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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: AOB for the meeting of the General Affairs Council on 17 November 2025  
Democracy Package - European Democracy Shield and EU Strategy for  
Civil Society  
- Information by the Commission

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The Commission would like to introduce an AOB item in the agenda of the GAC meeting of 17 November 2025 to present its Democracy Package, which will be adopted on 12 November 2025. The Democracy Package includes two Communications from the Commission: one on the European Democracy Shield and one on the EU Strategy for Civil Society.

As referred to in the Political Guidelines and in the State of the Union address of President von der Leyen, the Commission is fully committed to strengthen democracy in the EU. This comes at a time when democracy faces unprecedented challenges and threats - from FIMI and disinformation campaigns to threats to free and independent media, from covert influencing of free and fair elections and democratic processes to an erosion of trust in democracy, politics and institutions in parts of the population.

The European Democracy Shield will provide a strategic framework to safeguard, strengthen and promote democracy in the EU. The EU Strategy for Civil Society will provide a comprehensive framework for action at EU and Member State level to strengthen meaningful engagement with civil society and providing protection and support to civil society organisations and their activities.

The Commission organised wide consultations in the preparation of these initiatives, seeking with keen interest the views of the Member States, of the European Parliament, of other EU institutions and bodies, as well as a wide range of stakeholders.

The Commission looks forward to working closely with the Member States on the implementation of the Democracy Package and will continue to keep the Council informed on the follow-up as appropriate.

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