



Participants

Session 1

Direct Democracy in Modern Democratic Evolution

Theo Schiller

Dr. Schiller (Germany) has been a professor at the Philipps-Universität's Institute of Political Science in Marburg, Germany since 1974, and is the director of the university's Research Group on Citizens' Participation and Direct Democracy. He was vice-president of the same university between 1997 and 2001. Dr. Schiller is also a member of the Advisory Council of IRI Europe and of the Advisory Council of the institute, Mehr Demokratie (More Democracy).

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Session 2

Initiative and Referendum in the United States

Dane Waters

Mr. Waters (United States) is the founder, president and co-chairman of the Initiative & Referendum Institute (IRI). He also is a co-founder and board member of the IRI Europe. Mr. Waters has lectured internationally on governmental and electoral issues, and provided strategic advice to individuals all around the world as well as to various foreign governments on the initiative and referendum process. Mr. Waters has authored and edited numerous articles and books on the importance of the initiative and referendum process, and provided commentary on initiative and referendum to newspapers, radio talk shows and television stations around the world. Mr. Waters also writes a regular column on the initiative process for Campaigns & Elections Magazine, and currently serves on the board of the Appleseed Foundation's Electoral Reform Project – a joint project between the American University and Harvard Law School.

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Session 3

The European Referendum Challenge: From French Revolution to European Integration, Facts, Views and Prospects

Bruno Kaufmann

Bruno Kaufmann (Sweden) is president and board member of the IRI Europe. He studied political science, Eastern European history, and peace and development research at the Universities of Zürich, Uppsala, Gothenburg, Cambridge and Hawaii. He is co-editor of numerous books and articles on democracy and direct democracy. He is the northern European affairs correspondent of the biggest Swiss daily newspaper Tages-Anzeiger, Zürich, and has served as a member of Die Zeit-Reformwerkstatt, Hamburg. He has also covered northern European affairs for the Swiss broadcasting company DRS since 1991. Mr. Kaufmann also contributes regularly to the Swiss weekly Die Weltwoche, the Austrian magazine Polis Pannonia, and the German bi-monthly Nordis. He worked as an I&R expert for the Constitutional Committee of the German Bundestag and is a founding member of the Permanent Study Group for a European Constitution.

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Session 4

Democracy from Below: Environmental Concerns and Swiss Direct Democracy

Adrian Schmid

Adrian Schmid (Switzerland) is the finance director of I&R Europe, and has served as member of the Council of the Municipality of Lucerne (1983-2000) and deputy chairman of the Green Party of Switzerland. He was responsible for many popular initiatives at local, regional, national and international levels. He is now director of traffic affairs at VCS Switzerland, the National Association for Transport and Environment, a 140,000 members NGO advocating environmentally sound transportation infrastructure and services as well as environmental protection.

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Session 5

The Design of Direct Democracy: Preliminary Basis for Assessing Suboptimal Procedures of Citizen Lawmaking

Andreas Gross

Andreas Gross (Switzerland) was born in Kobe, Japan, and moved at the age of seven to Switzerland, where he was active in the Social Democratic Party as president of the Young Socialists, and in the peace movement (among others, he is founder of the Campaign for Switzerland Without Army). Since 1991, Andreas Gross has been a member of Parliament in the Swiss Federal Parliament for the Canton of Zürich. Since 1995 he has also been a member of the Council of Europe, serving as its vice-president since 2001. He teaches political science at the Universities of Marburg and Speyer, and is currently director of the Scientific Institute for Direct Democracy in St. Ursanne. He is the author of many books on I&R and contributes regularly to newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations all over Europe. Mr. Gross is co-founder of Eurotopia, the European Citizens Movement for Transnational Direct Democracy, and is currently Research Director for the IRI Europe.

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Session 6

Referendums: A Taiwan Perspective

Jaushieh Joseph Wu

Joseph Wu (Taiwan) is deputy secretary-general to President Chen Shui-bian. At the symposium, he addressed the current situation in Taiwan from the government's perspective. He holds a Master of Political Science from the University of Missouri and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Ohio State University. His academic career includes the positions of adjunct research fellow of the Election Study Center at the National Chengchi University and adjunct professor of the Department of Political Science, as well as research fellow and deputy director of the Institute of International Relations, National Chengchi University.