



**2017/2024(INL)**

27.7.2017

# **AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 77**

**Draft opinion**

**Jarosław Wałęsa**

(PE606.197v01-00)

Revision of Regulation (EU) 211/2011 on the citizens' initiative  
(2017/2024(INL))



**Amendment 1**  
**Mara Bizzotto, Laurențiu Rebega**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph -1 (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***-1. Recalls that the Treaty on the European Union provides the right of citizens to be involved in the democratic life of the Union and that the objective of the ECI is to allow citizens to exercise this right; notes the overly restrictive and burdensome form of the current ECI Regulation, making it very difficult to use;***

Or. en

**Amendment 2**  
**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph -1 (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***-1. Considers it necessary to revise Regulation (EU) n. 211/2011 on the European citizens' initiative, (ECI) in timely fashion, with the view to resolving all of its deficiencies by proposing effective solutions to ensure that the procedures and conditions required for the ECI are genuinely clear, simple, easily applicable and proportionate;***

Or. en

**Amendment 3**  
**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph -1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***-1a. Regrets that despite the official request of the Parliament in its resolution of 28 October 2015 on the European Citizens Initiative, the Commission in its work programmes for 2016 and 2017 did not include any reference to the review of the ECI Regulation;***

Or. en

**Amendment 4**

**Marlene Mizzi, Virginie Rozière**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph -1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***-1a. Recalls that of the 66 submitted European Citizens' initiative (ECI), only 47 were registered by the Commission, of which only 3 collected the required 1 million signatures and none led to a new legislative proposal;***

Or. en

**Amendment 5**

**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph -1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***-1b. Highlights that the General Court in its judgement in case T-646/13 of 3 February 2017 annulled the Commission decision to refuse the registration of the proposed European citizens' initiative entitled 'Minority SafePack' on the ground that the reasoning given by the***

*Commission for refusing registration was manifestly inadequate preventing, inter alia, citizens from contesting the merits of the Commission's assessment;*

Or. en

**Amendment 6**  
**Marlene Mizzi, Virginie Rozière**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph -1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*-1b. Believes that the difficulties encountered by the organisers of European Citizens' initiatives and the limited legislative impact of successful initiatives have undermined the credibility of the ECI leading to a decline in registered initiatives;*

Or. en

**Amendment 7**  
**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph -1 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*-1c. Underlines that the General Court in its judgment in case T-754/14 of 10 May 2017 annulled the Commission decision refusing the registration of the proposed ECI 'Stop TTIP' noting in particular that the ECI 'STOP TTIP' proposal did not constitute an inadmissible interference in the legislative procedure but rather the legitimate initiation of a democratic debate in a timely manner;*

**Amendment 8**  
**Marlene Mizzi, Virginie Rozière**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph -1 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***-1c. Considers that the European Citizens Initiative still has a lot of untapped potential that could improve the functioning of the EU on behalf of its citizens; calls for a comprehensive revision and simplification of the ECI aimed at overcoming the existing barriers and bureaucratic hurdles, making it more user-friendly and accessible to citizens;***

Or. en

**Amendment 9**  
**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph -1 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***-1d. Stresses that in its judgment in case T-754/14 of 10 May 2017 the General Court underlined that the principle of democracy and the objective behind the European citizens' initiatives require an interpretation of the concept of legal act which covers legal acts, such as a decision to open negotiations with a view to concluding an international agreement, which manifestly seek to modify the legal order of the EU, like the TTIP and the CETA;***

Or. en

**Amendment 10**  
**Marlene Mizzi, Virginie Rozière**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph -1 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***-1d. Underlines that the ECI complements the citizens' right to submit petitions to the European Parliament and their right of appeal to the European Ombudsman; Calls on the Commission to take into account the recommendations of the European Ombudsman and the Committee of Petitions in improving the functioning of the ECI;***

Or. en

**Amendment 11**  
**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph -1 e (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***-1e. Believes that the Commission's approach on the assessment of the proposed European citizens' initiatives seriously undermined the principle of democracy and the attainment of the objective of the European citizens' initiative, which is that of improving the democratic functioning of the EU by granting every citizen a general right to participate in democratic life;***

Or. en

**Amendment 12**  
**Marlene Mizzi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph -1 e (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***-1e. Reiterates that every citizen has the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union by way of the European citizens' initiative and calls for additional measures to ensure that specific groups of people such as European citizens living abroad, disabled or older people are not denied their right to participate and sign an ECI;***

Or. en

**Amendment 13**  
**Marlene Mizzi, Virginie Rozière**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph -1 f (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***-1f. Is aware of the rigid application of the ECI eligibility criteria and the potential conflict of interest within the Commission, which makes an assessment on the admissibility of the initiative, while also being the recipient of that same initiative; Invites the Commission to revise the procedure for the application of the legal admissibility criteria by following a more transparent and consistent approach on the nature and scope of the ECI;***

Or. en

**Amendment 14**  
**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**



## Paragraph 1

### *Draft opinion*

1. Invites the Commission to **increase the** transparency of its decision-making process and to formally clarify ECI admissibility criteria by exhaustively substantiating the reasons for ECI approval/rejection in all Commission Decisions published in the ECI register; calls upon the Commission to codify the rulings of the Court of Justice in the cases relating to the “Minority Safepack” and “Stop TTIP” initiatives; welcomes the Commission’s change in practice to allow for partial ECI registration;

### *Amendment*

1. Invites the Commission **to ensure full** transparency of its decision-making process and to formally clarify ECI admissibility criteria by exhaustively substantiating the reasons for ECI approval/rejection in all Commission Decisions published in the ECI register; calls upon the Commission to codify the rulings of the Court of Justice in the cases relating to the “Minority Safepack” and “Stop TTIP” initiatives; welcomes the Commission’s change in practice to allow for partial ECI registration **but underlines that this aspect must be included in the revision of the ECI Regulation to guarantee full legal certainty;**

Or. en

## Amendment 15 Marlene Mizzi

### Draft opinion Paragraph 1

### *Draft opinion*

1. Invites the Commission to increase the transparency of its decision-making process and to formally clarify ECI admissibility criteria by exhaustively substantiating the reasons for ECI approval/rejection in all Commission Decisions published in the ECI register; calls upon the Commission to codify the rulings of the Court of Justice in the cases relating to the “Minority Safepack” and “Stop TTIP” initiatives; **welcomes the Commission’s change in practice to allow for partial ECI registration;**

### *Amendment*

1. Invites the Commission to increase the transparency of its decision-making process and to formally clarify ECI admissibility criteria by exhaustively substantiating the reasons for ECI approval/rejection in all Commission Decisions published in the ECI register; calls upon the Commission to codify the rulings of the Court of Justice in the cases relating to the “Minority Safepack”, **“Ethics for Animals and Kids”** and “Stop TTIP” **amongst other** initiatives;

Or. en

**Amendment 16**  
**Josep-Maria Terricabras**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Invites the Commission to increase the transparency of its decision-making process and to formally clarify ECI admissibility criteria by exhaustively substantiating the reasons for ECI approval/rejection in all Commission Decisions published in the ECI register; ***calls upon the*** Commission to codify the rulings of the Court of Justice in the cases relating to the “Minority Safepack” and “Stop TTIP” initiatives; welcomes the Commission’s change in practice to allow for partial ECI registration;

*Amendment*

1. Invites the Commission to increase the transparency of its decision-making process and to formally clarify ECI admissibility criteria by exhaustively substantiating the reasons for ECI approval/rejection in all Commission Decisions published in the ECI register; ***calls for the establishment of an independent body to carry out the initial legal check for the registration and therefore avoiding the conflict of interests of the Commission: Encourages the*** Commission to ***take into account and*** codify the rulings of the Court of Justice in the cases relating to the “Minority Safepack” and “Stop TTIP” initiatives; welcomes the Commission’s change in practice to allow for partial ECI registration; ***calls on the Commission to allow ECIs that require treaty amendments***

Or. en

**Amendment 17**  
**Mara Bizzotto, Laurențiu Rebega**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Invites the Commission to increase the transparency of its decision-making process and to formally clarify ECI admissibility criteria by ***exhaustively substantiating the reasons for ECI***

*Amendment*

1. Invites the Commission to increase the transparency of its decision-making process and to formally clarify ECI admissibility criteria by ***providing exhaustive grounds for rejecting an ECI;***

***approval/rejection in all Commission Decisions published in the ECI register;***  
calls upon the Commission to codify the rulings of the Court of Justice in the cases relating to the “Minority Safepack” and “Stop TTIP” initiatives; ***welcomes the Commission’s change in practice to allow for partial ECI registration;***

calls upon the Commission to codify the rulings of the Court of Justice in the cases relating to the “Minority Safepack” and “Stop TTIP” initiatives; ***calls for the possibility to register parts of an ECI that is not admissible as a whole;***

Or. en

**Amendment 18**  
**Pál Csáky**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Invites the Commission to increase the transparency of its decision-making process and to formally clarify ECI admissibility criteria by exhaustively substantiating the reasons for ECI approval/rejection in all Commission Decisions published in the ECI register; calls upon the Commission to codify the rulings of the Court of Justice in the cases relating to the “Minority Safepack” and “Stop TTIP” initiatives; welcomes the Commission’s change in practice to allow for partial ECI registration;

*Amendment*

1. Invites the Commission to increase the transparency of its decision-making process and to formally clarify ECI admissibility criteria by exhaustively substantiating the reasons for ECI approval/rejection in all Commission Decisions published in the ECI register; calls upon the Commission to codify the rulings of the Court of Justice in the cases ***Anagnostakis/Commission, Costantini e.a/Commission and Izsák and Dabis v Commission, as well as*** relating to the “Minority Safepack” and “Stop TTIP” initiatives; welcomes the Commission’s change in practice to allow for partial ECI registration;

Or. en

**Amendment 19**  
**Marina Albiol Guzmán**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Invites the Commission to increase the transparency of its decision-making process and to formally clarify ECI admissibility criteria by exhaustively substantiating the reasons for ECI approval/rejection in all Commission Decisions published in the ECI register; calls upon the Commission to codify the rulings of the Court of Justice in the cases relating to the “Minority Safepack” and “Stop TTIP” initiatives; **welcomes the Commission’s change in practice to allow for partial ECI registration;**

*Amendment*

1. ***Calls upon*** the Commission to increase the transparency of its decision-making process and to formally clarify ECI admissibility criteria by exhaustively substantiating the reasons for ECI approval/rejection in all Commission Decisions published in the ECI register; calls upon the Commission to codify the rulings of the Court of Justice in the cases relating to the “Minority Safepack” and “Stop TTIP **and CETA**” initiatives; welcomes the Commission’s change in practice to allow for partial ECI registration;

Or. en

**Amendment 20**

**Marlene Mizzi, Virginie Rozière**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1a. Encourages the Commission to take a more flexible approach on the registration process and welcomes its new practice to allow for partial ECI registration; Calls on the Commission to ensure that the registration process is transparent, clear and straightforward and to provide detailed answers and possible solutions when initiatives are declared inadmissible, enabling citizens to amend and resubmit them;***

Or. en

**Amendment 21**

**Notis Marias**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1a. Considers the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) to be an important direct democratic instrument enabling citizens to become actively involved in the framing of European policies and legislation. Considers that ECI should be made both transparent and effective;***

Or. en

**Amendment 22**  
**Marina Albiol Guzmán**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1a. Points out the restrictiveness of the existing legal framework, the problems regarding requirements that are very hard to meet and the excessive bureaucratic burdens in the practical running of the ECI; highlights that the low percentage of successful initiatives is the result of this disproportionate requirements;***

Or. en

**Amendment 23**  
**Michela Giuffrida**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1a. Reaffirms the importance of active citizenship and participation as indicators of good health of democracy and of***

*political debate within the Union.  
Emphasizes that these aspects should  
always be encouraged and favoured.*

Or. en

**Amendment 24**

**Marlene Mizzi**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1b.** Encourages the Commission to ensure that the proposed citizens' initiatives are not contrary to the values of the Union laid down in Article 2 TEU, as well as to the principles enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights; invites the Commission to conduct a check on the values of the proposed citizens' initiatives prior to the collection of statements of support from signatories;*

Or. en

**Amendment 25**

**Notis Marias**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1b.** Stresses the importance of European citizens participating in EU policy making in the economic crisis era;*

Or. en

**Amendment 26**

**Michela Giuffrida**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1b. Calls on the Commission, the European Institution and the Member States to promote the ECI throughout information campaign, programs and projects aimed at strengthening citizens' participation and the awareness of their Rights and instruments to participate;***

Or. en

**Amendment 27**  
**Michela Giuffrida**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1c. Stresses the role of the European Parliament in promoting the participation of citizens of the European Union. It underlines the need to strengthen the European Parliament's action on ECIs and their openness;***

Or. en

**Amendment 28**  
**Michela Giuffrida**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1d. Welcomes the proposals to hold a debate within the European parliament on all successfully citizens' initiatives that meet the criteria listed in the Regulation, as well as the proposal to conclude these debates with the adoption of a motion for***

*resolution;*

Or. en

**Amendment 29**  
**Jaroslav Wałęsa**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection (“OCS”) and verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; welcomes *the AFCO* proposal that the Commission run a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection; welcomes the Commission’s public survey on creating a “Collaborative ECI Platform”; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

*Amendment*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection (“OCS”) and verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; welcomes proposal that the Commission run a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection; welcomes the Commission’s public survey on creating a “Collaborative ECI Platform”; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

Or. en

**Amendment 30**  
**Josep-Maria Terricabras**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection (“OCS”) and

*Amendment*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection (“OCS”) and



verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; **welcomes the AFCO proposal that the Commission run** a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection; welcomes the Commission's public survey on creating a "Collaborative ECI Platform"; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater **transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing**;

verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; **emphasises the importance of** a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection; welcomes the Commission's public survey on creating a "Collaborative ECI Platform"; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater **increase of transparency and quality of checks on the funding and sponsorship of ECIs sponsorship of ECIs**; **invites the Commission to encourage Member States to reduce data requirements and to remove identification number requirements except for Member States that absolutely need them to verify signatures**;

Or. en

## Amendment 31 Marlene Mizzi

### Draft opinion Paragraph 2

#### *Draft opinion*

2. Calls for the simplification of **online signature** collection ("OCS") and verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; **welcomes the AFCO proposal** that the Commission run a

#### *Amendment*

2. Calls for the simplification of **the Online Collection software (OCS)** and verification **of signatures** and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to **the** OCS; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; **proposes** that the

free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection; welcomes the Commission's public survey on creating a "Collaborative ECI Platform"; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period ***such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration***; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

Commission runs a free, ***multilingual, centralised, permanent*** OCS system ***which would also be available to people with disabilities***; suggests that this system makes use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with ***new relevant*** social media, ***digital tools and mobile software devices and applications*** to galvanize more widespread signature collection; welcomes the Commission's public survey on creating a "Collaborative ECI Platform"; Invites the Commission to prolong the collection period ***to 18 months and to allow Citizens' committees to freely choose the starting date for collecting signatures, which should be no later than two months after registration***; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

Or. en

## **Amendment 32** **Pál Csáky**

### **Draft opinion** **Paragraph 2**

#### *Draft opinion*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection ("OCS") and verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; welcomes the AFCO proposal that the Commission run a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection; welcomes the Commission's public survey on creating a "Collaborative ECI Platform"; invites the Commission to

#### *Amendment*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection ("OCS") and verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; welcomes the AFCO proposal that the Commission run a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection; ***suggests the Commission to simplify the forms for the paper based signature collection in order to make it***

prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

*more comprehensible and user friendly; requests the Commission to clarify whether all EU language versions of statement of support forms can be used in all EU Member States;* welcomes the Commission's public survey on creating a "Collaborative ECI Platform"; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

Or. en

### **Amendment 33** **Michela Giuffrida**

#### **Draft opinion** **Paragraph 2**

##### *Draft opinion*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection ("OCS") and verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; welcomes the AFCO proposal that the Commission run a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection; welcomes the Commission's public survey on creating a "Collaborative ECI Platform"; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

##### *Amendment*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection ("OCS") and verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS, *ensuring greater accessibility and facilitating cross-border participation among citizens from different Member States; therefore,* invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; welcomes the AFCO proposal that the Commission run a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection; welcomes the Commission's public survey on creating a "Collaborative ECI Platform"; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater

transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

Or. en

#### **Amendment 34**

**Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Marian Harkin, Javier Nart**

#### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 2**

##### *Draft opinion*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection (“OCS”) and verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; welcomes the AFCO proposal that the Commission run a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection; welcomes the Commission’s public survey on creating a “Collaborative ECI Platform”; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

##### *Amendment*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection (“OCS”) and verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; ***and invites the Commission to explore the inclusion of a European citizen’s ID number (to be used on a secure website in the Member States) and qualified electronic signatures (QES)***; welcomes the AFCO proposal that the Commission run a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection; welcomes the Commission’s public survey on creating a “Collaborative ECI Platform”; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

Or. en

#### **Amendment 35**

**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection (“OCS”) and verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; welcomes the AFCO proposal that the Commission run a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection; welcomes the Commission’s public survey on creating a “Collaborative ECI Platform”; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

*Amendment*

2. Calls for the **enormous** simplification of online signature collection (“OCS”) and verification and for **an effective** approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS **ensuring, inter alia, full accessibility to people with disabilities**; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; **calls for the inclusion of a provision in the new ECI Regulation concerning** a free, **single** centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of **the most modern available** online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection; welcomes the Commission’s public survey on creating a “Collaborative ECI Platform”; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

Or. en

**Amendment 36**  
**Virginie Rozière, Marlene Mizzi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection (“OCS”) and verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS; invites the Commission to address

*Amendment*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection (“OCS”) and verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS **and ensure accessibility for citizens**

data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; welcomes the AFCO proposal that the Commission run a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection; welcomes the Commission's public survey on creating a "Collaborative ECI Platform"; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

*with disabilities*; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; welcomes the AFCO proposal that the Commission run a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature collection, ***after a thorough analysis on preventing potential illegal abuse of these online tools***; welcomes the Commission's public survey on creating a "Collaborative ECI Platform"; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing ***and making this information directly available online to the public***;

Or. en

## **Amendment 37**

**Mara Bizzotto, Laurențiu Rebega**

### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 2**

##### *Draft opinion*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection ("OCS") and verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; welcomes the AFCO proposal that the Commission run a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature

##### *Amendment*

2. Calls for the simplification of online signature collection ("OCS") and verification and for a progressive approach to countering the technological barriers to OCS; invites the Commission to address data requirement divergences in national systems, especially regarding nationality and place of residence; welcomes the AFCO proposal that the Commission run a free, centralised OCS system; suggests that this system make use of existing, proven online platform technologies and enable synergies with social media tools to galvanize more widespread signature

collection; **welcomes** the Commission's public survey on creating a "Collaborative ECI Platform"; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

collection; **notes** the Commission's public survey on creating a "Collaborative ECI Platform"; invites the Commission to prolong the collection period such that the clock for collection starts running from the date of ECI registration; calls for greater transparency measures for ascertaining ECI financing;

Or. en

**Amendment 38**  
**Marlene Mizzi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2a. Invites the European Commission and Member States to implement simpler and uniform online and offline signature collection rules in compliance with EU data protection laws and standards; Calls on the Commission to further explore the possibility of creating a simplified voluntary online EU register where citizens can sign an ECI initiative;**

Or. en

**Amendment 39**  
**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2a. Considers that most European citizens are still largely unaware of the ECI tool and calls on the Commission and Member States to adopt targeted measures aimed at ensuring widespread information about citizens' right to**

*launch and sign an ECI;*

Or. en

**Amendment 40**  
**Notis Marias**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2a. Stresses that all European citizens should be given the opportunity of collecting signatures for an ECI, independently of their Member State of residence;**

Or. en

**Amendment 41**  
**Marina Albiol Guzmán**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2a. Regrets the fact that, because initiatives have had no legislative impact and because a number of successful ones have been rejected by the Commission, use of the instrument is being discouraged; stresses that the European institutions and the Member States must take all necessary steps – including the review of the requirements for an initiative to be deemed successful – to promote the ECI and to foster citizens' confidence in this tool;**

Or. en



**Amendment 42**  
**Marlene Mizzi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2b. Recalls the position of the Petitions' Committee to encourage the civic participation of the younger generation in EU affairs by uniformly lowering the age limit for supporting and taking part in an ECI to 16 years old;**

Or. en

**Amendment 43**  
**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2b. Is convinced that an online Collaborative ECI Platform must be swiftly created and managed with the direct and concrete involvement of civil society stakeholders with the view to provide a free, single centralised system for the online signature collection ("OCS") and facilitate large-scale outreach to European citizens by implementing truly participatory methods and the most modern available platform technology for efficient online campaigning;**

Or. en

**Amendment 44**  
**Marlene Mizzi**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 2 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2c. Considers that an independent ECI helpdesk providing technical know-how on the organisation and run of cross-border ECI campaigns and facilitating translation services into the official languages of the EU is needed; Is of the opinion that Europe Direct Contact Centre, the Commission representations and the European Parliament information offices in the Member States could provide resources for this purpose;**

Or. en

**Amendment 45**

**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 2 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2c. Believes that a uniform procedure must be introduced for making statements of support in order to simplify and standardise the nature of the data collected in all Member States;**

Or. en

**Amendment 46**

**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 2 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2d. Stresses that the revision of the ECI Regulation must include the option to ask for the willingness of a signatory to**

*be placed on a contact list, thus allowing for a compilation of contact information in order to provide updated information about the further development of an ECI;*

Or. en

**Amendment 47**  
**Marlene Mizzi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Calls upon the Commission to create a one-stop shop for ECI information dissemination and citizen advisory services, in particular the provision of support in defining a compliant legal basis for an initiative; *welcomes the AFCO proposal for a provision in the new Regulation on ECI communication activities at EU level; urges the Commission to link such efforts to the principles set out in the EU eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020;*

*Amendment*

3. Calls upon the Commission to create a one-stop shop for ECI information dissemination and citizen advisory services, in particular the provision of support in defining a compliant legal basis for an initiative;

Or. en

**Amendment 48**  
**Beatriz Becerra, Marian Harkin, Javier Nart**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Calls upon the Commission to create a one-stop shop for ECI information dissemination and citizen advisory services, in particular the provision of support in defining a compliant legal basis for an initiative; welcomes the AFCO proposal for a provision in the new

*Amendment*

3. Calls upon the Commission to create a *physical and online* one-stop shop *making use of the existing staff, resources of the point of contact based in the Europe Direct Contact Centre and EU facilities in each Member State* for ECI information dissemination, *help to manage*

Regulation on ECI communication activities at EU level; urges the Commission to link such efforts to the principles set out in the EU eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020;

*technical and bureaucratic support* related with the ECI, *provide guidance during the whole process, translation services* and citizen advisory services, in particular the provision of support in defining a compliant legal basis for an initiative; welcomes the AFCO proposal for a provision in the new Regulation on ECI communication activities at EU level; urges the Commission to link such efforts to the principles set out in the EU eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020; *and encourages the Commission and the Member States to achieve more user-friendly and more harmonised data collection requirements;*

Or. en

**Amendment 49**  
**Josep-Maria Terricabras**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Calls upon the Commission to create a one-stop shop for ECI information dissemination and citizen advisory services, in particular the provision of support in defining a compliant legal basis for an initiative; *welcomes the AFCO proposal for a provision in the new Regulation on ECI communication activities at EU level;* urges the Commission to link such efforts to the principles set out in the EU eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020;

*Amendment*

3. Calls upon the Commission to create a one-stop shop for ECI information dissemination and citizen advisory services, in particular the provision of support in defining a compliant legal basis for an initiative; *calls for the facilitating the use of any of the official languages in each Member State;* urges the Commission to link such efforts to the principles set out in the EU eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020; *stresses that youth civic engagement is fundamental for the future of all democracies and proposes to lower the minimum age threshold for being entitled to support an ECI to 16 years;*

Or. en

**Amendment 50**  
**Virginie Rozière**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Calls upon the Commission to create a one-stop shop for ECI information dissemination and citizen advisory services, in particular the provision of support in defining a compliant legal basis for an initiative; welcomes the AFCO proposal for a provision in the new Regulation on ECI communication activities at EU level; urges the Commission to link such efforts to the principles set out in the EU eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020;

*Amendment*

3. Calls upon the Commission to create a one-stop shop for ECI information dissemination and citizen advisory services, in particular the provision of support in defining a compliant legal basis for an initiative; welcomes the AFCO proposal for a provision in the new Regulation on ECI communication activities at EU level; ***recalls the importance to involve local and regional authorities for communication strategies around the ECI; asks for a specific campaign reminding the existence and the differences with the petitions submitted to the European Parliament***; urges the Commission to link such efforts to the principles set out in the EU eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020;

Or. en

**Amendment 51**  
**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Calls upon the Commission to create a one-stop shop for ECI information dissemination and citizen advisory services, in particular the provision of support in defining a compliant legal basis for an initiative; ***welcomes the AFCO proposal*** for a provision in the new Regulation on ECI communication activities at EU level; urges the Commission to link such efforts to the

*Amendment*

3. Calls upon the Commission to create a one-stop shop for ECI information dissemination and citizen advisory services, in particular the provision of support in defining a compliant legal basis for an initiative; ***calls*** for a provision in the new Regulation on ECI communication activities at EU level; urges the Commission to link such efforts to the principles set out in the EU eGovernment

**Amendment 52**  
**Jarosław Wałęsa**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Calls upon the Commission to create a one-stop shop for ECI information dissemination and citizen advisory services, in particular the provision of support in defining a compliant legal basis for an initiative; **welcomes the AFCO proposal for** a provision in the new Regulation on ECI communication activities at EU level; urges the Commission to link such efforts to the principles set out in the EU eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020;

*Amendment*

3. Calls upon the Commission to create a one-stop shop for ECI information dissemination and citizen advisory services, in particular the provision of support in defining a compliant legal basis for an initiative; **supports the idea of** a provision in the new Regulation on ECI communication activities at EU level; urges the Commission to link such efforts to the principles set out in the EU eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020;

**Amendment 53**  
**Marlene Mizzi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

**3a. Reiterates the lack of knowledge and awareness of the ECI among European citizens; Encourages the Commission and Member States to use every available communication channel, especially all relevant European Institutions' social and digital media platforms to conduct an ongoing awareness raising campaign to**

*Amendment*

*proactively promote the ECI, and  
furthermore provide information about  
on-going ECI initiatives*

Or. en

**Amendment 54**  
**Notis Marias**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3a.     *Stresses the need for EU services to  
provide legal advice regarding ECIs;***

Or. en

**Amendment 55**  
**Marina Albiol Guzmán**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3a.     *Supports the request of ECI  
campaigners of a full legal and practical  
assistance and guidance provided by  
Europe Direct and the Commission ECI  
services;***

Or. en

**Amendment 56**  
**Marlene Mizzi, Virginie Rozière**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4.     *Supports the AFCO proposal to  
ensure the follow-up of successful ECIs,***

**4.     *Considers that appropriate follow-  
up must be guaranteed for successful***

*in terms of concrete legislative proposals from the Commission, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator* calls for maintaining the current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; recalls the importance of public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

*initiatives and calls upon the Commission, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator, to prepare a legislative proposal within 12 months after the end of the campaign or provide appropriate justification for not doing so;* calls for maintaining the current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; recalls the importance of public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

Or. en

**Amendment 57**  
**Josep-Maria Terricabras**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. *Supports the AFCO proposal to ensure* the follow-up of successful ECIs, in terms of concrete legislative proposals from the Commission, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator; calls for maintaining the current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; **recalls** the importance of public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

*Amendment*

4. *Stresses the importance of ensuring the* follow-up of successful ECIs, in terms of concrete legislative proposals from the Commission, **within 12 months of the submission of a successful ECI; calls for using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator by adopting a plenary resolution with its recommendation on the follow-up of successful ECIs;** calls for maintaining the current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; **reiterates** the importance of public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

Or. en



**Amendment 58**  
**Jaroslav Wałęsa**

Draft opinion  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Supports *the AFCO* proposal to ensure the follow-up of successful ECIs, in terms of concrete legislative proposals from the Commission, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator; calls for maintaining the current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; recalls the importance of public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

*Amendment*

4. Supports proposal to ensure the follow-up of successful ECIs, in terms of concrete legislative proposals from the Commission, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator; calls for maintaining the current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; recalls the importance of public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders ***both for and against a specific initiative; underlines the importance of the reimbursement of travel expenses when possible both for the ECI organizers and the experts;***

Or. en

**Amendment 59**  
**Mara Bizzotto, Laurențiu Rebega**

Draft opinion  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Supports the AFCO proposal to ensure the follow-up of successful ECIs, ***in terms of*** concrete legislative proposals ***from the Commission***, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator; calls for maintaining the current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; recalls the importance of public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive

*Amendment*

4. Supports the AFCO proposal to ensure the follow-up of successful ECIs; ***urges the Commission to propose a concrete legislative proposal as a result of a successful ECI***, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator; calls for maintaining the current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; recalls the importance of public

approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

Or. en

**Amendment 60**  
**Marina Albiol Guzmán**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Supports the AFCO proposal to ensure the follow-up of successful ECIs, in terms of concrete legislative proposals from the Commission, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator; calls for maintaining the current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; recalls the importance of public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

*Amendment*

4. Supports the AFCO proposal to ensure the follow-up of successful ECIs, in terms of concrete legislative proposals **and a higher level of involvement** from the Commission, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator; calls for maintaining the current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; recalls the importance of public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

Or. en

**Amendment 61**  
**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Supports **the AFCO proposal** to ensure the follow-up of successful ECIs, in terms of concrete legislative proposals from the Commission, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator; calls for maintaining the

*Amendment*

4. Supports **the need** to ensure the follow-up of successful ECIs, in terms of concrete legislative proposals from the Commission, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator; calls for maintaining the

current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; recalls the importance of public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; recalls the importance of public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

Or. en

## **Amendment 62**

### **Notis Marias**

#### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 4**

##### *Draft opinion*

4. Supports the AFCO proposal to ensure the follow-up of successful ECIs, in terms of concrete legislative proposals from the Commission, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator; calls for maintaining the current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; recalls the importance of public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

##### *Amendment*

4. Supports the AFCO proposal to ensure the follow-up of successful ECIs, in terms of concrete legislative proposals from the Commission, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator; calls for maintaining the current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as *the first* associated committee; recalls the importance of public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

Or. en

## **Amendment 63**

### **Virginie Rozière**

#### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 4**

##### *Draft opinion*

4. Supports the AFCO proposal to ensure the follow-up of successful ECIs, in

##### *Amendment*

4. Supports the AFCO proposal to ensure the follow-up of successful ECIs, in

terms of concrete legislative proposals from the Commission, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator; calls for maintaining the current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; recalls the importance of public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

terms of concrete legislative proposals from the Commission, while using the whole potential of the European Parliament as a co-legislator; calls for maintaining the current system of designating lead committees thematically according to competence, with PETI as associated committee; recalls the importance of ***balanced*** public hearings in ensuring that an inclusive approach is taken to increasing attendance by various stakeholders;

Or. en

**Amendment 64**  
**Marlene Mizzi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***4a. Is of the opinion that the European Commission should always initiate a debate on the initiatives that have gathered 1 million signatures, followed by a vote in the Council and the European Parliament; asks the Commission to also develop appropriate forms of response to those ECIs which do not meet all the formal criteria or do not reach the full 1 million signatures, but receive significant citizens' support and supports public hearings in the Committee of Petitions for those initiatives;***

Or. en

**Amendment 65**  
**Marina Albiol Guzmán**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

**4a.** ***Calls the Commission to modify the current regulation in order to ensure that successful ECI are followed up by a concrete legislative initiative within a twelve-month period;***

Or. en

**Amendment 66**  
**Marina Albiol Guzmán**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. ***Invites*** the Commission to address the inherent conflict of interest in its current competing roles of assessing ***ECI*** admissibility, ruling on registration, and deciding exclusively on legislative follow-up;

*Amendment*

5. ***Calls upon*** the Commission to ***include consultations to the European Parliament and the European Ombudsman in all the decision-making stages related to ECI in order*** to address the inherent conflict of interest in its current competing roles of assessing admissibility, ruling on registration, and deciding exclusively on legislative follow-up;

Or. en

**Amendment 67**  
**Eleonora Evi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Invites the Commission to ***address*** the inherent conflict of interest in its current competing roles of assessing ECI admissibility, ruling on registration, and deciding exclusively on legislative follow-

*Amendment*

5. Invites the Commission to ***solve*** the inherent conflict of interest in its current competing roles of assessing ECI admissibility, ruling on registration, and deciding exclusively on legislative follow-

up;

up;

Or. en

**Amendment 68**  
**Michela Giuffrida**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a. Underlines the need for all parties involved, in the case of a successful citizens' initiative, to ensure speeding up procedures and appropriate timing;**

Or. en

**Amendment 69**  
**Jarosław Wałęsa**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a. Proposes that the commitment of EU funds to the financing of ECIs be limited to successful ECIs i.e. those having succeeded in collecting one million signatures; suggests that such financing proceed on a reimbursement basis of costs already incurred by ECI organisers/citizens' committees and previously recorded in the ECI Register; calls for such conditionality to apply both to existing budget lines dedicated to ECI funding, such as under the Europe for Citizens Programme, or any other future ECI funding programme, whether originating in the Commission or in the European Parliament;**

Or. en

**Amendment 70**  
**Virginie Rozière**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a. Asks the Commission to provide regular legislative improvements to the ECI, including by using the mandatory regular review on its implementation;**

Or. en

**Amendment 71**  
**Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Marian Harkin, Javier Nart**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a. Invites the Commission to consider the possibility of registering only part of an initiative in the event that the entire ECI does not fall within the Commission's powers; invites the Commission to give the organisers, at the time of registration, an indication as to which part they could register, recognising that dialogue and engagement with ECI organisers is essential throughout the process, and to inform Parliament of its decision concerning the registration of the ECI;**

Or. en

**Amendment 72**  
**Marlene Mizzi, Virginie Rozière**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5b. Urges the Commission to further build on the European Citizens' Initiative Day, organised every year to assess the state of implementation and the effectiveness of the ECI, by setting up an inter-institutional debate platform on the improvement of the ECI with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders;**

Or. en

**Amendment 73  
Jarosław Wałęsa**

**Draft opinion  
Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5b. Calls for extending the ECI "lifecycle" by increasing the period for the collection of statements of support to 18 months provided that the minimum of 75% of the required 1 million signatures is reached within the period of 12 months;**

Or. en

**Amendment 74  
Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Marian Harkin**

**Draft opinion  
Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5b. Invites the Commission to address the real need to solve the economic burdens for the organisation of ECIs in order to guarantee equal opportunities among citizens; and invites the**



*Commission to reduce costs, red tape and to provide financial support where appropriate;*

Or. en

**Amendment 75**  
**Marlene Mizzi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5c. Underlines the need for joint action of the Commission and Members States and in particular regional and local authorities, to make citizens, with young people as one of its primary targets, aware of their right to propose and support an ECI; considers that ad hoc campaigns, grass-root initiatives and information campaigns at national and regional level play a decisive role in disseminating information and explaining how citizens can influence and change EU policies through an ECI mechanism;*

Or. en

**Amendment 76**  
**Jarosław Wałęsa**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5c. Calls for establishing concrete awareness-raising measures for ECIs which are prima facie admissible and for which wider civic support may be garnered through more widespread information dissemination; underlines the need of addressing linguistic and other barriers related to cross country*

*campaigning for the ECI support;*

Or. en

**Amendment 77**

**Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Enrique Calvet Chambon, Marian Harkin, Javier Nart**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5c. Notes the important role of the European Ombudsman in investigating the handling of ECI requests by the Commission, and especially cases of refusal to register an ECI;***

Or. en