

EU external policies in favour of democratisation (debate)

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Madam President, I do not take democracy for granted because for the first 21 years of my life I lived under dictatorship. So I know the importance of support for those forces who want to fight against oppression and of democratic support for building capacity for the financial and organisational support. That is the reason why already in 2010 I proposed, in the context of the Annual Report on Human Rights of this Parliament, an amendment talking about an endowment for democracy.

So I welcome this report by Véronique De Keyser, which is so comprehensive and so good, and which contains this particular proposal. In my opinion this endowment needs to be something that will be very flexible, very quick, and which will not compete with the funds for the instrument for democracy on human rights. That will be new money. And it will not be duplicating what, for example, the European political foundations are already doing. It requires strong cross-party parliamentary control on the part of this Parliament and obviously it is meant to support all these young people, all these brave women, all those brave men, and all those political parties in the independent media who are trying to be established in our neighbourhood.