



2020/2201(INI)

18.12.2020

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on citizens' dialogues and Citizens' participation in the EU decision-making
(2020/2201(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Irena Joveva

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Considers that citizens' trust in the EU institutions is fundamental for democracy, good governance and effective policy-making and that for this reason the EU institutions must strive for the highest possible standards of transparency, accountability and integrity;
2. Stresses that all democratic means of participation for citizens must entail an open and transparent process that takes an inclusive, participatory and well-balanced approach to citizens and stakeholders; believes that dialogue between decision-makers and civil society should be organised in such a way that the diversity of our societies is fully reflected;
3. Notes that established channels for citizens to give their input on the EU decision-making process, such as the European citizens' initiative, the right of petition to the European Parliament, recourse to the European Ombudsman, public consultations and dialogues, lack visibility, accessibility and follow-up;
4. Underlines the importance of fostering civic engagement and participation in a coordinated and coherent way at a local, regional, national and EU level; believes, in this connection, that the role and activities of European Commission Representations and European Parliament Liaison Offices (EPLOs) in the Member States should be strengthened, privileging the mainstreamed use of communication tools for the digital and physical participation of citizens;
5. Stresses that civic education and learning about the EU is key to enabling EU citizens to make informed choices; calls on the Commission to develop a common curriculum on EU learning in order to foster objective and critical thinking on the benefits of the European Union;
6. Underlines the right of citizens to have access to reliable and factual information on the European Union, its policies and decision-making processes; recognises the need to establish a neutral, independent and informative common European news centre, available in all of the EU's official languages; calls for downstream feedback, fact-checking and moderation in relation to disinformation to be introduced into the functioning of online platforms.