



NADACE FORUM 2000  
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The Honorable  
Reinhard Bütikofer  
Germany

Prague, June 02, 2021

**Invitation to address the 25th Forum 2000 Conference  
Prague, October 10–12, 2021**

Dear Mr. Bütikofer,

We are honored to invite you to address the annual Forum 2000 Conference to be held in Prague on October 10–12, 2021. This will be a special 25th edition of this unique gathering, initiated in 1997 by President Václav Havel, which is today the global focal point for a frank and tolerant discussion about the future of democracy.

For democracy, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has become a great challenge – as well as an opportunity. The global democratic decline, which has now been taking place for 15 consecutive years, has accelerated in 2020. Some democratic governments have been caught off guard, limitations of freedoms have been imposed, and authoritarian regimes have used the crisis to expand their influence. On the other hand, coronavirus has not stopped the wave of mass civil protests and has even generated new energy, new forms of crisis-related activism, and new opportunities for civic participation and mobilization.

Globally, although autocratic regimes are still going strong and many democratic countries face serious internal problems, the pessimistic and resigned attitude of the world democratic community is changing. This – underpinned by the incoming US administration and the growing determination in Europe, Asia, Australia and elsewhere to stand up for the values of freedom – offers an opportunity to shape a more cooperative and active global democracy agenda.

These new opportunities should not be wasted and the 25<sup>th</sup> Forum 2000 Conference aims to contribute significantly to the discussion about fostering global democratic solidarity and to propose ways forward. Your views, your experience, and your unique perspective would be crucial in shaping this dialogue.

Should you decide to accept this invitation, please confirm your attendance with Martin Špáta (martin.spata@forum2000.cz) who will also be happy to assist with any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

Jakub Klepal  
Executive Director