

## **In Brief:**

### **Democracy International**

The global coalition for direct democracy

[www.democracy-international.org](http://www.democracy-international.org)

#### **Mission**

Democracy International's mission is to strengthen direct democracy and citizens' participation at local, national and at transnational level. The aim is to realise tools and procedures that integrate the will of the people into political decision-making. These instruments can be referenda on EU treaties, citizens' initiatives and fair electoral systems.

#### **History**

Democracy International is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that was formally established in June 2011 as a registered membership association according to German non-profit law (eingetragener Verein e.V.). Hitherto Democracy International had existed as a loose network of democracy activists since 2002. The headquarters are based in Cologne, Germany.

#### **Organisation**

Democracy International is an independent membership organisation funded by fees and individual donations.

Individual people and democracy groups are both members of the organisation. The members elect Democracy International's executive board at the general assembly, which is held every two years. The board steers the political course and represents the organisation externally. Mr. Gerald Häfner, Member of European Parliament, is the organisation's chairperson.

Democracy groups with more than seven members can become a member of the council. The task of the council is to advise and to support the executive board with its work.

## **Campaigns**

Democracy International's main purpose is to run campaigns in order to realise its political goals.

### **Campaign for a more democratic EU**

In August 2013 Democracy International started preparing a campaign for a new EU convention to be led by an alliance of young Europeans, academics, entrepreneurs and civil society representatives. Core demands are that the members of the EU convention are elected democratically and that the convention has adequate time for serious and thorough deliberation including proposals from civil society. The draft proposal that the EU convention will elaborate is to be ratified by referenda in all EU member states.

### **Campaign for transnational European voting**

In 2012 Democracy International ran the campaign for a transnational European voting law over the so-called "Duff-Report".

### **Campaign for a European Citizens' Initiative**

In 2002 Democracy International together with numerous democracy activists throughout Europe campaigned for the inclusion of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) in the EU draft Constitutional Treaty, which then was integrated in the Treaty of Lisbon. The ECI requires one million signatures from at least seven EU Member States to be submitted to the European Commission.

Since the launch of the ECI on 1st April 2012, Democracy International advocates that the ECI must become more citizen-friendly and that the general public must be more aware of the first tool of direct democracy at transnational level.

## **Publications**

Democracy International regularly issues monitoring reports and position papers on actual direct democracy issues. The reports assess held referenda and plebiscites with international standards of direct democracy. The publications are available [here](#).