

**Question for written answer E-006844/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: European Citizens' Initiative

On 31 March 2015 the Commission adopted a report on the first three years of the European Citizens' Initiative, in which it takes the view that the regulation has in all respects been implemented but notes that some technical adjustments are needed in order to make the initiative fully operational.

However, the report also shows that, out of 51 initial requests, only two have got through to the end of the process. Apparently, the initiative is too complex for ordinary Europeans to use. Furthermore, its impact is minimal, since there is nothing to oblige the Commission to produce a legislative proposal when the process has been completed. This is frustrating for Europeans and might even be damaging from the point of view of bringing the EU closer to its citizens.

1. Will the Commission take new steps to increase participatory democracy within the EU or does it think that technical adjustments will be sufficient to resolve the problem?
2. Will it set up a permanent information centre to explain to citizens how the initiative system works?