



ECI review

ECI Expert Group meeting

30/9/2022

New ECI rules

- Regulation (EU) 2019/788 - applicable since 1 January 2020
- Objectives:
 - make the ECI **more accessible, less burdensome and easier to use** for organisers and supporters
 - strengthen its follow-up in order to achieve its **full potential as a tool to foster debate**
 - facilitate the participation of as many citizens as possible in the democratic decision-making process of the Union

Review clause

- *Commission to **periodically review** the functioning of the European citizens' initiative and present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Regulation **no later than 1 January 2024**, and every four years thereafter. These reports shall cover also the **minimum age to support European citizens' initiatives** in the Member States. The reports shall be made **public**.*
- Take stock of the implementation and application of the rules so far
 - Any practical improvements within the existing legal framework?
- **COVID-19 context** - > assess temporary measures

Focus areas (1)

- **Right to support an ECI:** the minimum age to support European citizens' initiatives in the Member States; data requirements for supporting an ECI; use of forms A/B, e-ID; data protection concerns
- **Group of organisers:** geographical coverage, implementation of new rules on legal entity, liability and data protection

Focus areas (2)

- **Registration phase:** overall assessment by the organisers regarding the clarity of the procedure, the facility to submit an initiative and the experience with the available assistance; implementation of the new two-stage registration procedure, impact on registrations
- **Collection phase:** organisers' overall assessment of the collection phase – experiences, impact, barriers, enablers; assessment of the impact of the new rules (usefulness of the extra 6 months to prepare the start of the collection, possibility for citizens to sign irrespective of residence, less personal data); impact of COVID outbreak, importance of extensions; satisfaction with the central online collection system

Focus areas (3)

- **Verification phase:** satisfaction of organisers and Member States with new timelines, process, the tools and the assistance provided by the Commission; issues encountered
- **Examination and follow up:** organisers' assessment of the examination phase – clarity of the process, satisfaction with the opportunities and extended period to present their objectives (meeting with the Commission, public hearing)

Focus areas (4)

- **Information and assistance:**
 - results of the communication and **awareness raising activities led by the Commission**
 - role and activities of **National Contact Points**
 - the **ECI Forum** – organisers' satisfaction with the legal and practical assistance provided
 - the **ECI website** – users' satisfaction

Inputs being collected

- **Organisers' experiences** with the different steps of the new ECI procedure - > questionnaire
- **Member States' experiences** with the new rules and the implementation of relevant provisions into their national law/practices - > questionnaire
- **Citizens' views** -> online survey about the ECI in general and exit-survey about COCS
 - Please help promote the general survey to citizens through your channels!
- **Civil society and NGOs views** and experiences with the ECI -> workshop and survey by ECI Forum contractor
- **Statistics and information from our IT systems**

Timeline

- Data collection and analysis – ongoing
- First draft – spring 2023
- Adoption – autumn 2023 (tbc)