



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR GREEKS ABROAD
AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY



CLUB OF VENICE



Club of Venice (CoV) Plenary Meeting 21-22 May 2025

PROVISIONAL AGENDA (as of 20.5.2025)
Meeting languages: Greek, French and English¹

Tuesday, 20th May 2025 - 19:45-21:45 (local time)

Welcome reception and Introductory section (venue: Mappemonde Restaurant, Bar & Lounge”, Athens Capital Hotel: 4, Eleftheriou Venizelou, Athens)

PLENARY MEETING

VENUE: Zappeion Megaron, Leof. Vasilissis Olgas, 105 57 Athens, Greece

Wednesday, May 21st 2025 (9:00 - 12:45 (local time))

8:30 – 9:00

Guests’ registration

9:00 – 10:00

Opening Session

Welcome statements - representatives of the hosting Greek authorities and the European Institutions

- Yiannis Loverdos, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Greece
- Maira Myrogianni, Secretary-General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy, Greece
- Vincenzo Le Voci, Secretary-General of the Club of Venice
- Constantinos Tsoutsoplides, Head of the European Parliament’s Liaison Office in Greece
- Niovi Ringou, Head of the European Commission’s Representation in Greece
- Fireside chat with Yiannis Mastrogeorgiou, Special Secretary for Strategic Foresight at the Presidency of the Government of the Hellenic Republic, on AI strategy and the other priority topics on the agenda

¹ Interpretation provided by the European Parliament

10:00 - 10:15

Key address – objectives of the plenary

- Stefano Rolando, President of the Club of Venice

10:15 - 10:30

coffee break

10:30 – 12:45

PLENARY SESSION I – ROUND TABLE

INTRODUCED BY AN ADDRESS by H.E. Dr Wojciech Ponikiewski, Head of Mission of the Republic of Poland to Greece

"Government communication challenges: reinforcing a culture of resilience, recovery and development and building alliances"

- A case study: the Polish national advisory Resilience Council
- Synergies and common parameters in countering disinformation
- Expanding the national forum approach as a model to reinforce anti-FIMI strategies and amplify outreach
- Building alliances among national fora and between governments and EU institutions: a must to guarantee shared objectives, trustworthy preventive comms expertise and readiness in handling crises

Moderator:

- Aedín Donnelly, Ireland, Communications Manager, Department of the Taoiseach

Key Note speaker:

- Ewelina Jelenkowska-Luca', Deputy-Director and Head of Unit, European Commission DG CNECT

Panellists:

- Julia Zawisza, Poland, Strategic Communication and Countering Disinformation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- A representative from Greece (TBC)
- Tiziana Antonelli, Italy, Communications Officer, Department for European Policies, Presidency of the Council of Ministers
- Andrei Tarnea, Romania, Director for Public Diplomacy and Communication, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mykola Balaban, Ukraine, Deputy Head, Center for Strategic Communications and Information Security (TBC)
- Maryia Sadouskaya-Komlach, Global Engagement Strategist, Free Press Unlimited, Amsterdam
- Christian Spahr, Managing Director, [Lie Detectors](#)

12:45

Family picture

12:55 – 14:10

Lunch²

² Lunch offered by the European Commission

14:15 - 17:15

PLENARY SESSION II

"Digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence influence on modern communication – societal cohesion in times of geopolitical challenges"

- State of the art : governmental and institutional capacities at stake
- Outsourcing capacities vs. development of internal know-how and expertise
- Outreaching strategies
 - Selecting sustainable models and fostering Interconnectivity
 - Navigating the evolving communication and media landscape: investing in literacy and empowering citizens

Moderator:

- Simon Piatek, Director, The Imagination Lab, UK

Key-Note speaker:

- Maia Mazurkiewicz, President of PZU Foundation, Co-founder of Alliance4Europe, host of Anatomy of Disinformation, Poland

Panellists:

- Konstantinos Anagnostopoulos, Greece, Director of www.athenslegal.tech
- Anna Hedin Ekström, Sweden, consultant and researcher at [the Institute for Future Studies](http://theinstituteoffuturestudies.se), adviser on national security, strategies against organised crime, violent extremism and strengthening societal resilience
- Jon Roozenbeek, Lecturer in Psychology and Security, King's College London, UK (psychology of intergroup conflict and digital media effects) (from remote)
- Richard Bagnall, global leader in PR and communications measurement and evaluation; co-Founder, [CommsClarity Consulting](http://commsclarity.co.uk), UK (from remote)
- Marco Ricorda, Communication Officer at the [European Centre for Algorithmic Transparency \(ECAT\)](http://ec.europa.eu/digital-transparency/), European Commission (from remote)
- Alberto Montrond, Senior Fellow, [T.H. School of Public Health, Harvard](http://hsph.harvard.edu), USA (from remote)
- Elisa Chami-Castaldi ([M&C Saatchi World Services](http://mcsaatchi.com))

Q&A session

16:00 - 16:15 coffee break

17:15 - 17:30

First day summing-up - issues emerged
(Club Steering Group member + Greek representative)

20:30

Dinner - Venue: Restaurant of the Benaki Museum of Greek Culture,
1 Koumbari St. & Vas. Sofias Ave., 106 74 Athens

PLENARY MEETING – SESSION III
Thursday, May 22nd 2025 (9:30-12:45 (local time))

09:00 – 09:30 **Guests' registration**

09:30 – 09:45 **Address by Catherine Koika, Director-General for Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece**

09:45 - 12:30 **"Public Diplomacy and country branding and reputation:**
• lessons learned from growing uncertainties in the geo-political scenarios
• revamping/rebuilding relationships and seeking new commonalities and shared values among democracies"

Moderators:

- **Kristina Plavšak-Krajnc, Slovenia, Senior Advisor on Strategic Communication, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Minister's Private Office and Vincenzo Le Voci, Secretary-General of the Club of Venice**

Key-Note speaker:

- **Lara Romano, Croatia, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs**

Panellists:

- **Nicholas Cull, Professor of Public Diplomacy at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communications**
- **Kyra Kapi, Greece, Director of Communications to the Prime Minister**
- **John Ó Liodáin, Ireland, Head of Public Diplomacy and Social Media, Department of Foreign Affairs**
- **Polona Prešeren, Slovenia, Communications Officer, Government Communications Office**
- **Silke Toenshoff, Head of Unit, Directorate for Communication, European Committee of the Regions**
- **Konrad Jagodzinski, Place Branding Director, Brand Finance**
- **Andrew Davies and Tunyan Bagrat, Senior Policy Advisors, OECD Headquarters**

10:45 - 11:00 coffee break

12:30 – 12:45 **Closing Session (Club of Venice + hosting Greek authorities)**

- **Reflections on the issues emerged during the plenary meeting**
- **Planning for 2nd semester 2025: key-events:**
 - **Conference on migration narratives and EU enlargement** (in cooperation with the Belgian Government authorities, ICMPD, IOM, SEECOM and KAS) (Brussels, 3rd and 4th July 2025)
 - **Seminar on crisis communication** (focus on countering disinformation and AI impact on governmental communication) (Warsaw, 9-10 October)

- **Autumn 2025 plenary** (Venice, 4-5 December)
- **2026:** publication to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Club of Venice
- **Work in synergy with international partner organizations** (OECD, ICMPD, SEECOM, SEEMO, DEMSOC, CAP'COM, Harvard/Ca' Foscari, Council of Europe, HSS...)

12:45 - 14:00

Lunch

14:30

Cultural event organized by the hosting Greek authorities
-Guided tour of the Acropolis Museum