



2017/0220(COD)

6.3.2018

AMENDMENTS

8 - 251

Draft opinion

Jarosław Wałęsa

European citizens' initiative

Proposal for a regulation

(COM(2017)0482 – C8-0308/2017 – 2017/0220(COD))

Amendment 8
Virginie Rozière

Proposal for a regulation
Citation 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Having regard to the Treaty on the
Functioning of the European Union, and in
particular **Article 24** thereof,

Amendment

Having regard to the Treaty on the
Functioning of the European Union, and in
particular **Articles 24 and 298(1)** thereof,

Or. en

Justification

Reference to an open, efficient and independent European Administration

Amendment 9
Virginie Rozière, Andrea Cozzolino

Proposal for a regulation
Citation 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

***Having regard to the Treaty on the
European Union, and in particular
Articles 1, 2, 9, 10 and 11 thereof,***

Or. en

Justification

References to the principle of democracy and association of citizens to the EU decision-making process including ECI (art. 11 TEU)

Amendment 10
Virginie Rozière, Andrea Cozzolino

Proposal for a regulation
Citation 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

***Having regard to the Charter of
Fundamental Rights of the European***

union and in particular Article 41 thereof,

Or. en

Justification

Reference to the principle of good administration provides that administrative action must be impartial, fair and handled within a reasonable time by the institutions and bodies of the Union and (Art. 41 § 2 under c) the obligation of the administration to give reasons for its decisions.

Amendment 11
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Citation 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

*having regard to the judgment of the
General Court in the case of T-754/14 and
in particular paragraphs 45 and 47
thereof,*

Or. en

Amendment 12
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Citation 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

*Having regard to the judgement of the
General Court of the European Union in
Case T-754/14 Michael Efler and Others
v Commission,*

Or. en

Amendment 13
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) The Treaty on European Union (TEU) reinforces citizenship of the Union and enhances further the democratic functioning of the Union by providing, inter alia, that every citizen of the Union has the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union. The European citizens' initiative is a Union instrument of participatory democracy which affords citizens of the Union the possibility of directly approaching the Commission with a request inviting it to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties, *similar to* the right conferred on the European Parliament under Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and on the Council under Article 241 TFEU.

Amendment

(1) The Treaty on European Union (TEU) reinforces citizenship of the Union and enhances further the democratic functioning of the Union by providing, inter alia, that every citizen of the Union has the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union. The European citizens' initiative is a Union instrument of participatory democracy which affords citizens of the Union the possibility of directly approaching the Commission with a request inviting it to submit a proposal for a ***new legal act or the abrogation or revision of any existing or envisaged*** legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing ***or revising*** the Treaties, ***beyond*** the right conferred on the European Parliament under Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and on the Council under Article 241 TFEU.

Or. en

Justification

Article 296 TFEU gives enough room to interpret that a revision of the Treaties could be connected to a legal act. The Commission can initiate the revision procedure, according to article 48 TEU. At the same time, and taking into account the judgements of the Court of Justice, abrogation and revision should also fall within the scope of admissibility, and also when an initiative relates to envisaged legal acts, as those derived from international commercial treaties.

Amendment 14

Notis Marias

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) In its report on the application of Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 of March 2015²⁴, the Commission listed a number of challenges arising in the implementation of

Amendment

(3) In its report on the application of Regulation (EU) No 211/2011²⁴ of March 2015, the Commission listed a number of challenges arising in the implementation of

that Regulation and made a commitment to analyse further the impact of those issues on the effectiveness of the European citizens' initiative instrument and to improve its functioning.

²⁴ COM(2015)145 final.

that Regulation and made a commitment, ***which is still pending***, to analyse further the impact of those issues on the effectiveness of the European citizens' initiative instrument and to improve its functioning.

²⁴ COM(2015) 145 final.

Or. el

Amendment 15
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3 a) according to the Judgement of the General Court in case T-754/14, the ECI aims at allowing the citizens of the European Union to participate directly in the democratic life of the European Union. Their active participation in the democratic process is further strengthened especially through the mechanism of ECI, that allows them to raise questions and present them to the European Commission, and to request from the latter to submit a proposal for a European Union legal act after having, as the case may be, presented the ECI at a public hearing organised at the Parliament, by stimulating a democratic debate without having to await the adoption of the legal act whose modification or withdrawal is ultimately sought.

Or. en

Amendment 16
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation

PE619.134v01-00

6/129

AM\1147684EN.docx

Recital 3 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3 b) according to the same judgment, ECI proposals constitute an expression of the effective participation of citizens of the European Union in the democratic life thereof and they do not undermine the institutional balance intended by the Treaties, even when they are dealing with ongoing legislative procedures.

Or. en

Amendment 17

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5) This Regulation aims to **make** the European citizens' initiative **more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters**, in order to **achieve the full potential of the European citizens' initiative as a tool to foster debate and citizen participation at Union level, and to bring the Union closer to its citizens.**

(5) This Regulation aims to **exploit the potential of** the European citizens' initiative in order to **strengthen the principle of democracy and the democratic functioning of the Union by giving every citizen a general right to participate in democratic life.**

Or. it

Amendment 18

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5) This Regulation aims to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters, in order

(5) This Regulation aims to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters, in order

to **achieve the full potential of the** European citizens' initiative as a tool to foster debate and **citizen** participation at Union level, and **to** bring the Union closer to its citizens.

to **encourage as many citizens as possible to get involved in organising, participating or supporting a** European citizens' initiative **and to achieve the full potential of this instrument** as a tool to foster debate and **citizens'** participation at Union level, **promote European integration** and bring the Union closer to its citizens.

Or. en

Justification

This Amendment is needed to better reflect the rest of the text

Amendment 19 **Josep-Maria Terricabras**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 5**

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) This Regulation aims to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters, in order to achieve the full potential of the European citizens' initiative as a tool to foster debate and citizen participation at Union level, and **to bring** the Union **closer to** its citizens.

Amendment

(5) This Regulation aims to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters, in order to achieve the full potential of the European citizens' initiative as a tool to foster debate and citizen participation at Union level, **to strengthen its democratic dimension** and **to close the gap between** the Union **and** its citizens.

Or. en

Amendment 20 **Notis Marias**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 5**

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) This Regulation **aims to** make the European citizens' initiative more

Amendment

(5) This Regulation **should** make the European citizens' initiative more

accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters, in order to achieve the full potential of the European citizens' initiative as a tool to foster debate and citizen participation at Union level, and to bring the Union closer to its citizens.

accessible, **more transparent, more effective, more democratic**, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters, in order to achieve the full potential of the European citizens' initiative as a tool to foster debate and citizen participation at Union level, and to bring the Union closer to its citizens.

Or. el

Amendment 21
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) This Regulation **aims to** make the European citizens' initiative **more** accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters, in order to achieve the full potential of the European citizens' initiative as a tool to foster debate and citizen participation at Union level, and to bring the Union closer to its citizens.

Amendment

(5) This Regulation **shall** make the European citizens' initiative accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters, in order to achieve the full potential of the European citizens' initiative as a tool to foster debate and citizen participation at Union level, and to bring the Union closer to its citizens.

Or. en

Amendment 22
Laurențiu Rebega, Mara Bizzotto

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) This Regulation aims to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters, in order to achieve the full potential of the European citizens' initiative as a tool to foster debate and citizen participation **at Union level, and to bring the Union closer**

Amendment

(5) This Regulation aims to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and supporters, in order to achieve the full potential of the European citizens' initiative as a tool to foster debate and **a higher level of** citizen participation **in the decision making**

to its citizens.

process.

Or. en

Amendment 23

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5a) *The European citizens' initiative should be made more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and for supporters.*

Or. it

Amendment 24

Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6) To achieve those objectives, the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate to the nature of this instrument. They should strike a judicious balance between rights and obligations.

(6) To achieve those objectives, the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate to the nature of this instrument. They ***shall allow participation in the process of the European citizens' initiative without any discrimination whatsoever. They*** should strike a judicious balance between rights and obligations, ***giving when in doubt priority to the rights of the citizens as stressed in the Treaties and the Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the Union, striving to avoid formalism.***

Or. en

Amendment 25
Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) To achieve those objectives, the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate to the nature of this instrument. They should strike a judicious balance between rights and obligations.

Amendment

(6) To achieve those objectives, the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly ***including for persons with disabilities*** and proportionate to the nature of this instrument. They should strike a judicious balance between rights and obligations ***and ensure that successful initiatives receive an appropriate follow up from the Commission.***

Or. en

Justification

This Amendment is needed to better reflect the rest of the text and the changes in the articles.

Amendment 26
Notis Marias

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) To achieve those objectives, the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate to the nature of this instrument. They should strike a judicious balance between rights and obligations.

Amendment

(6) To achieve those objectives, the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be ***transparent***, clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate to the nature of this instrument. They should strike a judicious balance between rights and obligations.

Or. el

Amendment 27
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) It is appropriate to set a minimum age for supporting an initiative. To achieve the full potential of the European citizens' initiative as an instrument of participatory democracy and to foster citizen participation at Union level especially among young European citizens, that age should be set at 16 years.

Amendment

(7) It is appropriate to set a minimum age for supporting an initiative. To achieve the full potential of the European citizens' initiative as an instrument of participatory democracy and to foster citizen participation at Union level especially among young European citizens, that age should be set at 16 years. ***The decisive time for determining the ability of one person to support an Initiative is that of expression of the support.***

Or. en

Amendment 28
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) It is appropriate to set a minimum age for supporting an initiative. To achieve the full potential of the European citizens' initiative as an instrument of participatory democracy and to foster citizen participation at Union level especially among young European citizens, that age should be set at 16 years.

Amendment

(7) It is appropriate to set a minimum age for ***organising or*** supporting an initiative. To achieve the full potential of the European citizens' initiative as an instrument of participatory democracy and to foster citizen participation at Union level ***and civic engagement in general,*** especially among young European citizens, that age should be set at 16 years.

Or. en

Amendment 29
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(8) In accordance with Article 11(4) of the TEU an initiative *inviting the European Commission, within the framework of its powers, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens consider that a legal act of the Union is required to implement the Treaties, is to be taken by* not less than one million citizens of the Union who are nationals of a significant number of Member States.

(8) In accordance with Article 11(4) of the TEU an initiative ***requires*** not less than one million citizens of the Union who are nationals of a significant number of Member States ***to be considered successful***;

Or. en

Amendment 30 **Kostadinka Kuneva**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 8**

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) In accordance with Article 11(4) of the TEU an initiative inviting the European Commission, within the framework of its powers, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens consider that a legal act of the Union is required to implement the Treaties, is to be taken by not less than one million citizens of the Union who are nationals of a significant number of Member States.

Amendment

(8) In accordance with Article 11(4) of the TEU an initiative inviting the European Commission, within the framework of its powers, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens consider that a legal act of the Union is required to implement the Treaties, is to be taken by not less than one million citizens of the Union who are nationals ***or permanent residents*** of a significant number of Member States.

Or. en

Amendment 31 **Notis Marias**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 8**

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) In accordance with Article 11(4) of the TEU an initiative inviting the European Commission, within the framework of its

Amendment

8. In accordance with Article 11(4) of the TEU an initiative inviting the European Commission, within the framework of its

powers, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens consider that a legal act of the Union is required to implement the Treaties, is to be taken by not less than one million citizens of the Union who are nationals of *a significant number of* Member States.

powers, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens consider that a legal act of the Union is required to implement the Treaties, is to be taken by not less than one million citizens of the Union who are nationals of *at least four* Member States.

Or. el

Amendment 32
Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 8 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(8a) A European citizens' initiative in which the Commission is invited to submit a proposal to amend the Treaties should be deemed admissible, given that Article 48 of the TEU confers upon the Commission the power to submit to the Council proposals to amend the Treaties.

Or. it

Amendment 33
Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9) In order to ensure that an initiative is representative of a Union interest while ensuring that the instrument remains easy to use the minimum number of Member States from which citizens must come should be set at one quarter of Member States.

(9) In order to ensure that an initiative is representative of a Union interest while ensuring that the instrument remains easy to use the minimum number of Member States from which citizens must come should be set at one quarter of Member States *and the minimum number of signatories coming from each of those Member States should be degressively proportional and correspond to the number of Members of the European*

***Parliament elected in each Member State,
multiplied by 750.***

Or. en

Justification

the text was moved from recital 10 for better reading of the text.

Amendment 34
Notis Marias

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) In order to ensure that an initiative is representative of a Union interest while ensuring that the instrument remains easy to use the minimum number of Member States from which citizens must come should be set at ***one quarter of*** Member States.

Amendment

(9) In order to ensure that an initiative is representative of a Union interest while ensuring that the instrument remains easy to use the minimum number of Member States from which citizens must come should be set at ***at least four*** Member States.

Or. el

Amendment 35
Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) In order to ensure that an initiative is representative and to ensure similar conditions for citizens to support an initiative, it is also appropriate to establish the minimum number of signatories coming from each of those Member States. Those minimum numbers of signatories required in each Member State should be degressively proportional and correspond to the number of Members of the European Parliament elected in each Member State, multiplied

Amendment

deleted

by 750.

Or. en

Justification

the text was moved to recital 9 for better clarity of the text

Amendment 36

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) In order to ensure that an initiative is representative and to ensure similar conditions for citizens to support an initiative, it is also appropriate to establish the minimum number of signatories coming from each of those Member States. Those minimum numbers of signatories required in each Member State should be degressively proportional and correspond to the number of Members of the European Parliament elected in each Member State, multiplied by **750**.

Amendment

(10) In order to ensure that an initiative is representative and to ensure similar conditions for citizens to support an initiative, it is also appropriate to establish the minimum number of signatories coming from each of those Member States. Those minimum numbers of signatories required in each Member State should be degressively proportional and correspond to the number of Members of the European Parliament elected in each Member State, multiplied by ***the total number of Members of the European Parliament at the time of registration of the initiative***.

Or. en

Amendment 37

Notis Marias

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) In order to ensure that an initiative is representative and to ensure similar conditions for citizens to support an initiative, it is also appropriate to establish the minimum number of signatories coming from each of those Member States.

Amendment

10. In order to ensure that an initiative is representative and to ensure similar conditions for citizens to support an initiative, it is also appropriate to establish the minimum number of signatories coming from each of those Member States.

Those minimum numbers of signatories required in each Member State should be degressively proportional and correspond to the number of Members of the European Parliament elected in *each Member State, multiplied by 750*.

Those minimum numbers of signatories required in each Member State should be degressively proportional and correspond to the number of Members of the European Parliament elected in *the State with the smallest number of MEPs, i.e. 6 out of 750*.

Or. el

Amendment 38
Notis Marias

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) Every citizen of the Union should have the right to support an initiative on paper or online, under similar conditions regardless of the Member State of nationality or residence.

Amendment

11. Every citizen of the Union *solely and exclusively* should have the right to support an initiative on paper or online, under similar conditions regardless of the Member State of nationality or residence.

Or. el

Amendment 39
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12 a) In view of the advisory, translation and awareness-raising activities (including the ‘ECI Day’) undertaken by the consultative institutions of the Union, especially the European Economic and Social Committee, the Commission will keep those institutions informed on newly registered initiatives and future awareness-raising campaigns relating to the ECI.

Or. en

Justification

It is essential to stress that other institutions of the EU shared a burden on their own initiative covering a lacunae that was left by the immense logistical and administrative burden previous regime created. In that sense the EESC has really through its proprio motu practice earned a great role in the process, which should be applauded.

Amendment 40

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible and to provide support to citizens and organisers, the Commission should provide information and assistance to organisers and make available an online collaborative platform to provide a dedicated discussion forum and information and advice about the European citizens' initiative. To ensure proximity to citizens, Member States should establish one or more **contact points** in their respective territories to provide citizens with information and assistance regarding the European citizens' initiative.

Amendment

(13) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible and to provide support to citizens and organisers, the Commission should provide information and assistance **free of charge** to organisers and make available an online collaborative platform to provide a dedicated discussion forum and information and advice about the European citizens' initiative, ***that will serve also as a platform for the exchange of ideas and best practices and to enable citizens to discuss proposed citizens' initiatives and to formulate new ones.*** To ensure proximity to citizens, Member States ***building upon the Europe Direct Information Centres*** should establish one or more ***ECI help desks*** in their respective territories to provide citizens with information and assistance regarding the European citizens' initiative ***on technical issues related to the ECI, including how to promote the ECI at national and local level. An annual ECI conference at EU level should be organised on the ECI day with the aim of further strengthening dialogue and exchange of best practices between organisers, civil society and social partners and EU institutions and to assess the state of implementation and effectiveness of the ECI.***

Or. en

Justification

This Amendment is needed to better reflect the rest of the text and the changes in the articles.

Amendment 41 **Kostadinka Kuneva**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 13**

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible and to provide support to citizens and organisers, the Commission should provide information and assistance to organisers and make available an online collaborative platform to provide a dedicated discussion forum and information and advice about the European citizens' initiative. To ensure proximity to citizens, Member States should establish ***one or more*** contact points in their respective territories to provide citizens with information ***and*** assistance regarding the European citizens' initiative.

Amendment

(13) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible and to provide support to citizens and organisers, the Commission should provide information and assistance to organisers and make available an online collaborative platform to provide a dedicated discussion forum and information and advice about the European citizens' initiative. To ensure proximity to citizens, Member States should establish, ***in due time and in any case by the time this Regulation comes into force***, contact points in their respective territories to provide citizens with information, assistance ***and guidance*** regarding the ***submission of a*** European citizens' initiative.

Or. en

Amendment 42 **Josep-Maria Terricabras**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 13 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13 a) In order to raise awareness and foster the debate concerning on-going initiatives as national level, where signatures are collected, it is important to involve both national and regional parliaments from an early stage and that the offices of the representations of the

Commission and the European Parliament in the Member States put their facilities at the service of citizens' initiatives. At the Union level, the neutral role of the European Economic and Social Committee makes it suitable to play a role of facilitator and institutional mentor during the on-going citizens' initiatives.

Or. en

Amendment 43

Notis Marias

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 13 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13 a) Stresses the need to create an infrastructure with legal advice on European Citizens' Initiatives and to create a legal framework to protect members of the European Citizens' Initiatives.

Or. el

Amendment 44

Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(14) A minimum organised structure is needed in order to launch and manage citizens' initiatives successfully. That structure should take the form of a group of organisers, composed of natural persons resident in at least *seven* different Member States, in order to encourage the emergence of Union-wide issues and to foster reflection on those issues. For the sake of transparency and smooth and efficient

(14) A minimum organised structure is needed in order to launch and manage citizens' initiatives successfully. That structure should take the form of a group of organisers, composed of natural persons resident in at least *six* different Member States, in order to encourage the emergence of Union-wide issues and to foster reflection on those issues. For the sake of transparency and smooth and efficient

communication, the group of organisers should designate a representative to liaise between the group of organisers and the institutions of the Union throughout the procedure. The group of organisers should have the possibility to create, in accordance with national law, a legal entity to manage an initiative. That legal entity should be considered as the group of organisers for the purposes of this Regulation.

communication, the group of organisers should designate ***or elect*** a representative ***and a substitute*** to liaise between the group of organisers and the institutions of the Union throughout the procedure. The group of organisers should have the possibility to create, in accordance with national law, a legal entity (***non-governmental and non-profit***) to manage an initiative. That legal entity should be considered as the group of organisers for the purposes of this Regulation.

Or. en

Justification

With the exit of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2019 the number of states that are required should be lowered to six (as to reflect the new situation more precisely). One quarter of the m.s. required by the Regulation does not produce an integer number.

Amendment 45

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 14 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(14a) In order to ensure full objectivity and transparency with regard to the registration of a European citizens' initiative proposal, the Commission should appoint one or more hearing officers from among persons who are highly professionally qualified in the law of the European Union, providing also auxiliary support staff. The hearing officers should be given the role of independent arbiter to assess the necessary conditions for registering a proposal for a European citizens' initiative. The hearing officers should be appointed in accordance with the rules laid down in the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union. In

relation to the appointment of the hearing officers and the performance of their duties, transparency and the absence of conflicts of interests should be ensured. Sincere cooperation and political dialogue between the Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council with regard to the appointment of a hearing officer should be ensured.

Or. it

Amendment 46
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) In order to ensure coherence and transparency in relation to initiatives and to avoid a situation where signatures are collected for an initiative which does not comply with the conditions laid down by the Treaties and this Regulation, initiatives that comply with the conditions laid down in this Regulation should be registered by the Commission before collecting statements of support from citizens. The Commission should deal with registration in accordance with the general principles of good administration.

Amendment

(15) In order to ensure coherence and transparency in relation to initiatives and to avoid a situation where signatures are collected for an initiative which does not comply with the conditions laid down by the Treaties and this Regulation, initiatives that comply with the conditions laid down in this Regulation should be registered by the Commission before collecting statements of support from citizens. *To prevent any conflict of interest in the exercise of its multiple duties concerning citizens' initiative*, the Commission should *establish an independent body to deal with this merely legal examination. Officers will be appointed for this exclusive purpose will deal with the registration in accordance with the general principles of good administration, under the EU Ombudsman's scrutiny.*

Or. en

Amendment 47
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation

PE619.134v01-00

22/129

AM\1147684EN.docx

Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) In order to ensure coherence and transparency in relation to initiatives and to avoid a situation where signatures are collected for an initiative which does not comply with the conditions laid down by the Treaties and this Regulation, initiatives that comply with the conditions laid down in this Regulation should be registered by the Commission before collecting statements of support from citizens. The Commission should deal with registration in accordance with the general principles of good administration.

Amendment

(15) In order to ensure coherence and transparency in relation to initiatives and to avoid a situation where signatures are collected for an initiative which does not comply with the conditions laid down by the Treaties and this Regulation, initiatives that comply with the conditions laid down in this Regulation should be registered by the Commission before collecting statements of support from citizens. The Commission should deal with registration in accordance with the general principles of good administration ***and the protection of legitimate interests of citizens. Citizens should be notified when an initiative is prima facie inadmissible and allowed the chance to rectify the faults in the submission as to minimize chances of rejection.***

Or. en

Amendment 48 Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) In order to ensure coherence and transparency in relation to initiatives and to avoid a situation where signatures are collected for an initiative which does not comply with the conditions laid down by the Treaties and this Regulation, initiatives that comply with the conditions laid down in this Regulation should be registered by the Commission before collecting statements of support from citizens. The Commission should deal with registration in accordance with the general principles of good administration.

Amendment

(15) In order to ensure coherence and transparency in relation to initiatives and to avoid a situation where signatures are collected for an initiative which does not comply with the conditions laid down by the Treaties and this Regulation, initiatives that comply with the conditions laid down in this Regulation should be registered by the Commission before collecting statements of support from citizens. ***All registered initiatives should be made publicly available, prior to collecting the necessary statements of support from citizens, on the Commission website specially designated to ECI initiatives.***

The Commission should deal with registration in accordance with the general principles of good administration.

Or. en

Justification

This Amendment is needed to better reflect the rest of the text and the changes in the articles.

Amendment 49

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) In order to ensure coherence and transparency in relation to initiatives and to avoid a situation where signatures are collected for an initiative which does not comply with the conditions laid down by the Treaties and this Regulation, *initiatives that comply with the conditions laid down in this Regulation* should *be registered by the Commission* before collecting statements of support from citizens. The Commission should deal with registration in accordance with the general principles of good administration.

Amendment

(15) In order to ensure coherence and transparency in relation to initiatives and to avoid a situation where signatures are collected for an initiative which does not comply with the conditions laid down by the Treaties and this Regulation, *the Commission should acquire the opinion of the hearing officer pursuant to this Regulation and, where that opinion is favourable, should register the initiatives that comply with the conditions laid down in this Regulation* before collecting statements of support from citizens. The Commission *and the hearing officer* should deal with registration in accordance with the general principles of good administration.

Or. it

Amendment 50

Virginie Rozière

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 15 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(15 a) In order to promote an impartial

and fair handling of the ECI, it is appropriate to establish a scrutiny board within the Commission. This board should be constituted by competent and experienced staff from the Commission, the European Parliament, the Council and the European Ombudsman. This board could be seized by the promoters of an ECI or by the European Parliament, the Council or the Ombudsman in case the Commission refuses to register an ECI. This board should have the capabilities and the competences to assess whether the refusal to register the ECI complies with the Regulation and, if not, invite the Commission to overturn its decision and register the ECI.

Or. en

Justification

Stakeholders and MEPs have expressed concerns to see the Commission being "judge and party" as regard the registration of ECI. Without upsetting the procedures, and based on the example of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board for the impact assessment studies, a scrutiny board should be established to ensure a fair and impartial handling of ECI and the registration process.

Amendment 51 **Kostadinka Kuneva**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 16**

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, and taking into account that the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate, it is appropriate to partially register an initiative in cases where only part or parts of the initiative meet the requirements for registration under this Regulation. Initiatives should be partially registered where a substantial part of the initiative, including its main objectives, does not

Amendment

(16) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, and taking into account that the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate, it is appropriate to partially register an initiative in cases where only part or parts of the initiative meet the requirements for registration under this Regulation. Initiatives should be partially registered where a substantial part of the initiative, including its main objectives, does not

manifestly fall outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties and all the other registration requirements are met. Clarity and transparency should be ensured as regards the scope of the partial registration and potential signatories should be informed of the scope of the registration and of the fact that statements of support are collected only in relation to the scope of the registration of the initiative.

manifestly fall outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties and all the other registration requirements are met. Clarity and transparency should be ensured as regards the scope of the partial registration and potential signatories should be informed of the scope of the registration and of the fact that statements of support are collected only in relation to the scope of the registration of the initiative. ***The choice for a partial registration shall not render void the Commission's obligation to fully justify its decision by giving reasons for choosing to partially register an initiative.***

Or. en

Amendment 52

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, and taking into account that the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate, it is appropriate to partially register an initiative in cases where only part or parts of the initiative meet the requirements for registration under this Regulation. Initiatives should be partially registered where ***a substantial*** part of the initiative, including its main objectives, does not manifestly fall outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties and all the other registration requirements are met. Clarity and transparency should be ensured as regards the scope of the partial registration and potential signatories

PE619.134v01-00

Amendment

(16) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, and taking into account that the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate, it is appropriate to partially register an initiative in cases where only part or parts of the initiative meet the requirements for registration under this Regulation. Initiatives should be partially registered where part of the initiative, including its main objectives, does not manifestly fall outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties and all the other registration requirements are met. Clarity and transparency should be ensured as regards the scope of the partial registration and potential signatories should be

26/129

AM\1147684EN.docx

should be informed of the scope of the registration and of the fact that statements of support are collected only in relation to the scope of the registration of the initiative.

informed of the scope of the registration and of the fact that statements of support are collected only in relation to the scope of the registration of the initiative. ***In the case of partial registration the Commission should advise organisers about the legal basis of their proposal and propose possible solutions to avoid further inadmissibility.***

Or. en

Justification

This Amendment is needed to better reflect the rest of the text and the changes in the articles.

Amendment 53

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, and taking into account that the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate, it is appropriate to partially register an initiative in cases where only part or parts of the initiative meet the requirements for registration under this Regulation. Initiatives should be partially registered where a substantial part of the initiative, including its main objectives, does not manifestly fall outside the framework of the Commission's powers to ***submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing*** the Treaties and all the other registration requirements are met. Clarity and transparency should be ensured as regards the scope of the partial registration and potential signatories should be informed of the scope of the registration and of the fact that statements of support are collected only in relation to the scope of the registration of the

Amendment

(16) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, and taking into account that the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate, it is appropriate to partially register an initiative in cases where only part or parts of the initiative meet the requirements for registration under this Regulation. Initiatives should be partially registered where a substantial part of the initiative, including its main objectives, does not manifestly fall outside the framework of the Commission's powers ***according*** to the Treaties and all the other registration requirements are met. Clarity and transparency should be ensured as regards the scope of the partial registration and potential signatories should be informed of the scope of the registration and of the fact that statements of support are collected only in relation to the scope of the registration of the initiative.

initiative.

Or. en

Amendment 54

Notis Marias

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, and taking into account that the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate, it is appropriate to partially register an initiative in cases where only part or parts of the initiative meet the requirements for registration under this Regulation. Initiatives should be partially registered where a substantial part of the initiative, including its main objectives, does not manifestly fall outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties and all the other registration requirements are met. Clarity and transparency should be ensured as regards the scope of the partial registration and potential signatories should be informed of the scope of the registration and of the fact that statements of support are collected only in relation to the scope of the registration of the initiative.

Amendment

(16) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, and taking into account that the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be **transparent**, clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate, it is appropriate to partially register an initiative in cases where only part or parts of the initiative meet the requirements for registration under this Regulation. Initiatives should be partially registered where a substantial part of the initiative, including its main objectives, does not manifestly fall outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties and all the other registration requirements are met. Clarity and transparency should be ensured as regards the scope of the partial registration and potential signatories should be informed of the scope of the registration and of the fact that statements of support are collected only in relation to the scope of the registration of the initiative.

Or. el

Amendment 55

Laurențiu Rebega, Mara Bizzotto

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

(16) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, and taking into account that the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate, it is appropriate to partially register an initiative in cases where only part or parts of the initiative meet the requirements for registration under this Regulation. Initiatives should be partially registered where a ***substantial*** part of the initiative, ***including its main objectives***, does not manifestly fall outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties and all the other registration requirements are met. Clarity and transparency should be ensured as regards the scope of the partial registration and potential signatories should be informed of the scope of the registration and of the fact that statements of support are collected only in relation to the scope of the registration of the initiative.

(16) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, and taking into account that the procedures and conditions required for the European citizens' initiative should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate, it is appropriate to partially register an initiative in cases where only part or parts of the initiative meet the requirements for registration under this Regulation. Initiatives should be partially registered where a part of the initiative does not manifestly fall outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties and all the other registration requirements are met. Clarity and transparency should be ensured as regards the scope of the partial registration and potential signatories should be informed of the scope of the registration and of the fact that statements of support are collected only in relation to the scope of the registration of the initiative.

Or. en

Amendment 56

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16 a (new)

(16 a) Multilingualism is an essential policy of the Union, and it becomes even more crucial when related to the European citizens' initiative, which aims to reach the broadest possible range of support throughout the whole Union territory for issues of pan-European relevance. Cost-free translation of the initiative is to be granted to the group of organisers in all the EU official

languages, not only including the text of the initiative itself, but also other texts of reasonable length associated to it, such as explanatory statements or annexes including concrete legislative proposals. In the same logic, it is important that translations into other languages used in Member States other than EU official languages are also included in the register, in order to maximise the participatory dimension of initiatives.

Or. en

Amendment 57
Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) Statements of support for an initiative should be collected within a specific time limit. In order to ensure that an initiative remains relevant, whilst taking into account the complexity of collecting statements of support across the Union, that time limit should not be longer than 12 months from the date of the start of the collection period determined by the group of organisers.

Amendment

(17) Statements of support for an initiative should be collected within a specific time limit. In order to ensure that an initiative remains relevant, whilst taking into account the complexity of collecting statements of support across the Union, that time limit should not be longer than 12 months from the date of the start of the collection period determined by the group of organisers. ***If organisers decide not to use the central system for the online collection of statements of support provided by the Commission, the period shall start only after Member States verify the conformity of an alternative online collection systems within the requirements of this regulation.***

Or. en

Justification

This Amendment is needed to better reflect the rest of the text and the changes in the articles.

Amendment 58

PE619.134v01-00

30/129

AM\1147684EN.docx

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) Statements of support for an initiative should be collected within a specific time limit. In order to ensure that an initiative remains relevant, whilst taking into account the complexity of collecting statements of support across the Union, that time limit should not be longer than **12** months from the date of the start of the collection period determined by the group of organisers.

Amendment

(17) Statements of support for an initiative should be collected within a specific time limit. In order to ensure that an initiative remains relevant, whilst taking into account the complexity of collecting statements of support across the Union, that time limit should not be longer than **18** months from the date of the start of the collection period determined by the group of organisers.

Or. it

Amendment 59

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) Statements of support for an initiative should be collected within a specific time limit. In order to ensure that an initiative remains relevant, whilst taking into account the complexity of collecting statements of support across the Union, that time limit should not be longer than **12** months from the date of the start of the collection period determined by the group of organisers.

Amendment

(17) Statements of support for an initiative should be collected within a specific time limit. In order to ensure that an initiative remains relevant, whilst taking into account the complexity of collecting statements of support across the Union, that time limit should not be longer than **18** months from the date of the start of the collection period determined by the group of organisers.

Or. en

Amendment 60

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 18

(18) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and citizens, the Commission should set-up and operate a central system for the online collection of statements of support. That system should be made available free of charge to groups of organisers and should comprise the necessary technical features allowing online collection including the hosting and software as well as accessibility features ensuring that citizens' with disabilities can provide support to the initiatives. That system should be set-up and maintained in accordance with Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46²⁶.

(18) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for organisers and citizens, the Commission should set-up and operate a central system for the online collection of statements of support ***incorporating the relevant technical and security measures necessary to comply with the provisions of this regulation***. That system should be ***voluntary and*** made available free of charge to groups of organisers and should comprise the necessary technical features allowing online collection including the hosting and software as well as accessibility features ensuring that citizens' with disabilities can provide support to the initiatives. That system should be set-up and maintained in accordance with Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46²⁶.

²⁶ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46 of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission (OJ L 6, 11.1.2017, p. 40–51).

²⁶ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46 of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission (OJ L 6, 11.1.2017, p. 40–51).

Or. en

Amendment 61 **Kostadinka Kuneva**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 18**

(18) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for ***organisers and*** citizens, the Commission should set-up and operate a central system for the online collection of statements of support. That system should be made available free of charge to groups of

(18) In order to make the European citizens' initiative more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use for citizens, the Commission should set-up and operate a central system for the online collection of statements of support. That system should be made available free of charge to groups of organisers and should comprise the

organisers and should comprise the necessary technical features allowing online collection including the hosting and software as well as accessibility features **ensuring** that citizens' with disabilities **can** provide support to the initiatives. That system should be set-up and maintained in accordance with Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46²⁶.

²⁶ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46 of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission (OJ L 6, 11.1.2017, p. 40–51).

necessary technical features allowing online collection including the hosting and software as well as accessibility features. ***This ought to ensure*** that citizens' with disabilities ***will be facilitated to initiate, propose or*** provide support to the initiatives ***on an equal footing***. That system should be set-up and maintained in accordance with Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46²⁶.

²⁶ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46 of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission (OJ L 6, 11.1.2017, p. 40–51).

Or. en

Amendment 62

Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 20

Text proposed by the Commission

(20) A group of organisers should have the possibility to set-up its own online collection systems for the collection of statements of support across the Union and to decide in which Member State the data collected for the initiative should be stored. The group of organisers should use a single individual online collection system for each initiative. Individual online collection systems set up and operated by a group of organisers should have adequate technical and security features in order to ensure that the data are securely collected, stored and transferred throughout the procedure. For that purpose, the Commission should set out detailed technical specifications for the individual online collection systems, in cooperation with the Member States. The Commission may seek advice of the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) which

Amendment

(20) A group of organisers should have the possibility to set-up its own online collection systems for the collection of statements of support across the Union and to decide in which Member State the data collected for the initiative should be stored. The group of organisers should use a single individual online collection system for each initiative. Individual online collection systems set up and operated by a group of organisers should have adequate technical and security features in order to ensure that the data are securely collected, stored and transferred throughout the procedure. For that purpose, the Commission should set out detailed technical specifications for the individual online collection systems, in cooperation with the Member States. The Commission may seek advice of the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) which

assists the Union institutions in developing and implementing policies related to security of network and information systems.

assists the Union institutions in developing and implementing policies related to security of network and information systems ***and the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS), which advises Union institutions and bodies on all matters relating to the processing of personal information. The group of organisers may also consult with ENISA and EDPS if they opt for setting up its own online collection systems.***

Or. en

Amendment 63
Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 21

Text proposed by the Commission

(21) It is appropriate for Member States to verify the conformity of the individual online collection systems set up by the group of organisers with the requirements of this Regulation and issue a document certifying such conformity before statements of support ***are collected***. The certification of the individual online collection systems should be carried out by the competent national authority of the Member States in which the data collected through the individual online collection system is stored. Without prejudice to the powers of the national supervisory authorities under the General Data Protection Regulation, Member States should designate the competent national authority responsible for the certification of the systems. Member States should mutually recognise the certificates issued by their competent authorities.

Amendment

(21) It is appropriate for Member States to verify the conformity of the individual online collection systems set up by the group of organisers with the requirements of this Regulation and issue a document certifying such conformity before ***organisers initiate the 12 month period for collecting*** statements of support. The certification of the individual online collection systems should be carried out by the competent national authority of the Member States in which the data collected through the individual online collection system is stored. Without prejudice to the powers of the national supervisory authorities under the General Data Protection Regulation, Member States should designate the competent national authority responsible for the certification of the systems. Member States should mutually recognise the certificates issued by their competent authorities.

Or. en

Justification

This Amendment is needed to better reflect the rest of the text and the changes in the articles.

Amendment 64 **Kostadinka Kuneva**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 21**

Text proposed by the Commission

(21) It is appropriate for Member States to verify the conformity of the individual online collection systems set up by the group of organisers with the requirements of this Regulation and issue a document certifying such conformity before statements of support are collected. The certification of the individual online collection systems should be carried out by the competent national authority of the Member States in which the data collected through the individual online collection system is stored. Without prejudice to the powers of the national supervisory authorities under the General Data Protection Regulation, Member States should designate the competent national authority responsible for the certification of the systems. Member States should mutually recognise the certificates issued by their competent authorities.

Amendment

(21) It is appropriate for Member States to verify the conformity of the individual online collection systems set up by the group of organisers with the requirements of this Regulation and issue a document certifying such conformity before statements of support are collected. The certification of the individual online collection systems should be carried out by the competent national authority of the Member States in which the data collected through the individual online collection system is stored. Without prejudice to the powers of the national supervisory authorities under the General Data Protection Regulation, Member States should designate ***without delay*** the competent national authority responsible for the certification of the systems. Member States should mutually recognise the certificates issued by their competent authorities ***without the introduction of additional checks***.

Or. en

Amendment 65 **Virginie Rozière**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 21**

Text proposed by the Commission

(21) It is appropriate for Member States

Amendment

(21) It is appropriate for Member States

to verify the conformity of the individual online collection systems set up by the group of organisers with the requirements of this Regulation and issue a document certifying such conformity before statements of support are collected. The certification of the individual online collection systems should be carried out by the competent national authority of the Member States in which the data collected through the individual online collection system is stored. Without prejudice to the powers of the national supervisory authorities under the General Data Protection Regulation, Member States should designate the competent national authority responsible for the certification of the systems. Member States should mutually recognise the certificates issued by their competent authorities.

to verify the conformity of the individual online collection systems set up by the group of organisers with the requirements of this Regulation and issue a document certifying such conformity before statements of support are collected. The certification of the individual online collection systems should be carried out by the competent national authority of the Member States in which the data collected through the individual online collection system is stored. ***These actions should be carried out free of charge.*** Without prejudice to the powers of the national supervisory authorities under the General Data Protection Regulation, Member States should designate the competent national authority responsible for the certification of the systems. Member States should mutually recognise the certificates issued by their competent authorities.

Or. en

Amendment 66 Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation Recital 21 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(21 a) Citizens of the Union residing outside of the Union, or citizens holding double nationality (one being that of a member state and the other of a third state), or beneficiaries of refugee status or subsidiary protection and their family members holding a valid residence permit pursuant to Directive 2011/95/EU^{1b} shall not be precluded from supporting an ECI. Same applies for EU Blue Card holders and their family members in accordance with Council Directive 2009/50/EC^{1c}. Permanent residents of a member state in accordance with Directive 2004/38/EC^{1a} should be able to choose between their host member state and their country of origin when expressing their

support.

^{1b} Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted

^{1c} Council Directive 2009/50/EC of 25 May 2009 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment

^{1a} Directive 2004/38/EC of the European and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member State

Or. en

Amendment 67
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 22

Text proposed by the Commission

(22) Where an initiative has received the necessary statements of support from signatories, each Member State should be responsible for the verification and certification of statements of support signed by its nationals, in order to assess whether the required minimum numbers of signatories having the right to support a European citizens' initiative have been reached. Taking account of the need to limit the administrative burden for Member States, such verifications should be carried out on the basis of appropriate checks, which may be based on random sampling. Member States should issue a document

Amendment

(22) Where an initiative has received the necessary statements of support from signatories, each Member State should be responsible for the verification and certification of statements of support signed by its nationals ***or residents therein***, in order to assess whether the required minimum numbers of signatories having the right to support a European citizens' initiative have been reached. Taking account of the need to limit the administrative burden for Member States, such verifications should be carried out on the basis of appropriate checks, which may be based on random sampling. Member

certifying the number of valid statements of support received.

States should issue a document certifying the number of valid statements of support received.

Or. en

Amendment 68

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 22 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(22a) In order to encourage participation and public debate on the issues raised by initiatives, once the first six months of a collection period have passed, the group of organisers should have the right to present its initiative and, to that end, request that a first public hearing be held at Union level. The hearing should be organised by the European Parliament within three months of the request submitted by the group of organisers.

Or. it

Justification

The aim of this first public hearing is to offer solid support to the group of organisers in order to make EU citizens more aware of the initiative and of the specific goals that the organisers are seeking to achieve.

Amendment 69

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(23) In order to promote participation and public debate on the issues raised by the initiatives, where an initiative supported by the required number of

(23) In order to promote participation and public debate on the issues raised by the initiatives, where an initiative supported by the required number of

signatories and fulfilling the other requirements of this Regulation is submitted to the Commission, the group of organisers should have the right to present that initiative at a public hearing at Union level. The public hearing should be *co-organised by the Commission and the European Parliament* within three months from the submission of the initiative and ensure *a balanced representation of relevant public and private interests well as* the representation at an appropriate level of the Commission. Other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union *as well as interested stakeholders* should have the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

signatories and fulfilling the other requirements of this Regulation is submitted to the Commission, the group of organisers should have the right to present that initiative at a public hearing at Union level. The public hearing should be *organised by the European Parliament in its premises* within three months from the submission of the initiative and ensure the representation at an appropriate level of the Commission. Other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union, *and in particular the European Economic and Social Committee*, should have the opportunity to participate in the hearing. *Interested stakeholders should also be able to attend. The main aim of the hearing, being the sole opportunity for the group of organisers to present their initiative in detail publicly to a broad audience including the main Union institutional actors, is for the group of organisers to provide detailed explanations on the purpose of their initiative and their concrete expectations in terms of legislative outcome;*

Or. en

Justification

Justification Given the proven involvement of the EESC from the very beginning in the ECI process, and their continuous work of support and officious institutional mentoring to the organisers, and their logical link of the Union towards the civil society from which the citizens' initiative emerge, it seems reasonable to explicitly state its involvement in the hearing.

Amendment 70

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

(23) *In order to promote participation and public debate on the issues raised by the initiatives, where* an initiative supported by the required number of

Amendment

(23) **When** an initiative supported by the required number of signatories and fulfilling the other requirements of this Regulation is submitted to the

signatories and fulfilling the other requirements of this Regulation is submitted to the Commission, the group of organisers should have the right to present that initiative at a public hearing at Union level. The public hearing should be *co-organised* by the *Commission and the European Parliament* within three months from the submission of the initiative *and ensure a balanced representation of relevant public and private interests well as the representation at an appropriate level of the Commission. Other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union as well as interested stakeholders should have the opportunity to participate in the hearing.*

Commission, the group of organisers should, *in addition*, have the right to present that initiative at a *second* public hearing at Union level. The public hearing should be *organised* by the European Parliament within three months from the submission of the initiative.

Or. it

Amendment 71 Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

(23) In order to promote participation and public debate on the issues raised by the initiatives, where an initiative supported by the required number of signatories and fulfilling the other requirements of this Regulation is submitted to the Commission, the group of organisers should have the right to present that initiative at a public hearing at Union level. The public hearing should be *co-organised by the Commission and the European Parliament* within three months from the submission of the initiative and ensure a balanced representation of relevant public and private interests well as the representation at an appropriate level of the Commission. Other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union as well as interested stakeholders should have the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

Amendment

(23) In order to promote participation and public debate on the issues raised by the initiatives, where an initiative supported by the required number of signatories and fulfilling the other requirements of this Regulation is submitted to the Commission, the group of organisers should have the right to present that initiative at a public hearing at Union level. The public hearing should be *organised by the European Parliament* within three months from the submission of the initiative and ensure a balanced representation of relevant public and private interests, *representation of civil society and social partners*, as well as the representation at an appropriate level of the *Commission and the Council*. Other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union as well as interested stakeholders should have the opportunity to participate

in the hearing. *Within one month of the public hearing, the European Parliament should hold a plenary debate on the initiative, which may be followed by a vote on a motion for resolution proposing specific recommendations to the Commission.*

Or. en

Amendment 72
Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

(23) In order to promote participation and public debate on the issues raised by the initiatives, where an initiative supported by the required number of signatories and fulfilling the other requirements of this Regulation is submitted to the Commission, the group of organisers should have the right to present that initiative at a public hearing at Union level. The public hearing should be co-organised by the Commission and the European Parliament within three months *from* the submission of the initiative *and* ensure a balanced representation of relevant public and private interests well as the representation at an appropriate level of the Commission. Other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union as well as interested stakeholders should have the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

Amendment

(23) In order to promote participation and public debate on the issues raised by the initiatives, where an initiative supported by the required number of signatories and fulfilling the other requirements of this Regulation is submitted to the Commission, the group of organisers should have the right to present that initiative at a public hearing at Union level. The public hearing should be co-organised by the Commission and the European Parliament within three months *of* the submission of the initiative *to the Commission. The European Parliament should* ensure a balanced representation of relevant public and private interests *as* well as the representation at an appropriate level of the Commission *and the Council*. Other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union as well as interested stakeholders should have the opportunity to participate in the hearing. *The organisers of a successful ECI should be involved in the organization of such hearings to make sure the campaign that has taken place and citizenship support is fully reflected.*

Or. en

Amendment 73
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

(23) In order to promote participation and public debate on the issues raised by the initiatives, where an initiative supported by the required number of signatories and fulfilling the other requirements of this Regulation is submitted to the Commission, the group of organisers should have the right to present that initiative at a public hearing at Union level. The public hearing should be *co-organised by the Commission and* the European Parliament within three months from the submission of the initiative and ensure *a balanced representation* of relevant *public and private interests* well as the representation at an appropriate level of the Commission. Other institutions and *advisory bodies* of the Union as well as interested stakeholders should have the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

Amendment

(23) In order to promote participation and public debate on the issues raised by the initiatives, where an initiative supported by the required number of signatories and fulfilling the other requirements of this Regulation is submitted to the Commission, the group of organisers should have the right to present that initiative at a public hearing at Union level. The public hearing should be *organised by* the European Parliament within three months from the submission of the initiative and *shall ensure presence* of relevant *stakeholders, as* well as the representation at an appropriate level of the Commission, *a representative from the Presidency of the Council, representative from the European Economic Social Committee (EESC) and the Committee of Regions (CoR).* Other institutions and *agencies* of the Union as well as interested stakeholders should have the opportunity to participate in the hearing *depending on the thematic of the ECI at hand upon their request.*

Or. en

Amendment 74
Virginie Rozière, Andrea Cozzolino

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

(23) In order to promote participation and public debate on the issues raised by the initiatives, where an initiative

Amendment

(23) In order to promote participation and public debate on the issues raised by the initiatives, where an initiative

supported by the required number of signatories and fulfilling the other requirements of this Regulation is submitted to the Commission, the group of organisers should have the right to present that initiative at a public hearing at Union level. The public hearing should be co-organised by the Commission and the European Parliament within three months from the submission of the initiative and ensure a balanced representation of relevant public and private interests well as the representation at an appropriate level of the Commission. Other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union as well as interested stakeholders should have the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

supported by the required number of signatories and fulfilling the other requirements of this Regulation is submitted to the Commission, the group of organisers should have the right to present that initiative at a public hearing at Union level. The public hearing should be co-organised by the Commission and the European Parliament within three months from the submission of the initiative and ensure a balanced representation of relevant public and private interests well as the representation at an appropriate level of the Commission **and the Council**. Other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union as well as interested stakeholders should have the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

Or. en

Justification

It is important to involve both legislators in the public hearing in order to increase the political accountability of the Commission in the ECI procedures.

Amendment 75

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 23 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(23a) Twelve months after the Commission has submitted the communication setting out its legal and political conclusions on an initiative supported by the required number of signatories and fulfilling the other requirements of this Regulation, the group of organisers should have the right to request that a third public hearing be held at EU level in order to allow clear, detailed, and exhaustive analysis of the Commission position and ascertain that the Commission's action is consistent with such commitments as it might have entered into. The hearing should be

*organised by the European Parliament
within six months of the submission of the
request by the group of organisers.*

Or. it

Justification

Taking account of possible significant developments, once an appropriate period of time has elapsed, the aim of this third hearing is to foster a detailed, updated analysis of the conclusions submitted by the Commission, checking, in addition, that any commitments made by the Commission itself in relation to the success of the initiative have been honoured in a consistent manner.

Amendment 76
Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 23 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(23 a) The European Parliament should endeavour to foster an appropriate level of public debate on successful initiatives, including the possibility of holding a plenary debate on the initiative, which may be followed by a vote on a motion for resolution.

Or. en

Amendment 77
Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 23 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(23b) The European Parliament should ensure that public hearings are attended by experts who are highly skilled in the subject on which the initiative is based, having first ascertained that there are no conflicts of interests involved. The Commission should ensure that it is

represented at a level appropriate to the hearings. Other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union, national parliaments, and relevant public stakeholders should have the opportunity to participate in hearings.

Or. it

Justification

The relevant public stakeholders are the only ones who have the responsibility of describing, during the hearings, what overall impact – including where the private sector is concerned – might be entailed in a European citizens' initiative. The idea is to ensure that participation is targeted at those who seek to protect collective interests rather than exclusively private interests.

Amendment 78

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 23 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(23c) The European Parliament should hold a wide-ranging plenary debate on successful initiatives.

Or. it

Amendment 79

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(24) To ensure the effective participation of citizens in the democratic life of the Union, the Commission should examine a valid initiative and respond to it. The Commission should therefore set out its legal and political conclusions as well as the **action** it intends to take within a period of five months from the receipt of the

(24) To ensure the effective participation of citizens in the democratic life of the Union, the Commission ***after the public hearing and plenary debate in the European parliament and after proper dialogue with the ECI organisers,*** should examine a valid initiative and respond to it ***in due time taking into account that***

initiative. The Commission should explain in a clear, comprehensible and detailed manner the reasons for its intended action, and should likewise give its reasons if it does not intend to take any action.

successful initiatives should have an appropriate follow up. The Commission should therefore set out its legal and political conclusions as well as the ***legislative or non-legislative actions*** it intends to take within a period of five months from the receipt of the initiative. The Commission should explain in a clear, comprehensible and detailed manner the reasons for its intended action, and should likewise give its ***detailed and clear*** reasons if it does not intend to take any action, ***be it partial or complete refusal.***

Or. en

Justification

This Amendment is needed to better reflect the rest of the text and the changes in the articles.

Amendment 80 **Kostadinka Kuneva**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 24**

Text proposed by the Commission

(24) To ensure the effective participation of citizens in the democratic life of the Union, the Commission should examine a valid initiative and respond to it. The Commission should therefore set out its legal and political conclusions as well as the action it intends to take within a period of five months from the receipt of the initiative. The Commission should ***explain*** in a clear, comprehensible and detailed manner the reasons for its intended action, and should likewise ***give its reasons*** if it does not intend to take any action.

Amendment

(24) To ensure the effective participation of citizens in the democratic life of the Union, the Commission should examine a valid initiative and respond to it. The Commission should therefore set out its legal and political conclusions as well as the action it intends to take within a period of five months from the receipt of the initiative. The Commission should ***justify adequately*** in a clear, comprehensible and detailed manner, ***substantiating*** the reasons for its intended action, and should likewise ***do*** if it does not intend to take any action. ***In both cases a second public hearing shall be organized to discuss the conclusions communicated by the Commission, under the same rule as the first.***

Or. en

Amendment 81
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

(24) To ensure the effective participation of citizens in the democratic life of the Union, the Commission should examine a valid initiative and respond to it. The Commission should therefore set out its legal and political conclusions as well as the action it intends to take within a period of five months from the receipt of the initiative. The Commission should explain in a clear, comprehensible and detailed manner the reasons for its intended action, and should likewise give its reasons if it does not intend to take any action.

Amendment

(24) To ensure the effective participation of citizens in the democratic life of the Union, the Commission should examine a valid initiative and respond to it. The Commission should therefore set out its legal and political conclusions as well as the action it intends to take within a period of five months from the receipt of the initiative. ***It is presumed that the Commission will follow up with a concrete legislative proposal within twelve months of its communication.*** The Commission should explain in a clear, comprehensible and detailed manner the reasons for its intended action, and should likewise give its reasons if ***exceptionally*** it does not intend to take any action.

Or. en

Amendment 82
Virginie Rozière, Andrea Cozzolino

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

(24) To ensure the effective participation of citizens in the democratic life of the Union, the Commission should examine a valid initiative and respond to it. The Commission should therefore set out its legal and political conclusions as well as the action it intends to take within a period of five months from the receipt of the initiative. The Commission should explain in a clear, comprehensible and detailed manner the reasons for its intended action,

Amendment

(24) To ensure the effective participation of citizens in the democratic life of the Union, the Commission should examine a valid initiative and respond to it. The Commission should therefore set out its legal and political conclusions as well as the action it intends to take within a period of five months from the receipt of the initiative. The Commission should explain in a clear, comprehensible and detailed manner the reasons for its intended action,

and should *likewise* give its reasons if it does not intend to take any action.

and should give *in an even more developed way* its reasons if it does not intend to take any action.

Or. en

Justification

It is important to increase the obligation of the Commission to give reasons to its decisions regarding ECI. The obligation should be even more developed when the Commission refuses to propose a legislative action after an ECI. This reasoned decision could serve as well in the hearing the co-legislators may organise in order to increase political accountability of the Commission in ECI procedures.

Amendment 83

Virginie Rozière, Andrea Cozzolino

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 24 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(24 a) In order to promote the political debate that ECI might initiate at European level and in order to increase the political responsibility of the Commission before the co-legislators and European citizens, the Council and the European Parliament should be able to organize an hearing of the Commission once it has decided to intend or not to intend an action after a valid ECI ;

Or. en

Justification

It appears from the consultation and public hearings organized on the reform of the ECI that there is a lack of political responsibility of the Commission once a valid ECI has been registered and has gathered the requested number of signatures. It is not possible within the current institutional framework to entail a restriction of Commission's discretionary powers to propose or not to propose an act. However, the reform of the ECI Regulation should aim to increase the political accountability of the Commission.

Amendment 84

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 25

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) The support and funding for initiatives should be transparent. Therefore groups of organisers should provide updated information on the sources of support and funding for their initiatives between the date of registration and the date at which the initiative is submitted to the Commission. Entities, notably organisations which under the Treaties contribute to forming European political awareness and expressing the will of citizens of the Union, should be able to promote and provide support and funding to initiatives, provided that they do so in accordance with the procedures and conditions laid down by this Regulation and with full transparency.

Amendment

(25) The support and funding for initiatives should be transparent. Therefore groups of organisers should provide updated information on the sources of support and funding for their initiatives between the date of registration and the date at which the initiative is submitted to the Commission. Entities, notably organisations which under the Treaties contribute to forming European political awareness and expressing the will of citizens of the Union, should be able to promote and provide support and funding to initiatives, provided that they do so in accordance with the procedures and conditions laid down by this Regulation and with full transparency. ***The Commission should perform quality and random checks on the financial and funding sources provided by the ECI organisers. Citizens should also be able to trigger an alert in case of suspicions of wrongdoings. The sources of support and funding should also be publicly available and regularly updated together with the rest of the information on the ECI initiative published online.***

Or. en

Justification

This Amendment is needed to better reflect the rest of the text and the changes in the articles.

Amendment 85
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 25

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) The support and funding for initiatives should be transparent. Therefore

Amendment

(25) The support and funding for initiatives should be transparent. Therefore

groups of organisers should provide updated information on the sources of support and funding for their initiatives between the date of registration and the date at which the initiative is submitted to the Commission. Entities, notably organisations which under the Treaties contribute to forming European political awareness and expressing the will of citizens of the Union, should be able to promote and provide support and funding to initiatives, provided that they do so in accordance with the procedures and conditions laid down by this Regulation and with full transparency.

groups of organisers should ***be able to*** provide updated information on the sources of support and funding for their initiatives between the date of registration and the date at which the initiative is submitted to the Commission ***upon request***. Entities, notably organisations which under the Treaties contribute to forming European political awareness and expressing the will of citizens of the Union, should be able to promote and provide support and funding to initiatives, provided that they do so in accordance with the procedures and conditions laid down by this Regulation and with full transparency. ***After the registraton the organizers shall publicize the sources of funding on the webpage of the initiative in order to allow potential supporters to make a credible decision at the time of expression of their support.***

Or. en

Amendment 86 **Josep-Maria Terricabras**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 25**

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) The support and funding for initiatives should be transparent. Therefore groups of organisers should provide updated information on the sources of support and funding for their initiatives between the date of registration and the date at which the initiative is submitted to the Commission. Entities, notably organisations which under the Treaties contribute to forming European political awareness and expressing the will of citizens of the Union, should be able to promote and provide support and funding to initiatives, provided that they do so in accordance with the procedures and conditions laid down by this Regulation and with full transparency.

Amendment

(25) The support and funding for initiatives should be transparent. Therefore groups of organisers should provide updated information on the sources of support and funding for their initiatives between the date of registration and the date at which the initiative is submitted to the Commission. Entities, notably organisations which under the Treaties contribute to forming European political awareness and expressing the will of citizens of the Union, should be able to promote and provide support and funding to initiatives, provided that they do so in accordance with the procedures and conditions laid down by this Regulation and with full transparency. ***To ensure as much as possible a level playing field,***

allocation of Union's funding to cover expenses related to kicking-off viable initiatives should be foreseen.

Or. en

Amendment 87

Notis Marias

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 25

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) The support and funding for initiatives should be transparent. Therefore groups of organisers should provide updated information on the sources of support and funding for their initiatives between the date of registration and the date at which the initiative is submitted to the Commission. Entities, notably organisations which under the Treaties contribute to forming European political awareness and expressing the will of citizens of the Union, should be able to promote and provide support and funding to initiatives, provided that they do so in accordance with the procedures and conditions laid down by this Regulation and with full transparency.

Amendment

(25) The support and funding for initiatives should be transparent **and accountable**. Therefore groups of organisers should provide updated information on the sources of support and funding for their initiatives between the date of registration and the date at which the initiative is submitted to the Commission. Entities, notably organisations which under the Treaties contribute to forming European political awareness and expressing the will of citizens of the Union, should be able to promote and provide support and funding to initiatives, provided that they do so in accordance with the procedures and conditions laid down by this Regulation and with full transparency.

Or. el

Amendment 88

Laurențiu Rebega, Mara Bizzotto

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 27

Text proposed by the Commission

(27) While liability and penalties for the processing of personal data remains regulated under Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the group of organisers should be **jointly**

Amendment

(27) While liability and penalties for the processing of personal data remains regulated under Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the group of organisers should be liable, in

and severally liable, in accordance with applicable national law, for any other damage that they cause in the organisation of an initiative ***by unlawful acts committed intentionally or with serious negligence***. Member States should ensure that the group of organisers is subject to appropriate penalties for infringements of this Regulation.

accordance with applicable national law, for any other damage that they cause in the organisation of an initiative. Member States should ensure that the group of organisers is subject to appropriate penalties for infringements of this Regulation.

Or. en

Amendment 89
Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(28) [Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000²⁹ applies to the processing of personal data carried out by the Commission in application of this Regulation.]

deleted

²⁹ [Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1–22)].

Or. en

Justification

moved to a new recital 28 a new

Amendment 90
Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 28 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(28 a) Where the measures provided for in this Regulation entail the processing of personal data by the Commission or by organisers, that processing should be carried out in accordance with Union law on the protection of personal data, in particular Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council[1], Regulation (EU)2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council[2] and Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council[3] .

1. Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8,12.1.2001, p. 1).

2. Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

3. Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 89).

Or. en

Amendment 91
Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 29

Text proposed by the Commission

(29) In order to contribute to the promotion of active participation of citizens in the political life of the Union, the Commission and the organisers should be able to collect, in accordance with data protection rules, email addresses of signatories for the purpose of communication activities regarding an initiative, in particular for the purpose of providing information on the follow-up actions in response to an initiative. The collection of email addresses should be optional and subject to the consent of signatories. Email addresses should not be collected as part of the statements of support forms and potential signatories should be informed that their right to support an initiative is not conditional on giving their consent to collecting their email addresses.

Amendment

(29) In order to contribute to the promotion of active participation of citizens in the political life of the Union, the Commission and the organisers should be able to collect, in accordance with data protection rules, email addresses of signatories for the purpose of communication activities regarding an initiative, in particular for the purpose of providing information on the follow-up actions in response to an initiative. The collection of email addresses should be optional and subject to the **explicit** consent of signatories. Email addresses should not be collected as part of the statements of support forms and potential signatories should be informed that their right to support an initiative is not conditional on giving their consent to collecting their email addresses. ***Signatories should be able to withdraw their explicit consent for the collection of their email addresses at any time before and after the European citizens' initiative has been closed in which case the Commission and the ECI organisers should immediately delete the email address from their database and stop communication with the signatories.***

Or. en

Justification

This Amendment is needed to better reflect the rest of the text and the changes in the articles.

Amendment 92
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 29

(29) In order to contribute to the promotion of active participation of citizens in the political life of the Union, the Commission and the organisers should be able to collect, in accordance with data protection rules, email addresses of signatories for the purpose of communication activities regarding an initiative, in particular for the purpose of providing information on the follow-up actions in response to an initiative. The collection of email addresses should be optional and subject to the consent of signatories. Email addresses should not be collected as part of the statements of support forms and potential signatories should be informed that their right to support an initiative is not conditional on giving their consent to collecting their email addresses.

(29) In order to contribute to the promotion of active participation of citizens in the political life of the Union, the Commission and the organisers should be able to collect, in accordance with data protection rules, email addresses of signatories for the purpose of communication activities regarding an initiative, in particular for the purpose of providing information on the follow-up actions in response to an initiative. The collection of email addresses should be optional and subject to the consent of signatories ***which should be freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous pursuant to article 7 of Regulation 2016/679***. Email addresses should not be collected as part of the statements of support forms and potential signatories should be informed that their right to support an initiative is not conditional on giving their consent to collecting their email addresses.

Or. en

Amendment 93
Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 29 a (new)

(29 a) In order to contribute to the promotion of active and equal participation of all citizens in the political life of the Union, the Commission and the organisers should ensure that their webpages and mobile applications are accessible for people with disabilities. While Directive (EU) 2016/2102 does not apply to websites and mobile applications of Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, for the purpose of the central online collection system, online register, or online collaborative platform and any

webpages in relation to the European Citizens' Initiative that the Commission and organisers are responsible for should be accessible in a manner equivalent to the requirements of Directive (EU) 2016/2102. In particular, the Commission is encouraged to comply with the relevant European harmonised standards, providing compliance with the requirements perceivability, understandability, operability and robustness. The Commission should ensure compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), especially Articles 9 and 21, in order to foster access to information for persons with intellectual disabilities, alternatives in easy-to-read language should be provided to the greatest possible extent and proportionately.

Or. en

Justification

This Amendment is needed to better reflect the rest of the text and the changes in the articles.

Amendment 94 **Kostadinka Kuneva**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 30**

Text proposed by the Commission

(30) *In order to adapt to future needs the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission for the purpose of amending the Annexes to this Regulation.* It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on

Amendment

(30) It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council should receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their

Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council should receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts should systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

experts should systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

Or. en

Amendment 95
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 32

Text proposed by the Commission

(32) This Regulation respects fundamental rights and observes the principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, *in particular Article 8 thereof*.

Amendment

(32) This Regulation respects fundamental rights and observes the principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Or. en

Amendment 96
Laurențiu Rebega, Mara Bizzotto

Proposal for a regulation
Article 1 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

This Regulation establishes the procedures and conditions required for an initiative inviting the European Commission, within the framework of its powers, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens of the Union consider that a legal act of the Union is required for the purpose of implementing the Treaties (the 'European citizens' initiative' or 'initiative').

Amendment

This Regulation establishes the procedures and conditions required for an initiative inviting the European Commission, within the framework of its powers, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens of the Union consider that a legal act of the Union is required for the purpose of implementing the Treaties *or to amend or repeal a legal act in force* (the 'European citizens' initiative' or 'initiative').

Amendment 97
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 1 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

A citizens' initiative may concern a proposal for a new legal act by the Commission, or the abrogation or revision of any existing or envisaged legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing or revising the Treaties;

Or. en

Amendment 98
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 1 a

Scope

1. A citizens' initiative may concern a proposal for a new legal act by the Commission, or the abrogation or revision of any existing or envisaged legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing or revising the Treaties;

Or. en

Amendment 99
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Every citizen of the Union who is at least 16 years of age has the right to support an initiative by signing a statement of support ('the signatory'), in accordance with this Regulation.

Amendment

Every citizen of the Union who is at least 16 years of age ***at the time of expression of support***, has the right to support an initiative by signing a statement of support ('the signatory'), in accordance with this Regulation.

Or. en

Amendment 100

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Citizens residing in Member States other than those of their nationality shall have the right to support an initiative either in their country of residence or in their country of origin.

Or. en

Amendment 101

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Member States and the Commission shall adopt all the necessary provisions to facilitate the exercise, by persons with disabilities, of their right to support a citizens' initiative.

Or. en

Amendment 102

Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) it has received the support of at least one million signatories from at least one quarter of the Member States.

Amendment

(a) it has received the support of at least one million signatories from at least one quarter of the Member States
(meaning six member states).

(This amendment applies throughout the text. Adopting it will necessitate corresponding changes throughout.)

Or. en

Justification

With the exit of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2019 the number of states that are required should be lowered to six (as to reflect the new situation more precisely). One quarter of the m.s. required by the Regulation does not produce an integer number.

Amendment 103
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) in at least one quarter of the Member States, the number of signatories is at least equal to the minimum number set out in Annex I, corresponding to the number of the Members of the European Parliament elected in each Member State, multiplied by **750**, at the time of registration of the initiative.

Amendment

(b) in at least one quarter of the Member States, the number of signatories is at least equal to the minimum number set out in Annex I, corresponding to the number of the Members of the European Parliament elected in each Member State, multiplied by **the total number of Members of the European Parliament**, at the time of registration of the initiative.
(Update Annex I accordingly)

Or. en

Amendment 104
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. For the purpose of paragraph 1 a signatory shall be counted in its Member State of nationality.

Amendment

2. For the purpose of paragraph 1 a signatory shall be counted:
(a) in its Member State of nationality
(b) in the member state of choice (host state or state of origin) in case the citizen is a permanent resident of another member state (pursuant to Directive 2004/38).
(c) **in the member state of choice in case of dual or multiple citizenship**
(d) **the member state of residence in case of beneficiaries of international and subsidiary protection or EU Blue Card holders (pursuant to Council Directive 2009/50/EC and Directive 2011/95/EU)**

Or. en

Amendment 105
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. For the purpose of paragraph 1 a signatory shall be counted in its Member State of nationality.

Amendment

2. For the purpose of paragraph 1 a signatory shall **decide whether to** be counted in its Member State of nationality **or residence**.

Or. en

Justification

The possibility to be counted on grounds of residence instead of just nationality is added as it would simplify much more the counting procedure, particularly when it comes to the statements of support in paper form. In that case, if the choice is made by nationality (by residents in other Member States) the coordination by the different national competent authorities is of particular importance, to ensure a thorough cross-verification. That way logistical burden is removed from the organisers.

Amendment 106

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. For the purpose of paragraph 1 a signatory shall be counted in its Member State of nationality.

Amendment

2. For the purpose of paragraph 1 a signatory shall be counted in its Member State of nationality ***irrespective of the place where the statement of support was signed by the signatory.***

Or. en

Justification

This AM is needed in order to clarify that EU citizens should be able to sign European citizens initiative irrespective of their place of residence.

Amendment 107

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Information and assistance by the Commission and **by** Member States

Amendment

Information and assistance by the Commission, ***other Union institutions*** and Member States

Or. en

Justification

Including a reference to the Parliament and the EESC in the article requires updating the title

Amendment 108

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall, ***upon request***, provide information and assistance about the European citizens' initiative to citizens and groups of organisers.

Amendment

1. The Commission shall provide ***easily accessible exhaustive*** information and ***legal and technical*** assistance ***and guidance free of charge*** about the European citizens' initiative to citizens and groups of organisers ***to allow them to clarify and define the objective and facilitate the registration of their ECI.***

Or. en

Amendment 109

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1 a. Throughout the organisational phase preceding the registration of a proposed citizens' initiative, the organisers may ask Europe Direct and the Commission European Citizens' Initiative ("ECI") services for assistance. Those services shall provide full legal and practical assistance and guidance free of charge.

Or. en

Amendment 110

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1 a. The Commission shall also provide guidance to the Europe Direct Contact Centre so that they can also provide information and legal, technical assistance, guidance and advice to ECI organisers at national level.

Amendment 111

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission shall make available an online collaborative platform providing citizens and groups of organisers with a discussion forum and information and advice about the European citizens' initiative.

Amendment

The Commission shall make available an online collaborative platform providing citizens and groups of organisers with a discussion forum and information and advice about the European citizens' initiative. ***The Commission shall engage regularly with the ECI organisers through the collaborative platform.***

Or. en

Amendment 112

Virginie Rozière

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission shall make available an online collaborative platform providing citizens and groups of organisers with a discussion forum and information ***and advice*** about the European citizens' initiative.

Amendment

The Commission shall make available an online collaborative platform providing citizens and groups of organisers with a discussion forum and information about the European citizens' initiative. ***The Commission provides citizens and groups of organisers with advice.***

Or. en

Amendment 113

Virginie Rozière

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2 a (new)

Within 3 months after the publication of this Regulation, the Commission shall issue an user guide in order to facilitate the understanding of the European citizens' initiative. This user guide shall be issued after consultation of the committee established by Article 21 and the scrutiny board established by Article 21a.

Or. en

Justification

Such an user guide is necessary to inform and provide first answers for the promoters of ECI. It shall be issued rapidly to encourage a prompt appropriation of the new ECI Regulation and allow a substantive evaluation in conformity of Article 24.

Amendment 114

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 2 a (new)

2 a. The Commission shall make available an online, open-source, collaborative platform providing citizens, groups of organisers another relevant stakeholders with a discussion forum and information and advice about the European citizens' initiative, as well as an exchange of best practices. Use of this platform shall be made available free of charge to all organisers.

Or. en

Amendment 115

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The Commission shall make available an online register ('the register') allowing groups of organisers to manage their initiative throughout the procedure. The register shall comprise a public website providing information on the European citizens' initiative in general as well as on specific initiatives and their respective status.

Amendment

3. The Commission shall make available an online register ('the register') allowing groups of organisers to manage their initiative throughout the procedure. The register shall comprise a public website providing information on the European citizens' initiative in general ***including on the ECI financing and funding sources*** as well as on specific initiatives and their respective status.

Or. en

Amendment 116
Laurențiu Rebega

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. After the Commission has registered an initiative in accordance with Article 6, it shall provide the translation of the ***content of that*** initiative into all the official languages of the Union for its publication in the register and its use for the collection of statements of support in accordance with this Regulation. ***A group of organisers may, in addition, provide translations into all the official languages of the Union of the Annex for its publication in the register and also, as the case may be, of the draft legal act referred to in Annex II and submitted in accordance with Article 6(2).***

Amendment

4. After the Commission has registered an initiative in accordance with Article 6, it shall provide the translation of the ***whole*** initiative into all the official languages of the Union for its publication in the register and its use for the collection of statements of support in accordance with this Regulation.

Or. en

Amendment 117
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 4

4. After the Commission has registered an initiative in accordance with Article 6, it shall provide the translation of the content of that initiative into all the official languages of the Union for its publication in the register and its use for the collection of statements of support in accordance with this Regulation. A group of organisers may, in addition, provide translations into all the official languages of the Union *of the Annex for its publication in the register and also, as the case may be, of the* draft legal act referred to in Annex II *and* submitted in accordance with Article 6(2).

4. After the Commission has registered an initiative in accordance with Article 6, it shall provide the *free* translation of the content of that initiative into all the official languages of the Union for its publication in the register and its use for the collection of statements of support in accordance with this Regulation. A group of organisers may, in addition, provide translations *of the proposed citizens' initiative in other languages authorised by the Member States in accordance with applicable national law as well as translations of the Annex or an explanatory statement* into all the official languages of the Union, *for the* publication *of both* in the register. *If a* draft legal act, as referred to in Annex II, *is* submitted in accordance with Article 6(2), *it may also be included in the register. If an Annex or an explanatory statement has less than 5 000 characters (adjusted mean per language), the group of organisers may also request the Commission to translate the Annex free of charge into all official languages of the Union.*

Or. en

Amendment 118

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 4

4. After the Commission has registered an initiative in accordance with Article 6, it shall provide the translation of the content of that initiative into all the official languages of the Union for its publication in the register and its use for the collection of statements of support in accordance with this Regulation. A group of organisers may, in addition, provide translations into all the official languages

4. After the Commission has registered an initiative in accordance with Article 6, it shall provide the translation of the content of that initiative into all the official languages of the Union for its publication in the register and its use for the collection of statements of support in accordance with this Regulation. A group of organisers may, in addition, *ask the Commission to* provide translations into all

of the Union of the Annex for its publication in the register and also, as the case may be, of the draft legal act referred to in Annex II and submitted in accordance with Article 6(2).

the official languages of the Union of the Annex for its publication in the register and also, as the case may be, of the draft legal act referred to in Annex II and submitted in accordance with Article 6(2).

Or. it

Amendment 119

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. After the Commission has registered an initiative in accordance with Article 6, it shall provide the translation of the content of that initiative into all the official languages of the Union for its publication in the register and its use for the collection of statements of support in accordance with this Regulation. A group of organisers may, in addition, ***provide translations*** into all the official languages of the Union of the Annex for its publication in the register and also, as the case may be, of the draft legal act referred to in Annex II and submitted in accordance with Article 6(2).

Amendment

4. After the Commission has registered an initiative in accordance with Article 6, it shall provide the translation of the content of that initiative into all the official languages of the Union for its publication in the register and its use for the collection of statements of support in accordance with this Regulation. A group of organisers may, in addition, ***request the Commission to translate*** into all the official languages of the Union of the Annex for its publication in the register and also, as the case may be, of the draft legal act referred to in Annex II and submitted in accordance with Article 6(2).

Or. en

Amendment 120

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5 a. The European Economic and Social Committee shall be entitled to offer institutional mentoring and facilitation to the group of organisers, as it sees more appropriate to raise awareness of

initiatives, while respecting its remit and preserving a neutral role.

It shall be entitled to organise one or more hearings in its premises, since the registration of an initiative and through the signature collection phase, inviting the group of organisers to present their initiatives. Relevant independent experts may be also invited.

It shall be entitled to also contribute to the promotion of the citizens' initiative in general as a tool to foster democratic participation within the Union.

Or. en

Amendment 121

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. Each Member State shall establish one or more contact points to provide information **and** assistance to groups of organisers in setting up a European citizens' initiative.

Amendment

6. Each Member State shall establish one or more contact points to provide information, **as well as specific technical and legal advice and other** assistance to groups of organisers in setting up a European citizens' initiative. **Such one-stop-shops shall be present at least in the different Commission representation offices in all Member States;**

Or. en

Amendment 122

Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. Each Member State shall establish one or more contact points to provide

Amendment

6. Each Member State shall establish one or more **physical** contact points to

information and assistance to groups of organisers in setting up a European citizens' initiative.

provide information, ***legal advice*** and assistance to groups of organisers in setting up a European citizens' initiative. ***It should use the resources of the point of contact based in the Europe Direct Contact Centre and the European Commission Representations and the European Parliament offices in the Member States;***

Or. en

Amendment 123

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. Each Member State shall establish one or more contact points to provide information and assistance to groups of organisers in setting up a European citizens' initiative.

Amendment

6. Each Member State shall establish one or more contact points ***within their respective Europe Direct Contact Centre*** to provide information and assistance, ***as well as specific technical and legal guidelines*** to groups of organisers in setting up a European citizens' initiative.

Or. en

Amendment 124

Virginie Rozière, Andrea Cozzolino

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. Each Member State shall establish one or more contact points to provide information and assistance to groups of organisers in setting up a European citizens' initiative.

Amendment

6. Each Member State shall establish one or more contact points to provide information and assistance to groups of organisers in setting up a European citizens' initiative. ***This assistance shall be free of charge.***

Or. en

Justification

In order to promote and facilitate ECI, the advices of contact points shall be free of charge.

Amendment 125

Laurențiu Rebega, Mara Bizzotto

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. Each Member State shall ***establish*** one or more contact points to provide information and assistance to groups of organisers in setting up a European citizens' initiative.

Amendment

6. Each Member State shall ***appoint*** one or more contact points to provide information and assistance to groups of organisers in setting up a European citizens' initiative.

Or. en

Amendment 126

Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

6 a. The information shall be provided in a manner that is accessible and usable format and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities in a timely manner and without additional cost. the information shall be presented at an easily comprehensible manner with the use of sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and any other accessible means, modes and formats of communication;

Or. en

Amendment 127

Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

6 a. Europe Direct information points and the representation offices of the Commission at the member states upon the request of the organisers shall be at the position to:

(a) provide full assistance, free of charge

(b) facilitate communication with the Commission

Or. en

Amendment 128
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. An initiative shall be prepared and managed by a group of at least **seven** natural persons (the 'group of organisers'). Members of the European Parliament shall not be counted for the purpose of that minimum number.

1. An initiative shall be prepared and managed by a group of at least **six** natural persons (the 'group of organisers'). Members of the European Parliament shall not be counted for the purpose of that minimum number.

Or. en

Justification

Lowering the threshold of member states required should also mirror the number of organisers.

Amendment 129
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. The members of the group of organisers shall be citizens of the Union, *of the age to be entitled to vote in elections to the European Parliament* and residents of at least seven different Member States.

2. The members of the group of organisers shall be citizens of the Union, *aged 16 or over* and residents of at least seven different Member States.

Or. en

Amendment 130
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The members of the group of organisers shall be citizens of the Union, of the age to be entitled to vote in elections to the European Parliament *and residents of* at least *seven* different Member States.

Amendment

2. The members of the group of organisers shall be citizens *or residents* of the Union, of the age to be entitled to vote in elections to the European Parliament *originating from* at least *six* different Member States.

Or. en

Amendment 131
Laurențiu Rebega, Mara Bizzotto

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The members of the group of organisers shall be citizens of the *Union*, of the age to be entitled to vote in elections to the European Parliament and residents of at least seven different Member States.

Amendment

2. The members of the group of organisers shall be citizens of the *Member States*, of the age to be entitled to vote in elections to the European Parliament and residents of at least seven different Member States.

Or. en

Amendment 132
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2 a. The group of organisers may be registered as a legal entity, namely an organisation with legal personality in one of the Member States in accordance with national law.

Or. en

Amendment 133
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The group of organisers shall designate two of its members as, respectively, representative and substitute, who shall liaise between them and the institutions of the Union throughout the process and who shall be mandated to act on behalf of the group of organisers (the 'contact persons').

Amendment

The group of organisers shall designate **or elect** two of its members as, respectively, representative and substitute, who shall liaise between them and the institutions of the Union throughout the process and who shall be mandated to act on behalf of the group of organisers (the 'contact persons').

Or. en

Amendment 134
Virginie Rozière, Andrea Cozzolino

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

The group of organisers may also designate a maximum of **two** other natural persons, chosen from among its members or otherwise, who are mandated to act on behalf of the contact persons for the purpose of liaising with the institutions of the Union throughout the procedure.

Amendment

The group of organisers may also designate a maximum of **three** other natural persons, chosen from among its members or otherwise, who are mandated to act on behalf of the contact persons for the purpose of liaising with the institutions of the Union throughout the procedure.

Justification

In order to facilitate the handling of an ECI, it is opportune to authorize up to 3 substitutes. More might be uneasy to handle for the Commission and alter the continuity of an ECI and the necessary communication between the organizers and the Commission.

Amendment 135

Laurențiu Rebega, Mara Bizzotto

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. Without prejudice to the liability of the representative of the group of organisers as data controller under Article 82(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the members of a group of organisers shall be ***jointly and severally*** liable, in accordance with applicable national law, for any damage caused in the organisation of an initiative ***by unlawful acts committed intentionally or with serious negligence***.

Amendment

5. Without prejudice to the liability of the representative of the group of organisers as data controller under Article 82(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the members of a group of organisers shall be liable, in accordance with applicable national law, for any damage caused in the organisation of an initiative.

Or. en

Amendment 136

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. Without prejudice to the liability of the representative of the group of organisers as data controller under Article 82(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the members of a group of organisers shall be jointly ***and severally*** liable, in accordance with applicable national law, for any damage caused in the organisation of an initiative by unlawful acts committed intentionally or with serious negligence.

Amendment

5. Without prejudice to the liability of the representative of the group of organisers as data controller under Article 82(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the members of a group of organisers ***or, if applicable the legal entity created by them***, shall be jointly liable, in accordance with applicable national law, for any damage caused in the organisation of an initiative by unlawful acts committed

intentionally or with serious negligence.

Or. en

Amendment 137

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 5a

Hearing officer for European citizens' initiatives

The Commission, acting in accordance with the rules laid down in the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union, shall appoint one or more hearing officers from among persons who are highly professionally qualified in the law of the European Union, and shall also provide auxiliary support staff. The Commission shall ensure sincere cooperation and political dialogue with the European Parliament and the Council for the purposes of transparency and of ascertaining that there are no conflicts of interests involved in the appointment of hearing officers and the performance of their duties. The hearing officer shall assess whether the conditions under this Regulation are met for registration of a proposed European citizens' initiative. The hearing officer shall enjoy full independence in the performance of his or her duties.

Or. it

Amendment 138

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

PE619.134v01-00

76/129

AM\1147684EN.docx

Article 6 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Statements of support for an initiative may only be collected after the initiative has been registered by the Commission.

Amendment

1. Statements of support for an initiative may only be collected after the initiative has been registered by the Commission ***and where relevant after Member States have verified the conformity of the individual online collection systems set up by the group of organisers within the requirements of this Regulation.***

Or. en

Amendment 139

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Statements of support for an initiative may only be collected after the initiative has been registered by the Commission.

Amendment

1. Statements of support for an initiative may only be collected after the initiative has been registered by the Commission, ***following a favourable assessment by the hearing officer referred to in this Regulation.***

Or. it

Amendment 140

Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) where it is made up of more than 7 members, indicate those ***seven*** members to be taken into account for the purpose of Article 5(1) and (2);

Amendment

(b) where it is made up of more than 7 members, indicate those ***six*** members to be taken into account for the purpose of Article 5(1) and (2);

Or. en

Amendment 141

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Without prejudice to paragraphs 5 and 6, the **Commission** shall ***decide*** on the request within two months of its submission.

Amendment

Without prejudice to paragraphs 5 and 6, the ***hearing officer*** shall ***deliver an opinion*** on the request within two months of its submission.

Or. it

Amendment 142

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2 a. The Commission shall create an independent body for the specific purpose to assess the admissibility of submitted citizens' initiative, exclusively on the basis of the criteria set out in paragraph 3.

This independent body shall refrain from political considerations and shall merely perform a legal compliance check. Its administrative procedure shall be ultimately subject to the scrutiny of the Union Ombudsman.

Or. en

Amendment 143

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Commission shall register the initiative if:

The Commission shall register the initiative if ***according to the independent assessment body referred to in paragraph 2a:***

Or. en

Amendment 144

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The **Commission** shall register the initiative if:

The **hearing officer** shall ***recommend that the Commission*** register the initiative if:

Or. it

Amendment 145

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c) ***none of the parts of*** the initiative manifestly ***falls*** outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties;

(c) the initiative ***does not*** manifestly ***fall*** outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a ***new legal act or the abrogation or revision of any existing*** legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing ***or revising*** the Treaties;

Or. en

Justification

Article 296 TFEU gives enough room to interpret that a revision of the Treaties could be connected to a legal act. The Commission can initiate the revision procedure, according to article 48 TEU. At the same time, and taking into account the judgements of the Court of Justice, abrogation and revision should also fall within the scope of admissibility, and also when an initiative relates to envisaged legal acts, as those derived from international commercial treaties.

Amendment 146
Laurențiu Rebega, Mara Bizzotto

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) ***none of the parts*** of the initiative manifestly falls outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties;

Amendment

(c) ***the initiative or part*** of the initiative ***does not*** manifestly falls outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties;

Or. en

Amendment 147
Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) the initiative is not manifestly contrary to the values of the Union as set out in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union.

Amendment

(e) the initiative is not manifestly contrary to the values of the Union as set out in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union ***and rights enshrined in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights.***

Or. en

Amendment 148
Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

If one or more of the requirements set out in points (a) to (e) are not met, the ***Commission*** shall refuse to register the

Amendment

If one or more of the requirements set out in points (a) to (e) are not met, the ***hearing officer*** shall ***recommend that the***

initiative, without prejudice to paragraphs 4 and 5.

Commission refuse to register the initiative, without prejudice to paragraphs 4 and 5.

Or. it

Amendment 149

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Where **it** considers that the requirements laid down in paragraph 3 (a), (b), (d) and (e) are met but that the requirement laid down in paragraph 3(c) is not met, the **Commission** shall, within one month of the submission of the request, **inform the group of organisers of its assessment and of the reasons thereof.**

Amendment

Where **he or she** considers that the requirements laid down in paragraph 3 (a), (b), (d) and (e) are met but that the requirement laid down in paragraph 3(c) is not met, the **hearing officer** shall, within one month of the submission of the request, **provide his or her assessment and the reasons therefor. The Commission shall simultaneously forward that information to the group of organisers.**

Or. it

Amendment 150

Virginie Rozière

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

In that case, the group of organisers may either amend the initiative to take into account the Commission's assessment to ensure that the initiative is in conformity with the requirement laid down in paragraph 3(c) or maintain or withdraw the initial **initiative**. The group of organisers shall inform the Commission of its choice within one month of the receipt of the Commission's assessment giving the reasons thereof, and shall, as the case may be, transmit amendments to the

Amendment

In that case, the group of organisers may either amend the initiative to take into account the Commission's assessment to ensure that the initiative is in conformity with the requirement laid down in paragraph 3(c) or maintain or withdraw the initial **initiative. The group of organisers may alternatively seize the scrutiny board established by Article 21a. to review the assessment of the Commission.** The group of organisers shall inform the Commission of its choice within one month of the

information referred to in Annex II to replace the initial initiative.

receipt of the Commission's assessment giving the reasons thereof, and shall, as the case may be, transmit amendments to the information referred to in Annex II to replace the initial initiative.

Or. en

Justification

In order to ensure, when necessary, a clear impartial and fair handling of the registration procedure of ECI, organisers should be given a simple and easy to use "appeal" procedure with a seizure of the scrutiny board. It should allow a first redress mechanism without recourse to a lengthy procedure before the CJEU.

Amendment 151

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

In that case, the group of organisers may either amend the initiative to take into account the **Commission's** assessment to ensure that the initiative is in conformity with the requirement laid down in paragraph 3(c) or maintain or withdraw the initial initiative. The group of organisers shall inform the Commission of its choice within one month of the receipt of the **Commission's** assessment giving the reasons thereof, and shall, as the case may be, transmit amendments to the information referred to in Annex II to replace the initial initiative.

Amendment

In that case, the group of organisers may either amend the initiative to take into account the **hearing officer's** assessment to ensure that the initiative is in conformity with the requirement laid down in paragraph 3(c) or maintain or withdraw the initial initiative. The group of organisers shall inform the Commission **and the hearing officer** of its choice within one month of the receipt of the assessment giving the reasons thereof, and shall, as the case may be, transmit amendments to the information referred to in Annex II to replace the initial initiative.

Or. it

Amendment 152

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

In that case, the group of organisers may either amend the initiative to take into account the Commission's assessment to ensure that the initiative is in conformity with the requirement laid down in paragraph 3(c) or maintain or withdraw the initial initiative. The group of organisers shall inform the Commission of its choice within **one month** of the receipt of the Commission's assessment giving the reasons thereof, and shall, as the case may be, transmit amendments to the information referred to in Annex II to replace the initial initiative.

Amendment

In that case, the group of organisers may either amend the initiative to take into account the Commission's assessment to ensure that the initiative is in conformity with the requirement laid down in paragraph 3(c) or maintain or withdraw the initial initiative. The group of organisers shall inform the Commission of its choice within **two months** of the receipt of the Commission's assessment giving the reasons thereof, and shall, as the case may be, transmit amendments to the information referred to in Annex II to replace the initial initiative.

Or. en

Amendment 153

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 3 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Where the Commission receives the information from the organisers it shall:

Amendment

Where the Commission receives the information from the organisers, ***once the hearing officer's assessment has been acquired***, it shall:

Or. it

Amendment 154

Laurențiu Rebega, Mara Bizzotto

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 3 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) partially register the initiative if a ***substantial*** part of the initiative, ***including its main objectives***, does not manifestly fall outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal

Amendment

(b) partially register the initiative if a part of the initiative does not manifestly fall outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose

for a legal act of the Union for the purpose
of implementing the Treaties;

of implementing the Treaties;

Or. en

Amendment 155

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 3 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) partially register the initiative if **a**
substantial part of the initiative, including
its main objectives, does not manifestly fall
outside the framework of the
Commission's powers to submit a proposal
for a legal act of the Union for the purpose
of implementing the Treaties;

Amendment

(b) partially register the initiative if
part of the initiative, including its main
objectives, does not manifestly fall outside
the framework of the Commission's
powers to submit a proposal for a legal act
of the Union for the purpose of
implementing the Treaties;

Or. en

Amendment 156

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

The **Commission** shall **decide** on the
request within one month of receipt of the
information and, as the case may be, the
amended initiative from the group of
organisers referred to in the second
subparagraph.

Amendment

The **hearing officer** shall **express an**
opinion on the request within one month of
receipt of the information and, as the case
may be, the amended initiative from the
group of organisers referred to in the
second subparagraph.

Or. it

Amendment 157

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 5 – subparagraph 1

PE619.134v01-00

84/129

AM\1147684EN.docx

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

An initiative that has been registered shall be made public in the register.

Any initiative that has been submitted to the Commission for registration, including every initiative that has been registered, shall be made public in the register **and on the website of the European Citizens' Initiative.**

Or. en

Amendment 158

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 5 – subparagraph 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Where the Commission partially registers an initiative:

Where the Commission, **having acquired the hearing officer's assessment**, partially registers an initiative:

Or. it

Amendment 159

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

6. The Commission shall register an initiative under a single registration number and inform the group of organisers thereof.

6. The Commission shall register an initiative under **a single registration decision and** a single registration number and inform the group of organisers thereof.

Or. en

Amendment 160

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. Where it refuses to register or only partially registers an initiative in accordance with paragraph 4, the Commission shall inform the group of organisers of the reasons for its decision and of all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them.

Amendment

7. Where it refuses to register or only partially registers an initiative in accordance with paragraph 4, the Commission shall inform the group of organisers of the reasons for its decision and of all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them. ***The Commission shall provide robust, consistent and comprehensive reasons for its decision to refuse to register an ECI, so that citizens can understand and scrutinise its position and if necessary exercise their right to contest it. The Commission shall make public in the register and on the website of the European Citizens' Initiative the decision, reasoning and motivation of the Commission to register, partially register or refuse to register an initiative.***

Or. en

Amendment 161

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. Where it refuses to register or only partially registers an initiative in accordance with paragraph 4, the Commission shall inform the group of organisers of the reasons for its decision ***and of*** all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them.

Amendment

7. Where it refuses to register or only partially registers an initiative in accordance with paragraph 4, the Commission shall inform the group of organisers of the reasons for its decision ***setting out full details concerning the grounds of the refusal, taking into account any Annexes submitted and expressly referring to the legal bases used, and make those publically available with due regard of Article 296(2) TFEU and Article 41 of the Union Charter of Fundamental Rights, providing also*** all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them.

Amendment 162**Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo****Proposal for a regulation****Article 6 – paragraph 7***Text proposed by the Commission*

7. Where ***it refuses*** to register or only partially ***registers*** an initiative in accordance with paragraph 4, the Commission shall ***inform*** the group of organisers ***of the reasons for its decision and*** of all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them.

Amendment

7. Where ***there is a refusal*** to register or only partially ***register*** an initiative in accordance with paragraph 4, the ***hearing officer shall provide clear, comprehensive and detailed information on the reasons for his or her assessment. The*** Commission shall ***forward that information to*** the group of organisers ***and also inform them clearly and comprehensively*** of all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them.

Or. it

Amendment 163**Laurențiu Rebega, Mara Bizzotto****Proposal for a regulation****Article 6 – paragraph 7***Text proposed by the Commission*

7. Where it refuses to register or only partially registers an initiative in accordance with paragraph 4, the Commission shall inform the group of organisers ***of the reasons for its decision and*** of all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them.

Amendment

7. Where it refuses to register or only partially registers an initiative in accordance with paragraph 4, the Commission shall ***fully state the reason for refusing the registration, clearly indicating the parts that do not fall within its competence, and shall state out the reasons in support of that conclusion. The*** Commission will inform the group of organisers of all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them.

Or. en

Amendment 164
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. Where it refuses to register or only partially registers an initiative in accordance with paragraph 4, the Commission shall inform the group of **organisers** of the reasons for its decision and of all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them.

Amendment

7. Where it refuses to register or only partially registers an initiative in accordance with paragraph 4, the Commission shall inform **and adequately justify stating the reasons in full detail for choosing the course of action announced in the communication.** The group of **organizers shall be fully informed** of the reasons for its decision and of all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them.

Or. en

Amendment 165
Virginie Rozière

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. Where it refuses to register or only partially registers an initiative in accordance with paragraph 4, the Commission shall inform the group of organisers **of the reasons for its decision** and of all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them.

Amendment

7. Where it refuses to register or only partially registers an initiative in accordance with paragraph 4, the Commission shall **duly substantiate the reasons of its decision and** inform the group of organisers and of all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them. **This information includes the recourse to the scrutiny board established by Article 21a.**

Or. en

Justification

It is important the Commission gives a reasoned decision when it refuses to register an initiative.

Amendment 166
Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. Where it refuses to register or only partially registers an initiative in accordance with paragraph 4, the Commission shall inform the group of organisers of the reasons for its decision and of all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them.

Amendment

7. Where it refuses to register or only partially registers an initiative in accordance with paragraph 4, the Commission shall inform the group of organisers ***exhaustively and in full detail*** of the reasons for its decision and of all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them.

Or. en

Amendment 167
Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 7 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

7 a. Where organisers are informed of a refusal to register, fully or in part, they can amend their initiative and resubmit to the Commission within one month. Decisions made by organisers regarding the registration of their ECI shall also be made available in the register and on the website of the European Citizens' Initiative.

Or. en

Amendment 168
Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 8

Text proposed by the Commission

8. The Commission shall inform the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee **and** the Committee of the Regions of the registration of an initiative.

Amendment

8. The Commission shall inform, **in a clear, comprehensive and detailed manner**, the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions **and the national parliaments** of the registration of an initiative.

Or. it

Amendment 169

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

All statements of support shall be collected within a period not exceeding **12** months from a date chosen by the group of organisers (the 'collection period'), without prejudice to Article 11(6). That date must be not later than **three** months from the registration of the initiative in accordance with Article 6.

Amendment

All statements of support shall be collected within a period not exceeding **18** months from a date chosen by the group of organisers (the 'collection period'), without prejudice to Article 11(6). That date must be not later than **nine** months from the registration of the initiative in accordance with Article 6.

Or. en

Amendment 170

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

All statements of support shall be collected within a period not exceeding **12** months from a date chosen by the group of organisers (the 'collection period'), without prejudice to Article 11(6). That date must be not later than three months from the registration of the initiative in accordance with Article 6.

Amendment

All statements of support shall be collected within a period not exceeding **18** months from a date chosen by the group of organisers (the 'collection period'), without prejudice to Article 11(6). That date must be not later than three months from the registration of the initiative in accordance with Article 6.

Amendment 171

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

All statements of support shall be collected within a period not exceeding 12 months from a date chosen by the group of organisers (the 'collection period'), without prejudice to Article 11(6). That date must be not later than *three* months from the registration of the initiative in accordance with Article 6.

Amendment

All statements of support shall be collected within a period not exceeding 12 months from a date chosen by the group of organisers (the 'collection period'), without prejudice to Article 11(6). That date must be not later than *four* months from the registration of the initiative in accordance with Article 6.

Or. en

Amendment 172

Pál Csáky, László Tőkés

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

All statements of support shall be collected within a period not exceeding 12 months from a date chosen by the group of organisers (the 'collection period'), without prejudice to Article 11(6). That date must be not later than *three* months from the registration of the initiative in accordance with Article 6.

Amendment

All statements of support shall be collected within a period not exceeding 12 months from a date chosen by the group of organisers (the collection period), without prejudice to Article 11(6). That date must be not later than *six* months from the registration of the initiative in accordance with Article 6.

Or. hu

Justification

As part of the relaxation of the rules relating to organisers, it would be justified to extend the period preparatory to the collection of signatures, in order to facilitate successful collections of signatures. The Commission's proposal to introduce a preparatory period is to be welcomed, but the proposed 3-month preparation period cannot be considered sufficient. In addition to the establishment of the online signature collection system, organisers must find

partners capable of collecting signatures in more than one Member State, which will require several months of preparatory work. It is therefore appropriate to extend the preparation period while still making it clear that the organisers can also start collecting signatures earlier.

Amendment 173

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Where the group of organisers wishes to terminate the collection of statements of support before the end of **12** months after the beginning of the collection period, it shall inform the Commission of the date at which the collection period is to end.

Amendment

Where the group of organisers wishes to terminate the collection of statements of support before the end of **18** months after the beginning of the collection period, it shall inform the Commission of the date at which the collection period is to end.

(This amendment applies throughout the whole text.)

Or. en

Amendment 174

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1 a. The group of organisers, or, if applicable, the legal entity created by them in accordance with Article 5(2a) and (7) of this Regulation, shall be responsible for the collection of the statements of support from signatories for a proposed citizens' initiative which has been registered in accordance with Article 6.

Or. en

Amendment 175

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Commission and the competent authorities of Member States shall adopt all the necessary provisions so that Union citizens residing in a Member State other than that of their nationality shall have the possibility to choose whether their support to an initiative is counted either in their country of residence or in their country of origin. Competent authorities from the different Member States shall coordinate to ensure a proper allocation of the statements of support in their respective accounts.

Or. en

Amendment 176

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 7 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The group of organisers shall inform the Commission of the number of collected statements of support in each Member State at least every *two* months during the collection period and of the final number within three months of the end of the collection period for publication in the register.

The group of organisers shall inform the Commission of the number of collected statements of support in each Member State at least every *three* months during the collection period and of the final number within three months of the end of the collection period for publication in the register. *The Commission should maintain regular communication with the ECI organisers during and after the campaign.*

Or. en

Amendment 177

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

For the purpose of online collection of statements of support, the Commission shall set-up and operate, by 1 January 2020, **a** central online collection system, in accordance with Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46 of 10 January 2017.

Amendment

For the purpose of online collection of statements of support, the Commission shall set-up and operate, by 1 January 2020, central online collection system, in accordance with Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46 of 10 January 2017. ***The use of this system shall be voluntary and free of charge to all organisers.***

Or. en

Amendment 178

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

The central online collection system shall be accessible for persons with disabilities.

Amendment

The central online collection system ***shall be open-source and*** shall be accessible for persons with disabilities.

Or. en

Amendment 179

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4 a. The group of organisers using other certified online collection systems shall still have the possibility to use the servers operated by the Commission free of charge.

Where statements of support are collected online, the data obtained through the online collection system shall be stored in

the territory of the European Union.

Or. en

Amendment 180
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 12 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Each Member State (the 'responsible Member State') shall verify and certify that the statements of support signed by its nationals comply with the provisions of this Regulation.

Amendment

1. Each Member State (the 'responsible Member State') shall verify and certify that the statements of support signed by its nationals ***or residents*** comply with the provisions of this Regulation.

(This amendment applies throughout the text. Adopting it will necessitate corresponding changes throughout.)

Or. en

Amendment 181
Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation
Article 12 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

The group of organisers shall submit the statements of support to the competent authorities only where the minimum numbers of signatories laid down in Article 3 have been reached by the initiative.

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Justification

The AM goes beyond the main objective of the proposal to simplify the current rules and will put unjustified barrier to organisers of ECI.

Amendment 182
Pál Csáky, László Tőkés

Proposal for a regulation
Article 12 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

The group of organisers shall submit the statements of support to the competent authorities only where the minimum numbers of signatories laid down in Article 3 have been reached by the initiative.

Amendment

The group of organisers shall submit the statements of support to the competent authorities only where the minimum numbers of signatories laid down in Article 3(1)(a) have been reached by the initiative, ***having regard to the minimum number laid down in Annex I to the statements of support.***

Or. hu

Justification

If the original idea of the Commission in drafting the proposal was that the organisers would submit the supporting signatures to the competent national authorities only if the initiative was supported by one million signatories in any number of Member States or by the minimum number required as set out in Annex I in seven Member States, the subparagraph should be amended in the way indicated above.

Amendment 183
Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

14 ***When the Commission receives a valid initiative in respect of which the statements of support have been collected and certified in accordance with Articles 8 to 12, it shall publish without delay a notice to that effect in the register and transmit the initiative to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.***

Amendment

14 ***Publication and public hearings***

Or. it

Amendment 184
Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph –1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

-1. When the first six months of the signature collection period have elapsed, the group of organisers may request that a first public hearing be held, at Union level, in order to present its initiative. The hearing shall be organised by the European Parliament within three months of the request submitted by the group of organisers.

Or. it

Justification

The aim of this first public hearing is to offer valuable support to the group of organisers in order to increase EU citizens' knowledge about the existence of their initiative and the specific goals they seek to achieve.

Amendment 185
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. When the Commission receives a valid initiative in respect of which the statements of support have been collected and certified in accordance with Articles 8 to 12, it shall publish without delay a notice to that effect in the register and transmit the initiative to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee **and** the Committee of the Regions.

1. When the Commission receives a valid initiative in respect of which the statements of support have been collected and certified in accordance with Articles 8 to 12, it shall publish without delay a notice to that effect in the register and transmit the initiative to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, **as well as to national parliaments.**

Or. en

Amendment 186
Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. When the Commission receives a valid initiative in respect of which the statements of support have been collected and certified in accordance with Articles 8 to 12, it shall publish without delay a notice to that effect in the register and transmit the initiative to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee **and** the Committee of the Regions.

Amendment

1. When the Commission receives a valid initiative in respect of which the statements of support have been collected and certified in accordance with Articles 8 to 12, it shall publish without delay a notice to that effect in the register and transmit the initiative to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions **and the national parliaments**.

Or. it

Amendment 187
Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Within three months after the submission of the initiative, the group of organisers shall be given the opportunity to present the initiative at a public hearing.

Amendment

Within three months after the submission of the initiative, the group of organisers shall be given the opportunity to present the initiative at a public hearing **in the European Parliament in order to promote constructive and open public debate with all stakeholders, thus strengthening the European public sphere and democracy at EU level and reinforcing the importance of the initiative**.

Or. en

Amendment 188
Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

PE619.134v01-00

98/129

AM\1147684EN.docx

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Within three months **after** the submission of the initiative, the group of organisers shall be given the opportunity to present the initiative at a public hearing.

Amendment

Within three months **of** the submission of the **valid** initiative **in relation to which statements of support have been collected and certified in accordance with Articles 8 to 12**, the group of organisers shall be given the opportunity to present the initiative at a **second** public hearing.

Or. it

Amendment 189

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

When twelve months have elapsed since the submission of the Commission communication on its legal and political conclusions concerning a valid initiative in relation to which statements of support have been collected and certified in accordance with Articles 8 to 12, the group of organisers may request that a third public hearing be held at Union level. The hearing shall be organised by the European Parliament within six months of the submission of the request by the group of organisers.

Or. it

Justification

Taking account of possible significant developments, once an appropriate period of time has elapsed, the aim of this third hearing is to foster a detailed, updated analysis of the conclusions submitted by the Commission, checking, in addition, that any commitments made by the Commission itself in relation to the success of the initiative have been honoured in a consistent manner.

Amendment 190

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission and the European Parliament shall ***co-organize*** the public hearing ***at the European Parliament***. Representatives of the other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union, as well as interested stakeholders, shall be given the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

Amendment

The European Parliament shall ***organise*** the public hearing. Representatives of the other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union, as well as interested stakeholders ***and representatives of civil society and social partners***, shall be given the opportunity to participate in the hearing. ***Within one month of the public hearing, the European Parliament should hold a plenary debate on the initiative, which may be followed by a vote on a motion for resolution proposing a specific recommendation to the Commission.***

Or. en

Amendment 191

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission and the European Parliament shall ***co-organize*** the public hearing at the European Parliament. Representatives of the other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union, ***as well as interested stakeholders***, shall be given the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

Amendment

The European Parliament shall ***organise*** the public hearing at the European Parliament. Representatives of the other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union, ***and in particular the European Economic and Social Committee***, shall be given the opportunity to participate in the hearing. ***The attendance of other interested stakeholders shall be subject to the consent of the group of organisers. The public hearing shall be web-streamed and publically available thereafter.***

Or. en

Justification

Given the proven involvement of the EESC from the very beginning in the ECI process, and their continuous work of support and officious institutional mentoring to the organisers, and their logical link of the Union towards the civil society from which the citizens' initiative emerge, it seems reasonable to explicitly state its involvement in the hearing.

Amendment 192 Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission and the European Parliament shall ***co-organize*** the public hearing at ***the European Parliament***. Representatives of the other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union, as well as interested stakeholders, shall be given the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

Amendment

The European Parliament shall ***organize*** the public hearing at ***its premises***. Representatives of the ***European Commission, the Presidency of the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), the Committee of Regions (CoR) shall be invited***. Other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union ***based on the topic stressed in the ECI***, as well as interested stakeholders, shall be given the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

Or. en

Amendment 193 Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission and the European Parliament shall ***co-organize*** the public ***hearing at the European Parliament***. Representatives of the other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union, ***as well as interested*** stakeholders, shall be given the opportunity to participate in the ***hearing***.

Amendment

The European Parliament shall ***organise*** the public ***hearings at its premises***. Representatives of the other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union, ***of the national parliaments and public*** stakeholders shall be given the opportunity to participate in the ***hearings***.

Justification

It is the responsibility of the relevant public stakeholders alone to describe, during the hearings, the overall impact - including that on the private sector - of a European citizens' initiative. This is to ensure that participation is targeted at those who seek to protect collective interests rather than exclusively private interests.

Amendment 194

Virginie Rozière, Andrea Cozzolino

Proposal for a regulation**Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2***Text proposed by the Commission*

The Commission and the European Parliament shall co-organize the public hearing at the European Parliament. Representatives of the other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union, as well as interested stakeholders, shall be given the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

Amendment

The Commission and the European Parliament shall co-organize the public hearing at the European Parliament. ***Representatives of the Council assist and participate in the hearing.*** Representatives of the other institutions and advisory bodies of the Union, as well as interested stakeholders, shall be given the opportunity to participate in the hearing.

Justification

As co-legislator and in order to increase the political debate, Council shall be associated to this hearing.

Amendment 195

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation**Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2 a (new)***Text proposed by the Commission**Amendment*

The hearing shall pursue the public interest. The exclusive objective of the hearing is to inform exhaustively about the content and aims of a initiative.

Amendment 196
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The main aim of the hearing shall be to provide, in the public interest, the group of organisers with a forum to present the content of their initiative. The focus of the initiative shall be to provide detailed exposition of its purpose and to suggest concrete legislative goals.

Or. en

Amendment 197
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Commission and the European Parliament shall ensure a balanced representation of relevant public and private interests.

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 198
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

*The Commission and the European Parliament shall ensure a balanced representation of **relevant public and private interests**.*

*The European Parliament shall ensure a balanced representation of **stakeholders involved depending on the topic discussed**. Additionally the hearing shall be fully*

accessible, publicly web-broadcasted and shall allow for the opportunity for real-time participation by the citizens.

Or. en

Amendment 199

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission and the European Parliament shall ensure a balanced representation of relevant public *and private* interests.

Amendment

The European Parliament shall ensure a balanced representation of relevant public *interests. The European Parliament shall also ensure the presence of experts who are highly skilled in the subject on which the initiative is based, subject to prior verification that there are no conflicts of* interests *involved.*

Or. it

Amendment 200

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission and the European Parliament shall ensure a balanced representation of relevant public and private interests.

Amendment

The European Parliament shall ensure a balanced representation of relevant public and private interests, *as well as the representation of institutions and advisory bodies of the Union.*

Or. en

Amendment 201

Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation

PE619.134v01-00

104/129

AM\1147684EN.docx

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The European Parliament in accordance with its Rules of Procedure shall strive to host a debate at plenary level with the option to have a motion for resolution depicting its position on the European citizens' initiative proposed.

Or. en

Amendment 202

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3. The Commission shall be represented in the hearing at an appropriate level.

3. The Commission shall be represented in the hearing at an appropriate level.

The presence of at least one member of the College of Commissioners shall be assured at the hearings.

Or. en

Amendment 203

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3. The Commission shall be represented in the hearing at an appropriate level.

3. The Commission ***and Council*** shall be represented in the hearing at an appropriate level.

Or. en

Amendment 204

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 3**

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The Commission shall be represented in the **hearing** at an appropriate level.

Amendment

3. The Commission shall be represented in the **hearings** at an appropriate level.

Or. it

**Amendment 205
Laurențiu Rebega, Mara Bizzotto**

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 3**

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The Commission shall be represented in the hearing at **an appropriate** level.

Amendment

3. The Commission shall be represented in the hearing at **the highest** level.

Or. en

**Amendment 206
Josep-Maria Terricabras**

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 3 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3 a. The European Parliament shall hold a debate on those citizens' initiatives that successfully meet all of the criteria laid down in this Regulation during the plenary session following the public hearing referred to in Article 14, and no later than one month thereafter.

The debate shall be concluded by the adoption of a motion for resolution with European Parliament's recommendation to the Commission on the actions needed

as a follow up to the citizens' initiative.

Or. en

Amendment 207

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3 a. The European Parliament may also develop appropriate forms of response to those citizens' initiatives, which have been successfully registered but do not meet the one million signatures, but nevertheless receive significant citizens' support.

Or. en

Amendment 208

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3 b. A second hearing may be organised by the Parliament, for instance at the request of the group of organisers including their participation, subsequently to the communication by the Commission, in order to contribute to the assessment of its reply and any concrete legislative proposal contained therein.

Or. en

Amendment 209

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 3 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3 c. National and regional parliaments may also organise hearings on the citizens' initiatives, inviting where appropriate the organisers, with particular emphasis on Member States where a successful initiative has reached the minimum threshold of signatures.

Or. en

Justification

Involving national parliaments into the debate over citizens' initiative is an effective way to bring the Union political debate closer to citizens. The debates in national and regional parliaments can be useful in turn for subsequent debates in the European Parliament, or for the Commission itself.

Amendment 210
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 14 a

Involvement of the Parliament after the submission of an initiative

1. Upon notification by the Commission that a valid and certified initiative has been received in accordance with Articles 8 to 12, the European Parliament shall organise the public hearing referred to in Article 14 on its premises as early as possible, and in any event no later than three months after the submission of the initiative.

The European Parliament shall adopt the necessary provisions to ensure consistency in the organisation of hearings of the different citizen's initiatives over time.

2. The European Parliament shall hold a debate on those citizens' initiatives that successfully meet all of the criteria laid down in this Regulation during the plenary session following the public hearing referred to in Article 14.

The debate shall be concluded by the adoption of a motion for resolution with European Parliament's recommendation to the Commission on the actions needed as a follow up to the citizens' initiative.

3. After the communication by the Commission is published, the Parliament may organise a new public hearing in presence of the organisers of the citizens' initiative, as well as independent experts.

4. Where the conclusions in the communication of the Commission referred to in Article 15(2) and the recommendation of the European Parliament referred to in paragraph 2 differ, the European Parliament may exercise the right conferred on the European Parliament under Article 225 TFEU.

5. Registered citizens' initiatives that at the end of the collection period do not reach the minimum amount of supports to be validated in accordance with Article 3 may be examined by the Parliament by other means, by analogy with petitions.

Or. en

Amendment 211
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 15 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

15 Examination by the Commission

15 Examination by the Commission -
First Phase

Or. en

Amendment 212

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Within one month of the submission of *the* initiative, the Commission shall receive the group of organisers at an appropriate level to allow them to explain in detail the matters raised by the initiative.

Amendment

1. Within one month of the submission of *a valid* initiative *in relation to which statements of support have been collected and certified in accordance with Articles 8 to 12*, the Commission shall receive the group of organisers at an appropriate level to allow them to explain in detail the matters raised by the initiative.

Or. it

Amendment 213

Eleonora Evi, Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. Within three months of the submission of a valid initiative in relation to which statements of support have been collected and certified in accordance with Articles 8 to 12, the European Parliament shall organise a debate in plenary session.

Or. it

Amendment 214

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Within five months after the publication of

Within five months after the publication of

the initiative in accordance with Article 14(1), and after the public hearing referred to in Article 14(2), the Commission shall set out in a communication its legal and political conclusions on the initiative, the action it intends to take, if any, and its reasons for taking or not taking action.

the initiative in accordance with Article 14(1), and after the public hearing referred to in Article 14(2), the Commission shall set out in a communication its legal and political conclusions on the initiative, the action it intends to take, if any, and its reasons for taking or not taking action. ***The Commission should give detailed and clear reasons and full justification for a decision not to take any action explaining its political conclusions to the public in a detailed and transparent manner.***

Or. en

Amendment 215

Laurențiu Rebega, Mara Bizzotto

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Within five months after the publication of the initiative in accordance with Article 14(1), and after the public hearing referred to in Article 14(2), the Commission shall set out in a communication its legal and political conclusions on the initiative, the action it intends to take, if any, and ***its*** reasons for taking or not taking action.

Amendment

Within five months after the publication of the initiative in accordance with Article 14(1), and after the public hearing referred to in Article 14(2), the Commission shall set out in a communication its legal and political conclusions on the initiative, the action it intends to take, if any, and ***explain in a clear, comprehensible and detailed manner the*** reasons for taking or not taking action.

Or. en

Amendment 216

Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Within ***five*** months after the publication of the initiative in accordance with Article 14(1), and after the public hearing referred

Amendment

Within ***four*** months after the publication of the initiative in accordance with Article 14(1), and after the public hearing referred

to in Article 14(2), the Commission shall set out in a communication its legal and political conclusions on the initiative, the action it intends to take, if any, and its reasons for taking or not taking action.

to in Article 14(2), the Commission shall set out in a ***draft*** communication its legal and political conclusions on the initiative, the action it intends to take, if any, and its reasons for taking or not taking action.

Or. en

Amendment 217
Virginie Rozière

Proposal for a regulation
Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

In conformity of the principle of good administration, the Commission substantiates its decision.

Or. en

Justification

Important to request a reasoned decision from the Commission in order to facilitate the review mechanisms and possible further judicial actions.

Amendment 218
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 15 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2 a. In the case of a successful initiative, the Commission shall by default submit a legislative proposal to the European Parliament and to the Council within twelve months of the end of the period referred to in paragraph 2.

If exceptionally the Commission is of the opinion that there are good reasons not to submit such a specific proposal, then it shall duly justify its decision on an exhaustive and fully detailed manner, thus allowing for its proper assessment by

the European Parliament and other institutions, organisers and signatories, concerned stakeholders and public in general.

For the purposes of this Article, special attention should be paid to Article 296(2) TFEU and Article 41 of the Union Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Or. en

Amendment 219
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 15 – paragraph 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2 b. No later than four months after the reception of the communication, the European Parliament shall assess the Commission's reply to the citizens' initiative in form of legislative action or absence thereof.

The European Parliament may organise a second hearing in presence of the organisers of the initiative as well as independent experts, and it shall hold a plenary debate on this issue, according to its Rules of Procedure.

Those debates shall be concluded by the adoption of a motion for resolution.

Or. en

Amendment 220
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 15 – paragraph 2 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2 c. Where the conclusions in the communication of the Commission

referred to in Article 15(2) and the recommendation of the European Parliament differ, the European Parliament may exercise the right conferred on the European Parliament under Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Or. en

Amendment 221
Laurențiu Rebega, Mara Bizzotto

Proposal for a regulation
Article 15 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The Commission and the group of organisers *may* inform the signatories on the response to the initiative in accordance with Article 17 (2) and (3).

Amendment

3. The Commission and the group of organisers *shall* inform the signatories on the response to the initiative in accordance with Article 17 (2) and (3).

Or. en

Amendment 222
Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation
Article 15 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3 a. The Commission should keep the organisers updated on its activities in relation to the initiative and on the evolution of the initiative after the Commission has delivered on its decision.

Or. en

Amendment 223
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 15 a

Examination of the Commission - Second Phase

1. Within one month from the publication of the draft communication a second public hearing shall be organized by the European Parliament at its premises in accordance with article 14, with the view to debate fully and with transparency the proposed course of action by the European Commission.

2. Within two months from the second public hearing the final communication from the Commission shall be communicated to the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Committee of Regions (CoR) and the organizers.

Or. en

Amendment 224
Virginie Rozière

Proposal for a regulation
Article 15 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 15 a

Political hearing

The European Parliament and the Council can organise, jointly or separately, a hearing of the Commission on its decision to intend or not to intend an action after a valid initiative.

Or. en

Justification

Without ignoring the balance of the Treaties and the exclusive competences of the Commission as regard legislative initiatives, this hearing should increase the political debate and accountability.

Amendment 225

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Transparency

Transparency *and funding*

Or. en

Amendment 226

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The group of organisers shall provide, for the publication in the register, and as the case may be on their campaign website, information on the sources of support and funding for the initiative exceeding **500** euros per sponsor.

The group of organisers shall provide, for the publication in the register, and as the case may be on their campaign website, information on the sources of support and funding for the initiative exceeding **100** euros per sponsor.

Or. en

Amendment 227

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

An annual appropriation in the Union's Budget shall be allocated to support the

organisation of citizens' initiatives.

An established group of organisers may apply for financial coverage of expenses related to legal advice and support prior to the submission or after the conclusion of the signature collection.

The group of organisers of registered initiatives shall be entitled to a grant, aimed at covering expenses related to communication and logistical aspects of their signature collection campaign.

Or. en

Amendment 228

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Commission should ensure full transparency of funding and sponsorship information through quality checks, alerts and complaints system to ensure that funding and sponsorship information provided by ECI organisers are correct.

Or. en

Amendment 229

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. The Commission shall raise public awareness about the existence of the European citizens' initiative through communication activities and information campaigns, thereby contributing to promoting the active participation of citizens in the political life of the Union.

1. The Commission, *with the support of the European Parliament and other Union Institutions, as well as Member States*, shall raise public awareness about the existence of the European citizens' initiative through *proactively carrying out* communication activities and information

campaigns *using all public channels available*, thereby *maximising its added-value and* contributing to promoting the active participation of citizens in the political life of the Union.

The Commission may grant financial support to entities that contribute to the overall promotion of the citizens' initiative as a democratic participation instrument, provide free technical support and legal advice to the organisers.

Or. en

Amendment 230

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall raise public awareness about the existence of the European citizens' initiative through communication activities and information campaigns, thereby contributing to promoting the active participation of citizens in the political life of the Union.

Amendment

1. The Commission *and member States* shall raise public awareness about the existence of the European citizens' initiative through communication activities and information *ad hoc* campaigns, *grass-root initiatives and the use of social and digital media* thereby contributing to promoting the active participation of citizens in the political life of the Union *and promoting awareness of how citizens can influence and shape the European Union through a European citizens' initiative.*

Or. en

Amendment 231

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1 a. As an additional means of raising

awareness on a registered ECI, the group of organisers of a registered initiative shall be entitled to present their initiative in a public hearing at the premises of the official representation of the Commission or the European Parliament in the Member States.

This shall take place at no cost to the group of organisers, in the month of their choice between the date of the registration and the termination of collection of statements of support, and at least once in each Member State.

The responsible services of the Commission and the European Parliament shall ensure that adequate official communication about the event takes place at the national level.

Or. en

Amendment 232

Marlene Mizzi

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

For the purposes of communication and information activities regarding the initiative concerned and subject to consent by a signatory, his or her email address may be collected by a group of organisers or by the Commission.

Amendment

For the purposes of communication and information activities regarding the initiative concerned and subject to **explicit** consent by a signatory, his or her email address may be collected by a group of organisers or by the Commission.

Or. en

Amendment 233

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Article 18 – paragraph –1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

-1. In processing personal data pursuant to this Regulation, the group of organisers of a citizens' initiative or, if applicable, the legal entity created by them, and the competent authorities of the Member State shall comply with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 .

Or. en

Amendment 234
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 18 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1 a. The organisers or, if applicable, the legal entity created by them, shall ensure that personal data collected for a given citizen's initiative are not used for any purpose other than their indicated support for that initiative.

Or. en

Amendment 235
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 19 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. For the purpose of Article 11, each Member State shall designate one or more competent authorities responsible for issuing the certificate referred to in Article 11(3).

1. For the purpose of Article 11, each Member State shall designate **without delay** one or more competent authorities responsible for issuing the certificate referred to in Article 11(3).

Or. en

Amendment 236
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 19 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. For the purpose of Article 12, each Member State shall designate one competent authority responsible for coordinating the process of verification of statements of support and for issuing the certificates referred to in Article 12(5).

Amendment

2. For the purpose of Article 12, each Member State shall designate ***without delay*** one competent authority responsible for coordinating the process of verification of statements of support and for issuing the certificates referred to in Article 12(5).

Or. en

Amendment 237
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Chapter 4 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

**DELEGATED ACTS AND
IMPLEMENTING ACTS**

Amendment

IMPLEMENTING ACTS

Or. en

Amendment 238
Virginie Rozière, Andrea Cozzolino

Proposal for a regulation
Article 21 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 21 a

Scrutiny board

1. For the purpose of implementing Article 6, a scrutiny board is established within the Commission.

2. The scrutiny board is composed of experienced and competent members of the Commission, the Council, the European Parliament and the Ombudsman.

3. The number of members and the rules of functioning of the scrutiny board are defined in accordance with the procedure defined by Article 23.

Or. en

Amendment 239
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 22 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 23 concerning amendments to the Annexes to this Regulation within the scope of the relevant provisions of this Regulation.

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 240
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 23

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 23

deleted

Exercise of the delegation

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.

2. The power to adopt the delegated acts referred to in Article 22 shall be conferred on the Commission for an indeterminate period of time from [date of entry into force of the basic legislative act or any other date set by the co-legislators].

3. The delegation of power referred to in Article 22 may be revoked at any time by

the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

4. Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each Member State in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016.

5. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.

6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 22 shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or by the Council within a period of [two months] of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by [two months] at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Or. en

Justification

There is no need to allow for delegated acts from the Commission. The European Parliament has been alert and calling for the revision of the ECI Regulation since its first years of inception. The Commission proved to have slow reflexes on this. The protection of the legitimate interests of the citizens and the principle of good faith is that the Regulation does not retain an option that would allow for the ordinary legislative procedure if need be to amend the legislative text.

Amendment 241
Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation
Article 24 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission shall periodically review the functioning of the European citizens' initiative and present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Regulation no later than *five* years from the date of application of this Regulation, and every *five* years thereafter. The reports shall be made public.

Amendment

The Commission shall periodically review the functioning of the European citizens' initiative and present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Regulation no later than *three* years from the date of application of this Regulation, and every *three* years thereafter. The reports shall be made public.

Or. en

Amendment 242
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Article 24 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission shall periodically review the functioning of the European citizens' initiative and present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Regulation no later than *five* years from the date of application of this Regulation, and every *five* years thereafter. The reports shall be made public.

Amendment

The Commission shall periodically review the functioning of the European citizens' initiative and present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Regulation no later than *four* years from the date of application of this Regulation, and every *four* years thereafter. The reports shall be made public.

Or. en

Amendment 243
Virginie Rozière

Proposal for a regulation
Article 24 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission shall periodically review

Amendment

The Commission shall periodically review

the functioning of the European citizens' initiative and present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Regulation no later than **five** years from the date of application of this Regulation, and every five years thereafter. The reports shall be made public.

the functioning of the European citizens' initiative and present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Regulation no later than **two** years from the date of application of this Regulation, and every five years thereafter. The reports shall be made public.

Or. en

Justification

The ICE is of great importance for the democratic and inclusive functioning of the EU. The reform to be brought by the revision of this Regulation has been awaiting by citizens and stakeholders for long and several improvements are expected. It is important therefore to have a first assessment of these improvements within the next two years.

Amendment 244 **Kostadinka Kuneva**

Proposal for a regulation **Annex II – point 1**

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The title of the initiative, in no more than 100 characters;

Amendment

1. The title of the initiative, in no more than 100 characters **not including spaces**;

Or. en

Amendment 245 **Josep-Maria Terricabras**

Proposal for a regulation **Annex II – point 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The content of the initiative on which the Commission is invited to act, in no more than **1000** characters;

Amendment

2. The content of the initiative on which the Commission is invited to act, in no more than **1 200** characters (**adjusted mean per language**);

Or. en

Amendment 246
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Annex II – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The content of the initiative on which the Commission is invited to act, in no more than 1000 characters;

Amendment

2. The content of the initiative on which the Commission is invited to act, in no more than 1000 characters ***not including spaces***;

Or. en

Amendment 247
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Annex II – point 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The full names, postal addresses, nationalities and dates of birth of ***seven*** members of the group of organisers residing in ***seven*** different Member States indicating specifically the representative and the substitute as well as their e-mail addresses and telephone numbers³⁵ ;

Amendment

The full names, postal addresses, nationalities and dates of birth of ***six*** members of the group of organisers residing in ***six*** different Member States indicating specifically the representative and the substitute as well as their e-mail addresses and telephone numbers³⁵ ;

³⁵ Privacy statement: in accordance with Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data, data subjects are informed that these personal data are compiled by the Commission for the purpose of the procedure in respect of the proposed citizens' initiative. Only the full names of the organisers, the country of residence of the representative or, as the case may be, the name and the country of

³⁵ Privacy statement: in accordance with Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data, data subjects are informed that these personal data are compiled by the Commission for the purpose of the procedure in respect of the proposed citizens' initiative. Only the full names of the organisers, the country of residence of the representative or, as the case may be, the name and the country of

the seat of the legal entity, the e-mail addresses of the contact persons and information relating to the sources of support and funding will be made available to the public in the Commission's online register. Data subjects are entitled to object to the publication of their personal data on compelling legitimate grounds relating to their particular situation, and to request the rectification of that data at any time and its removal from the Commission's online register after the expiry of a period of two years from the date of registration of the proposed citizens' initiative.

the seat of the legal entity, the e-mail addresses of the contact persons and information relating to the sources of support and funding will be made available to the public in the Commission's online register. Data subjects are entitled to object to the publication of their personal data on compelling legitimate grounds relating to their particular situation, and to request the rectification of that data at any time and its removal from the Commission's online register after the expiry of a period of two years from the date of registration of the proposed citizens' initiative.

(This amendment applies throughout the text. Adopting it will necessitate corresponding changes throughout.)

Or. en

Amendment 248
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Annex II – point 4 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

If the representative and/or the substitute are not among the *seven* members referred to in the above paragraph, their full names, postal addresses, nationalities, dates of birth, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers.

Amendment

If the representative and/or the substitute are not among the *six* members referred to in the above paragraph, their full names, postal addresses, nationalities, dates of birth, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers.

Or. en

Amendment 249
Kostadinka Kuneva

Proposal for a regulation
Annex II – point 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. Documents that prove the full names, postal addresses, nationalities and

AM\1147684EN.docx

Amendment

5. Documents that prove the full names, postal addresses, nationalities and

PE619.134v01-00

127/129

dates of birth of each of the *seven* members referred to in point 4 above and of the representative and the substitute if they are not among those *seven* members;

dates of birth of each of the *six* members referred to in point 4 above and of the representative and the substitute if they are not among those *six* members;

(This amendment applies throughout the text. Adopting it will necessitate corresponding changes throughout.)

Or. en

Amendment 250

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Annex III – part 1 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

I want my statement of support to be counted in my the Member State I reside / I am national of

((Tick where appropriate. In case of choice by nationality, indicate the Member State))

Or. en

Justification

A field for the indication of the nationality should be included in the form, for the purpose of adequate counting of statement of support in relation to national thresholds, particularly in the case on nationals of a different Member State than that of their residence, who choose to be counted in the Member State of their nationality.

Amendment 251

Josep-Maria Terricabras

Proposal for a regulation

Annex III – part 2 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

I want my statement of support to be counted in my the Member State I reside / I am national of

((Tick where appropriate. In case of choice by nationality, indicate the Member State))

Justification

A field for the indication of the nationality should be included in the form, for the purpose of adequate counting of statement of support in relation to national thresholds, particularly in the case on nationals of a different Member State than that of their residence, who choose to be counted in the Member State of their nationality.