



2022/2206(INI)

8.3.2023

AMENDMENTS

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Draft report
Loránt Vincze
(PE739.898v01-00)

The implementation of the Regulations on the European citizens' initiative
(2022/2206(INI))

Amendment 1
François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution
Citation 5 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

— *having regard to its resolution of 17 December 2020 on the European Citizens' Initiative 'Minority SafePack – one million signatures for diversity in Europe',*

Or. en

Amendment 2
Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution
Citation 8 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

— *having regard to the Report on the Final Outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe, proposals 36 and 37, as well as the recommendations of European Citizens' Panel 2 "European democracy / Values and rights, rule of law, security" in particular;*

Or. en

Amendment 3
Pedro Silva Pereira

Motion for a resolution
Recital A a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

A a. whereas Parliament has been consistently a vocal promoter of making the ECI a strong, user-friendly instrument for the democratic participation of the

citizens in EU-agenda setting;

Or. en

Amendment 4
François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution
Recital B a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

B a. whereas the ECI represented one of the main innovations introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon and became the world's first transnational democracy mechanism;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Recital C a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

C a. whereas it is indispensable for organisers of ECIs to campaign and collect statements of support online;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Recital C b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

C b. whereas out of 97 registered ECIs, 16 ECIs have opted for individual online collection systems (OCS); whereas five of

these ECIs were able to gather more than one million statements of support;

Or. en

Amendment 7
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Recital C c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

C c. whereas from 71 ECIs, which have opted for the central OCS, only six ECIs could collect more than one million signatures; whereas individual OCS have a success rate of approximately 31% in comparison to the central OCS that has a success rate of only 8,4%;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Recital C d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

C d. whereas contrary to the central OCS provided by the Commission, individual OCS enable organisers to plan and perform campaigns in a decentralised way taking into account the multilingual and multicultural context in the different Member States; whereas individual OCS can be embedded in the websites of the different civil society organisations supporting a specific ECI and can be easily adapted to their specific needs without great bureaucracy; whereas individual OCS enable the organisers to retrace which campaigns in the different Member States are generating the most

statements of support for a particular ECI and to make appropriate adjustments; whereas individual OCS are an important driver for innovation that has considerably contributed to strengthen support for ECIs;

Or. en

Amendment 9
François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution
Recital D

Motion for a resolution

D. whereas, pursuant to Article 15(2) of the revised ECI Regulation, the Commission is legally obliged to set out in a communication its legal and political conclusions on a valid ECI, the action it intends to take, if any, and its reasons for taking or not taking action;

Amendment

D. whereas, pursuant to Article 15(2) of the revised ECI Regulation ***and after a public hearing held by the European Parliament***, the Commission is legally obliged to set out in a communication its legal and political conclusions on a valid ECI, the action it intends to take, if any, and its reasons for taking or not taking action;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Pedro Silva Pereira

Motion for a resolution
Recital F a (new)

Motion for a resolution

F a. whereas, the revised ECI Regulation strengthened the political dimension of this instrument, with the introduction of a mandatory plenary debate in Parliament with the possibility to adopt a resolution;

Or. en

Amendment 11

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Recital F a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

F a. whereas most ECIs fail to gather one million signatures not because citizens are not interested to support initiatives, but because citizens simply do not know that these initiatives exist;

Or. en

Amendment 12

Loránt Vincze

Motion for a resolution

Recital G a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

G a. whereas Parliament aims to contribute to the upcoming Commission review in order to further improve the ECI as a unique cross-border tool for participatory democracy;

Or. en

Amendment 13

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Recital G a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

G a. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the fragility and vulnerability of the ECI;

Amendment 14

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Recital H a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

H a. whereas there is a lack of transparency regarding the implementing rules in certain Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 15

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Recital H b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

H b. whereas the success of a planned ECI depends on the outcome of the verification and certification procedure in the Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 16

Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution

Recital I

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

I. whereas the Commission has received 122 ECI requests since the introduction of the ECI instrument, 97 of which have been registered; whereas the Commission has received 28 ECI requests under the revised ECI Regulation, 25 of

I. whereas the Commission has received 122 ECI requests since the introduction of the ECI instrument, 97 of which have been registered; whereas the Commission has received 28 ECI requests under the revised ECI Regulation, 25 of

which have been registered, while two are currently being assessed;

which have been registered, while two are currently being assessed; *whereas 20 ECI requests have been withdrawn by the organisers before the end of the collection period; whereas 47 ECIs have not reached the threshold of one million signatures by the end of the collection period;*

Or. en

Amendment 17
Loránt Vincze

Motion for a resolution
Recital I a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

I a. whereas, while the revised ECI Regulation has brought substantial improvements to the ECI instrument, there are remaining weaknesses in terms of its low political impact and visibility, its deliberativeness, its financial and digital dimension and the level of awareness among citizens;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Pedro Silva Pereira

Motion for a resolution
Recital I a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

I a. whereas the replies from the Commission to valid ECIs need to be more clear, concrete and timely;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution
Recital J a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

J a. whereas the final conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe recommend that the effectiveness of existing citizens' participation should be improved by better informing on them and by making them more secure, accessible, visible and inclusive; whereas citizens panels of the Conference recommended that the EU should be closer to citizens in a more assertive way and that the EU should promote the use of mechanisms of citizens' participation;

Or. en

Amendment 20
François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution
Recital J a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

J a. whereas ECIs have so far showed a low level of effectiveness and a limited visibility risking to weaken this participatory mechanism and negatively affect citizens' trust in EU institutions; whereas the ECI needs to be strengthened in order to become a genuine bottom-up process of legislative initiative at the EU level;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Recital J a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

J a. whereas the European Court of Justice has stated that the objective of the ECI is to foster debates within the EU institutions;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Loránt Vincze

Motion for a resolution
Recital J a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

J a. whereas only a small minority of EU citizens are aware of the existence of the ECI tool and have actively participated in it;

Or. en

Amendment 23
Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

1. Points out that the ECI ***is the only*** tool for participatory democracy at EU level that can potentially lead to a proposal for a legal act of the Union; considers it essential to ***involve*** citizens, in particular young people, in the democratic life of the Union; recalls, therefore, that the use of the ECI instrument must be enhanced by all available means;

1. Points out that the ECI ***should be an important*** tool for participatory democracy at EU level that can potentially lead to a proposal for a legal act of the Union; ***regrets, however, that the overall number of valid ECIs and the impact of the instrument on EU decision-making remains very low;*** considers it ***therefore*** essential to ***significantly strengthen the participation of*** citizens, in particular young people, in the democratic life of the

Union; recalls, therefore, that ***both the regulatory and institutional framework and*** the use of the ECI instrument must be enhanced by all available means;

Or. en

Amendment 24
Loránt Vincze

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Points out that the ECI is the only tool for participatory democracy at EU level that can potentially lead to a proposal for a legal act of the Union; considers it essential to involve citizens, in particular young people, in the democratic life of the Union; recalls, therefore, that the use of the ECI instrument must be enhanced by all available means;

Amendment

1. Points out that the ECI is the only tool for participatory democracy at EU level that can potentially lead to a proposal for a legal act of the Union; considers it essential to involve citizens, in particular young people, in the democratic life of the Union; ***believes that the ECI can strengthen the democratic dimension of the EU by promoting active citizenship;*** recalls, therefore, that the use of the ECI instrument must be enhanced by all available means;

Or. en

Amendment 25
François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Points out that the ECI is the only tool for participatory democracy at EU level that can potentially lead to a proposal for a legal act of the Union; considers it essential to involve citizens, in particular young people, in the democratic life of the Union; recalls, therefore, that the ***use of the*** ECI instrument must be enhanced by ***all***

Amendment

1. Points out that the ECI is the only tool for participatory democracy at EU level that can potentially lead to a proposal for a legal act of the Union; considers it essential to involve citizens, in particular young people, in the democratic life of the Union; recalls, therefore, that the ECI instrument must be enhanced by ***improving***

available means;

its accessibility, legal effectiveness and visibility;

Or. en

Amendment 26

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Points out that the ECI is the only tool for participatory democracy at EU level that can potentially lead to a proposal for a legal act of the Union; ***considers it essential to involve citizens, in particular young people, in the democratic life of the Union***; recalls, therefore, that the use of the ECI instrument must be enhanced by all available means;

Amendment

1. Points out that the ECI is the only tool for participatory democracy at EU level that can potentially lead to a proposal for a legal act of the Union; ***deplores, however, the lack of visibility of proposed ECIs***; recalls, therefore, that the use of the ECI instrument must be enhanced by all available means;

Or. en

Amendment 27

Jacek Saryusz-Wolski

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Points out that the ECI is the only tool for participatory democracy at EU level that can potentially lead to a proposal for a legal act of the Union; considers it ***essential*** to involve citizens, ***in particular young people***, in the democratic life of the Union; recalls, therefore, that the use of the ECI instrument must be enhanced ***by all available means***;

Amendment

1. Points out that the ECI is the only tool for participatory democracy at EU level that can potentially lead to a proposal for a legal act of the Union; considers it ***important*** to involve citizens in the democratic life of the Union; recalls, therefore, that the use of the ECI instrument must be enhanced;

Or. en

Amendment 28
Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

1 a. Welcomes the partial registration of ECIs legally introduced by the revised ECI Regulation as a first step toward an increased admissibility and more effective institutional follow-up of ECIs; points out, however, that EU institutions also have a democratic duty to support the citizens concerned and help provide follow-up where a registered ECI falls outside of the EU's remit;

Or. en

Amendment 29
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

1 a. Considers it essential to involve, in particular, young people in the democratic life of the Union; welcomes that a number of Member States have decided to lower the minimum age entitling to support ECIs;

Or. en

Amendment 30
François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2. Stresses that the online collection of statements of support is fundamental for the success of ECIs; welcomes the improvements made by the Commission to its central online collection system, including the possibility of customising its features and providing statistics to citizens; is concerned, however, that phasing out individual online collection systems might have a negative effect on the possibility for organisers to use online collection systems tailored to their needs;

2. Stresses that the online collection of statements of support is fundamental for the success of ECIs; welcomes the improvements made by the Commission to its central online collection system, including the possibility of customising its features and providing statistics to citizens; is concerned, however, that phasing out individual online collection systems might have a negative effect on the possibility for organisers to use online collection systems tailored to their needs; ***underlines that the figures show that individual online collection systems have a considerably higher success rate for ECIs of approximately 31% while the central online collection system provided by the Commission has a success rate of 8,4%;***

Or. en

Amendment 31 **Loránt Vincze**

Motion for a resolution **Paragraph 2**

Motion for a resolution

2. Stresses that the online collection of statements of support is fundamental for the success of ECIs; welcomes the improvements made by the Commission to its central online collection system, including the possibility of customising its features and providing statistics to citizens; is concerned, ***however***, that phasing out individual online collection systems might have a negative effect on the possibility for organisers to use online collection systems tailored to their needs;

Amendment

2. Stresses that the online collection of statements of support is fundamental for the success of ECIs; ***acknowledges the advantages offered by the central online collection system in terms of budget and timing and*** welcomes the improvements made by the Commission to its central online collection system, including the possibility of customising its features and providing statistics to citizens; ***also recognises, however, the benefits of individual online collection systems that give more freedom to organisers in the way they manage their campaign;*** is concerned ***therefore*** that phasing out individual online collection systems might have a negative effect on the possibility for organisers to use online collection systems

tailored to their needs;

Or. en

Amendment 32

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

2. Stresses that the online collection of statements of support is fundamental for the success of ECIs; welcomes the improvements made by the Commission to its central online collection system, including the possibility of customising its features and providing statistics to citizens; ***is concerned***, however, that phasing out individual online collection systems ***might*** have a negative effect on the possibility for organisers to use online collection systems tailored to their needs;

Amendment

2. Stresses that the online collection of statements of support is fundamental for the success of ECIs; welcomes the improvements made by the Commission to its central online collection system, including the possibility of customising its features and providing statistics to citizens; ***strongly believes***, however, that phasing out individual online collection systems ***will*** have a negative effect on the possibility for organisers to use online collection systems tailored to their needs;

Or. en

Amendment 33

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 2 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2 a. Believes that the special data protection rules for the collection of email addresses pursuant to Article 19(8) of the revised ECI Regulation are not appropriate as they prevent civil society from mobilising citizens to support future ECIs; highlights that mailing lists are an important tool in this context; points out that it is totally sufficient to apply the General Data Protection Regulation without any further provisions;

Amendment 34

Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 2 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2 a. Underlines the importance of integrating eID-type systems in ECI signatures and encourages their use, including the new European eID system;

Or. en

Amendment 35

Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

4. Highlights that organising an ECI is a demanding and costly process; **acknowledges** that it is very difficult for individual citizens to manage ECIs without being supported by associations with strong organisational capacity and financial means; notes that there are major differences between the financial resources available to different ECIs; underlines, therefore, the need for financial support for the organisation of ECIs;

4. Highlights that organising an ECI is a **too** demanding and costly process; **regrets** that it is very difficult for individual citizens to manage ECIs without being supported by associations with strong organisational capacity and financial means; **underlines, therefore, the need to reduce regulatory, administrative and financial hurdles for individual citizens as much as possible**; notes that there are major differences between the financial resources available to different ECIs; underlines, therefore, the need for financial support for the organisation of ECIs;

Or. en

Amendment 36

Jacek Saryusz-Wolski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Highlights that organising an ECI is a demanding ***and costly*** process; acknowledges that it is very difficult for individual citizens to manage ECIs without being supported by associations with strong organisational capacity and financial means; notes that there are major differences between the financial resources available to different ECIs; ***underlines, therefore, the need for financial support for the organisation of ECIs;***

Amendment

4. Highlights that organising an ECI is a demanding process; acknowledges that it is very difficult for individual citizens to manage ECIs without being supported by associations with strong organisational capacity and financial means; notes that there are major differences between the financial resources available to different ECIs;

Or. en

Amendment 37
Jacek Saryusz-Wolski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

5. ***Points to the imbalance between the huge amount of effort and extensive resources necessary to organise ECIs and their weak legal effects, even if the required threshold of one million signatures is reached, which may deter citizens from launching ECIs;***

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 38
Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5. Points to the imbalance between the huge amount of effort and extensive resources necessary to organise ECIs and their weak legal effects, even if the required threshold of one million signatures is reached, which *may deter* citizens from launching ECIs;

5. Points to the imbalance between *citizens' expectations*, the huge amount of effort and extensive resources necessary to organise ECIs and their weak *political and* legal effects, even if the required threshold of one million signatures is reached, which *discourages* citizens from launching ECIs; *stresses the need to reduce regulatory hurdles during the registration phase as much as possible to fully exploit the ECI's potential as an agenda-setting tool*;

Or. en

Amendment 39
François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

5. Points to the imbalance between the huge amount of effort and extensive resources necessary to organise ECIs and their weak legal effects, even if the required threshold of one million signatures is reached, which may deter citizens from launching ECIs;

Amendment

5. Points to the imbalance between the huge amount of effort and extensive resources necessary to organise ECIs and their weak legal effects, even if the required threshold of one million signatures is reached, which may deter citizens from launching ECIs *and undermine citizens' trust in EU institutions*;

Or. en

Amendment 40
Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5 a. Believes that ECIs could get much more support and publicity if they were also promoted on relevant platforms at national level; encourages interlinking

the website of the EU on the ECI with appropriate online platforms at national level on citizens' participation;

Or. en

Amendment 41

Loránt Vincze

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 5 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5 a. Notes the difficulty to collect signatures in some Member States due to the types of data signatories must provide;

Or. en

Amendment 42

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6 a. Highlights the lack of transparency regarding the verification and certification procedure in certain Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 43

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6 b. Is concerned that the Commission

*misuses technical reasoning in order to
not register politically sensitive ECIs;*

Or. en

Amendment 44
François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Regrets the weak legal impact of valid ECIs; stresses that, for the objectives of the revised ECI Regulation to be achieved and the full potential of this instrument to be realised, the Commission needs to ***appropriately*** consider and respond to valid ECIs;

Amendment

7. Regrets the weak legal impact of valid ECIs; stresses that, for the objectives of the revised ECI Regulation to be achieved and the full potential of this instrument to be realised, the Commission needs to consider and respond to valid ECIs ***by proposing appropriate legal acts, especially when Parliament adopted its position in line with the demands of a valid ECI;***

Or. en

Amendment 45
Pedro Silva Pereira

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Regrets the weak legal impact of valid ECIs; stresses that, for the objectives of the revised ECI Regulation to be achieved and the full potential of this instrument to be realised, the Commission needs to appropriately consider and respond to valid ECIs;

Amendment

7. Regrets the weak legal impact of valid ECIs; stresses that, for the objectives of the revised ECI Regulation to be achieved and the full potential of this instrument to be realised, the Commission needs to appropriately consider and respond to valid ECIs ***in a timely manner;***

Or. en

Amendment 46
Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Regrets the weak legal impact of valid ECIs; stresses that, for the objectives of the revised ECI Regulation to be achieved and the full potential of this instrument to be realised, the Commission needs to appropriately consider and respond to valid ECIs;

Amendment

7. Regrets the weak ***political and*** legal impact of valid ECIs; stresses that, for the objectives of the revised ECI Regulation to be achieved and the full potential of this instrument to be realised, the Commission needs to appropriately consider and respond to valid ECIs;

Or. en

Amendment 47
Jacek Saryusz-Wolski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. ***Regrets*** the weak legal impact of valid ECIs; stresses that, for the objectives of the revised ECI Regulation to be achieved and the full potential of this instrument to be realised, the Commission needs to appropriately consider and respond to valid ECIs;

Amendment

7. ***Notes*** the weak legal impact of valid ECIs; stresses that, for the objectives of the revised ECI Regulation to be achieved and the full potential of this instrument to be realised, the Commission needs to appropriately consider and respond to valid ECIs;

Or. en

Amendment 48
François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7 a. Regrets that the Commission did not consider necessary any additional

legal act or amendment to current legislation in addressing the ECI "Minority SafePack – one million signatures for diversity in Europe"; reiterates its call on the Commission to draw up, in line with the principle of subsidiarity, a common framework of EU minimum standards for the protection of rights of persons belonging to minorities, which are strongly embedded in a legal framework guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights throughout the EU; stresses that strengthening minority rights, as requested by the ECI "Minority SafePack", will be important at the time of EU enlargement in the Balkan countries;

Or. en

Amendment 49
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7 a. Welcomes the setting up of the ECI Expert Group; is concerned, however, that no representatives of civil society are included in this expert group; deplores that this is also contrary to the principles established by the European Ombudsman regarding the composition of Commission expert groups;

Or. en

Amendment 50
Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

8 a. *Highlights that active and effective citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU, including the ECI, is strongly linked to citizenship education; reiterates the need to include and further strengthen the attention for EU politics and participatory democracy in education programs and curricula across the EU;*

Or. en

Amendment 51
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

8 a. *Regrets, that in practice, there is hardly any in-depth discussion of the concerns of an ECI;*

Or. en

Amendment 52
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

8 b. *Is convinced that in the long term it will be necessary to strengthen the primary legal basis in order to turn the ECI into a more effective participatory instrument;*

Or. en

Amendment 53

Victor Negrescu

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

9. Underlines the need to continue to raise awareness of this participatory instrument, in particular by promoting it on social media and including it in civic education curriculums, in order to reach as many citizens as possible, especially young people;

Amendment

9. Underlines the need to continue to raise awareness of this participatory instrument, in particular by promoting it on social media and including it in civic education curriculums, in order to reach as many citizens as possible, especially young people; ***in this regard, calls on the participation of all relevant actors in the process, including national and local authorities, nongovernmental organisations and youth organisations in order to mainstream ECI across channels of communication and encourage active participation of citizens; highlights the role of schools and universities in promoting citizenship education and encourages Member States to coordinate, at national level, awareness raising campaigns for the ECIs;***

Or. en

Amendment 54

Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

9. Underlines the need to continue to raise awareness of this participatory instrument, in particular by promoting it on social media and including it in civic education curriculums, in order to reach as many citizens as possible, especially young people;

Amendment

9. ***Underlines that the ECI must be made more accessible for citizens by all available means;*** underlines the need to continue to raise awareness of this participatory instrument, in particular by promoting it on social media and including it in civic education curriculums, in order to reach as many citizens as possible, especially young people; ***underlines that the EU should be more visible, and better integrated, in teaching materials and***

extracurricular activities, given its impact on the everyday life of its citizens; considers that teaching materials should include information about ECIs;

Or. en

Amendment 55
Pedro Silva Pereira

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

9. Underlines the need to *continue to raise* awareness of this participatory instrument, in particular by promoting it on social media and including it in civic education curriculums, in order to reach as many citizens as possible, especially young people;

Amendment

9. Underlines the need to *improve* awareness of this participatory instrument, in particular by promoting it on social media and including it in civic education curriculums, in order to reach as many citizens as possible, especially young people; *calls, therefore, on the Commission to launch broad information campaigns to promote the ECI, using all official languages of the EU, involving regional and local authorities; notes, as well, the need to adapt the communication campaigns in order to target specific groups of citizens living in remote areas or with poor access to online tools;*

Or. en

Amendment 56
Loránt Vincze

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

9. Underlines the need to continue to raise awareness of this participatory instrument, in particular by promoting it on social media and including it in civic education curriculums, in order to reach as

Amendment

9. Underlines the need to continue to raise awareness of this participatory instrument, in particular by promoting it on social media and including it in civic education curriculums, in order to reach as

many citizens as possible, especially young people;

many citizens as possible, especially young people; *welcomes in this sense the educational module for high schools promoted by the Commission;*

Or. en

Amendment 57

Jacek Saryusz-Wolski

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

9. Underlines the need to continue to raise awareness of this participatory instrument, in particular by promoting it on social media and including it in civic education curriculums, in order to reach as many citizens as possible, *especially young people*;

Amendment

9. Underlines the need to continue to raise awareness of this participatory instrument, in particular by promoting it on social media and including it in civic education curriculums, in order to reach as many citizens as possible;

Or. en

Amendment 58

Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9 a. Commits to review Article 11(4) TEU as well as the other relevant Treaty provisions to assess how the ECI instrument can be made more accessible for citizens and the institutional follow-up strengthened;

Or. en

Amendment 59

François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9 a. Encourages the Commission to interlink the website of the EU on the ECI with appropriate online platforms at national level on citizens' participation in order to gain more visibility;

Or. en

Amendment 60
Pedro Silva Pereira

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9 a. Strongly believes that Parliament should be associated to the information efforts, making full use of all its available tools, including EPLOs;

Or. en

Amendment 61
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9 a. Invites the Commission to encourage Member States to lower the minimum age entitling to support an ECI, where this is not already the case;

Or. en

Amendment 62

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9 b. Recognises the importance of anchoring the ECI more effectively in the European civil society's consciousness; calls on the Member States to take respective responsibility; proposes to promote ECIs on websites at national level that citizens know and trust, in particular by interlinking the EU website on the ECI with appropriate online platforms at national level;

Or. en

Amendment 63

Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9 b. Calls on the Commission to reconsider the criteria for registering an ECI, including by also allowing the registration of ECIs outside the framework of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties, and also on topics which would require a change of the Treaties;

Or. en

Amendment 64

François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9 b. *Invites the Commission to approach the Member States to further encourage reducing the minimum age to participate in an ECI from 18 to 16 years, in line with Article 2 of the revised ECI Regulation;*

Or. en

Amendment 65
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9 c. *Asks the Commission to reconsider that all email addresses collected by organisers have to be deleted after a prescribed time as this obligation may limit the scope of action of civil society organisations, especially if they consider to launch a new ECI in the future;*

Or. en

Amendment 66
Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9 c. *Calls on the Commission to consider ways to provide more effective follow-up to registered ECIs outside of the EU's remit through a structured cooperation with Member States;*

Or. en

Amendment 67

Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9 d. Recommends that the EU engages with Member States to ensure that direct democracy and citizens' participation in EU decision-making becomes part of education programs and curricula across the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 68

François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

10. Invites the Commission to *start a reflection process on the usefulness of reintroducing* the option for organisers to use individual online collection systems;

10. Calls on the Commission to *consider the reintroduction of* the option for organisers to use individual online collection systems, *which, contrary to the central online collection system, enable organisers to plan and perform campaigns in a decentralised way taking into account the multilingual and multicultural context in the different Member States and regions;*

Or. en

Amendment 69

Pedro Silva Pereira

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

10. Invites the Commission to start a reflection process on the usefulness of reintroducing the option for organisers to use individual online collection systems;

Amendment

10. Invites the Commission to start a reflection process on the usefulness of reintroducing the option for organisers to use individual online collection systems; ***also calls on the Commission to make efforts to incorporate the possibility to allow citizens of all Member States to use the eID signing tool;***

Or. en

Amendment 70
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

10. ***Invites*** the Commission to ***start a reflection process on the usefulness of reintroducing*** the option for organisers to use individual online collection systems;

Amendment

10. ***Urges*** the Commission to ***reintroduce*** the option for organisers to use individual online collection systems ***in order to strengthen the digital dimension of the ECI;***

Or. en

Amendment 71
Loránt Vincze

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

10 a. Calls on the Commission to adopt clear and straightforward procedures and provide detailed answers and possible solutions when initiatives are declared partly or fully inadmissible, thus enabling organisers to amend and present them again;

Or. en

Amendment 72
François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

10 a. Invites the Commission to consider the introduction of new rules aiming to harmonise the verification and certification procedures at national level, in order to avoid arbitrariness for the organisers of ECIs;

Or. en

Amendment 73
Pedro Silva Pereira

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

10 a. Invites the Commission to consider additional ways to simplify the procedure, namely the possible lowering of the thresholds needed both for signatures and number of Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 74
François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

10 b. Commits to review Article 11(4) TEU with a view to increase the accessibility and legal effectiveness of the ECI by enhancing Parliament's role and

considering an alignment with the common practice at national level where citizens' initiatives are addressed to national or regional parliaments;

Or. en

Amendment 75
Jacek Saryusz-Wolski

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11. Calls on the Commission to provide financial support for ECIs that reach the threshold of one million signatures;

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 76
Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11. Calls on the Commission to provide financial support for ECIs that reach *the* threshold of one million signatures;

11. Calls on the Commission to provide *progressive* financial support for ECIs that reach *certain thresholds in signature collection (eg. 250 000, 500 000, 1 000 000), thus encouraging a performance-based process;*

Or. en

Amendment 77
Victor Negrescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

11. Calls on the Commission to provide financial support for ECIs that reach the threshold of one million signatures;

Amendment

11. Calls on the Commission to provide financial support for ECIs that reach the threshold of one million signatures; ***reiterates the need for ECIs not to be financed by Member States;***

Or. en

Amendment 78
Pedro Silva Pereira

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

11. ***Calls on*** the Commission ***to provide*** financial support ***for ECIs that reach the threshold of one million signatures;***

Amendment

11. ***Suggests that*** the Commission ***should consider providing*** financial support ***to valid ECIs; invites the Commission to conduct an assessment of such possibility;***

Or. en

Amendment 79
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

11 a. Calls on the Commission to remedy the situation that no information is publicly available on how the verification is carried out and under which conditions statements of support are deemed to be invalid, which creates a risk of arbitrariness for the organisers of ECIs;

Or. en

Amendment 80
Loránt Vincze

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11 a. Calls on the Commission to engage with Member States to further simplify and harmonise the system of national standards laid down for the collection of data;

Or. en

Amendment 81
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11 b. Calls on the Commission to ensure that ECI organisers are given access to the file of the competent authority to be able to seek effective judicial protection against unlawful certification decisions;

Or. en

Amendment 82
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11 c. Reminds the Commission to treat all ECIs impartially throughout the entire procedure;

Amendment 83

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 12

Motion for a resolution

12. Calls on the Commission to establish a proper dialogue with organisers about their goals and the best possible means to achieve them, in order to assess citizens' input seriously and effectively; points out that such a dialogue could already be initiated during the collection period;

Amendment

12. Calls on the Commission to establish a proper dialogue with organisers about their goals and the best possible means to achieve them, in order to assess citizens' input seriously and effectively; points out that such a dialogue ***has to be conducted in an open, impartial and non-discriminatory manner and*** could already be initiated during the collection period;

Or. en

Amendment 84

Pedro Silva Pereira

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 12

Motion for a resolution

12. Calls on the Commission to establish a proper dialogue with organisers about their goals and the best possible means to achieve them, in order to assess citizens' input seriously and effectively; points out that such a dialogue ***could already be initiated*** during the ***collection period***;

Amendment

12. Calls on the Commission to establish a proper dialogue with organisers about their goals and the best possible means to achieve them, in order to assess citizens' input seriously and effectively; points out that such a dialogue ***should be strengthened*** during the ***examination procedure and after the Commission's initial reply***;

Or. en

Amendment 85

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 12 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

12 a. Asks the Commission to adapt the mandate of the ECI Expert Group and extend the composition of the expert group to representatives of civil society; asks furthermore to ensure that there are no financial links between the relevant organisations of civil society and the Commission;

Or. en

Amendment 86
Pedro Silva Pereira

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 12 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

12 a. Calls on the Commission to better communicate the impact of ECIs, by also sharing success stories and achievements with citizens in order to increase the trust in and the use of the ECI tool;

Or. en

Amendment 87
Victor Negrescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 13

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

13. Invites the Commission to carry out a thorough assessment of the proposals of each valid ECI, and to comply fully with its legal obligation to set out its reasons for taking or not taking action, which it should

13. Invites the Commission to carry out a thorough assessment of the proposals of each valid ECI, and to comply fully with its legal obligation to set out its reasons for taking or not taking action, which it should

do in a clear, comprehensible and detailed manner;

do in a clear, comprehensible and detailed manner; ***calls upon the Commission together with the competent bodies to supervise and avoid possible political guided interests of ECIs;***

Or. en

Amendment 88
François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14

Motion for a resolution

14. Calls on the Commission to engage ***better*** with valid ECIs ***even*** after it has issued its communication, thereby increasing the possibility of legislative follow-up in the long term;

Amendment

14. Calls on the Commission to engage with ***organisers of*** valid ECIs after it has issued its communication, thereby increasing the possibility of legislative follow-up in the long term;

Or. en

Amendment 89
Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14 a. Calls on the Commission to launch a Citizens' Panel of randomly selected citizens on every ECI that reaches the threshold of one million signatures, thus raising the profile of the initiative and nurturing the follow-up process;

Or. en

Amendment 90
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14 a. Proposes to combine successful ECIs with European citizens' panels in order to improve the deliberative dimension of the ECI and to increase its impact;

Or. en

Amendment 91
Victor Negrescu

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

15. Recommends that every valid ECI and every Commission communication setting out its legal and political conclusions on a specific ECI be followed by a vote on a parliamentary resolution, which would require the modification of Rule 222(8) and (9) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure;

15. ***Underlines the need for ECIs to respect the EU legal framework and values;*** recommends that every valid ECI and every Commission communication setting out its legal and political conclusions on a specific ECI be followed by a vote on a parliamentary resolution, which would require the modification of Rule 222(8) and (9) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure;

Or. en

Amendment 92
Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

15. ***Recommends that*** every valid ECI and every Commission communication setting out its legal and political conclusions on a specific ECI ***be followed***

15. ***Commits to follow-up on*** every valid ECI and every Commission communication setting out its legal and political conclusions on a specific ECI ***with***

by a vote on a parliamentary resolution, which would require the modification of Rule 222(8) and (9) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure;

a parliamentary resolution, which would require the modification of Rule 222(8) and (9) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, **or, where relevant, with an legislative own-initiative report (INL)**;

Or. en

Amendment 93
François Alfonsi

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

15. ***Recommends that*** every valid ECI and every Commission communication setting out its legal and political conclusions on a specific ECI ***be followed by a vote on a parliamentary resolution***, which would require the modification of Rule 222(8) and (9) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure;

Amendment

15. ***Commits to vote on a parliamentary resolution after*** every valid ECI and every Commission communication setting out its legal and political conclusions on a specific ECI, which would require the modification of Rule 222(8) and (9) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure;

Or. en

Amendment 94
Alin Mituța, Sandro Gozi, Max Orville

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

15 a. Calls for the creation of a central hub of all the participatory instruments used in the European Union, in order to develop synergies and increase the up-take of these instruments, while limiting the fragmentation of the citizens' participation infrastructure;

Amendment

Or. en

