

## Newsletter: Referendums – the dice is cast

February 14, 2005

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### 1) WHAT IS THIS?

From 2002 until 2004 democracy international has run the European Referendum Campaign. As a subscriber to our newsletter you have followed the course of this project. Democracy international will carry on the work and promote direct democracy in Europe. We will maintain these successful activities and our homepage, which has been re-launched in the meantime.

We offer information about the development of the constitutional referendums and direct democracy in Europe. Our next newsletter will inform you about our new project: the European Citizens Initiative.

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

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### 2) REFEREDUMS: THE DICE IS CAST

Denmark, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom will hold a referendum on the EU Constitution. We are sure that also the Czech Republic and Poland will join this group of countries. Currently we do not think that other countries will follow (exception: Sweden).

Hungary and Lithuania have already ratified the EU Constitution.

Get more information for each country here:

[democracy-international.org/41.html](http://democracy-international.org/41.html)

### **3) "DIRECT DEMOCRACY HAS THE WIND IN ITS SAILS..."**

"Direct democracy has the wind in its sails – especially in Europe.

Across the globe, new possibilities for people to be more directly

involved in political decision-making are being created," writes

Swiss President Joseph Deiss in the preface 2005-edition of the

'Guidebook to Direct Democracy'.

The guidebook is published by the "Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe".

Please find more information here:

[www.european-referendum.org/up/up151.html](http://www.european-referendum.org/up/up151.html)

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### **4) FRANCE: COMPULSORY REFERENDUM INTRODUCED**

The French Parliament expanded the level of citizens' participation by introducing the right to compulsory referendum. Thus a referendum must be held on further EU enlargements. This is a result of the debate about the Turkish EU membership. Leading politicians want to avoid a discussion about the "Turkish question" in the current referendum campaign.

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### **5) STAFF**

Ronald Pabst is now working in Cologne for democracy international and Mehr Demokratie. He was member of the ERC-team in Frankfurt. Ronald is responsible for the homepage.

Carsten Berg is currently establishing an office in Brussels. He was part of the ERC-team in Berlin. This team convinced members of the "Convention for the Future of Europe" to support our appeal for an increased level of citizens participation.

Carsten will promote our ECI - project.

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Ronald Pabst / Carsten Berg

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