



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Culture and Education

2010/0074(COD)

4.10.2010

AMENDMENTS

25 - 106

Draft opinion
Róza Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein
(PE445.900v01-00)

Citizens' initiative

Proposal for a regulation
(COM(2010)0119 – C7-0089/2010 – 2010/0074(COD))

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United in diversity

EN

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Amendment 25

Róza Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein, Piotr Borys

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) It is necessary to organise efficient publicity campaigns, in order to raise awareness of the European citizens' initiative, to promote civil dialogue and to build a genuine European public space; in this context, communication activities and information campaigns have an important role to play. Therefore, the Commission should consider using the existing programmes which promote mobility and active citizenship.

Or.en

Justification

Efficient communication on the citizens' initiative is crucial. The existing programmes which promote mobility (such as the Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action programmes) and active citizenship (the Europe for Citizens programme), as well as European Year for Volunteering 2011 can be useful in this context.

Amendment 26

Olga Sehnalová

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) It is important to initiate effective campaigns to promote public debate of current initiatives. Their aim should be to build a European public space; in this context, an important role will be played both by the existing programmes which promote mobility and active citizenship and by the new forms of communication

*in the shape of social networking sites,
which promote public debate amongst
young people.*

Or.cs

Justification

To ensure efficient communication and broad public debate about the citizens' initiative, it is necessary to make use of existing programmes which promote mobility and active citizenship and to involve the new communication channels, which are an effective tool for promoting discussion of the citizens' initiative amongst the younger generation.

Amendment 27
Olga Sehnalová

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 3 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3b) The European Commission representations and the European Parliament's information offices in the Member States together with the Commission's information networks should have a permanent role in the provision to citizens of all necessary information regarding the citizens' initiative.

Or.cs

Amendment 28
Cătălin Sorin Ivan

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) They should be explained to the citizens by the means of information campaigns.

Amendment 29
Georgios Papanikolaou

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) They should also ensure that citizens of the Union are subject to similar conditions for supporting a citizens' initiative regardless of the Member State from which they come.

Amendment

(4) They should also ensure that citizens of the Union are subject to similar conditions for supporting a citizens' initiative regardless of the Member State from which they come ***and regardless of their Member State of residence.***

Or.el

Amendment 30
Olga Sehnalová

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 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 ***quarter*** of Member States.

Or.cs

Justification

The citizens' initiative should be accessible to citizens, and the threshold for support should therefore not be set too high. The requirement of one quarter of Member States (i.e. 7 of the current number of 27 EU Member States) is an amply sufficient expression of a common EU interest. At the same time, it is in line with other provisions of the Treaties, such as Article 76 TFEU.

Amendment 31
Malika Benarab-Attou, Oriol Junqueras Vies

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 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 *fifth* of Member States.

Or.fr

Justification

The figure should not be too high otherwise the initiative may turn into an tool only large organisations with an already established good structure will be able to use.

Amendment 32
Marie-Christine Vergiat

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 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 *fourth* of Member States.

Or.fr

Justification

Launching an initiative should not suffer from too many restrictions. The number of countries concerned will rise as signatures are collected. Looking at it from this viewpoint, it is fairly logical that the number of organiser countries will be lower than the number of countries from which signatures come.

Amendment 33
Emma McClarkin

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 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 *fifth* of Member States.

Or.en

Amendment 34
Georgios Papanikolaou

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. This should be set at *16 years of age*.

Or.el

Amendment 35
Malika Benarab-Attou, Oriol Junqueras Vies

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. This should be set *at 16 years of age*.

Justification

The minimum age of 16 is justified insofar as the ECI is not a binding referendum but solely an tool for setting the Commission's agenda, participation in which must be left as wide open as possible; this tool must also encourage young people to take or support initiatives affecting Europe.

Amendment 36
Marie-Christine Vergiat

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. This should be set **at 16 years of age.**

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

Justification

Lier l'âge minimal aux dispositions nationales en matière d'âge pour avoir le droit de vote risque de créer des inégalités parmi les Etats-membres de l'UE. La participation à l'initiative citoyenne n'a pas de conséquence législative directe. Elle peut donc être conçue comme un outil d'éducation à la citoyenneté. En conséquence, il est souhaitable d'harmoniser l'âge minimal du droit de signer une initiative citoyenne de façon à encourager la participation des jeunes à la vie démocratique le plus tôt possible. L'âge de 16 ans en vigueur dans certains des Etats membres pour le droit de vote paraît donc être un âge raisonnable.

Amendment 37
Malika Benarab-Attou, Oriol Junqueras Vies

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, 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. ***This website should give a detailed explanation of the formal and legal requirements for an initiative to be successful.*** 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.

Or.fr

Amendment 38

Seán Kelly

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, 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. ***This would undoubtedly serve as an educational tool enabling citizens to make their democratic voice heard.*** 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.

Or.en

Justification

It is important for transparency and educational purposes to have the initiative registered on a website. This will allow citizens greater access to information regarding ongoing initiatives.

Amendment 39
Marie-Christine Vergiat

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 8 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(8a) The Commission's opinions on proposed initiatives, favourable or otherwise, should be posted on the website. The website should also allow signatures to be collected under conditions that comply with EU law and Directive 95/46/EC in particular.

Or.fr

Justification

The website will both raise the profile of all citizens' initiatives and ensure that personal data provided by signatories is protected.

Amendment 40
Marietje Schaake

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(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

(10) It is appropriate to provide for statements of support to be collected in paper form as well as online. ***However, in order to simplify the procedure and to make it more accessible, online collection***

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.

should be encouraged. 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. ***Citizens' confidence in the citizens' initiative scheme will be one of the main contributors to its success.*** For this purpose, the Commission should be required to set out detailed technical specifications for online collection systems. ***The Commission should freely make available secure tools enabling online signatures to be collected in a way which does not jeopardise privacy.***

Or.en

Amendment 41
Oriol Junqueras Vies

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) 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 ***in order to facilitate the process.***

Or.es

Amendment 42
Oriol Junqueras Vies

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) It is appropriate to ensure that statements of support for a citizens' initiative are collected within a specific time-limit. In order to ensure that proposed citizens' initiatives remain relevant, whilst taking account of the complexity of collecting statements of support across the European Union, that time-limit should not be longer than **12** months from the date *of registration of* the proposed initiative.

Amendment

(12) It is appropriate to ensure that statements of support for a citizens' initiative are collected within a specific time-limit. In order to ensure that proposed citizens' initiatives remain relevant, whilst taking account of the complexity of collecting statements of support across the European Union, that time-limit should not be longer than **24** months from the date *on which* the proposed initiative *is declared admissible*.

Or.fr

Justification

The organising committee should only be able to collect signatures after the Commission has decided on the admissibility or otherwise of an initiative.

Amendment 43
Malika Benarab-Attou

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) It is appropriate to ensure that statements of support for a citizens' initiative are collected within a specific time-limit. In order to ensure that proposed citizens' initiatives remain relevant, whilst taking account of the complexity of collecting statements of support across the European Union, that time-limit should not be longer than **12** months from the date of registration of the proposed initiative.

Amendment

(12) It is appropriate to ensure that statements of support for a citizens' initiative are collected within a specific time-limit. In order to ensure that proposed citizens' initiatives remain relevant, whilst taking account of the complexity of collecting statements of support across the European Union, that time-limit should not be longer than **24** months from the date of registration of the proposed initiative.

Or.fr

Justification

Cross-border initiatives need to be given sufficient time to obtain support in a significant

number of Member States. Setting a time limit of 12 months will only lead to pointless frustration.

Amendment 44
Emma McClarkin

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) It is appropriate to ensure that statements of support for a citizens' initiative are collected within a specific time-limit. In order to ensure that proposed citizens' initiatives remain relevant, whilst taking account of the complexity of collecting statements of support across the European Union, that time-limit should not be longer than **12** months from the date of registration of the proposed initiative.

Amendment

(12) It is appropriate to ensure that statements of support for a citizens' initiative are collected within a specific time-limit. In order to ensure that proposed citizens' initiatives remain relevant, whilst taking account of the complexity of collecting statements of support across the European Union, that time-limit should not be longer than **24** months from the date of registration of the proposed initiative.

Or.en

Amendment 45
Malika Benarab-Attou, Oriol Junqueras Vies

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 Member States.***

Amendment

(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 ***as soon as its initiative is registered.***

Or.fr

Amendment 46
Marietje Schaake

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(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 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.

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 State. ***With online collections of signatures, an additional check of the validity of signatures, besides the technical verification, is needed.*** 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.

Or.en

Amendment 47
Olga Sehnalová

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) The Commission should examine a citizens' initiative ***and*** set out its conclusions ***and the actions it envisages to take in response to it, within a period of four months.***

Amendment

(17) ***Within a period of four months,*** the Commission should examine a citizens' initiative, set out its conclusions ***and indicate which legal act or measure it considers to be appropriate to achieving the aim of the initiative. Within the same period the European Parliament shall submit a proposal for a hearing in its competent committee with the organising***

committee of the initiative.

Or.cs

Justification

As soon as a citizens' initiative has been declared admissible, it is important for the organising committee to know what type of legal act or measure will be appropriate in order to achieve the objectives of the initiative in case it is successful. The European Parliament should organise a hearing at which further possibilities for giving political support to the initiative would be discussed.

Amendment 48
Olga Sehnalová

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

Or.cs

Justification

The review of the success of the initiative should take place within a period long enough to allow for full completion of its implementation process and at the same time short enough to ensure that it is not too long after the need to evaluate its effectiveness in achieving the objectives of the initiative.

Amendment 49
Emma McClarkin

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

Justification

A five year implementation report would be too long a period to allow the ECI to run unchecked. Within three years the Commission should evaluate its effectiveness, which will subsequently enhance the ECI's credibility.

Amendment 50
Emma McClarkin

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 24 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(24a) This Regulation should ensure that financial costs to Member States as a result of implementation of the citizens' initiative scheme are kept to an absolute minimum, with safeguards being put in place to prevent excessive or unnecessary costs burdening Member States even further.

Amendment 51
Malika Benarab-Attou, Oriol Junqueras Vies

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. "Signatories" means citizens of the Union that have supported a given citizens' initiative by completing a statement of support for that initiative;

2. "Signatories" means citizens of the Union ***or nationals of a country outside the Union who reside within the Union*** that have supported a given citizens' initiative by completing a statement of support for that initiative;

Justification

EU policies affect nationals of countries outside the EU who live within the EU just as much as they affect EU citizens. Insofar as the ECI is a non-binding instrument whose principal objective is to make the Commission aware of the concerns of people within Europe, these nationals should not be deprived of the right to sign an ECI.

Amendment 52

Marie-Christine Vergiat

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. "Signatories" means **citizens of** the Union that have supported a given citizens' initiative by completing a statement of support for that initiative;

Amendment

2. "Signatories" means **residents in** the Union that have supported a given citizens' initiative by completing a statement of support for that initiative;

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

Or.fr

Justification

Les ressortissants des pays-tiers résidant dans l'Union européenne participent au même titre que les citoyens ayant la nationalité d'un des pays de l'Union à la vie économique, sociale et culturelle des Etats membres et contribuent ainsi à la richesse de l'Union. Ils sont donc des citoyens actifs de l'Union puisque la citoyenneté ne peut se limiter à l'exercice du droit de vote au sens strict du terme. Faciliter l'intégration de tous ceux et toutes celles qui vivent sur le territoire de l'UE est une question souvent évoquée. Dès lors que la participation à une initiative citoyenne n'a pas de conséquence législative directe, donner le droit d'y participer à tous ceux et toutes celles qui résident sur le territoire de l'UE peut être un signe fort en leur direction.

Amendment 53

Olga Sehnalová

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. **“Organising committee”** means a **group of at least seven citizens of the Union, coming from at least seven Member States, which is** responsible for the preparation and submission of a citizens' initiative to the Commission.

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

Or.cs

Justification

The citizens' initiative is a tool which should be used by the citizens themselves. Its aim is to strengthen direct democracy, promote active citizenship and enhance the influence of European citizens on EU policies. The organising committee will consist of at least seven citizens of the Union coming from at least seven Member States, which will ensure that every initiative will secure sufficient support across the EU right from the start and will truly be a citizens' initiative in its nature.

Amendment 54

László Tóké, Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz

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. **“Organising committee”** means a **group of at least seven citizens of the Union, each from a different Member State, which is** responsible for the preparation and submission of a citizens' initiative to the Commission.

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

Or.en

Amendment 55
Malika Benarab-Attou

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. “**Organising committee**” means a **group of at least seven citizens, residing in three or more Member States**, responsible for the preparation and submission of a citizens’ initiative to the Commission.

Or.fr

Amendment 56
Marie-Christine Vergiat

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. “**Organising committee**” means a **group of** natural or legal persons responsible for the preparation and submission of a citizens’ initiative to the Commission.

Or.fr

Justification

The citizens’ initiative is a democratic instrument to be employed either by citizens themselves or via the not-for-profit bodies representing them. Forming them into a organising committee is a way of facilitating participation by citizens who may, left to themselves, feel incapable when faced with the complexity and scope of the citizens’ initiative.

Amendment 57
Oriol Junqueras Vies

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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

3. “**Organising committee**” means a **group of at least seven citizens or residents of the Union, coming from three or more Member States**, responsible for the preparation and submission of a citizens’ initiative to the Commission.

Or.fr

Justification

Taking account of the fact that the citizens’ initiative is simply an agenda setting tool for EU policy, residents in the Union must be able to start up a citizens’ initiative, drawing them in to involvement in EU political life.

Amendment 58
Olga Sehnalová

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

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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.

1. The organising committee shall be comprised of members who are citizens of the Union entitled to vote in the European elections

Or.cs

Justification

Excluding legal persons from the organising committee will enhance the transparency of the citizens' initiative and protect it from abuse by transnational business and lobby groups, which can use other ways of acting at EU level. No natural persons who are EU citizens should be excluded from the organising committee.

Amendment 59
Róza Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein, Piotr Borys

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

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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.

1. **The organising committee shall be comprised of members who are citizens of the Union, who are old enough** to be entitled to vote in the European elections, **and who are not currently serving as Members of the European Parliament.**

Or.en

Justification

Excluding legal persons from the organising committee will protect the citizens' initiative from the possible abuse of existing business organisations, political parties and other organisations which are much stronger than a group of citizens and have more possibilities to act on the EU level. The citizens' initiatives should not develop into election campaigns nor should they be used as a tool for such campaigns. Politicians and especially MEPs have other tools to influence legislative decisions. It is worth to underline that Members of the European Parliament will have a chance to examine each initiative after the communication from the European Commission.

Amendment 60
Marie-Christine Vergiat

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

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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.

Natural persons **who are members of the organising committee must be of the age required to participate in the citizens' initiative; at least one third of them plus one must** be of the age to be entitled to vote in the European elections.

Or.fr

Justification

There is no reason why young people who are 16 years of age should be excluded completely from the organising committee .

Amendment 61
Oriol Junqueras Vies

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

Text proposed by the Commission

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.

Amendment

1. The organising committee shall be composed of at least seven citizens or residents of the Union coming from three Member States or more, who are of the age to be entitled to vote in the European elections.

Or.fr

Justification

Taking account of the fact that the citizens' initiative is simply an agenda setting tool for EU policy, residents in the Union must be able to start up a citizens' initiative, drawing them into involvement in EU political life.

Amendment 62
Olga Sehnalová

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Deleted

Or.cs

Amendment 63
Malika Benarab-Attou, Oriol Junqueras Vies

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

*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

*Legal **persons** or **organisations** established in a Member State **may lend their support to the introduction of the initiative.*** 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.

Or.fr

Amendment 64
Marie-Christine Vergiat

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Where the ***organising committee*** is ***composed of*** legal ***persons***, ***the latter*** shall be established in a Member State. ***Only not-for-profit bodies may be members of the organising committee.*** 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.

Or.fr

Justification

To stop any hijacking of the citizens' initiative, only not-for-profit bodies may be members of the organising committee.

Amendment 65
Cătălin Sorin Ivan

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Organisers should submit to verification of information regarding funding and support.

Or.en

Amendment 66
László Tókéş, Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz

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 aged 16 or above.***

Or.en

Amendment 67
Malika Benarab-Attou, Oriol Junqueras Vies

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 ***at least 16 years old.***

Or.fr

Justification

The minimum age of 16 is justified insofar as the ECI is not a binding referendum but solely a tool for setting the Commission's agenda, participation in which must be left as wide open as possible; this tool must also encourage young people to take or support initiatives affecting Europe.

Amendment 68
Olga Sehnalová

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

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.***

Amendment

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.cs

Justification

To create a fully functioning European communication space it is essential to open it up to the younger generation, too, which has huge potential for creating a broad communication platform at EU level. Tying the minimum age to the age of entitlement to vote in national elections is unnecessarily strict, since the citizens' initiative will not be a direct component of the legislative process in the EU.

Amendment 69
Jean-Marie Cavada

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

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.***

Amendment

2. In order to be eligible to support a proposed citizens' initiative, signatories shall be citizens of the Union and ***have attained the age of majority applicable in their own Member State.***

Amendment 70
Oriol Junqueras Vies, Malika Benarab-Attou

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

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

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

Justification

All citizens of the European Union must be able to obtain information in the official and co-official languages of the Member States.

Amendment 71
Marek Henryk Migalski

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

deleted

Amendment 72
Malika Benarab-Attou, Oriol Junqueras Vies

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

4. The Commission shall reject the registration of proposed citizens' initiatives which are manifestly against the values of the Union, ***taking this decision on the basis of a clear legal examination. A citizens' initiative should be rejected when it is in contradiction with Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, or the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.***

Or.fr

Amendment 73
Emma McClarkin

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

4. The Commission shall reject the registration of proposed citizens' initiatives which are manifestly against the values of ***respect for human dignity, liberty, freedom of speech, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights.***

Or.en

Justification

We must be explicit in what values we are referring to. In addition, those values described are not merely the values of the EU, they are universal and fundamental values shared by many peoples across the world.

Amendment 74
Marie-Christine Vergiat

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

4. The Commission shall reject the registration of proposed citizens' initiatives which are manifestly against the values of the Union. ***The Commission must duly explain and publish its reasons for rejecting an initiative.***

Or.fr

Justification

Transparency will undoubtedly prove educational and prevent the multiplication of inadmissible or ludicrous initiatives.

Amendment 75
Marek Henryk Migalski

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

4. The Commission shall reject the registration of proposed citizens' initiatives which are manifestly against the values of the Union. ***The Commission shall issue a statement indicating in what way the initiative runs counter to the Union's values.***

Or.pl

Amendment 76
Seán Kelly

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5a. All registered initiatives shall be given a reference number.

The Commission database for storing the registered initiatives should provide a weekly indicator showing the stage reached by any given initiative.

Or.en

Justification

This will keep citizens up to date on the status of various citizens' initiatives.

Amendment 77

Oriol Junqueras Vies

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

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.

4. All statements of support shall be collected after the date **on which** the proposed initiative **is declared admissible** and within a period that shall not exceed **24** months.

Or.fr

Justification

The organising committee should only be able to collect signatures after the Commission has decided on the admissibility or otherwise of an initiative.

Amendment 78

Malika Benarab-Attou

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 **24** months.

Or.fr

Amendment 79
Emma McClarkin

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 **24** months.

Or.en

Amendment 80
Marie-Christine Vergiat

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. Data submitted by signatories through the online collection system must be checked, stored and destroyed in accordance with the EU's rules on data protection and the right to privacy and be managed by independent bodies obliged to maintain confidentiality.

Or.fr

Justification

Signatories are providing personal data which must be protected from any possible form of

misuse.

Amendment 81
Emma McClarkin

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

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. In order to keep the citizens' initiative scheme user-friendly and not to provoke undue concerns about data protection, no signatory shall be asked to provide a personal identity card number

Or.en

Amendment 82
Marietje Schaake

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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).

5. Within **1 month** 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). ***The Commission shall make available secure tools enabling online signatures to be collected in a way which does not jeopardise privacy.***

Or.en

Amendment 83
Emma McClarkin

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5a. The report to be submitted by the Commission in accordance with Article 21 shall include its conclusions concerning the possibility of setting up a single, Commission-run website to replace the organising committee websites that are based in individual Member States.

Or.en

Justification

Implementing a single, Commission-run website would be more citizen-friendly and more secure from fraud. It would have the advantages of allowing citizens to view ECI's which are live, in order to avoid duplication, and which ones they wish to support.

Amendment 84

László Tóké, Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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

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

Or.en

Amendment 85

Olga Sehnalová

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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

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

Amendment 86
Malika Benarab-Attou

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.fr

Justification

The figure should not be too high otherwise the initiative may turn into a tool only large organisations with an already established good structure will be able to use.

Amendment 87
Emma McClarkin

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

Amendment 88
László Tóké, Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz

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

Amendment

2. In one *quarter* of Member States, signatories shall comprise at least the

minimum number of citizens set out in Annex I.

minimum number of citizens set out in Annex I.

These minimum numbers represent a threshold below 0.2 % of the population of a given Member State, based on a multiple of the number of the Members of the European Parliament for that Member State. The multiple proposed is 500.

Or.en

Amendment 89
Olga Sehnalová

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

Or.cs

Amendment 90
Malika Benarab-Attou, Oriol Junqueras Vies

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.fr

Amendment 91
Marco Scurria

Proposal for a regulation
Article 7 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Signatories shall be considered as coming from the Member State **which issued the identification document indicated in their statement of support.**

Amendment

3. Signatories shall be considered as coming from the Member State **whose nationality they possess.**

Or.it

Amendment 92
Malika Benarab-Attou, Oriol Junqueras Vies

Proposal for a regulation
Article 8 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

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.

Amendment

1. After **registration**, in accordance with Article 5, **of the initiative supported by** 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.

Or.fr

Amendment 93
Oriol Junqueras Vies

Proposal for a regulation
Article 8 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

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

made public.

Parliament and the Council and shall be made public.

Or.es

Amendment 94
Emma McClarkin

Proposal for a regulation
Article 8 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The Commission's response to a successful citizen's initiative shall be the subject of a public hearing, so as to enable the Commission to explain its response to the citizen's initiative in a transparent way and by way of an exchange with its organisers.

Or.en

Amendment 95
Emma McClarkin

Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

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.

2. The competent authorities shall, within a period that shall not exceed **five** 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.

Or.en

Justification

Proposing that Members States verify potentially many thousands of signatories within the

space of three months is far too burdensome to individual government departments.

Amendment 96
Emma McClarkin

Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. Whilst the citizens' initiative scheme must include credible safety measures to protect against fraudulent activity, this must be balanced against the acceptance of the fact that a citizens' initiative is not an electoral mandate for action but merely an indication of a limited public opinion. Verification checks must maintain a light-touch approach and be proportionate to the value of the citizens' initiative. For the purposes of implementation of this Regulation, Member States should therefore remain free, at their discretion, to apply their national data protection laws and data handling practices.

Or.en

Amendment 97
Cătălin Sorin Ivan

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

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.

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, its reasons for doing so, **and the estimated timescale.**

Or.en

Amendment 98
Seán Kelly

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

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

b. hold a public hearing after the submission of the citizens' initiative, allowing its organisers to address Commission representatives on the topic of the initiative. It shall also 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;

Or.en

Justification

This would provide a public platform for exchange of views on the initiative and it would also serve to address the democratic deficit between the European Union and its citizens.

Amendment 99
Seán Kelly

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

ba. facilitate the public hearing referred to in point (b) during the four-month period of consideration by the Commission.

Or.en

Justification

This would highlight the topic of the citizens initiative during the Commission's period of consideration.

Amendment 100
Oriol Junqueras Vies, Malika Benarab-Attou

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Parliament and the Council can adopt an opinion on the initiative. Parliament and its committees are free to put the issue on its agenda and to hold a hearing at any given time.

Or.fr

Amendment 101
Oriol Junqueras Vies

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. In cases where the Commission decides to propose legislation in accordance with the citizens' initiative, the organiser shall be empowered to withdraw the initiative if he considers that it is being undermined at any stage of the process. In such cases the process shall be suspended.

Or.es

Amendment 102
Róza Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein, Piotr Borys

Proposal for a regulation
Article 12 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The ***organiser*** shall destroy all statements

The ***organising committee*** shall destroy all

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.**

statements of support received for a given citizens' initiative and any copies thereof at the latest one month after **publication of the European Commission's communication** in accordance with **Article 11(2).**

Or.en

Justification

Destroying of all statement of support forms should take place after the publication of the European Commission's communication. The organising committee should have a chance to inform all signatories about the European Commission's communication on a given citizens' initiative. It is extremely important, for the whole process, that citizens are informed about the follow-up of the proposal they support.

Amendment 103

Malika Benarab-Attou, Oriol Junqueras Vies

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The organisers of an initiative are bound to provide, in addition to basic facts such as their address and the names of the people responsible, information on the organisations, natural persons and legal persons supporting the initiative and how the initiative will be or is already being financed.

Or.fr

Amendment 104

Georgios Papanikolaou

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

γ) the fraudulent use of data.

Amendment

γ)) the fraudulent use of data ***or the use of data for purposes other than those specified in the regulation.***

Or.el

Amendment 105
Morten Løkkegaard

Proposal for a regulation
Article 18 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. If the European Parliament or the Council objects to a delegated act, it shall not enter into force. The institution which objects shall state the reasons for objecting to the delegated act.

Amendment

3. If the European Parliament ***by simple majority*** or the Council ***by qualified majority*** objects to a delegated act, it shall not enter into force. The institution which objects shall state the reasons for objecting to the delegated act.

Or.en

Amendment 106
Marietje Schaake

Proposal for a regulation
Article 19 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

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

Amendment

1. For the purpose of the implementation of Article 6(5), the Commission shall be assisted by ***an independent*** committee ***possessing appropriate technical knowledge.***

Or.en