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*Committee on Constitutional Affairs*

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**2010/0074(COD)**

28.10.2010

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# **DRAFT REPORT**

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council  
on the citizens' initiative  
(COM(2010)0119 – C7-0089/2010 – 2010/0074(COD))

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Rapporteurs: Zita Gurmai and Alain Lamassoure

Rapporteurs for the opinion (\*): Gerald Häfner and Diana Wallis,  
Committee on Petitions

(\* ) Associated Committees – Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

### ***Symbols for procedures***

- \* Consultation procedure
- \*\*\* Consent procedure
- \*\*\*I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- \*\*\*II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- \*\*\*III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

### ***Amendments to a draft act***

In amendments by Parliament, amendments to draft acts are highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the draft act which may require correction when the final text is prepared – for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a language version. Suggested corrections of this kind are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

The heading for any amendment to an existing act that the draft act seeks to amend includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend. Passages in an existing act that Parliament wishes to amend, but that the draft act has left unchanged, are highlighted in **bold**. Any deletions that Parliament wishes to make in such passages are indicated thus: [...].

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## DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the citizens' initiative

(COM(2010)0119 – C7-0089/2010 – 2010/0074(COD))

**(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2010)0119),
  - having regard to Article 11(4) of the Treaty on European Union,
  - having regard to Article 294(2) and the first paragraph of Article 24 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C7-0089/2010),
  - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 14 July 2010<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions of 10 June 2010<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
  - having regard to Rule 55 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the opinions of the Committee on Petitions, the Committee on Culture and Education and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A7-0000/2010),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
  2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend its proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
  3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

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<sup>1</sup> Not yet published in the Official Journal.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 267, 1.10.2010, p. 57.

## Amendment 1

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(1) The Treaty on European Union reinforces the citizenship of the Union and enhances further the democratic functioning of the Union by providing inter alia that every citizen shall have the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union ***and that not less than one million citizens who are nationals of a significant number of Member States may take the initiative of 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 for the purpose of implementing the Treaties.***

*Amendment*

(1) The Treaty on European Union reinforces the citizenship of the Union and enhances further the democratic functioning of the Union by providing inter alia that every citizen shall have the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union ***by way of a European citizens' initiative. That procedure affords citizens the possibility of directly approaching the Commission, conferring on them a right of initiative similar to that exercised by the European Parliament and the Council.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*It is superfluous to repeat Treaty provisions in a recital. The necessary references to the Treaties are already made in the citations. In the last sentence the place of the initiative in the overall framework of the European construction is referred to.*

## Amendment 2

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

***(2) The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that the European Parliament and the Council should adopt the provisions for the procedures and conditions required for such a citizens' initiative.***

*Amendment*

***deleted***

Or. en

### *Justification*

*It is useless to repeat the Treaty provision in a recital. The legal base is already referred to in the first citation of the Regulation.*

### **Amendment 3**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Recital 3**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(3) These procedures and conditions should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate to the nature of the citizens' initiative.

*Amendment*

(3) These procedures and conditions should be clear, simple, user-friendly and proportionate to the nature of the citizens' initiative, **and should strike a judicious balance between rights and obligations.**

Or. en

### *Justification*

*In the rapporteurs' view it is important that rights provided by the Regulation should go hand in hand with respective obligations. This new tool of participatory democracy could only be successfully implemented in practice if equilibrium is found between rights and obligations.*

### **Amendment 4**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Recital 5**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(5) It is necessary to establish *the* minimum number of Member States from which citizens must come. **In order to** ensure that a citizens' initiative is representative of a Union interest, **this number** should be set at **one third** of Member States.

*Amendment*

(5) It is necessary to establish *a* minimum number of Member States from which citizens must come. **This threshold should** ensure that a citizens' initiative is representative of a Union interest **but the requirements should not be too cumbersome. It therefore** should be set at **one fifth** of *the* Member States.

Or. en

### *Justification*

*A lower threshold should be found where the Union interest can still be represented but the*

requirements are not too cumbersome.

## Amendment 5

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 7

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(7) It is appropriate to fix a minimum age for supporting a citizens' initiative. **This should be set as the age *at which citizens are entitled to vote in the European Parliament elections.***

*Amendment*

(7) It is appropriate to fix a minimum age for supporting a citizens' initiative. ***In order to foster the participation of younger citizens in the democratic life of the Union, this should be set at the age of 16.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*A lower age limit is proposed in order to encourage younger citizens' participation in the democratic life of the Union. The age limit of 16 years in case of European elections already exists in a certain Member State.*

## Amendment 6

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 7 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(7a) A minimum organised structure is needed in order to successfully carry through a citizens' initiative. This should take the form of a citizens' committee, composed of natural persons (organisers) coming from a number of different Member States, in order to encourage the emergence of European-wide issues and to foster reflection on those issues. For the sake of transparency and smooth and efficient communication, the citizens' committee should designate representatives to perform a liaison function between the committee and the institutions of the Union throughout the***



*procedure.*

Or. en

*Justification*

*The citizens' initiative is conceived in order to give the opportunity to citizens to participate in the democratic life of the Union. It should only be open to natural persons who establish a citizens' committee.*

**Amendment 7**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Recital 8**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(8) In order to ensure coherence and transparency in relation to proposed citizens' initiatives, it should be mandatory to register such initiatives on a website made available by the Commission prior to collecting the necessary statements of support from citizens; ***proposals*** that are ***abusive or devoid of seriousness*** should not be registered ***and the Commission should reject the registration of proposals which would be manifestly against the values of the Union.*** The Commission should deal with registration in accordance with the general principles of good administration.

*Amendment*

(8) In order to ensure coherence and transparency in relation to proposed citizens' initiatives ***and to avoid a situation in which signatures are collected for a proposal which does not fall within the scope of this Regulation,*** it should be mandatory to register such initiatives on a website made available by the Commission prior to collecting the necessary statements of support from citizens. ***Proposals that are not citizens' initiatives within the meaning of this Regulation*** should not be registered. ***Registration is an administrative procedure aimed at selecting those initiatives that fall within the scope of this Regulation; therefore any refusal of registration should be based only on legal grounds and not, on any account, on grounds of political expediency.*** The Commission should deal with registration in accordance with the general principles of good administration, ***and should therefore be obliged to inform the organisers of an initiative of the reasons for any refusal to register that initiative and of all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them.*** ***It should also be made clear by the Commission that registration and the collection of the required number of***

***statements of support will not necessarily result in the Commission adopting a proposal for a legal act and that the registration of an initiative does not constitute a formal decision on competence issues.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*The amendment justifies the abolition of the "admissibility check": the Commission should only verify if a certain initiative is a citizens' initiative pursuant to the Regulation. If it is so, the initiative should be registered and the organisers shouldn't be prevented from collecting signatures. The second part addresses some issues which emerge due to the abolition of the "admissibility check". In order to be able to prevent using the initiative for provoking decisions by the Commission on competence issues, it should be explained to organisers that the registration means simply that the initiative in the Commission's view is a European citizens' initiative. It can not be understood as a formal decision on competence issues.*

**Amendment 8**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Recital 9**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

***(9) The organiser of a proposed citizens' initiative should be responsible for the collection of the necessary*** statements of support from citizens.

*Amendment*

***(9) Once a proposal is registered as a citizens' initiative,*** statements of support from citizens ***may be collected by the organisers.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*Reinforces the position that the registration is only aimed at deciding whether a European citizens' initiative is on the table or not. If it is so, organisers do not have to comply with any other requirements (admissibility, etc.) but they are free to exercise their right under the Treaty, namely to collect signatures in favour of an initiative.*

## Amendment 9

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 10

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(10) *It* is appropriate to provide for statements of support to be collected in paper form **as well as online**. Online collection systems should have adequate security features in place in order to ensure, *inter alia*, that the person **can be identified** and that the data are securely stored. **For this purpose, the Commission should be required to set out** detailed technical specifications for online collection systems.

*Amendment*

(10) **In order to put modern technology to good use as a tool of participatory democracy, it** is appropriate to provide for statements of support to be collected **online as well as** in paper form. Online collection systems should have adequate security features in place in order to ensure, *inter alia*, that the person **signs only once** and that the data are securely stored. **The detailed technical specifications should be worked out at an expert level and be regularly adapted to technical developments; the power to adopt** detailed technical specifications for online collection systems **should therefore be delegated to the Commission**.

Or. en

*Justification*

*This amendment is aimed at giving the reasons for the provisions and justifies the use of delegated acts.*

## Amendment 10

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 13

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(13) *It is appropriate that the Commission should take a decision on the admissibility of proposed initiatives at a sufficiently early stage. The organiser should therefore request such a decision after it has collected 300.000 statements of support for the proposed initiative from signatories coming from at least three*

*Amendment*

*deleted*

*Member States.*

Or. en

*Justification*

*The admissibility check is abolished.*

## **Amendment 11**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Recital 14**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*(14) The Commission should, within a period of two months after receiving a request from the organiser, adopt a decision on its admissibility. A proposed citizens' initiative should be considered admissible if it falls within the framework of the powers of the Commission and concerns a matter where a legal act of the Union can be adopted for the purpose of implementing the Treaties.*

*deleted*

Or. en

*Justification*

*The admissibility check is abolished.*

## **Amendment 12**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Recital 15**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(15) *It* is appropriate to provide that, where a citizens' initiative has received the necessary statements of support from signatories **and provided it is considered admissible**, each Member State should be responsible for the verification and certification of statements of support collected from citizens coming from that

(15) **In the absence of a competent Union electoral authority, it** is appropriate to provide that, where a citizens' 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 collected from citizens coming

State. Taking account of the need to limit the administrative burden for Member States, they should, within a period of three months, carry out such verifications on the basis of appropriate checks and should issue a document certifying the number of valid statements of support received.

from that State. Taking account of the need to limit the administrative burden for Member States, they should, within a period of three months, carry out such verifications on the basis of appropriate checks, ***which may be based on random sampling***, and should issue a document certifying the number of valid statements of support received.

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*It should be made clear that Member States check the signatures even if it is a European citizens' initiative, because there is no competent Union electoral authority that could do that exercise.*

### **Amendment 13**

#### **Proposal for a regulation Recital 16**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(16) Organisers should ensure that all the relevant conditions set out in this Regulation are met prior to submitting a citizens' initiative to the Commission.***

***deleted***

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*It is superfluous to mention in a recital that the obligations set out by a Regulation should be met in order to reach the desired legal effect.*

### **Amendment 14**

#### **Proposal for a regulation Recital 17**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(17) The Commission should examine a citizens' initiative and set out its conclusions ***and*** the actions it envisages to

(17) The Commission should examine a citizens' initiative and set out its ***legal and***

take in response to it, *within a period of four months*.

*political conclusions separately; it should also set out the actions it envisages to take in response to it. In order to demonstrate that a citizens' initiative supported by at least one million Union citizens and its possible follow-up is carefully examined, the Commission should explain in a clear, comprehensible and detailed manner the reasons for its intended action, and should likewise give reasons if it does not envisage taking any action. As citizens should have the guarantee that a successful initiative will be subject of an official public hearing at Union level, the institutions and bodies of the Union should cooperate with a view to organising this debate.*

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*The Commissions' reaction to a move by European citizens should be both legally and politically justified. Furthermore, this should be demonstrated by a reasoning showing that the citizens' voice is heard and the possible action to be taken is seriously and thoroughly thought-out.*

#### **Amendment 15**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Recital 18**

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(18) Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data is fully applicable to the processing of personal data carried out in application of this Regulation. In this respect, it is appropriate to clarify that the **organiser** of a citizens' initiative and the competent authorities of the Member States are the data controllers within the meaning of Directive 95/46/EC and to specify the maximum period within which the personal

###### *Amendment*

(18) Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data is fully applicable to the processing of personal data carried out in application of this Regulation. In this respect, **for the sake of legal certainty**, it is appropriate to clarify that the **organisers** of a citizens' initiative and the competent authorities of the Member States are the data controllers within the meaning of Directive 95/46/EC and to specify the

data collected for the purposes of a citizens' initiative may be retained. In their capacity as data controllers, organisers need to take all the appropriate measures to comply with the obligations imposed by Directive 95/46/EC, in particular those relating to the lawfulness of the processing, the security of the processing activities and the provision of information and the rights of data *subject* to access to *his/her* personal data as well as the correction and erasure of *his/her* personal data.

maximum period within which the personal data collected for the purposes of a citizens' initiative may be retained. In their capacity as data controllers, organisers need to take all the appropriate measures to comply with the obligations imposed by Directive 95/46/EC, in particular those relating to the lawfulness of the processing, the security of the processing activities and the provision of information and the rights of data *subjects* to **have** access to *their* personal data as well as **to procure** the correction and erasure of *their* personal data.

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*Amendment aimed to give reason for the enacting term. Linguistic changes in order to use gender neutral language.*

### **Amendment 16**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Recital 21**

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(21) **The** Commission should be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union **for the purpose of amending the Annexes to this Regulation.**

###### *Amendment*

(21) **With a view to the possible need in the future to amend or supplement certain non-essential elements in the provisions of this Regulation or its annexes, the** Commission should be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*Amendment that reflects the change in the enacting terms and justifies the use of delegated acts.*

## Amendment 17

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 22

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(22) The measures necessary for the implementation of the Regulation should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission.*** ***deleted***

Or. en

*Justification*

*Technical specifications should be adopted by delegated acts; therefore, the provision on implementing powers becomes obsolete.*

## Amendment 18

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 23

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(23) The Commission should report on the implementation of this Regulation five years after its entry into force.*** ***deleted***

Or. en

*Justification*

*It is superfluous to simply repeat a part of the enacting terms in a recital.*

## Amendment 19

### Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

1. "Citizens' initiative" means an initiative, 1. "Citizens' initiative" means an initiative,



submitted to the Commission in accordance with the present Regulation, inviting the 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 for the purpose of implementing the Treaties, which has received the support of at least one million eligible signatories coming from at least **one third** of all Member States;

submitted to the Commission in accordance with the present Regulation, inviting the 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 for the purpose of implementing the Treaties, which has received the support of at least one million eligible signatories coming from at least **one fifth** of all Member States;

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*In order to facilitate the launching of an initiative, to allow for a simpler and less cumbersome procedure, it is appropriate to set a lower threshold.*

### **Amendment 20**

#### **Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 3**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

3. "**Organiser**" means *a* natural *or legal* person *or organisation* responsible for the preparation and submission of a citizens' initiative to the Commission.

##### *Amendment*

3. "**Organisers**" means natural *persons forming a citizens' committee* responsible for the preparation and submission of a citizens' initiative to the Commission.

*(This amendment, namely to change "organiser" to "organisers", applies throughout the text. Adopting it will necessitate corresponding changes throughout.)*

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*A genuine citizens' initiative should, per definitionem, be a tool of participatory democracy which is open for citizens of the Union and not for legal persons. Therefore the organisers should only be citizens (natural persons). The organisers should form a citizens' committee in order to be able to launch an initiative.*

## Amendment 21

### Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – title

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Requirements for **the organiser** and for signatories

*Amendment*

Requirements for **organisers** and for signatories

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*A citizens' initiative should be launched by a citizens' committee made up of natural persons who are citizens of the Union. Therefore this title has to be adjusted accordingly.*

## Amendment 22

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

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. **Where the organiser is a natural person, that person** shall be a **citizen** of the Union and be of the age to be entitled to vote in the European elections.

**Where the organiser is a legal person or an organisation it shall be established in a Member State. Organisations which do not have legal personality under the applicable national law shall have representatives that have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and assume liability.**

*Amendment*

1. **Organisers** shall be **citizens** of the Union and be of the age to be entitled to vote in the European elections.

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*The use of plural is justified by Article 3 paragraph 1a (new). The deletion is necessary because organisers should only be natural persons.*

## Amendment 23

### Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 1a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***1a. Organisers shall form a citizens' committee of at least seven persons who are residents of at least seven Member States.***

***The organisers shall designate one representative and one substitute, who shall perform a liaison function between the citizens' committee and the institutions of the European Union throughout the procedure and who shall be mandated to speak and act on behalf of the citizens' committee.***

Or. en

### *Justification*

*In order to facilitate the emergence of real European-wide issues, the reflection on those issues and the collection of signatures throughout the Union, the initiative should be proposed by a defined number of citizens who should set up a citizens' committee. The committee should be able to speak with one voice, hence the obligation to designate a contact person and a substitute.*

## Amendment 24

### Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

2. In order to be eligible to support a proposed citizens' initiative, signatories shall be citizens of the Union and shall be ***of the age to be entitled to vote in the European elections.***

2. In order to be eligible to support a proposed citizens' initiative, signatories shall be citizens of the Union and shall be ***at least 16 years old.***

Or. en

## *Justification*

*In order to foster the participation of young European citizens in shaping the Union's future and to encourage wider participation in the Union's democratic life, it is appropriate to set a lower age limit than the age to be entitled to vote in most Member States and than the age limit for the members of a citizens' committee.*

### **Amendment 25**

#### **Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 1**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

1. Prior to initiating the collection of statements of support from signatories for a proposed citizens' initiative, the **organiser** shall be required to register it with the Commission, providing the information set out in Annex II, in particular on the subject-matter and objectives **as well as on the sources of funding and support for** the proposed citizens' initiative.

This information shall be provided in one **of the** official languages of the Union, in an online register made available for that purpose by the Commission (hereafter "the register").

##### *Amendment*

1. Prior to initiating the collection of statements of support from signatories for a proposed citizens' initiative, the **organisers** shall be required to register it with the Commission, providing the information set out in Annex II, in particular on the subject-matter and objectives **of** the proposed citizens' initiative.

***The organisers shall provide, for the register defined in the third subparagraph and where appropriate on their website, regularly updated information on the sources of support and funding for the initiative.***

This information shall be provided in one **or more** official languages of the Union, in an online register made available for that purpose by the Commission (hereafter "the register"). ***Information in an official language other the language(s) in which it was originally provided may be provided subsequently for entry in the register.***

***The translation of the initiative into other official languages of the Union shall be the responsibility of the organisers.***

Or. en

## *Justification*

*In practice the initiative should be translated because the citizens' committee is made up of*

*citizens coming from different countries, and the signatures are to be collected in at least one fifth of the Member States.*

## **Amendment 26**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

**2. Except in the cases foreseen in paragraphs 3 and 4, the Commission shall register *without delay the proposed initiative* under a unique registration number and send a confirmation to the *organiser*.**

*Amendment*

**2. If it is established that the proposed initiative qualifies as a citizens' initiative pursuant to this Regulation, the Commission shall register *it* under a unique registration number and send a confirmation to the *organisers*.**

Or. en

*Justification*

*The registration should only be refused in cases when the move in question is not a citizens' initiative. Those cases are defined by the Treaties and this regulation.*

## **Amendment 27**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 3**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

**3. Proposed citizens' initiatives which can be reasonably regarded as improper because they are abusive or devoid of seriousness will not be registered.**

*Amendment*

**3. The Commission shall register a proposed initiative within two months from its receipt when the following conditions are fulfilled:**

**(a) the citizens' committee has been formed and the contact persons have been designated;**

**(b) there are no manifest, significant inconsistencies between the linguistic versions of the title, subject-matter and objectives of the proposed initiative;**

**(c) the initiative does not manifestly fall outside the scope of the Commission's**

***power under the Treaties to submit a proposal for the requested legal act;***

***(d) the proposed initiative is not manifestly abusive, frivolous or vexatious;***

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

Or. en

### *Justification*

*The Commission proposal separates the question of registration and admissibility. In the rapporteurs' view if a certain move by citizens fulfils all the criteria set out by the treaty and the regulation for a citizens' initiative, the organisers' right to collect signatures can not be denied. In that case there is no need to further examine "admissibility". On the other hand, if it doesn't fulfil those criteria, then it is not a citizens' initiative but something else (petition, letter, complaint, etc.) and in that case, for the sake of legal certainty, it should be made clear from the beginning that collecting signatures is a waste of time. The Regulation therefore should contain the criteria laid down in this amendment in order to make it possible to assess right in the beginning whether a citizens' initiative is on the table or not. If any of the above criteria is not fulfilled, the Commission can automatically deny registration, because the proposed move is not a citizens' initiative; thus the Commission wouldn't formally give a decision on competence issues: it would simply decide on an administrative level whether it is a citizens' initiative or not. The Commission should have a reasonable deadline for the decision on the registration of an initiative, because some serious initiatives could require a thorough evaluation of the issue.*

## **Amendment 28**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***3a. The Commission shall reject the registration if the conditions laid down in paragraph 3 are not met.***

***The Commission shall take any measures it considers necessary to assure organisers that its decision on the registration fully respects the letter and the spirit of the Treaties, without prejudice to its***

*subsequent decision on the substance of the matter.*

*Where it refuses to register an initiative, the Commission shall inform the organisers of the reasons for such refusal and of all possible judicial and extrajudicial remedies available to them.*

Or. en

*Justification*

*The registration of an initiative should only be refused if it is not a citizens' initiative pursuant to this Regulation or if this can not be assessed, because there are serious contradictions in the translations prepared by the organisers.*

*The Commission should decide on the registration on strict legal grounds; however, that decision should not bind its hands as to its ulterior decision on the substance of the matter.*

*As a part of good administration, organisers should have feedback from the Commission which would allow them to adjust the initiative in order to be appropriate for registration. The organisers should also have information on the modalities on how to challenge the Commission's decision if they deem it necessary.*

**Amendment 29**

**Proposal for a regulation**  
**Article 4 – paragraph 4**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***4. The Commission shall reject the registration of proposed citizens' initiatives which are manifestly against the values of the Union.***

***deleted***

Or. en

*Justification*

*See the other justifications for amendments to Article 4.*

## Amendment 30

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 4 – paragraph 4 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***4a. At any time before the submission of statements of support in accordance with Article 9, the organisers may withdraw a registered initiative. If an initiative is withdrawn, an indication to that effect shall be entered in the register.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*The citizens' committee should remain free to withdraw an initiative when it considers that it is useless to continue the collection of signatures or it simply does not intend to continue its activity for any reasons. However, this opportunity should not be granted after the submission of the statements of support, because Member States spend taxpayers' money on verifying signatures.*

## Amendment 31

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 5 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

Only statements of support forms which comply with the model set out in annex III may be used for this purpose. The **organiser** shall complete the forms as indicated in *annex III* prior to initiating the collection of statements of support from signatories. The information given in the forms shall correspond to the information contained in the register.

Only **registered language versions of** statements of support forms which comply with the model set out in annex III may be used for this purpose. The **organisers** shall complete the forms as indicated in *Annex III* prior to initiating the collection of statements of support from signatories. The information given in the forms shall correspond to the information contained in the register.

Or. en



### *Justification*

*Pursuant to Annex III signatories should provide the following information: name, address of permanent residence, date and place of birth, nationality, date of signature. Only registered language versions of the form should be used for collecting signatures, because otherwise, in case of an incorrect translation, it could not be assured that the signatures are collected for the same initiative.*

## **Amendment 32**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 4**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

4. All statements of support shall be collected after the date of registration of the proposed initiative and within a period that shall not exceed 12 months.

#### *Amendment*

4. All statements of support shall be collected after the date of registration of the proposed initiative and within a period that shall not exceed 12 months.

***At the end of that period, the register shall indicate that the period has expired and, where appropriate, that the Commission has ascertained that the necessary statements of support have not been submitted.***

Or. en

### *Justification*

*The time limit for the collection of signatures shall be respected. If the necessary signatures are not collected within the time limit, the initiative is not successful; therefore it should be deleted from the register which contains only ongoing initiatives.*

## **Amendment 33**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 6 – paragraph 2**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

2. Prior to initiating the collection of statements of support from signatories, the **organiser** shall ensure that the online collection system used for that purpose

#### *Amendment*

2. Prior to initiating the collection of statements of support from signatories, the **organisers** shall ensure that the online collection system used for that purpose

complies with the provisions of paragraph 4. The **organiser** may, at any time, ask the relevant competent authority of the Member State in which the data collected is or will be stored, to certify that the online collection system complies with those provisions. The **organiser** shall, in any case, request that certification prior to **submitting** statements of support **for verification in accordance with Article 9**.

complies with the provisions of paragraph 4. The **organisers** may, at any time, ask the relevant competent authority of the Member State in which the data collected is or will be stored, to certify that the online collection system complies with those provisions. The **organisers** shall, in any case, request that certification prior to **starting the collection of** statements of support.

***The organiser shall make a copy of the certificate issued in that regard publicly available on the website used for the online collection system.***

***Within six months following the entry into force of this Regulation, the Commission shall make available an open-source software incorporating some of the technical and security features necessary for compliance with the provisions of this Regulation regarding the online collection systems. The software shall be freely made available to organisers.***

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*The online collection of signatures should be facilitated by the Commission by making available an open-source software. It is more appropriate to request the certificate for online collection systems prior, and not after, the collection of signatures. Moreover, this certificate should be made public on the website so that citizens know that they can trust the system.*

#### **Amendment 34**

##### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Article 6 – paragraph 4 – point b**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

b. the **identity of the** person can be verified;

*Amendment*

b. the **fact that each** person **submits only one statement** can be verified;

Or. en

### *Justification*

*The identity of a person is not needed for the purpose of verifying the authenticity of statements of support. It is sufficient to check that the person is eligible to sign and signed only once. The fact that a certain person can sign only once should be verified in the case of online signatures as well.*

### **Amendment 35**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 6 – paragraph 4 – point d**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

d. the system can generate **individual** statements of support in a form complying with the model set out in Annex III, in order to allow for the control by the Member States, in accordance with Article 9(2).

*Amendment*

d. the system can generate statements of support in a form complying with the model set out in Annex III, in order to allow for the control by the Member States, in accordance with Article 9(2).

Or. en

### *Justification*

*The online statement of support (see Annex III) could also be in a form of a list.*

### **Amendment 36**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 6 – paragraph 5**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

5. Within **12 months** following the entry into force of this Regulation, the Commission shall adopt technical specifications **for the implementation of paragraph 4, in accordance with the regulatory procedure laid down in Article 19(2).**

*Amendment*

5. Within **six months** following the entry into force of this Regulation, the Commission shall adopt **by means of delegated acts** technical specifications for **online collection systems.**

Or. en

### *Justification*

*The technical specifications should be adopted by delegated acts instead of implementing acts. The change in the deadline is due to an alignment between different deadlines applicable after the entry into force.*

## Amendment 37

### Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. The signatories of a citizens' initiative shall come from at least **one third** of Member States.

*Amendment*

1. The signatories of a citizens' initiative shall come from at least **one fifth** of Member States.

Or. en

*Justification*

*In order to facilitate the launching of an initiative, to allow for a simpler and less cumbersome procedure, it is appropriate to set a lower threshold.*

## Amendment 38

### Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. In **one third** of Member States, signatories shall comprise at least the minimum number of citizens set out in Annex I.

*Amendment*

2. In **one fifth** of Member States, signatories shall comprise at least the minimum number of citizens set out in Annex I.

Or. en

*Justification*

*In order to facilitate the launching of an initiative, to allow for a simpler and less cumbersome procedure, it is appropriate to set a lower threshold.*

## Amendment 39

### Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

3. Signatories shall be considered as

*Amendment*

3. Signatories shall be considered as

coming from the Member State *which issued the identification document indicated in their statement of support.*

coming from the Member State *where they have their permanent residence.*

*Signatories having their permanent residence in a third country shall be considered as coming from the Member State of which they are nationals.*

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*The indication of identity documents should not be required from signatories throughout Europe, because in some countries that could have a dissuasive effect. The address of the permanent residence should however be indicated and that should be the criterion to decide where the signatures come from. In the cases where signatories have their permanent residence in a third country, they should be considered as coming from the Member State of which they are nationals.*

#### **Amendment 40**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 8**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

#### *Article 8*

*deleted*

*Decision on the admissibility of a proposed citizens' initiative*

*1. After having collected 300.000 statements of support in accordance with Article 5 from signatories coming from at least three Member States, the organiser shall submit to the Commission a request for a decision on the admissibility of the proposed citizens' initiative. For this purpose the organiser shall use the form set out in Annex V.*

*2. The Commission shall, within a period of two months from the receipt of the request referred to in paragraph 1, take a decision on admissibility. The proposed citizens' initiative shall be considered admissible if it satisfies the following conditions:*

*a. it concerns a matter where a legal act of the Union can be adopted for the purpose of implementing the Treaties; and*

*b. it falls within the framework of the powers of the Commission to make a proposal.*

*3. The decision referred to in paragraph 2 shall be notified to the organiser of the proposed citizens' initiative and shall be made public.*

Or. en

*Justification*

*See the justifications for amendments to Article 4.*

**Amendment 41**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 9 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. After having collected the necessary statements of support from signatories in accordance with Articles 5 and 7, **and provided that the Commission has decided that a proposed citizens' initiative is admissible in accordance with Article 8**, the **organiser** shall submit the statements of support, in paper or in electronic form, to the relevant competent authorities provided for in Article 14 for verification and certification. For this purpose the **organiser** shall use the form set out in Annex VI.

*Amendment*

1. After having collected the necessary statements of support from signatories in accordance with Articles 5 and 7, the **organisers** shall submit the statements of support, in paper or in electronic form, to the relevant competent authorities provided for in Article 14 for verification and certification. For this purpose the **organisers** shall use the form set out in Annex VI.

Or. en

*Justification*

*See the justifications for amendments to Article 4.*

## Amendment 42

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 9 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

The **organiser** shall submit statements of support to the Member State **that issued the identification document indicated therein**.

*Amendment*

The **organisers** shall submit statements of support to the Member State **where the signatories have their permanent residence or, in the case of signatories having their permanent residence in a third country, to the Member State of which they are nationals**.

Or. en

*Justification*

*The indication of identity documents should not be required from signatories throughout Europe, because in some countries that could have a dissuasive effect. The address of the permanent residence should however be indicated and that should be the criterion to decide where the signatures come from. In case of persons residing in third countries, the criterion of nationality should apply.*

## Amendment 43

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 9 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The competent authorities shall, within a period that shall not exceed three months, verify the statements of support provided on the basis of appropriate checks, and deliver to the organiser a certificate in accordance with the model set out in Annex VII, certifying the number of valid statements of support for that Member State.

*Amendment*

2. The competent authorities shall, within a period that shall not exceed three months, verify the statements of support provided on the basis of appropriate checks, and deliver to the organiser a certificate in accordance with the model set out in Annex VII, certifying the number of valid statements of support for that Member State.

***The authentication of signatures shall not be required.***

Or. en

### *Justification*

*The identity of a person is not needed for the purpose of verifying the authenticity of statements of support. It is sufficient to check that the person is eligible to sign and signed only once.*

#### **Amendment 44**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 1**

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

After having obtained the certificates provided for in Article 9(2), and provided that all relevant procedures and conditions set out in this Regulation have been complied with, the **organiser** may submit the citizens' initiative to the Commission.

###### *Amendment*

After having obtained the certificates provided for in Article 9(2), and provided that all relevant procedures and conditions set out in this Regulation have been complied with, the **organisers** may submit the citizens' initiative to the Commission, **accompanied by information regarding any support and funding received for the initiative.**

***The amount of support and funding received from natural persons in excess of which information is to be provided shall be determined by the Commission by means of delegated acts.***

Or. en

### *Justification*

*The citizens' committee should ensure full transparency as to the funds and support of the initiative. It would not however be realistic and would put too much administrative burden on organisers to give detailed information on every single donation coming from natural persons, regardless of the amount. The Commission should therefore be able to determine the amount by delegated act.*



## Amendment 45

### Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 1

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

1. Where the Commission receives a citizens' initiative in accordance with Article 10 it shall:
- a. publish the citizens' initiative without delay on its website;
- b. **examine the citizens' initiative and**, within **4 months**, set out in a communication its conclusions on the initiative, the action it intends to take, if any, and its reasons for doing so

#### *Amendment*

1. Where the Commission receives a citizens' initiative in accordance with Article 10 it shall:
- a. publish the citizens' initiative without delay on its website;
- ab. receive the organisers at an appropriate level to allow them to explain in detail the matters raised by the initiative and organise a public hearing on the subject-matter of the initiative, if appropriate jointly with other institutions or bodies of the EU;**
- b. within **three months**, set out in a communication its **final legal and political** conclusions on the initiative, the action it intends to take, if any, and its reasons for doing **or not doing** so.

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*The Commission should arrive at legal and political conclusions on the initiative. The communication should contain both types of conclusions. The change in the deadline aims to reflect the achievements of the new framework agreement. See also the justification to recital 17.*

## Amendment 46

### Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 2

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The communication referred to in paragraph 1(b) shall be notified to the **organiser of the citizens' initiative** as well as to the European Parliament and the Council and shall be made public.

#### *Amendment*

2. The communication referred to in paragraph 1(b) shall be notified to the **organisers** as well as to the European Parliament and the Council and shall be made public.

*Justification*

*See the justifications for amendments to Article 3.*

**Amendment 47****Proposal for a regulation  
Article 12 – paragraph 3***Text proposed by the Commission*

*The* organiser shall destroy all statements of support received for a given citizens' initiative and any copies thereof at the latest ***one month after submitting that initiative to the Commission in accordance with Article 10 or*** 18 months after the date of registration ***of a proposed citizens' initiative, whichever is the earlier.***

*Amendment*

***Unless the proceedings are the subject of litigation,*** the organiser shall destroy all statements of support received for a given citizens' initiative and any copies thereof at the latest ***two months after the publication of the Commission communication referred to in point (b) of Article 11(1). In the event of litigation, they shall be destroyed one month after the conclusion of the litigation. Save where the competent authorities of Member States have not yet concluded their verification of statements of support, they shall also be destroyed if a proposed citizens' initiative has not been submitted to the Commission within*** 18 months after the date of its registration.

*Justification*

*The regulation should take into account the possibility that these documents could be needed in a possible litigation.*

**Amendment 48****Proposal for a regulation  
Article 12 – paragraph 4***Text proposed by the Commission*

The competent authority shall destroy all statements of support and copies thereof that it has received for the purpose of

*Amendment*

The competent authority shall destroy all statements of support and copies thereof that it has received for the purpose of

carrying out the verification in accordance with Article 9(2), at the latest **one month** after issuing the certificate referred to therein.

carrying out the verification in accordance with Article 9(2), at the latest **two months** after issuing the certificate referred to therein. ***In the event of litigation they shall be destroyed one month after the conclusion of the litigation.***

Or. en

*Justification*

*See the previous justification.*

**Amendment 49**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 13 – paragraph 1 – introductory wording**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

Member States shall ensure that organisers resident ***or established*** on their territory shall be liable under their civil or criminal law for infringements of this Regulation and in particular for:

Member States shall ensure that organisers resident on their territory shall be liable under their civil or criminal law for infringements of this Regulation and in particular for:

Or. en

*Justification*

*Only natural persons can be organisers.*

**Amendment 50**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 15**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***Amendment of the Annexes***

***Delegated acts***

The Commission may adopt, by means of delegated acts in accordance with Articles 16, 17 and 18, amendments to the Annexes of this Regulation.

The Commission may adopt, by means of delegated acts in accordance with Articles 16, 17 and 18:

***– technical specifications for online collection systems pursuant to Article***

**6(5);**

**– provisions determining the minimum amount of support and funding in respect of which information is to be provided pursuant to the first paragraph of Article 10;**

– amendments to the Annexes to this Regulation.

Or. en

*Justification*

*The Commission should have the power to adopt delegated acts in all areas listed in this amendment. Therefore the title should also be changed accordingly.*

**Amendment 51**

**Proposal for a regulation  
Article 18 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. The European Parliament and the Council may object to the delegated act within a period of two months from the date of notification. At the initiative of the European Parliament or the Council this period shall be extended by **one month**.

*Amendment*

1. The European Parliament and the Council may object to the delegated act within a period of two months from the date of notification. At the initiative of the European Parliament or the Council this period shall be extended by **two months**.

Or. en

*Justification*

*In order to be in line with the horizontal approach followed by the EP, the deadline should be longer than proposed by the Commission.*

**Amendment 52**

**Proposal for a regulation  
Article 19**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

**Article 19  
Committee**

**1. For the purpose of the implementation**

*Amendment*

**deleted**

*of Article 6(5), the Commission shall be assisted by a committee.*

*2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 5 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, having regard to the provisions of Article 8 thereof.*

*The period laid down in Article 5(6) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at three months.*

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*Technical specifications for online collection systems should be adopted by delegated acts; therefore, this provision on implementing acts is obsolete.*

#### **Amendment 53**

#### **Proposal for a regulation Article 20 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*Article 20a*

*Assistance*

- 1. The Commission shall draw up and keep up-to-date a comprehensive, user-friendly guide on the citizens' initiative.*
- 2. The Commission shall provide a help desk in order to support organisers and to enter into a dialogue from an early stage of the procedure.*

*The Commission, upon request, shall inform the organisers of current or intended legislative proposals on matters raised by the initiative and of other registered citizens' initiatives that wholly or partly concern the same matter.*

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*For the sake of the success of this new democratic tool, it is important that citizens are well informed about the procedure to be followed. The Commission should therefore provide a*

*user friendly guide on the initiative and should set up a help desk which would be a natural reference point to organisers if they have questions or if they wish to clarify a certain issue with the EU institution responsible for the registration of the initiative. Especially, the Commission should help the organisers with information on current or intended legislative proposals, in order to avoid wasting energy on a matter that is already taken up by the Commission. The information on other registered initiatives concerning the same matter could enhance the European dimension of initiatives.*

## **Amendment 54**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 21**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

*Five years* after the entry into force of this Regulation, the Commission shall present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of this Regulation.

##### *Amendment*

*Three years* after the entry into force of this Regulation, **and every three years thereafter**, the Commission shall present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of this Regulation, **with special emphasis on online collection systems and the application of transparency requirements concerning the funding of initiatives, together, if appropriate, with a legislative proposal for amendment of this Regulation.**

Or. en

##### *Justification*

*The first review of the regulation should take place earlier than foreseen by the Commission; there should subsequently be regular revisions in order to evaluate how this important tool of participatory democracy functions. It should in particular analyse the experiences and possible improvements in the areas of online collection systems and transparency requirements. The Commission should, where appropriate, submit a legislative proposal in order to take these experiences into account.*

## Amendment 55

### Proposal for a regulation Article 22

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

This Regulation shall enter into force on the **twentieth day** following **that of** its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

#### *Amendment*

This Regulation shall enter into force on the **first day of the month** following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.  
***It shall start to apply six months after its entry into force.***

Or. en

## Amendment 56

### Proposal for a regulation Annex II

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Required information for **registering** a proposed citizens' initiative

The following information shall be provided ***in order to register a proposed citizens' initiative on*** the Commission's register:

1. The title of proposed citizens' initiative in no more than 100 characters;
2. The subject-matter, in no more than 200 characters;
3. The description of the objectives of the proposal on which the Commission is invited to act, in no more than 500 characters;
4. ***The legal base of the Treaties which would allow the Commission to act;***
5. The full name, postal address and e-mail address of the ***organiser or, in the case of a legal entity or organisation, its legal representative;***
7. All sources of ***funding and support*** for the proposed initiative at the time of registration.

Organisers may provide more detailed information on the subject, objectives and background to the proposed citizens' initiative in an annex. They may also, if they wish, submit a draft legislative text.

### *Amendment by the Parliament*

#### Required information for a proposed citizens' initiative

The following information shall be provided **for** the Commission's register:

1. The title of *the* proposed citizens' initiative in no more than 100 characters;
2. The subject-matter, in no more than 200 characters;
3. The description of the objectives of the proposal on which the Commission is invited to act, in no more than 500 characters;
4. ***The Treaty provision considered relevant by the organisers for the proposed action;***
5. The full name, postal address and e-mail address of the ***organisers and the contact persons;***
7. All sources of *support and funding* for the proposed initiative at the time of registration.

Organisers may provide more detailed information on the subject, objectives, and background to the proposed citizens' initiative in an annex. They may also, if they wish, submit a draft legislative text.

Or. en

#### *Justification*

*Changes made necessary by changes to the enacting terms. The title and the heading should be changed because Article 4 amends substantially the nature and procedure of the registration. Thus the title can be misleading, because more elements are required for registration than listed in the annex, e.g. the initiative is not against the values of the Union, etc. Moreover, the grounds for refusing the registration are listed in Article 4. The Annex shouldn't add to those conditions.*



## Amendment 57

### Proposal for a regulation Annex III

*Text proposed by the Commission*

#### **Statement of support form**

Box 1: *(to be pre-completed by the **organiser**)*

1. Commission registration number\*:
2. Date of registration\*:
3. Web address of the proposed citizens' initiative on the Commission register\*:

Box 2: *(to be pre-completed by the **organiser**)*

1. Title of proposed citizens' initiative\*: *(maximum 100 characters)*
2. Subject-matter\*: *(the subject should be as clear as possible) (maximum 200 character)*
3. Description of the main objectives of the proposed citizens' initiative\*: *(maximum 500 characters)*
4. Name and address of **organiser**\*:
5. Website of the proposed citizens' initiative:

Box 3: *(to be completed by **signatory**)*

1. Name **of signatory**:  
**First name**\*:.....**Family name**\*:
2. Address:  
  
**Street**:  
**Postcode**:      **City**\*:  
**Country**\*:
3. **E-mail address**:
4. Date and place of birth\*:  
**Date of birth**:      **Place and country**:
5. Nationality\*:
6. **Personal identification number**\*:  
**Type of identification number/identity document**\*:  
**National identity card**:       **Passport**:       **Social security**:   
**Member State, which issued the identification number/identity document**\*:
7. **I hereby certify that the information provided in this form is correct and that I have only supported this proposed citizens' initiative once**\*.  
**Date and signature of the signatory**\* ♦: .....

\*: **mandatory fields**

♦: *signature not required when form is submitted electronically*

*Amendment by the Parliament*

**Statement of support form**

Box 1: *(to be pre-completed by the organisers)*

1. Commission registration number:
2. Date of registration:
3. Web address of the proposed citizens' initiative on the Commission register:

Box 2: *(to be pre-completed by the organisers)*

1. Title of the proposed citizens' initiative: *(maximum 100 characters)*
2. Subject-matter: *(the subject should be as clear as possible) (maximum 200 character)*
3. Description of the main objectives of the proposed citizens' initiative\*: *(maximum 500 characters)*
4. Name and address of **organisers**:
- 4a. **Name and address of the contact persons:**
5. Website of the proposed citizens' initiative\*:

Box 3: *(to be completed by signatories)*

Name	Address of permanent residence	Date and place of birth	Nationality	Date of signature	Signature ♦

***Signatories may only support a given proposed citizens' initiative once!***

*\* If any.*

*♦: signature not required when form is submitted electronically*

Or. en

*Justification*

*Changes made necessary by changes to the enacting terms. The form should contain several rows for the collection of signatures, because that is how signatures are usually collected in practice.*

**Amendment 58**

**Proposal for a regulation  
Annex V**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

**Form for the request of a decision on the admissibility of a proposed citizens' initiative**

1. ***Title of citizens' initiative\*:***
2. ***Commission registration number\*:***
3. ***Date of registration\*:***
4. ***Number of statements of support received\*:***
5. ***Number of signatories per Member States\*:***

	<i>BE</i>	<i>BG</i>	<i>CZ</i>	<i>DK</i>	<i>DE</i>	<i>EE</i>	<i>IE</i>	<i>EL</i>	<i>ES</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>IT</i>	<i>CY</i>	<i>LV</i>	<i>LT</i>	<i>LU</i>
<i>Number of signatories</i>															
	<i>HU</i>	<i>MT</i>	<i>NL</i>	<i>AT</i>	<i>PL</i>	<i>PT</i>	<i>RO</i>	<i>SI</i>	<i>SK</i>	<i>FI</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>UK</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>		
<i>Number of signatories</i>															

6. ***I hereby declare that the information provided in this form is correct.***

***Date and signature of the organiser\*:***

***\*: mandatory fields***

*Amendment by the Parliament*

*deleted*

Or. en

*Justification*

*Article 8 is deleted.*

## Amendment 59

### Proposal for a regulation Annex VI

*Text proposed by the Commission*

#### **Form for the submission of statements of support to the Member States' competent authorities**

1. Full name, postal address and e-mail address of the *organiser or, in the case of a legal entity or organisation, its legal representative\**:
2. Title of citizens' initiative\*:
3. Commission registration number\*:
4. Date of registration\*:
5. ***Date of request for a decision on admissibility\****:
6. Number of signatories coming from [name of MS]\*:
7. Annexes\*:  
***(Include all statements of support from signatories having specified a personal identification number issued by the same Member State.***  
If applicable, include the relevant certificate(s) certifying that the conformity of the online collection system with Regulation xxxx/xxxx)
8. Date and signature of the *organiser\**:

\*: mandatory fields

*Amendment by the Parliament*

**Form for the submission of statements of support to the Member States' competent authorities**

1. Full name, postal address and e-mail address of the *organisers and the contact persons*\*:
2. Title of citizens' initiative\*:
3. Commission registration number\*:
4. Date of registration\*:
5. *deleted*
6. Number of signatories coming from [name of MS]\*:
7. Annexes\*:  
*(deletion)*  
(If applicable, include the relevant certificate(s) certifying that the conformity of the online collection system with Regulation xxxx/xxxx)
8. Date and signature of the *organisers*\*:

\*: mandatory fields

Or. en

*Justification*

*Changes made necessary by changes to the enacting terms.*

## Amendment 60

### Proposal for a regulation Annex VIII

*Text proposed by the Commission*

#### **Form for the submission of a citizens' initiative to the Commission**

1. Title of citizens' initiative\*:
2. Commission registration number\*:
3. Date of registration\*:
4. Number of eligible statements of support received\*: *(must be over 1 million)*
5. Number of signatories certified by Member States\*:

	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU
Number of signatories															
	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK	TOTAL		
Number of signatories															

6. Full name, postal address and e-mail address of the ***organiser or, in the case of a legal entity or organisation, its legal representative.***

7. I hereby declare that the information provided in this form is correct.

Date and signature of the ***organiser\****:

8. Annexes\*:  
Include all certificates

\*: mandatory fields

*Amendment by the Parliament*

**Form for the submission of a citizens' initiative to the Commission**

1. Title of citizens' initiative\*:
2. Commission registration number\*:
3. Date of registration\*:
4. Number of eligible statements of support received\*: *(must be over 1 million)*
5. Number of signatories certified by Member States\*:

	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU
Number of signatories															
	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK	TOTAL		
Number of signatories															

6. Full name, postal address and e-mail address of the ***organisers and the contact persons***.

7. I hereby declare that the information provided in this form is correct.

Date and signature of the ***organisers***\*:

8. Annexes\*:  
Include all certificates

\*: mandatory fields

Or. en

*Justification*

*Changes made necessary by changes to the enacting terms.*

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The European Citizens' Initiative will be a powerful agenda-setting instrument. It was introduced in the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe and then in the Lisbon Treaty, with the aim of empowering citizens with the same political initiative powers that the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament already enjoy.

It is in particular meant to provide citizens with a means to be heard by enabling them to refer some issues of interest to the European institutions. These may include difficulties that they face in their daily lives which they do not feel receive enough attention or support from trade unions, political institutions or any other regular interlocutor of the institutions. It will indeed establish a direct link between the citizens and the institutions, thus bridging the gap between them and ensuring that the EU institutions will address the concrete problems which are of importance to them.

The other aim of the European Citizens' Initiative is to foster greater cross-border debates within the EU. This is precisely why your rapporteurs have made the suggestion that the organisers of a European Citizens' Initiative should gather into a citizens' committee composed of persons coming from different Member States. This will ensure that the issues which arise are truly European, all the while having the added value of helping the collection of signatures from the very beginning.

The European Parliament will be able to contribute to the achievement of these goals by making use of all the means in its power to support the Citizens' Initiatives of its choice, notably through the organisation of public hearings or the adoption of resolutions.

The Citizens' Initiative will only succeed if its regulation is citizen-friendly and does not create cumbersome obligations for and frustration among the organisers. In this frame of mind, your rapporteurs have worked to make this instrument easier to use and to guarantee that citizens will not be asked to sign Initiatives which might not be admissible.

They have also borne in mind the fact that, as with every right, the Citizens' Initiative comes with the need to comply with certain requirements; administrative ones, but also respect for the fundamental values of the EU among others. These ensure its liability and thus its efficiency, both of which will be the key to its success.

Hence, it is crucial to ensure that the process is in line with the EU data protection requirements and that it is fully transparent, from the start until the end. Indeed, every organisation, association, or even political party, will have the possibility to support the European Citizens' Initiatives of their choice as long as there is a full transparency regarding their support so that the signatories will know who is behind an initiative before they choose to support it or not.

In order to avoid disappointment and frustration (that might be the direct consequence of the high expectations that surround the European Citizen' Initiative), your rapporteurs would also like to underline that not all successful Initiatives will end up with the Commission putting



forward a legislative proposition. Indeed, the Commission's monopoly of legislative initiative prevails and, in the end, it will be the one deciding on the follow-up to be given to successful Citizens' Initiatives. Of course, this does not prevent the other EU institutions from voicing their opinion for or against any given matter.

Last but not least, they would also like to stress that the European Citizens' Initiative is a new instrument of participatory democracy on a continental scale. Therefore, the present regulation may not be flawless and practice may present European decision-makers with new challenges. This is the reason why they asked the Commission to present a report on its implementation every three years and, if relevant, to propose a revision of the regulation.