

10 fundamentals for a citizen-friendly law

10 fundamentals for a citizen-friendly law

1. Citizens can also call for constitutional amendments

The implementing law should make it clear that constitutional amendments can be proposed. The European Constitution regulates much more specific policy content than national constitutions. It enables both the Commission and the EU Parliament to propose amendments to the Constitution.

2. No more than one million citizens

The collection of one million signatures in a significant number of member states is a sufficient hurdle.

3. Four member states counts as 'significant'

An initiative should not be required to collect signatures in more than four member states.

4. Minimum number of signatures: 0.1 %

The required minimum number of signatures coming from each country (see Point 3) should be 0.1% of the citizens entitled to vote.

5. Time period: 18 months

Initiatives should have enough time for collection of the signatures. A short time period would disadvantage smaller groups.

6. Free form of the initiative

The initiative can choose between two options:

- a) a general proposal mentioning the specific goal(s) of the legislation and the main measures to be introduced (or changed), or
- b) a draft legal act.

7. Role of the Commission

The Commission has to check whether the formal conditions of the ECI have been fulfilled and that no conflict with European law exists. The Commission has to give its reasons in case of rejection. There should be strict time limits for the subsequent treatment of the subject by the EU institutions.

8. Five Rights of the Initiative

- a) Right of advice from the Commission before gathering the signatures.
- b) The right to be heard by the respective institutions (Commission, Parliament, Council).
- c) The right that the text of the ECI is published without delay in the Official Journal of the EU and the Official Gazettes of the member states.
- d) The right to challenge a rejection before the competent European Courts.
- e) A reimbursement in part of the costs.

9. Verification by member states

This question should be decided by the member states according to their national electoral laws.

10. Free collection of signatures

It should be specified that the signatures can be gathered freely (by circulation/download of lists to be filled in and signed) and not only in government registration offices.

European Citizens' Initiative

"Not less than one million citizens who are nationals of a significant number of Member States may take the initiative of inviting the Commission, within the framework of its powers, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens consider that a legal act of the Union is required for the purpose of implementing the Constitution. European laws shall determine the provisions for the procedures and conditions required for such a citizens' initiative, including the minimum number of Member States from which such citizens must come."

Art. I-47-4 of the draft European Constitution

support

We support these 10 fundamentals for a citizen-friendly European Citizens' Initiative

Organisation:

Area of interest:

Contact person:

stamp (if any), signature

Homepage:

E-mail:

- Yes, we would also like to subscribe to the newsletter and be kept informed about the progress of the campaign.

sign here!

Send this form to:

democracy international

Greifswalder Str. 4; 10405 Berlin

Tel. ++ 49 3042082370

Fax ++ 49 3042082380

You can sign online at:

www.democracy-international.org/support.html

