is no democratic law, only “laws” (in inverted commas) serving to cover up the oppressive punishing procedures.

Of course, the latter should not be called “trials” in “court” if there are only offices of employed lawyers acting not according democratic law, but only implementing the will of that or another ruler. The lack of democratic law and habits, replaced by texts for non-democratic, not free judiciary, may produce only new or old, sophisticated or brutal, forms of tyranny.

The Parliamentary Forum for Democracy is called on and entitled to resist all the offspring of that evil.

Please, just think about the situation with human rights in our Eastern Neighbourhood, not in Stone Age or the medieval époque. It has just been presented, the conditions for political prisoners in Belarus. Not a beam of sun all day long in your cold cell and two meetings per year (!) with your family members, your beloved ones. Two meetings per year.

Where do we live with allegedly binding conventions against torture and all other gimmicks? Take the invention of “selective justice” applied rather selectively to one special state of the Eastern Neighbourhood and one case within it. Those repeating the blame do have long experience in the very same, when selective justice was and still is applied to the victims of two greatest European tyrannies of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The victims (and crimes) of one of them are consistently marginalised without any punishment under the European law.

About what civilization and about what “common spaces” of justice, human rights or “state of law” – if not the common space of democratic law - should we talk about with the dictatorship of anti- democratic law? That is the situation when you, while cooperating with an international organisation, are obliged to register by “law” as a foreign agent.

Democracy means due respect even for a single human being and for a sound reason in general.

Democracy is not a doctrine to be taught and learned, but a sensibly educated human approach to everything and everybody around, including one's own brothers and sisters of the same existential destiny.

Democracy needs a sense of responsibility, search for truth and willingness to ask your heart for proper answers. Then you can build more right, more proper ways for common being.

Robert Schuman, one of the founding fathers of the European Community – the future European Union, stated that democracy would survive and develop only standing on and not losing its Christian grounds.

Those members of areopagos in the pre-Christian nursery school of our European democracy, called Hellada, even representing the demos then and making decisions collectively by personal vote, sentenced Socrates to die because he continued teaching youngsters to think freely and newly. That was not the case to be followed in any “quasi-democracy” then or today.

And something plus, just for the end.

Among new quasi-democratic methods of ruling and formalised governance, even in the democratic part of the world, some procedures deserve to be called “manipulated democracy”. Most often they can be found in parliamentary work. The Parliamentary Forum for Democracy would have an item of historical importance here. The same way – a task.

I am here not for bringing such special Brussels' knowledge for the so-called emerging democracies, but I simply want to warn every politician from falling into this pleasant trap.

Thank you for your attention.