

Newsletter: Welcome back

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o) EDITORIAL: WELCOME BACK ON BOARD, LARS

by Ronald Pabst

Good news from our office in Brussels: Lars is back. This young guy supported our work during the work in the European Convention. Together with Michael Efler and Carsten Berg he formed the famous Berlin Lobby Team. Lars convinced several Convention members to sign our appeal for more democracy. Afterwards he finished his studies and worked for a year for the Association of German Chambers of Industry (DIHK) in Brussels. Now he joins the Brussels office temporarily. Lars has written the first issue of our column: Brussels Inside. You find also a report about our meeting in Brussels, the story of 825 local referendums in Bavaria and news from Austria.

1) INSIDE BRUSSELS

This is the first issue of our new column: "Inside Brussels". You will find information about our struggle for direct democracy. This time Lars Bosselmann reports, that MEPs are not ready to draw the curtain over the EU-Constitution and explains some details on the legendary Plan D. They were presented by the EU Commission last week.

The complete column is available at:

www.democracy-international.org/insidebrussels-nr1.html

2) REPORT: DI MEETING

Please find a report on our meeting in Brussels on October 15 here:

www.democracy-international.org/meetingoct15.html

3) BAVARIA: 835 REFERENDUMS

In Bavaria citizens can initiate local referendums since 10 years. This was celebrated with an event organized in cooperation with the Christian Democrats (CSU). They opposed heavily introduction of referendums in 1995.

But the good practice of direct democracy in Bavaria has convinced many representatives of the CSU, that referendums improve the quality of political decisions.

In the meantime citizens have started 1371 initiatives, 835 of them have resulted in a local referendum.

More information available at:

www.democracy-international.org/referendumsinbavaria.html

4) AUSTRIANS WANT REFERENDUM

According to a recent poll, a 73% of the Austrian population demand a referendum on the EU Constitution.

Read more

www.democracy-international.org/austrianpoll.html

Ronald Pabst / Carsten Berg

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