



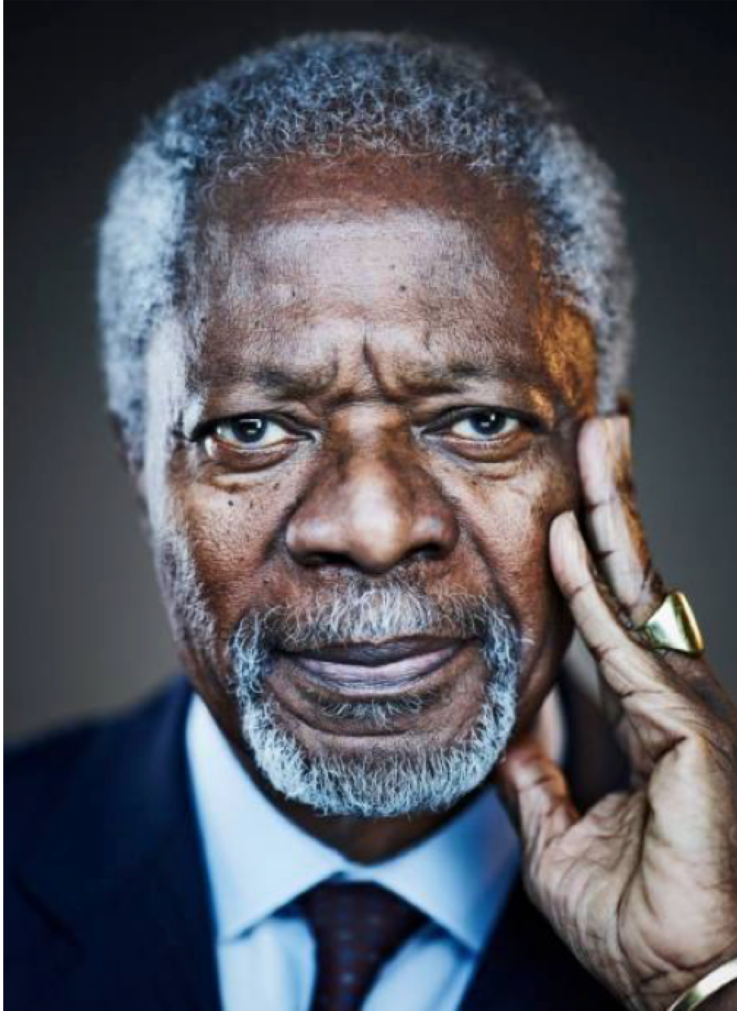


Designing permanent deliberative democracy

The Ostbelgien Modell in Belgium
Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance
University of Canberra, 18 June 2019

Min Reuchamps

The challenge of scaling-up Designing permanent deliberative democracy A ‘story’ from Belgium



“we need to make our democracies more inclusive. This requires bold and innovative reforms to bring in the young, the poor and minorities into the political system. ***An interesting idea put forward by one of your speakers this week, Mr. Van Reybrouck, would be to reintroduce the ancient Greek practice of selecting parliaments by lot instead of election.*** In other words, parliamentarians would no longer be nominated by political parties, but chosen at random for a limited term, in the way many jury systems work. This would prevent the formation of self-serving and self-perpetuating political classes disconnected from their electorates.”

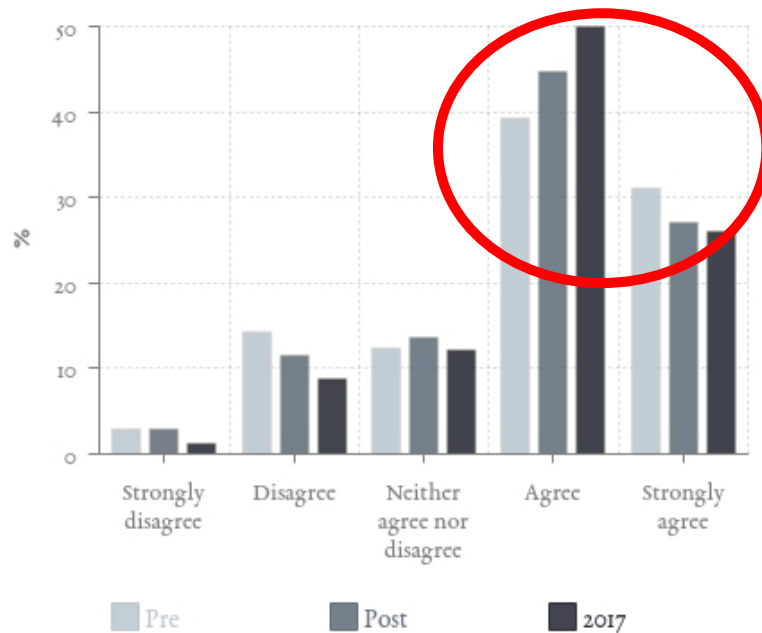
(Kofi Annan, 13 September 2017)





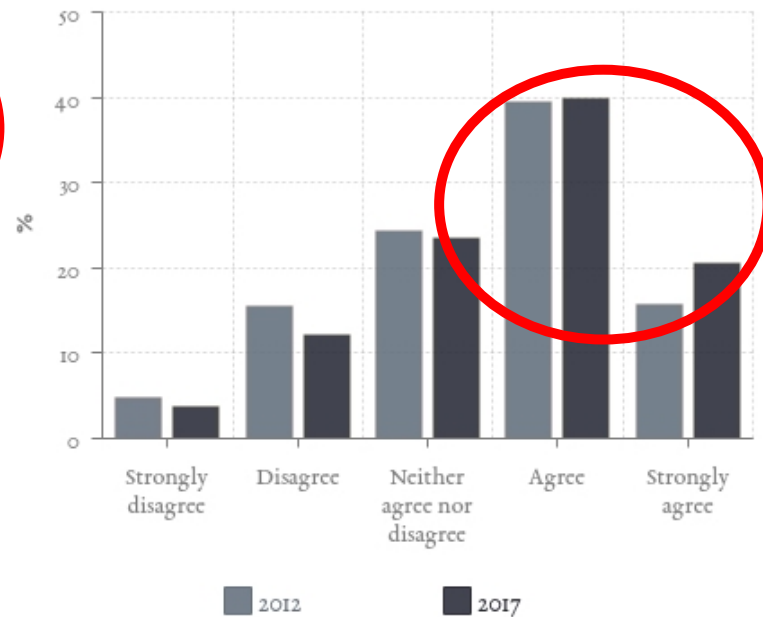
**Citizens have to take part in political decisions
instead of letting politicians to decide by themselves**

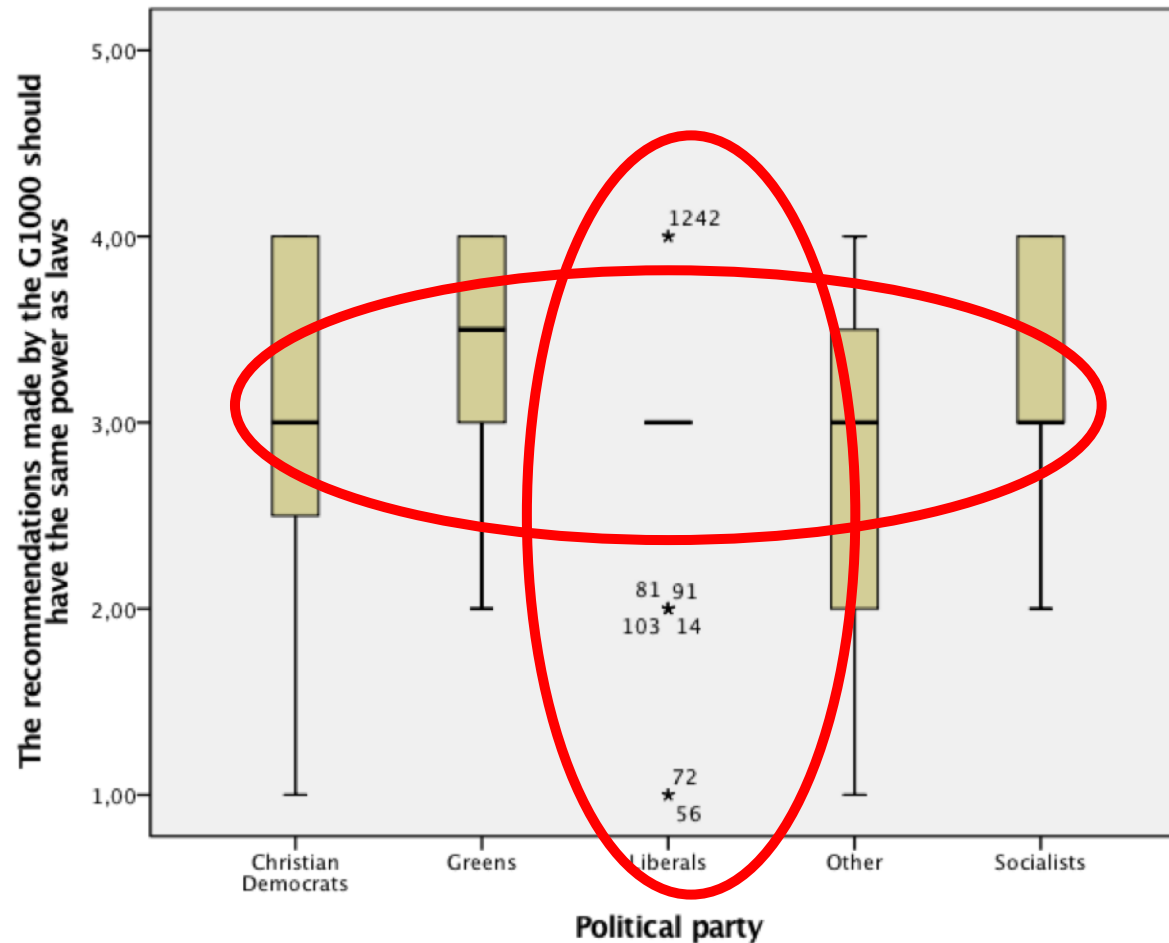
Participants



**Citizens have to take part in political decisions
instead of letting politicians to decide by themselves**

Maxi-public





- Political parties' manifestos
 - increasing place for citizen participation
 - so-called 'citizen lists'
 - sortition becomes a political goal
- Support for the process, less for the content
 - all elected representatives know about the G100
 - almost no one know about the recommendations
- As long as it is advisory (i.e. non-binding)
- Each parliament in Belgium has set a 'citizen panel'
- Going further?



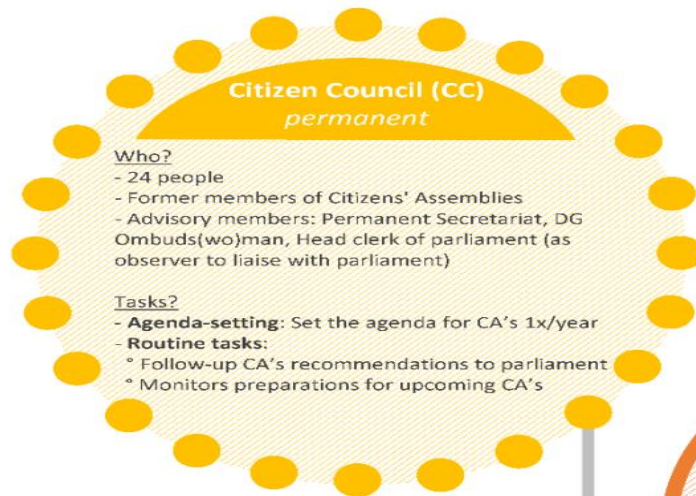


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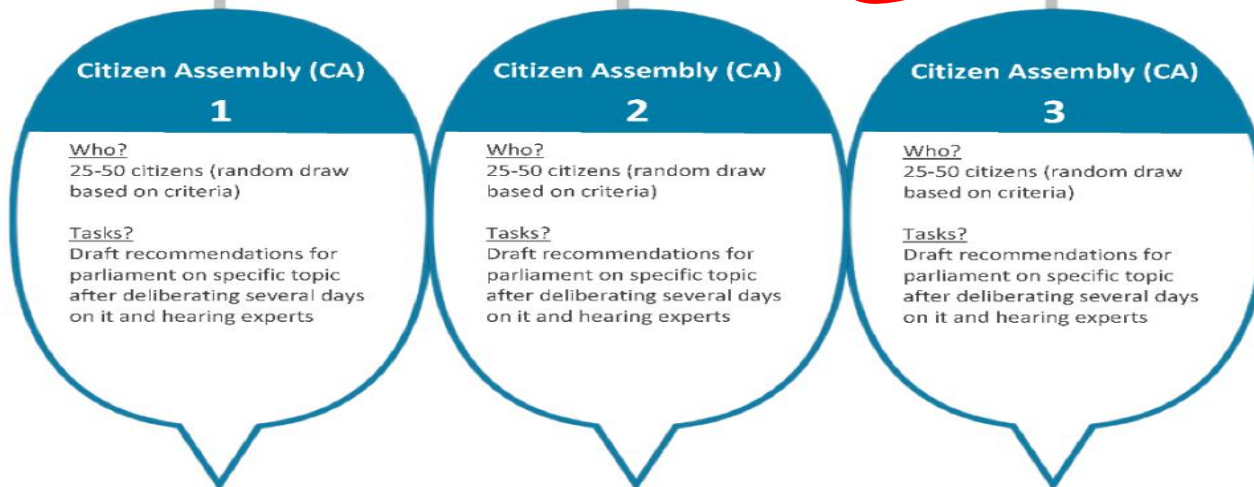
- Phone call from the Minister-President of the Government and the President of the Parliament
 - a Second Chamber ('a Senate')
 - made of randomly selected citizens
 - willing to set an annual budget
 - 'Before it is too late'
 - with the help of the G1000 and international experts
- But...
 - at least one party from the opposition (out of 3)
 - before the elections of 26 May 2019
 - taking into account the local elections of 14 October 2018

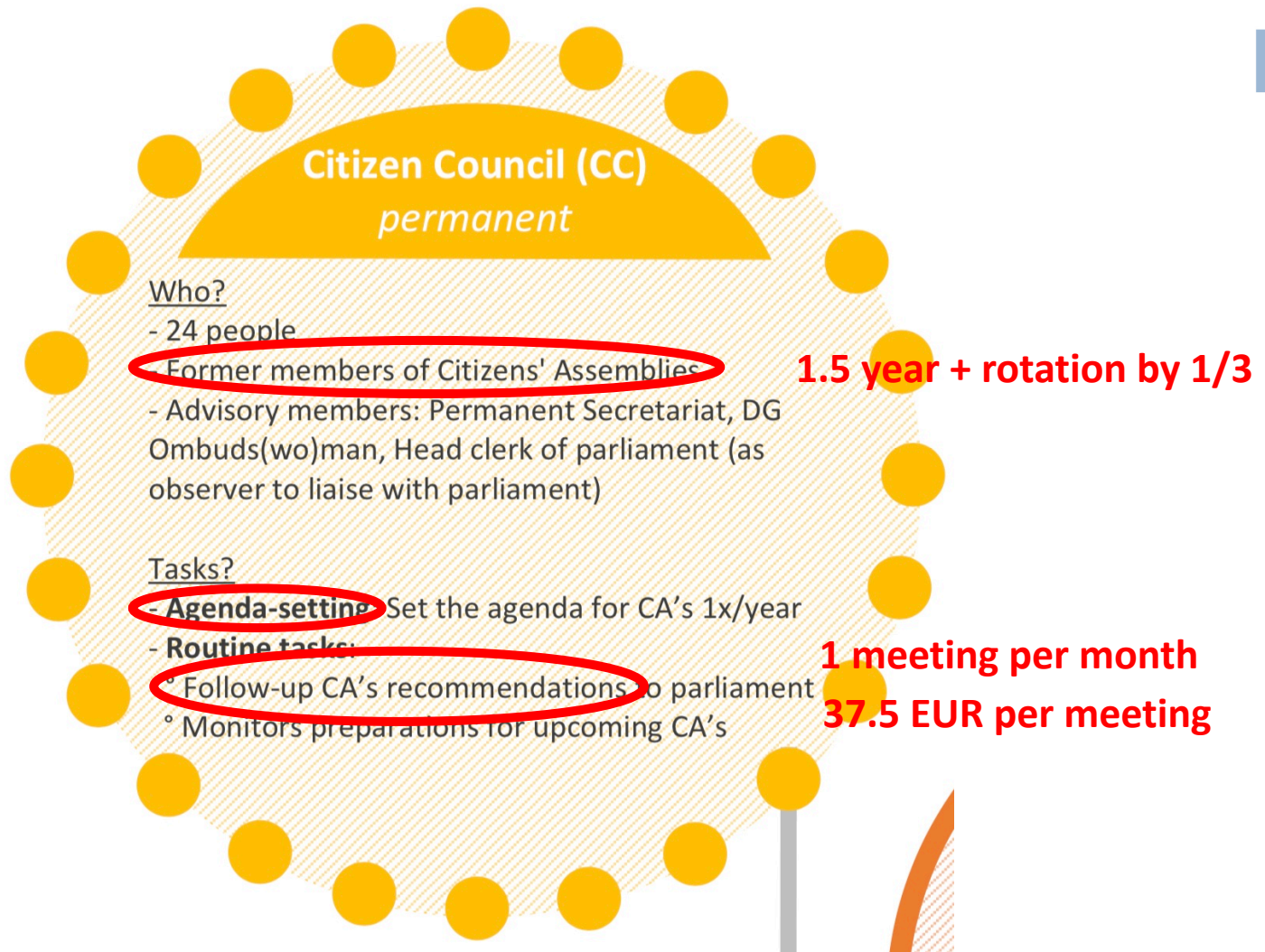


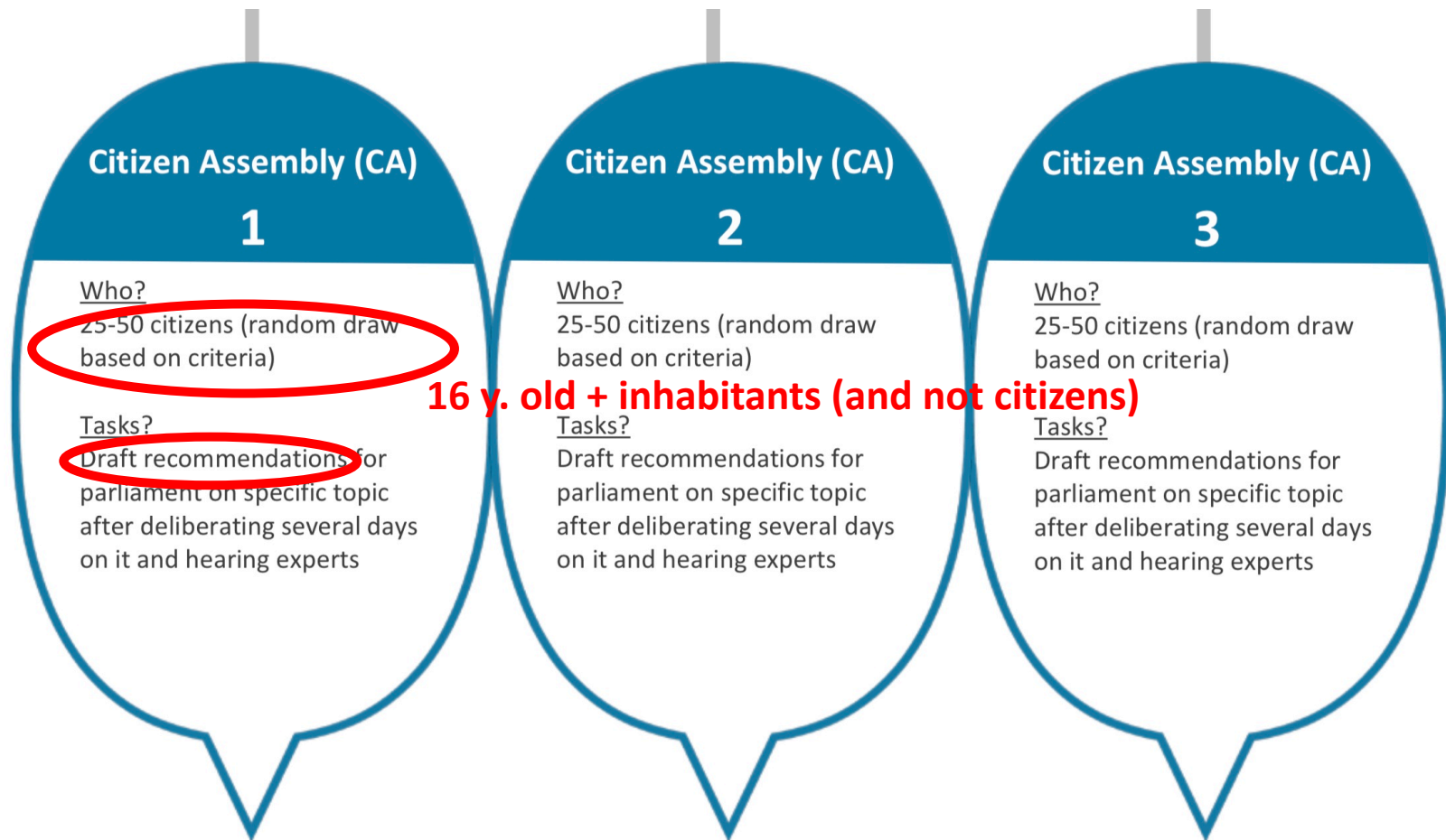
Second chamber

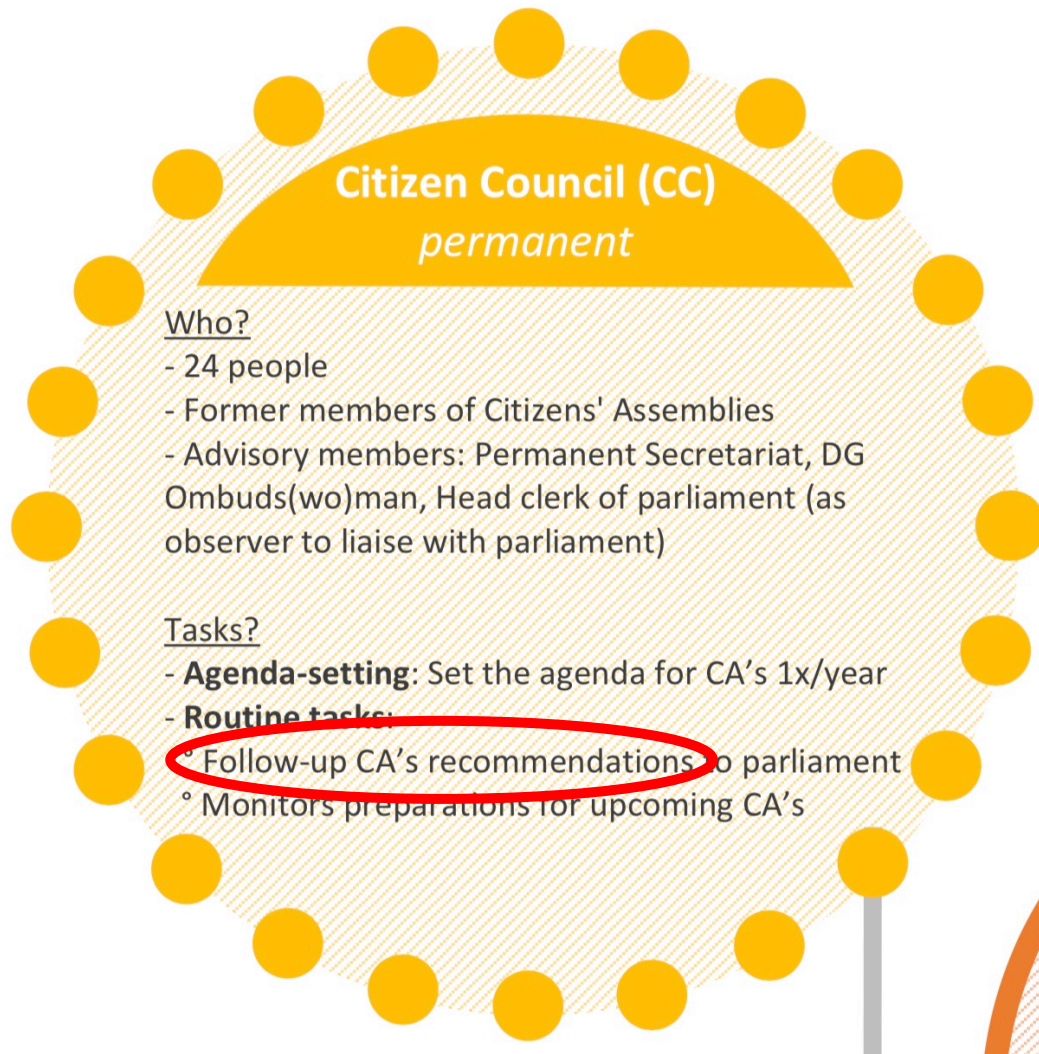


Mini-publics











How to fix democracy

Citizen deliberation is the gateway to a better politics

People bridge differences or develop a respectful understanding of them, says Matthew Taylor of the RSA



ausgewogene geographische Herkunft sowie eine ausgewogene sozio-ökonomische Durchmischung. Aufgrund der Spezifität eines Themas kann er im Hinblick auf die Zusammenstellung eines möglichst repräsentativen Querschnitts der betroffenen Bevölkerung zusätzliche Kriterien festlegen.

Für die Erfüllung der Aufgaben im Zusammenhang mit der Auswahl der Bürger ist der ständige Sekretär ermächtigt, eine Liste von Personen, die im Bevölkerungsregister eingetragen sind, bei den Gemeinden des deutschen

- 25 February 2019: adoption of the decree
- 26 April 2019: recruitment of Permanent Secretariat
- 26 May 2019: general elections
- 16 September 2019: first meeting of the Citizen Council
- 2 years later: evaluation
- In one's lifetime: 67% chances of being randomly selected

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Should ACT foster a permanent citizen dialogue?

Presentation of the Ostbelgien modell and its relevance for ACT Legislative Assembly

Convened by Patrick Dumont and Min Reuchamps

School of Politics and International Relations

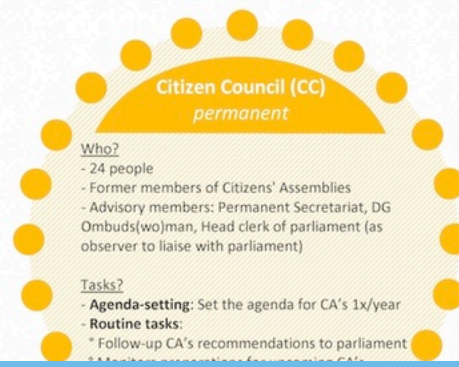
Australian National University

xxx August 2019

Afternoon

Around the world, most contemporary democracies face a gap between citizens and elected representatives, which is the cause and consequence of declining levels of political trust and increasing abstention in electoral participation that puts the whole system under pressure. As a response to such democratic challenge, several so-called 'democratic innovations' have been pushed to the fore and in particular calls for more participation and deliberation. Yet, these innovations often tend to be one-shot and not fully plugged into the existing institutional system, with therefore limited long-term consequences.

In Belgium, the German-speaking Region, known in German as Ostbelgien, has decided to embrace a permanent citizen dialogue and integrate it into its existing institutional design. In February 2019, the Parliament has unanimously enacted a permanent system of deliberative democracy. It will be made of a permanent body of 24 – randomly selected – citizens who will work next to



Thank you