WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure


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1. The European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI) is the EU democratic instrument designed, as a complement to representative democracy, to help increase the level of citizens’ participation in setting the EU’s agenda, stimulating pan-European debate and increasing the EU’s democratic legitimacy.

2. Recent studies and figures have shown that the ECI has had limited success, as only 36 initiatives have been registered since the regulation establishing it came into force, of which only three could gather the necessary one million signatures, and none of the issues addressed therein resulted in a legislative proposal. One initiative led to the legislation being amended, but without having reached the required number of signatures.

3. In this context, the Commission is called upon to consider initiatives:

(a) to evaluate the ECI, taking account of the practical, logistical and legal problems involved in the process of gathering and validating signatures, the costs and benefits related to implementing the process, linguistic and cultural barriers and action to raise awareness of the ECI’s existence;

(b) to improve the ECI as an instrument that helps to set the EU’s agenda and enhance the quality of the debate on topics of public interest;

(c) to identify new mechanisms through which European citizens can be directly involved in the EU decision-making process.

4. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

¹ Under Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament’s component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.