

# Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Citizens' initiative

# THE ECI SUPPORT CENTRE



# The REFIT Platform

The REFIT Platform was set up by the May 2015 Better Regulation Communication to advise the Commission on how to make EU regulation more efficient and effective while reducing burden and without undermining policy objectives.



## News Flash - 28 July 2016

### The REFIT Platform Supports ECAS' Call to Make the ECI 'Fit for Purpose'

#### REFIT Recommendation to Improve the ECI Published Today

As a member of the Stakeholders' Group of the REFIT Platform, ECAS submitted an evidence-based opinion calling for a revision of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) Regulation. This opinion, which has been [made public](#) today, was endorsed by the other members of the REFIT Platform and it was presented to the Commission's Vice-President Timmermans on 28 June 2016. The Commission has promised to inform about its follow-up actions by the end of September 2016. If retained, ECAS' proposal should feature in the Commission's work programme for 2017.

# 1. Legal Admissibility test

REFIT subject 1: Legal admissibility test of ECIs as a prerequisite for their registration	
Define the remit of the “legal act” and/or of the political actions that the European Commission can initiate or undertake.	X✓
Provide a definition of what it means to be “manifestly outside” the Commission’s powers’ that is clear, easy to understand and not subject to arbitrary interpretation.	X
Clarify the procedure for the legal admissibility test and increase the transparency of the decision-making process.	✓
Establish an ECI officer, similar to the Hearing Officer for competition law.	X
Secure adequate legal advice for ECI organisers with regard to the legal basis of their initiative.	✓

## 2. Data Requirements

REFIT subject 2: Numerous and different data requirements.	
Revise Article 6 and Annex III and IV of Regulation 211/2010 to establish a simplified single statement of support form (preferred option) or	X
Facilitate simplification and harmonization of the data requirements by Member States (second preferred option).	✓
Adopt a unified approach based either on nationality or on residence to allow all EU citizens to sign.	✓

# 3. Citizens' Committee and Liability of Organisers

REFIT subject 3: Citizens' committee and the liability of organisers	
Provide the ECI organisers with the possibility to establish their citizens' committees as legal entities.	✓

## 4. Start of 12 Month Collection Period

REFIT subject 4: The start of the 12-month collection period	
Extension of the collection period to 18 months or	X
Introduction of a buffer period by modifying the various steps for launching the ECI as follows: 1. Registration of ECI. 2. OCS certification. 3. Start the collection of signatures	✓



# 5. Online Collection of Signatures

REFIT subject 5: Online collection of signatures – system, features	
Envisage a permanent free server as a right of the ECI organisers and one single centralized system which should be redesigned to address the current shortcomings.	✓



## 6. ECI Awareness Raising Campaigns

REFIT subject 6: ECI Awareness raising campaigns	
Carry out awareness raising campaigns at all levels (local, regional, national and European) to promote the existence of the ECI as a tool for transnational agenda setting in the EU.	✓

# Follow-up to ECIs with one million signatures

Art. 11 refers to “legal acts”:

- ★ Define the remit of the “legal act” and/or of the political actions that the European Commission can initiate or undertake.

The types of legal act that citizens can request the European Commission to submit are based on art. 288 TFEU. They are:

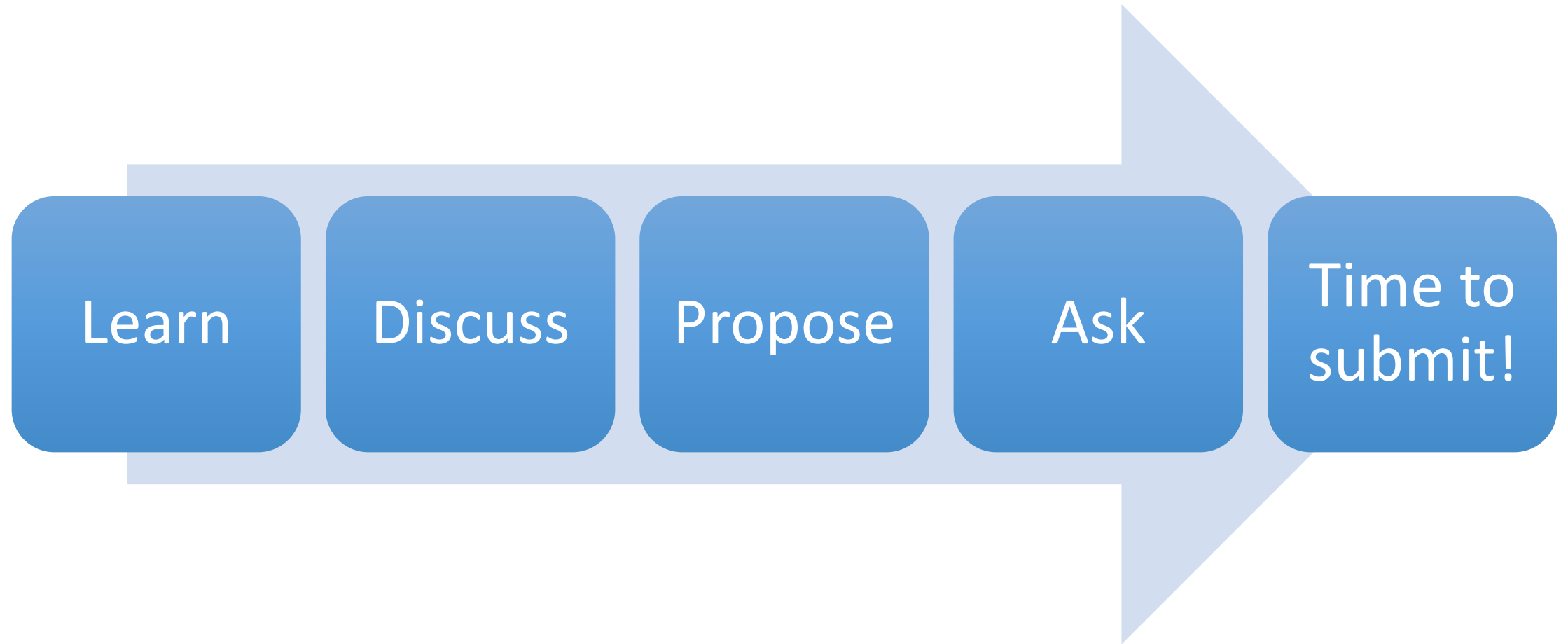
- ★ **Legally binding legislative measures**, adopted as a result of the EU’s legislative procedures (ordinary or special) and initiated by the European Commission - such as regulations, directives and decisions or...
- ★ **Non-legislative measures** which are not legally binding, such as recommendations and opinions.

# Support Infrastructure for ECI Organisers

- ★ Online Collaborative Platform
- ★ Civil Society Organisations



# Online Collaborative Platform



# Thank you for your attention!

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