

# From Mistrust to Understanding – and Trust !

*Role, tasks and opportunities of  
Parliamentarians*

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Trust might be together with  
legitimacy the most  
precious political value

*It takes a long time to  
build it,  
but you may quickly  
lose it !*

# In Politics we often speak about “confidence building” – why don't we try to create trust with and between each other ?

- **Confidence** means to be certain either that a hypothesis or prediction is correct or that a chosen course of action is the best or most effective: **A attitude ?**
- **Trust** is a kind of belief in another, you trust him or her or an institution not to lye, play foul or against you: **A quality of a (personal) relation ?**

A political philosophical definition:

“Trust means the risqué expectation of a positive future by an action of another person, who can not be influenced by the one who trusts”

Confidence expects a positive future, which is independent of the one who is confident;

Trust might be based on:

- Normative, based on good will
- Rational, as a result of a risk evaluation
- Affective, it creates the conditions to cooperation by the one who is trusted

# We can distinguish between four different social trust-relations which can all be influenced by the MP's actions

- The social one between citizens, specific – between those who know each-other – and general between those, who don't know each-other;
- The political ones; between citizens and politicians and between citizens and the democratic institutions

*Indicators for the quality of Democracy*

**In order to be free and act politically, you must trust at least those you want to act with**

In totalitarian states rulers create structures where nobody trusts anybody and fears always all !

This is for totalitarian rulers the best way to prevent revolutions

Lenin's famous "*Trust is good, control is better*"  
was based on the old Russian saying  
"Trust, but check afterwards"  
"Dowjerjaj, no prowjerjai"

- Psalm: "It's good to trust God and not have to rely on human beings"
  - "Trust is courage; fidelity is force"  
(Marie von Ebner- Eschenbach)
- "As soon as you trust yourself, you will know to live" (J.-W.v.Goethe)

# Overcoming mistrust takes and needs:

- Time
  - The will to speak and to listen
  - The readiness to make common experiences
    - It's easier to start in smaller groups
  - The mutual will to be honest, truthful and serious

# Overcoming mistrust is not yet real trust

- You will only build real trust, if you experienced it in common experiences;
- Many experiences, that the potential mistrust was unjustified allows you to build trust;
- The more you discuss together, the more you might better understand and start to trust

# Modern societies, institutions and especially Democracy need trust

“Society needs trust because it increasingly finds itself operating at the edge between confidence in what is known from everyday experience, and contingency of new possibilities. Without trust, all contingent possibilities should be always considered, leading to a paralysis of inaction”. (Wikip)

# In order to contribute to build trust within the society MP's have to deliberate:

- Not only among themselves and among fellow MP's of other countries in the PACE,
- but especially and even more between and with citizens,
- and with Ministers and Civil servants in order to realise what the citizen expect as a part of the process of trust building in the institutions