

Background Text: Urgent Action Required from the European Commission to Honor Commitment to European Democracy

European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)

The ECI is a vital instrument of participatory democracy in the European Union, enabling citizens to directly influence EU policies. It came into effect in April 2012, allowing EU citizens to propose legislation by collecting one million signatures across the EU. More about this here: <https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/en>

End the Cage Age: A European Campaign Success (2019)

In 2019, the ECI End the Cage Age made history by gathering 1.4 million signatures across Europe, highlighting a pressing issue: the phasing out and prohibition of cages for certain animals in farming. This campaign exemplified the power of collective citizen action and showcased the ECI's potential to engage citizens on critical issues. More about this initiative here: <https://www.endthecageage.eu/en/>

Commission's Positive Response (June 2021)

The European Commission responded positively to the End the Cage Age ECI, committing to present a legislative proposal to address the issue by the third quarter of 2023. This commitment was a significant step toward realizing the aspirations of the ECI and addressing the concerns of citizens. Read the Commission's written response here: https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/initiatives/details/2018/000004/end-cage-age_en

Backpedaling on its Own Commitment: A Detriment to European Democracy

Today, we face a troubling situation. The Commission's proposal, which was due by Q3 of this year, is already overdue, and there are no discernible plans to fulfill this commitment. This development is not only a matter of animal welfare but extends to the very foundations of European democracy. The backpedaling on the Commission's own commitment poses a grave risk. At a time when European democracy faces challenges, including attacks on democratic principles and rising Euro-scepticism, maintaining trust in democratic institutions and respect for the rule of law are paramount. With European elections only eight months away, this moment demands steadfast commitment to democratic values.

Urgency to Act Now

The urgency lies in the need for the Commission's proposal to materialize under the current Commission's tenure. Delaying action could potentially postpone it to the next Commission, where efforts to revitalize the Commission's commitment may be moot.

Honoring Commitment to Citizens and Democracy

In summary, this is about more than a commitment to the ECI in question. It is about honoring promises made to citizens and all those who champion European democracy. Upholding this commitment is crucial not only for the credibility of the ECI, but also for the continued faith of citizens in democratic processes.

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Organizations leading this campaign include:



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