



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

19/05/2015

AMENDMENTS 1 - 15

György Schöpflin

European Citizens' Initiative

Motion for a resolution PE552.021 - 2014/2257(INI)

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United in diversity

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Amendment 1
Josep-Maria Terricabras
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Stresses that the Citizens' Initiative is an exceptional opportunity for citizens to identify and articulate their aspirations and to ask for EU action, and that it must be encouraged, improved and supported; ***further stresses*** that the use of ***one's mother tongue*** is a civic right, ***and that all activities connected with an ECI may therefore be undertaken in one's mother tongue***;

Amendment

1. Stresses that the Citizens' Initiative is an exceptional opportunity for citizens to identify and articulate their aspirations and to ask for EU action, and that it must be encouraged, improved and supported; ***considers*** that the use of ***regional and minority languages, as defined by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages***, is a civic right; ***further stresses that the possibility to use one's mother tongue encourages citizen participation; calls for the inclusion of the use of regional and minority languages in all the activities linked to an ECI***;

Or. en

Amendment 2
Josep-Maria Terricabras
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

1 a. Further stresses that youth civic engagement is fundamental for the future of all democracies and proposes to lower the minimum age threshold for being entitled to support an ECI to 16 years;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Josep-Maria Terricabras

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

1 b. Points out the importance of public awareness of the ECI in order to be an effective tool of democratic participation; regrets the low knowledge of this tool among European citizens; invites the Commission to run a media campaign to address this situation;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Josep-Maria Terricabras
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2. Calls on the Commission to provide as much guidance as possible – especially of a legal nature – to organisers of ECIs via the Europe Direct Contact Centre, so that they are aware of the possibilities open to them and will not fail by proposing an ECI that ***is outside the Commission's powers***, or else to assign the task of giving advice to another independent company or body so as to avoid a possible conflict of interest within the Commission itself; notes, however, that under the Treaty of Lisbon the issues raised by ECIs may not correspond entirely to the Commission's jurisdiction; takes the view, furthermore, that the Commission should consider setting up a dedicated ECI office in each Member State;

2. Calls on the Commission to provide as much guidance as possible – especially of a legal nature – to organisers of ECIs via the Europe Direct Contact Centre, so that they are aware of the possibilities open to them and will not fail by proposing an ECI that ***does not comply with the legal admissibility criteria***, or else to assign the task of giving advice to another independent company or body so as to avoid a possible conflict of interest within the Commission itself; notes, however, that under the Treaty of Lisbon the issues raised by ECIs may not correspond entirely to the Commission's jurisdiction; takes the view, furthermore, that the Commission should consider setting up a dedicated ECI office in each Member State;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Josep-Maria Terricabras
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

3 a. Expresses its concerns with the potential conflict of interests within the fact that the Commission itself has the exclusive responsibility to carry out the initial legal check and asks for this situation to be addressed properly in the future;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Josep-Maria Terricabras
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

3 b. Regrets the reluctance of the Commission to declare admissible proposed citizens' initiatives where citizens manifest their opposition to the negotiation of an international agreement that will be the basis for a later legal act; encourages the Commission to assess whether less restrictive judgements on the legal admissibility of an ECI might be possible;

Or. en

Amendment 7
Josep-Maria Terricabras
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3 c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

3 c. Calls on the Commission to allow ECIs that require treaty amendments according to Article 48 TFEU and to explicitly include this possibility in its proposal to revise Regulation 211/2011;

Or. en

Amendment 8

Josep-Maria Terricabras

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Calls on the Commission to improve the user-friendly character of its software for the online collection of signatures and to offer its servers for the storage of online signatures for free on a permanent basis;

Amendment

6. Calls on the Commission to improve the user-friendly character of its software for the online collection of signatures, **to make it accessible to people with disabilities** and to offer its servers for the storage of online signatures for free on a permanent basis;

Or. en

Amendment 9

Josep-Maria Terricabras

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6 a. Points out the importance of technology as a tool to encourage citizens' participation; stresses that the collection of email addresses would permit ECI organisers to keep signatories informed of the progress of the ECI they sign; calls on the Commission, therefore, to modify the online collection system to allow the collection of email addresses and share

this information with the organizers if citizens give their consent;

Or. en

Amendment 10

Josep-Maria Terricabras

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

9. Deems it too complicated for organisers to provide different personal data in support of ECIs in the 28 Member States, as laid down in Regulation 211/2011 on the basis of the various national provisions, **and** suggests that consideration be given to establishing an EU digital citizenship; calls on the Commission, therefore, to explore this issue in its digital agenda;

Amendment

9. Deems it too complicated for organisers to provide different personal data in support of ECIs in the 28 Member States, as laid down in Regulation 211/2011 on the basis of the various national provisions; **invites the Commission, therefore, to encourage Member States to reduce data requirements and to remove identification number requirements except for Member States that absolutely need them to verify signatures; further** suggests that consideration be given to establishing an EU digital citizenship; calls on the Commission, therefore, to explore this issue in its digital agenda;

Or. en

Amendment 11

Josep-Maria Terricabras

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 10

Motion for a resolution

10. Acknowledges the delicate problem of organisers' personal liability with regard to data protection when collecting signatories' personal data, and proposes that the range of data required be reduced, **or liability extended to volunteer campaigners, and**

Amendment

10. Acknowledges the delicate problem of organisers' personal liability with regard to data protection when collecting signatories' personal data, and proposes that the range of data required be reduced **and the creation of a European legal status for the**

that the wording of Article 13 of Regulation 211/2011, on liability, be changed to make it clear that personal liability is not unlimited; proposes, to this end, that inspiration be drawn from Article 3 of Directive 2008/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on the protection of the environment through criminal law, with a view to establishing that organisers are responsible for acts which are 'unlawful and committed intentionally or with at least serious negligence';

citizens' committee;

Or. en

Amendment 12

Josep-Maria Terricabras

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 12

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

12. Invites the Member States to be flexible in their verification when they receive statements of support for an ECI which are just above the threshold of 1 million signatures, with a view to allowing its submission;

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 13

Josep-Maria Terricabras

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 13

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

13. Calls on the Commission to revise the wording of Article 10(c) of Regulation 211/2011 to allow proper follow-up to a successful ECI, *including a parliamentary*

13. Calls on the Commission to revise the wording of Article 10(c) of Regulation 211/2011 to allow proper follow-up to a successful ECI; *urges the Commission to*

debate in plenary followed by a vote on the ECI; urges the Commission to start preparing a legal act on successful ECIs within 12 months of their acceptance;

start preparing a legal act on successful ECIs within 12 months of their submission; in case the Commission fails to provide a legislative proposal within this period, the competent committee of the European Parliament will initiate a legislative-initiative report for which the selected rapporteur shall consult the ECI organisers in another hearing; calls on the European Parliament to modify its rules of procedure accordingly;

Or. en

Amendment 14

Josep-Maria Terricabras

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 14 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14 a. Considers it crucial for a proper use of this participative democracy tool by citizens and in order to prevent its possible abuse by other sort of private interests, to increase the transparency and the quality of checks on the funding and sponsorship of ECIs;

Or. en

Amendment 15

Josep-Maria Terricabras

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 16

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

16. Welcomes the Commission's report of 1 April 2015 on the ECI and calls on it to ensure that, in its revision of this instrument, all the appropriate legal measures are implemented when an ECI is

16. Welcomes the Commission's report of 1 April 2015 on the ECI and calls on it to ensure that, in its revision of this instrument, all the appropriate legal measures are implemented *in order to*

deemed to have been completed
successfully;

provide a proper follow up when an ECI is
deemed to have been completed
successfully;

Or. en