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PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF PARLIAMENT'S RULES OF PROCEDURE

pursuant to Rule 212 of the Rules of Procedure

Insertion of a new Rule 42a and a new Rule 203a (Implementation of the regulation on the European Citizens' Initiative)

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United in diversity

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Insertion of a new Rule 42a and a new Rule 203a (Implementation of the regulation on the European Citizens' Initiative)

General justification

Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on the citizens' initiative will apply as from 1 April 2012. Article 11, on public hearings, reads as follows: 'Where the conditions of Article 10(1)(a) and (b) are fulfilled, and within the deadline laid down Article 10(1)(c), the organisers shall be given the opportunity to present the citizens' initiative at a public hearing. The Commission and the European Parliament shall ensure that this hearing is organised at the European Parliament, if appropriate together with such other institutions and bodies of the Union as may wish to participate, and that the Commission is represented at an appropriate level.' The Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament therefore require amendment so that the necessary measures can be taken when Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 becomes applicable.

Amendment 1

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Rule 42 a (new)**

Present text

Amendment

Rule 42a

Public hearing on a citizens' initiative

- 1. Where a citizens' initiative has obtained more than one million signatures from a minimum of seven Member States and the Commission has published it in the register in accordance with Article 10(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 and informed Parliament, the initiative shall be referred by the President of Parliament to the committee responsible for the organisation of public hearings on the citizens' initiative.***
- 2. The initiative shall be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Conference of Committee Chairs, which shall be informed of this fact. The Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs shall, after consulting the Conference, designate additional standing committees which may participate in the public***

hearing.

Rule 23(9) shall not apply to such hearings.

3. The committee responsible shall establish contact with the Commission and, where appropriate, with other European Union institutions and bodies and shall verify whether the condition laid down in Article 10(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 has been met.

4. The committee responsible shall, within three months of the date of submission of the initiative to the Commission, and in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 211/2011, organise a public hearing at the European Parliament, if appropriate together with such other Union institutions and bodies as may wish to participate. The committee responsible shall ensure that the Commission is represented at an appropriate level.

5. The committee responsible shall invite the organisers of the citizens' initiative, or a representative delegation thereof, to present the initiative in a public hearing.

Or. en

Justification

The provisions on hearings should be incorporated into Title II, since they concern 'Legislative, Budgetary and other Procedures', more particularly the latter.

Note: the amendment entails a revision of Annex VII(XX) as follows:

Committee on Petitions and Citizens' Rights.

Committee responsible for:

- 1 Petitions
- 2 Organisation of public hearings in connection with the European Citizens' Initiative
- 3 Relations with the European Ombudsman

Amendment 2

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 203 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

Article 203a

Citizens' initiative

When Parliament is informed that the Commission has been invited to submit a proposal for a legal act under Article 11(4) of the Treaty on European Union, and in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 211/2011, the Committee on Petitions and Citizens' Rights shall ascertain whether this is likely to affect its work and, if appropriate, shall inform those petitioners who have addressed petitions on related subjects.

Or. en

Justification

Given the responsibilities of the Committee on Petitions and Citizens' Rights, the committee should have the right to ensure that EU citizens and residents, in particular petitioners, are properly informed about the European Citizens' Initiative.