

Invitation to the Conference of the October 14th, 2019

Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE), 9 place d'Iéna, 75016 PARIS

CITIZENS' CONVENTIONS, TAKING DEMOCRACY SERIOUSLY

Citizens Assembly in Ireland; Emmanuel Macron's announcement of a *Convention Citoyenne* on ecological transition; environmental organizations' demands for a Citizen Assembly on climate and ecological justice; digital democracy promises... There are a number of demands for citizens' voice to be at the heart of policy-making. However, what kind of participatory democracy procedure could best respond to this demand? What are the key conditions for such a procedure to be really democratic and take into account the informed view of citizens?

For more than ten years, *Sciences Citoyennes* and the *Observatory of Participatory Practices within Research and Innovation* have developed a detailed rigorous procedure that fosters informed expression of citizen opinions, based on multiple contradictory expertise. This method is named "Citizens' Conventions".

Giving voice to experts and stakeholders' representatives, the conference *Citizens' Conventions, Taking Democracy Seriously* will aim at introducing and discussing "Citizens' Conventions", as a mean of citizens' participation in public debate, including on climate change mitigation and adaptation policy-making, within the framework of the European project *TeRRIFICA – Territorial Responsible Research and Innovation Fostering Innovative Climate Action*.

Agenda

09:00 – 09:30* Welcome

09:30 – 10:00* Introduction by **Patrick Bernasconi**, President of the CESE
Presentation of TeRRIFICA by the Project Coordinator **Norbert Steinhaus**, Wissenschaftsladen Bonn

10:00 – 10:50* **What are Citizens' Conventions & what are the minimal conditions for this procedure to be legitimate?**

Speakers:

- **Dominique Rousseau**, Professor of Constitutional Law at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, former Member of the Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature (2002-2006);
- **Marie-Angèle Hermitte**, Honorary Director at the CNRS and the EHESS.

10:50 – 11:30* **Sharing experiences of similar approaches in Europe**

Speakers:

- **Pauline Véron**, Deputy of Paris Mayor in charge of local democracy, citizen participation, associations and youth, Vice-President of the General Council, member of the 9th District Council;
- **Dimitri Courant**, PhD Student in political science in the Lausanne University (IEP) and Paris-VIII-Saint-Denis University (CRESPPA).

11:30 – 12:30* **Open-debate on Citizens' Conventions with all the speakers**

Debater: **Jacques Testart**, Doctor in Biology and Sciences Citoyennes Honorary President

*CET Time - French > English & English > French translation will be available.

Contact

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This conference is organized by:



Sciences Citoyennes – Citizen Sciences – is a not for profit organization, created in 2002, aiming at critically questioning the role of science and technology in the construction of a society and to put science into democracy so that it serves the common good.

In the framework of the Horizon 2020 European Project:



Launched in January 2019, TeRRIFICA is a European Horizon 2020 project aiming at fostering co-creation between researchers, CSOs, policy-makers and companies, on mitigating and adapting to climate change, in six pilot regions in Belarus, France, Germany, Poland, Serbia and Spain.