



STATE OF THE UNION 2017

REVISION OF THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE REGULATION

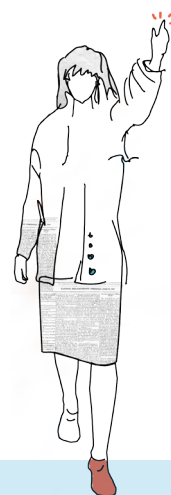


'Since the Lisbon Treaty, European Citizens' Initiatives empower 1 million citizens to ask the European Commission to propose new EU legislation. Our proposal to reform the existing Regulation will make it easier for citizens to set up and support initiatives by lifting burdensome requirements and using digital technologies. It will also give the possibility to younger Europeans to support an Initiative. By lowering the age limit from 18 to 16, we have invited 10 million more young Europeans to step forward and help shape the EU's policy agenda.'

European Commission First Vice President Frans Timmermans

MAIN EUROPEAN CITIZENS INITIATIVE (ECI) STEPS

- 1 Citizens' committee/Group of organisers**
7 citizens living in 7 different Member States form a committee to submit an Initiative
 - 2 Registration**
The Commission checks the legal basis of the request, and decides if it can register or not
 - 3 Collection**
The organisers have 12 months to collect 1 million statements of support
 - 4 Verification**
National authorities check the signatures before the initiative is submitted to the Commission
 - 5 Examination**
The organisers get a meeting with the Commission and a public hearing in the Parliament. The Commission adopts a Communication, stating what action it will take, and why
- Follow-up actions, if any**



MAIN NOVELTIES

Preparation

- Online collaborative platform
- Option for organisers to set up a legal entity

Registration phase

- Partial registration clarified
- Two-stage procedure allowing organisers to revise their proposal

Collection

- Flexible start date
- Central online collection system provided by the Commission, including support with eID
- Minimum age: 16
- Simplified data to be provided by signatories

Examination

- More inclusive public hearing
- More time for the Commission to consult stakeholders and analyse

MAIN INNOVATIONS IN THE PROPOSAL

	Current Regulation	The Proposal
Minimum age for signatories	Age to vote in EP elections (18, except in Austria where it is 16)	16 -> 10 million more potential signatories
Possible forms to collect support	13 possible forms, depending on the Member State	Only 2 possible forms available
Online collection	One online collection system per initiative to be built by its organisers	One central online collection system provided by the Commission (with the possibility for organisers to build their own, if they so wish)
Potential signatories	Some cases where citizens cannot give support	All EU citizens regardless of their place of residence can give their support
Examination phase	3 months	5 months allowing more inclusive public hearing and more time for Commission to consult stakeholders and analyse.

TRACK RECORD OF THE ECI AFTER 5 YEARS

