

FREE SPEECH vs REGULATED SPEECH

Strengthening the pillars of democracy

VII
**TRANSATLANTIC
SUMMIT**

2&3
FEBRUARY
BRUSSELS
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
2026



FREE SPEECH vs REGULATED SPEECH

Strengthening the pillars of democracy

**Without free speech,
there can be no democracy.**

Freedom of expression stands as a fundamental pillar of democratic life, enshrined in **Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.

The **murder of Charlie Kirk** has revealed the profound challenges we face today as defenders of human dignity and fundamental freedoms. Increasingly, the peaceful expression of personal convictions is being stigmatized as “hate speech” or “extremism”, while legislative initiatives presented as “regulation” risk enabling censorship and fostering a culture of cancellation that undermines democratic coexistence.

Convinced that it is possible to reverse this trend and to promote a renewed global commitment to freedom — particularly to **freedom of expression** — we will convene the **VII Transatlantic Summit** at the **European Parliament** on **2–3 February 2026**, in partnership with our friends and allies.

This Summit will provide a decisive opportunity to reaffirm our shared commitment to free expression and to develop a **concerted response** that ensures a future where dialogue and open debate can flourish. From Brussels, political and civic leaders, senior government officials, legislators, journalists, and experts will send a clear message: **Defending free speech is strengthening democracy.**

VII TRANSATLANTIC SUMMIT

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

19:00 Welcome reception

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

08:00 Holy Mass [for those who wish to attend]

08:30 Access, accreditation, welcome breakfast
European Parliament

09:30 Opening
Freedom of expression:
safeguarding a universal human right

10:30 Free speech:
upholding a pillar of democratic societies

11:40 Strengthening freedom in the face of disguised censorship

12:45 Standing Lunch
European Parliament

14:15 Universal freedoms as a legacy of Western Civilization

15:30 The media: on the front line of defending free speech

16:30 Coffee Break
European Parliament

17:00 Parliaments as guardians of free speech

18:00 A call to action
Youth leaders

18:20 Closure

