



HORASIS GLOBAL MEETING 2020

Developing Decisive Leadership through Times of Disruption

Cascais, Portugal, 28-31 March 2020
(Postponed to spring 2021)

Panel discussion

moderated by Stephen Castle
Correspondent (UK), The New York Times

The Stagnation of the Western Political System

Main points of remarks by

Dr. Hans Köchler,
Professor of Philosophy (Austria),
President of the International Progress Organization,
on aspects of constitutional theory and political philosophy

- o Definitional issue / the democratic paradigm: rule of the people or on behalf of the people?
- o Systemic problems of representation (in view of "democracy" exclusively being defined as a system of *representation*, not of *participation*)
- o *Oligarchy* / lobby rule in the framework of representation, and in particular in the transnational framework
- o Alienation of the electorate from office bearers (representatives) in today's globalized environment (with many decisions being made outside the state's democratic constitutional framework)
- o The *democratic deficit* (in particular: legitimation deficit of the European Union as intergovernmental cum transnational structure?)
- o Test cases for European democracy (e.g. migration crisis / coronavirus crisis)
- o Merits of a *hybrid model* of democracy (with participatory and representative procedures) (e.g. the Constitution of the Swiss Confederation)



- *The Crisis of Representative Democracy*. Frankfurt a. M./Bern/New York: Peter Lang, 1987.
- *Democracy after the End of the East-West-Conflict*. Studies in International Relations, Vol. XXI. Vienna: International Progress Organization, 1995.
- *Globality versus Democracy? The Changing Nature of International Relations in the Era of Globalization*. Studies in International Relations, Vol. XXV. Vienna: International Progress Organization, 2000.